

1 Mono- and dihydroxyl Glycerol Dibiphytanyl Glycerol Tetraethers in
2 marine sediments: identification of both core and intact polar lipid forms

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15 **ABSTRACT**

16 Hydroxylated glycerol dialkyl glycerol tetraethers (hydroxy-GDGTs) were
17 detected in marine sediments of diverse depositional regimes and ages. Mass
18 spectrometric evidence, complemented by information gleaned from two-dimensional
19 (2D) ¹H-¹³C nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy on minute quantities of
20 target analyte isolated from marine sediment, allowed us to identify one major compound
21 as a monohydroxy-GDGT with acyclic biphytanyl moieties (OH-GDGT-0). NMR
22 spectroscopic and mass spectrometric data indicate the presence of a tertiary hydroxyl
23 group suggesting the compounds are the tetraether analogues of the widespread
24 hydroxylated archaeol derivatives that have received great attention in geochemical

25 studies of the last two decades. Three other related compounds were assigned as acyclic
26 dihydroxy-GDGT (2OH-GDGT-0) and monohydroxy-GDGT with one (OH-GDGT-1)
27 and two cyclopentane rings (OH-GDGT-2). Based on the identification of hydroxy-
28 GDGT core lipids, a group of previously reported unknown intact polar lipids (IPLs),
29 including the ubiquitously distributed H341-GDGT (Lipp and Hinrichs, 2009, Structural
30 diversity and fate of intact polar lipids in marine sediments. *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta*
31 73, 6816–6833), and its analogues were tentatively identified as glycosidic hydroxy-
32 GDGTs. In addition to marine sediments, we also detected hydroxy-GDGTs in a culture
33 of *Methanothermococcus thermolithotrophicus*. Given the previous finding of the
34 putative polar precursor H341-GDGT in the planktonic marine crenarchaeon
35 *Nitrosopumilus maritimus*, these compounds are synthesized by representatives of both
36 cren- and euryarchaeota. The ubiquitous distribution and apparent substantial abundance
37 of hydroxy-GDGT core lipids in marine sediments (up to 8% of total isoprenoid core
38 GDGTs) point to their potential as proxies.

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40

41 **1. Introduction**

42

43 As one of the three domains of life, Archaea differ from other microorganisms by
44 not only genetic affiliation but also through their distinctive isoprenoidal glycerol ether
45 lipids. Since the first report of glycerol diether lipids in a halophilic archaeon,
46 *Halobacterium salinarum* (Kates et al., 1963), various ether lipids have been discovered
47 in different cultivated species of extremophiles (Langworthy, 1977), methanogens

48 (Tornabene and Langworthy, 1979; Koga et al., 1993) and also in the uncultivated
49 mesophilic marine crenarchaeota (DeLong et al., 1998). Among the diverse structures
50 now identified in the lipids of archaea, including glycerol dibiphytanyl glycerol
51 tetraethers (GDGTs, see molecular structures in Fig. 1) with different numbers of
52 cyclopentane rings (e.g., De Rosa et al., 1980), multi-unsaturated diether lipids (Gonthier
53 et al., 2001) and the macrocyclic diether (Comita and Gagosian, 1983), hydroxylated
54 diethers are recognized as distinctive compound class. Ferrante et al. (1988a) first
55 reported the identification of hydroxyarchaeol isolated from *Methanotherx concilii*.
56 Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) analysis indicated a tertiary hydroxyl group on C-3
57 of the phytanyl chain at the *sn*-3 position of glycerol (see molecular structures in Fig. 1).
58 In the same species, the intact polar lipid (IPL) of hydroxyarchaeol, a diglycosidic
59 hydroxyarchaeol, was also identified (Ferrante et al., 1988b). According to the
60 biosynthetic pathway of GDGT in cultivated archaea, the biphytane skeleton was
61 proposed to be formed via head-to-head condensation of two archaeol units (Nemoto et
62 al., 2003). Therefore, given the presence of hydroxyarchaeol, synthesis of hydroxy-
63 GDGT appears plausible but has not yet been conclusively demonstrated. Summons et al.
64 (2002) detected hydroxylated biphytanes in *Methanothermococcus thermolithotrophicus*
65 after ether cleavage of intact lipids, and Lipp and Hinrichs (2009) observed one unknown
66 IPL producing a very weak MS² signal of putative hydroxy-GDGT, but to date the
67 identification of hydroxy-GDGT remains to be confirmed.

68 Based on the knowledge gained from lipids in microbial cultures, archaeal ether
69 lipids have also been intensively documented in the sedimentary record. For instance, the
70 existence of methane-consuming archaea in marine sediment was revealed by the

71 detection of ^{13}C depleted archaeol and hydroxyarchaeol (Hinrichs et al., 1999). The fossil
72 archaeal lipids in Mid-Cretaceous black shale were reported to indicate the massive
73 expansion of planktonic archaea during ocean anoxic events (Kuypers et al., 2001). On
74 the other hand, the presence of archaeal IPLs was proposed to reflect the *in-situ* activity
75 of live archaea in specific environments, such as the anoxic water column of the Black
76 Sea (Schubotz et al., 2009), marine methane seep sites (Rossel et al., 2008; 2011) and
77 subseafloor sediments (Biddle et al., 2006), although their applicability to low-activity
78 subseafloor sediment remains controversial (cf. Lipp and Hinrichs, 2009; Schouten et al.,
79 2010) and will require further validation. In several recent IPL studies, one unknown
80 compound, termed H341-GDGT by Lipp and Hinrichs (2009) according to its
81 fragmentation behavior during mass spectrometric analysis, was designated as a major
82 putative archaeal IPL in a wide range of depositional settings (e.g., Sturt et al., 2004;
83 Lipp and Hinrichs, 2009; Schubotz et al., 2009) and thaumarchaeotal cultures (Schouten
84 et al., 2008; Pitcher et al., 2011). Knowing the structure and biological source of this
85 widely occurring, but uncharacterized compound H341-GDGT will improve
86 understanding of both the composition of archaeal communities and their activity in these
87 environments.

88 With the development of liquid chromatography mass spectrometry (LC-MS),
89 identification and quantification of large and polar archaeal lipids has been facilitated,
90 such as the analysis of GDGT core lipids with HPLC-atmospheric pressure chemical
91 ionization (APCI)-MS (Hopmans et al., 2000) and the analysis of archaeal IPLs with
92 HPLC-electrospray ionization (ESI)-MS (Sturt et al., 2004). In this study, we describe the

93 identification of novel hydroxylated GDGT core lipids and a corresponding series of
94 glycosidic hydroxy-GDGTs.

95

96 **2. Materials and methods**

97

98 *2.1. Materials and sample preparation*

99

100 Twelve globally distributed marine sediments from various geological settings
101 were included in this study (Table 1). Detailed descriptions pertaining to these samples
102 were published previously in Liu et al. (2011). For isolating target compounds for NMR
103 analysis, we extracted more than 1 kg of composite dry sediment samples from Aarhus
104 Bay (position: 56°07.06'N, 10°20.85'E, 15 m water depth and 6-7 m sediment depth
105 below surface) and the Baltic Sea (position: 58°56.04'N, 17°43.81'E, 52 m of water depth,
106 surface sediment). All samples were freeze-dried and extracted using the modified Bligh
107 and Dyer protocol as described by Sturt et al. (2004). The total lipid extracts (TLE) of the
108 twelve marine sediments were first separated into core lipid and IPL fractions with
109 preparative LC before analysis in order to increase sensitivity for the detection of minor
110 compounds. Fractions were collected with a fraction collector (GILSON, FC 204) using a
111 semi-preparative LiChrospher Si60 column (250 x 10 mm, 5 µm, Alltech, Germany) and
112 the mobile phase gradient and instrument settings previously described by Biddle et al.
113 (2006).

114 In addition, one archaeal culture, *Methanothermococcus thermolithotrophicus*
115 strain (DSM 2095), grown at 85°C in enamel-protected fermentors with stirring (400 rpm)

116 and continuous gassing (H₂/CO₂, 80:20) was provided by M. Baumgartner and K. Stetter
117 (University of Regensburg, Germany). Using an ultrasonic probe (HD 2200, Bandelin
118 electronic GmbH & Co. KG, Germany), 0.5 g freeze-dried biomass of
119 *Methanothermococcus thermolithotrophicus* was extracted (4 x) with dichloromethane
120 (DCM):MeOH (20 ml;1:1, v/v) for 15 min. One aliquot (1%) of the TLE of
121 *Methanothermococcus thermolithotrophicus* was evaporated to dryness in a 2-mL vial
122 and 1 mL of 6 M HCl/MeOH/DCM (1:9:1, v/v/v) was added before reaction at 70°C for
123 3 h to hydrolyze the glycosidic IPLs into core lipids.

124

125 2.2. HPLC-APCI-MS analysis of hydroxy-GDGT core lipids

126

127 One aliquot of the core lipid fractions of each sample was dissolved in 100 µL *n*-
128 hexane/propan-2-ol (99:1, v/v) for HPLC-MS analysis. Separation of compounds was
129 performed on a Prevail Cyano column (2.1×150 mm, 3 µm; Alltech, Grace) maintained at
130 35°C with the following gradient program: flow rate of 0.25 mL min⁻¹, the gradient of the
131 mobile phase was first held at 100% of eluent A (*n*-hexane/propan-2-ol, 99:1, v/v) for
132 5 min, followed by a linear gradient to 90% of A and 10% B (*n*-hexane/propan-2-ol,
133 90:10, v/v) in 20 min, followed by a linear gradient to 100% B at 35 min, after holding
134 100% B for 5 min the column was re-equilibrated with 100% A at a flow rate of 0.6 mL
135 min⁻¹ for 5 min before the next injection. Detection was achieved with an Agilent 6130
136 MSD single quadrupole mass spectrometer, coupled to an Agilent 1200 series HPLC via
137 multimode ion source set in APCI mode. APCI settings were nebulizer pressure 60 psi,
138 vaporizer temperature 250°C, drying gas (N₂) flow 6 L min⁻¹ and drying gas temperature

139 200°C, capillary voltage 2 kV, and corona current 5 μ A. The detector was set for
140 selective ion monitoring (SIM) of $[M+H]^+$ ions (m/z 1302, 1300, 1298, 1296, 1292, 1246,
141 1244, 1242, 1240 and 1236; fragmentor voltage 190 V).

142 In order to obtain the MS² spectra with detailed fragmentation features, selected
143 samples with higher abundance of target compounds were also analyzed with an Agilent
144 1200 series HPLC system coupled to an Agilent 6520 quadrupole time-of-flight (qTOF)
145 mass spectrometer through an APCI interface. The APCI drying gas temperature was set
146 at 350°C with a gas (N₂) flow of 4 L min⁻¹. The qTOF parameters were set to: capillary
147 voltage 1 kV, corona current 5 μ A, fragmentor voltage 150 V; skimmer 65 V and
148 octopole 750 V in auto MS/MS scanning mode with MS¹ range of m/z 500-2000 and
149 MS² mass range of m/z 100-2000. To achieve the ideal fragmentation of targeted
150 compounds, the mass-dependent collision energy for each precursor was automatically
151 set by the Agilent MassHunter control software (version B.03.01) according to the
152 following equation: $[(m/z) / 100] \times \text{slope} + \text{intercept}$, where the slope was 3.0 eV and the
153 intercept was -0.5 eV.

154

155 2.3. Isolation of OH-GDGT-0

156

157 The TLE of the combined sediment sample from Aarhus Bay and Baltic Sea was
158 dissolved with hexane/propan-2-ol (99:1, v/v). For each run 200 μ L of sample,
159 approximately 0.5% of TLE, was loaded onto a PerfectSil 100 CN-3 preparative LC
160 column (250 x 10 mm, 5 μ m particle size, MZ Analysentechnik, Germany) equipped
161 with a guard column of the same packing material. With the Agilent 1200 series HPLC

162 system compounds were separated by applying the following solvent gradient at an eluent
163 flow rate of 3 mL min⁻¹: first 100% of eluent A (n-hexane/propan-2-ol, 99:1 [v/v]) for
164 3 min, then to 90% of A and 10% B (n-hexane/propan-2-ol, 90:10 [v/v]) with a linear
165 gradient in 12 min, then to 100% B at 20 min and hold 100% B for 10 min, before the
166 column was equilibrated with 100% A for 15 min for the next injection. OH-GDGT-0
167 was collected with a fraction collector (Waters Fraction Collector III) in the time interval
168 from 22 to 23 min.

169

170 *2.4. NMR analysis of OH-GDGT-0*

171

172 After two cycles of purification with preparative HPLC, around 0.6 mg of
173 putative OH-GDGT-0 was isolated from more than 1 kg (dry mass) of composite
174 sediment sample from Aarhus Bay and Baltic Sea. For NMR analysis, purified OH-
175 GDGT-0 was dissolved with 40 μ L deuterated benzene (benzene-D₆) and transferred into
176 a 40- μ L Zirconia nanoprobe sample tube for 2D ¹H-¹³C-NMR analysis. All spectra were
177 obtained using a Varian Unity-INOVA 500 MHz NMR spectrometer with a Varian
178 Nanoprobe which spins the 40- μ L sample tube at ca. 2 kHz at the magic-angle (54.7°)
179 relative to the applied field axis. The 90° ¹H pulse was 10.2 μ s and, for the indirect
180 detection experiments, the ¹³C 90° pulse was 14.3 μ s.

181 The 1-D 500 MHz ¹H NMR spectrum was obtained by collecting 64 transients.
182 Each transient was collected for 3 s, with an additional 2 s relaxation delay prior to each
183 acquisition. The ¹H spectral window spanned 4.3 kHz (8.6 ppm) and contained 12881
184 complex (25762 actual) points. No apodization was applied. The time domain data was

185 zero-filled to obtain a total size of 128k complex (256k actual) data points prior to
186 Fourier transformation. Phase correction and a small amount of baseline correction were
187 applied. The total experiment time was 5 min and 20 s.

188 The 2-D 500 MHz ^1H - ^1H gradient-selected correlation spectroscopy (gCOSY)
189 NMR spectrum was obtained using the same spectral window as was used for the
190 collection of the 1-D ^1H NMR spectrum. The total number of points in the free induction
191 decay (FID) was 1024 complex (2048 actual) point with 256 t_1 time increments, and so
192 the dwell time dictated by the sweep width of 4.3 kHz gave an acquisition time for the
193 FID of 238 ms. An additional relaxation delay of 1 s made the total time per scan 1.29 s.
194 For each FID, eight scans were collected. 256 FIDs were collected in the t_1 time domain,
195 and linear prediction was used to double the t_1 time domain data. A squared sine bell
196 function was applied to both the t_1 and t_2 time domain data dimensions in the 2-D data
197 matrix. The period of the t_2 squared sine bell was 119 ms (zero to maximum amplitude),
198 and in the t_1 dimension, the squared sine bell had a period of 60 ms. Following Fourier
199 transformation of both time domains into their respective frequency domains (1k x 1k
200 actual resolution), the data rows in the f_1 frequency domain were baseline corrected and
201 matrix symmetrization was performed.

202 The 2-D 500 MHz ^1H - ^{13}C heteronuclear single quantum correlation (HSQC)
203 NMR spectrum was obtained using the same ^1H spectral window parameters, except that
204 the digitization time of the FID was restricted to 238.5 ms and the relaxation delay was
205 1 s, making the total time required for a single pass through the pulse sequence 1.29 s.
206 For each t_1 evolution time, 64 transients were averaged together. 200 complex points
207 were collected in the t_1 time domain (the ^{13}C dimension), but linear prediction was used

208 to extend the data set to 512 complex points (312 complex points were added to the 200
209 that were collected). The ^{13}C spectral window spanned 10 kHz (80 ppm) and was
210 centered at 40 ppm. The t_2 time domain data was apodized with a Gaussian function of
211 0.110 s, and the t_1 time domain data was apodized with a Gaussian function of 0.024 s.
212 Baseline correction parallel to the f_2 frequency axis was performed on the half-Fourier-
213 transformed interferogram prior to Fourier transformation of the t_1 time domain into the
214 f_1 frequency domain. The final data matrix was 1k x 1k complex (2k x 2k actual).

215 The 2-D 500 MHz ^1H - ^{13}C gradient-selected heteronuclear multiple bond
216 correlation (gHMBC) NMR spectrum was obtained with parameters similar to those used
217 in obtaining the 2-D HSQC NMR spectrum, except that 400 FIDs with unique t_1
218 evolution times were collected and no linear prediction was used. Each FID was the
219 result of 128 scans. The t_2 time domain data was apodized with a sine bell with a period
220 of 0.119 s (minimum to maximum), and the t_1 time domain data was apodized with a sine
221 bell function with a period of 0.020 s. The final size of the data matrix was 1k x 1k.

222

223 *2.5. HPLC-ESI-MS analysis of glycosidic hydroxy-GDGTs*

224

225 For each sample one aliquot of IPL fraction was dissolved in 100 μL of MeOH
226 and DCM (1:5, v/v), and analysis was performed on an Agilent 1200 series HPLC system
227 coupled to a ThermoFinnigan LCQ Deca XP Plus ion trap mass spectrometer via ESI
228 interface. 10 μL of each sample was injected onto a LiChrosphere Diol-100 column (150
229 x 2.1 mm, 5 μm particle size; Alltech, Germany) equipped with a guard column of the
230 same packing material.

231 Separation of lipids was achieved with a solvent gradient modified from Sturt et
232 al. (2004). A flow rate of 0.2 mL min⁻¹ was used with the following gradient program:
233 from 100% A (79:20:0.12:0.04 [v:v:v:v] of hexane/propan-2-ol/formic acid/14.8 M NH₃,
234 aq) to 35% A and 65% B (88:10:0.12:0.04 [v:v:v:v] of propan-2-ol/water/formic acid/14.8
235 M NH₃, aq) over 45 min, then 100% A for 15 min to re-equilibrate the column for the next
236 analysis. MS analysis was performed in data-dependent mode with fragmentation of the
237 base peak ion in MS² under conditions described by Sturt et al. (2004). Intact polar
238 GDGTs with different polar head groups were identified according to the characteristic
239 fragmentation in MS² spectra (Sturt et al., 2004; Lipp and Hinrichs, 2009). In addition,
240 different levels of collision energy (normalized collision energy 25% and 100%) for the
241 ion trap setting were applied to optimize detection of labile ions.

242

243 *2.6. Degradation test on OH-GDGT-0*

244

245 An aliquot of purified OH-GDGT-0 was transferred into a 2mL-vial, sealed and
246 subjected to a degradation test under acidic conditions. After drying with a flow of N₂,
247 1 mL of 6 M HCl/MeOH/DCM (1:9:1, v/v/v) was added before reaction at 70°C for 3 h.
248 The reaction mixture was blown to dryness with N₂ and re-dissolved in 100 µL of *n*-
249 hexane/propan-2-ol (99:1, v/v) for analysis.

250

251 *2.7. GC-MS on ether cleavage released hydrocarbons of OH-GDGT-0*

252

253 Another aliquot of purified OH-GDGT-0 was transferred into a 2mL-vial and
254 dried with N₂, then added 0.5 ml BBr₃ (1 M in DCM; Aldrich) to react at 60°C for 2 h.
255 After evaporating the solvent and residual BBr₃ with N₂, the bromides were reduced to
256 hydrocarbons by adding 0.5 ml superhydride (LiEt₃BH, in THF, Aldrich) and maintained
257 at 60°C for 2 h. A few drops of water were then added to quench the reaction. Released
258 hydrocarbons were extracted (3 x) with *n*-hexane and combined. For analyzing potential
259 hydroxylated biphytanes, the ether cleavage/reduction products were transferred into a 2-
260 ml vial, dried with a flow of N₂ and mixed with 100 µl BSTFA (N,O-
261 bis(trimethylsilyl)trifluoroacetamide) and 100 µl pyridine at 70°C for 1 h. GC-MS was
262 performed with an Agilent 5973 inert MSD system equipped with a Restek Rxi-5ms
263 column (30 m x 250 µm x 0.25 µm). Separation was achieved using an oven temperature
264 program of 60°C (1 min) to 150°C at 10°C min⁻¹ and then to 310°C (held 20 min) at 4°C
265 min⁻¹.

266

267 **3. Results and discussion**

268

269 *3.1. Detection of hydroxy-GDGTs with HPLC-APCI-MS*

270

271 By increasing both the flow rate and the polar gradient of the mobile phase used
272 by the established GDGT core lipid analysis (Hopmans et al., 2000), a series of
273 unknowns (compound a, b, c and d), with nearly identical patterns of molecular and
274 fragment ions but higher retention times relative to the known archaeal GDGTs, was
275 generally observed during normal phase HPLC-APCI-MS analysis of marine sediments

276 (Fig. 2). For example, in Fig. 2 the extracted ion chromatogram (EIC) of m/z 1298
277 revealed three compounds, GDGT-2 and two unknowns designated compound b and
278 compound d. By selecting m/z 1298 as the precursor ion these three compounds
279 generated a similar pattern of MS² fragments (Fig. 3a) suggesting similar molecular
280 structures. One small difference is that GDGT-2 afforded a major fragment ion of
281 m/z 741, which represents two glycerol units with one monocyclic biphytane, while
282 compounds b and d both yielded the fragment of m/z 743 resulting from the loss of one
283 biphytane moiety, and thus representing a fragment comprising two glycerol units with
284 one acyclic biphytane. We also noticed that even though compounds b and d gave the
285 major MS¹ signal of m/z 1298, there were also minor MS¹ signals of m/z 1316 for
286 compound b and m/z 1316 and 1334 for compound d (Fig. 3b). The selected precursor
287 ion m/z 1316 of compound b gave m/z 1298 as its daughter ion MS² while a precursor
288 ion m/z 1334 of compound d then generated the daughter ions of m/z 1316 and 1298. The
289 observed mass differences of 18 and 36 Da logically represent loss of one and two
290 hydroxyl groups as H₂O moieties, respectively.

291 Based on the above observation, these two series of unknown compounds a to d
292 were tentatively identified as OH-GDGT-0, -1, -2, where numbers refer to the numbers of
293 cyclopentane rings, and 2OH-GDGT-0. Due to the lack of NMR data on OH-GDGT-1, -2
294 and 2OH-GDGT-0, the exact structure of these compounds cannot be determined
295 unambiguously. However, according to the fragment ion of m/z 743 in the MS² spectrum
296 of 2OH-GDGT-0 (Fig. 3a), representing two glycerol units that are ether-bound to one
297 acyclic biphytane, the two hydroxyl groups of 2OH-GDGT-0 are tentatively assigned to a
298 single biphytane moiety. Isomers with different positions of the hydroxyl group(s) may

299 also exist but cannot be distinguished with the analytical protocols applied in this study.
300 Compound a, that is OH-GDGT-0, detected around 27 minutes under our
301 chromatographic conditions, is usually the most abundant component among these novel
302 hydroxy-GDGTs, and was therefore isolated for further structural verification with NMR.
303

304 *3.2. Identification of OH-GDGT-0 by NMR*

305

306 Given that the carbon skeleton of OH-GDGT-0 has been previously analyzed with
307 NMR for initial determination of acyclic isoprenoidal GDGT (cf. Langworthy, 1977;
308 Heathcock, et al., 1988; Sinninghe Damsté, et al., 2002), we here focus our discussion of
309 NMR data on locating the extra hydroxyl group, assuming that the carbon skeleton is as
310 previously reported. The extremely small amount of this material required the use of an
311 Agilent inverse z-gradient nanoprobe with a 40 μ L sample volume. Only ^1H -detected
312 experiments were possible given the small amount of material, and so ^{13}C shifts of
313 protonated carbon sites were determined (indirectly) using the 2D HSQC spectrum. The
314 2D HSQC spectrum also revealed (just as an APT or DEPT ^{13}C spectrum might) whether
315 a given protonated carbon site had an even or odd number of attached ^1H 's. The ^{13}C shifts
316 of non-protonated carbon sites were determined (again indirectly) using the 2D gHMBC
317 NMR spectrum.

318 The extra hydroxyl group is attached to one of the isopranyl chains at a position
319 that was formerly a methine. The evidence for this is two-fold: (1) the ^1H NMR
320 resonance arising from the methyl group near the hydroxyl group is a singlet, thus
321 indicating an isolated spin system (these methyl ^1H 's do not J-couple to any other ^1H 's 3

322 bonds away), and (2) the ^1H resonance from the methyl group couples (in the 2D
323 gHMBC NMR spectrum) to a carbon at 71.7 ppm which cannot be the carbon in the
324 propyl end group. There is no plausible chemical-shift-compatible arrangement by which
325 one can position a methyl group on a non-protonated carbon near the methylene group
326 that is part of the propyl end group whose ^{13}C shift is 71.7 ppm (C3' in Table 2 and
327 carbon labels in the numbered molecular skeleton in Fig. 1). No protonated carbon
328 resonances besides one from the propyl end group (C3') appear in the 2D HSQC NMR
329 spectrum with this chemical shift, thus indicating that this carbon shift arises from a non-
330 protonated carbon site. The observed ^1H and ^{13}C chemical shifts of the isolated
331 (uncoupled) methyl group are consistent with the proposed structure, which shows this
332 methyl at position B17.

333 Having located the hydroxyl group on a non-protonated carbon site for one of the
334 isopranyl units, we see that the singlet methyl ^1H resonance (near the hydroxyl group)
335 correlates with two ^{13}C resonances, one at 43.3 ppm and the other at 40.3 ppm. If the site
336 of the extra hydroxyl group were well removed from the end of the chain (i.e., on the
337 second or third methylated C-atom in the biphytanyl chain), the two adjacent carbon
338 resonances for the methylene groups (CH_2 's) adjacent to the non-protonated (OH-bearing)
339 carbon would be nearly the same. This cannot explain the observed difference of more
340 than 3 ppm, unless the hydroxyl group is located at C-3 in one of the biphytanyl chains.
341 And the 40.3 and 43.3 ppm chemical shifts are comparable to the reported values of C-2
342 and C-4 (39.78 and 42.92 ppm, Ferrante et al., 1988a) in the C-3 hydroxylated *sn*-3
343 hydroxyarchaeol. A second possibility is that the hydroxyl group resides near the middle
344 of the chain, i.e., at a methylated C-atom adjacent to the head-to-head isopranyl linkage.

345 If this were the case, however, the six carbon resonances arising from the end groups
346 would show only three unique chemical shifts, instead of the six we observe. That is, the
347 symmetry-disrupting hydroxyl group must be near one end of the biphytanyl moiety in
348 order for the chemical shifts of the two ends to be distinct.

349 If the GDGT skeleton is a *trans* regioisomer, there will be two different C-3
350 positions (*sn*-2 and *sn*-3) in the molecule. Sprott et al. (1990) compared the ^{13}C NMR
351 shifts of archaeol, *sn*-2 and *sn*-3 hydroxyarchaeol. It was shown that in these three
352 compounds the *sn*-2 and *sn*-3 ether-bonded C-1 possessed different chemical shifts. There
353 are around 3 ppm difference between the *sn*-2 and *sn*-3 ether-bonded C-1 in *sn*-2
354 hydroxyarchaeol, 2 ppm difference in archaeol but nearly identical in *sn*-3
355 hydroxyarchaeol (see Fig. 4 in Sprott et al., 1990). Accordingly, if the hydroxyl group of
356 OH-GDGT-0 is located at the *sn*-2 O-biphytanyl at position C-3, there will be four
357 distinct C-1 signals. The analyzed compound generated three very similar ^{13}C NMR
358 shifts at 68.5~68.8 ppm and one at 69.9 ppm, therefore, we propose that the hydroxyl
359 group of this OH-GDGT-0 is located at the *sn*-3 O-biphytanyl moiety at position C-3.

360 Chemical shift prediction of the ^{13}C NMR shifts using ACD shift prediction
361 software was used as the starting point for the complete assignment of *sn*-3 OH-GDGT-0.
362 The observed chemical shifts of analyzed OH-GDGT-0 (Table 2) agrees well with the
363 values predicted by the ACD software and previously reported ^{13}C NMR shifts of
364 corresponding carbons in hydroxyarchaeol (Ferrante et al., 1988a) and GDGT-0
365 (Sinninghe Damsté, et al., 2002). The only exception is that a group of cross peaks in the
366 HSQC NMR spectrum showed a number of methylene groups with ^{13}C shifts near 30
367 ppm. The unusual methylene signals were assigned to the A4, the A4', and the B4' sites.

368 In previous works, the carbon shifts of C-4 methylene of hydroxyarchaeol (Ferrante et al.,
369 1988a) and GDGT-0 (Sinninghe Damsté, et al., 2002) were shown to be ~37 ppm, only
370 the methylene within a cyclopentane moiety gave ~30 ppm shift (e.g., the C-9 sites of
371 crenarchaeol, Sinninghe Damsté, et al., 2002). However, the possibility of sample
372 impurity had been ruled out by the purity test of our NMR sample with LC-MS.
373 Additional GC-MS analysis on ether cleavage released hydrocarbons of the NMR sample
374 detected only acyclic biphytane, which indicated a reduction of the tertiary hydroxyl
375 group during the ether cleavage reaction, but confirmed the acyclic biphytane structure of
376 OH-GDGT-0. Therefore, this mysterious 30 ppm methylene signal was tentatively
377 ascribed to a local conformational effect on the ends of the molecule caused by the
378 hydrophilic nature of the end groups relative to the bulk of the molecule plus the solvent
379 (benzene-*d*₆). It is also possible that the methylene groups with ¹³C chemical shifts of 30
380 ppm are caused by the A16, A16', B16, and B16' sites, perhaps due to a hairpin-turn
381 conformation as opposed to a more elongated configuration. The appeal of this
382 interpretation is that the predicted ¹³C chemical shift for the "16" carbon sites (34 ppm) is
383 closer to the observed methylene ¹³C shifts (30 ppm) than the ¹³C chemical shifts
384 predicted for the "4" sites (37-38 ppm). It was not possible to use the gCOSY or the
385 gHMBC spectra to resolve this question because of the extensive resonance overlap in
386 the 1.25-1.38 ppm shift region of the ¹H NMR spectrum.

387

388 *3.3. Occurrence of hydroxy-GDGT isomers*

389

390 Summons et al. (2002) reported the tentative structures of biphytane-N-ol where
391 N refers to C-atom 3 or 7 or 11 or 15, however, we observed isomers of hydroxy-GDGTs
392 with presumably different hydroxyl group positions. After acid hydrolysis, the TLE of
393 *Methanothermococcus thermolithotrophicus* yielded two compounds with identical MS¹
394 and MS² spectra (compounds (3) and (4) in Fig. 4A and B). Compound (4) is the isolated
395 OH-GDGT-0 from marine sediment, so that the earlier eluting compound (3) could be an
396 isomer of OH-GDGT-0, in which the hydroxyl group is located at another terminal
397 tertiary C-atom in the biphytanyl chain (structures shown in Fig. 1 and 4). Theoretically,
398 if the hydroxylation only occurred on the C-3 position, two isomers can be formed for the
399 trans regioisomer OH-GDGT-0, four isomers for OH-GDGT-1, two for OH-GDGT-2
400 (assuming fixed cyclopentane ring position) and three for the 2OH-GDGT-0 (see Fig. 1
401 for the putative structures). In this work we only detected isomers of OH-GDGT-0, while
402 the presence of hydroxy-GDGT isomers with cycloalkyl moieties needs to be verified
403 with further study. In addition, hydroxy-GDGTs with more than two hydroxyl groups
404 may also exist.

405

406 *3.4. Identification of glycosidic hydroxy-GDGT*

407

408 A number of studies of IPLs in marine samples and archaeal cultures have
409 reported an unknown intact polar GDGT showing a neutral loss of a fragment that is
410 18 Da heavier than the dihexose moieties in the MS² spectrum (Sturt et al., 2004;
411 Schouten et al., 2008; Schubotz et al., 2009; Lipp and Hinrichs, 2009; Rossel et al., 2011;
412 Pitcher et al., 2011). Informally labeled H341-GDGT by Lipp and Hinrichs (2009), this

413 unknown lipid was a major archaeal IPL in a wide range of marine sediments (Lipp and
414 Hinrichs, 2009; Rossel et al., 2011) and was also observed in the TLE of the
415 Crenarchaeon *Candidatus 'Nitrosopumilus maritimus'* (Schouten et al., 2008; Pitcher et
416 al., 2011). In IPL fractions obtained by preparative LC of twelve marine sediment
417 samples, we detected IPLs with molecular weights 18 Da and 36 Da higher than mono-,
418 di- and triglycosyl GDGTs (Fig. 5).

419 Fragmentation behavior of H341-GDGT was tested under 100% and 25%
420 collision energy of the ion trap mass spectrometer (Fig. 6). With 100% collision energy,
421 the $[M+NH_4]^+$ ion of H341-GDGT (m/z 1660.4) generated only one dominant fragment
422 ion of m/z 1300 (m/z 1299.8 in Fig. 6a). However, with a more moderate 25% collision
423 energy a more detailed fragmentation behavior was revealed and this included the loss of
424 H_2O and sugar units (Fig. 6b). Together with the $[M+NH_4]^+$ ion of m/z 1660.4 there are
425 also fragment ions of m/z 1641.8, 1479.8, 1461.5, 1318.3 and 1300.0. The 180.6 Da
426 difference between m/z 1660.4 and m/z 1479.8 represents the loss of one hexose moiety
427 along with an adducted ammonium. The fragment ion of m/z 1318.3 was then assigned to
428 the core lipid of OH-GDGT-0, and 18 Da difference between m/z 1318 and 1300
429 represents the loss of H_2O . Therefore, this unknown IPL, H341-GDGT, was tentatively
430 identified as a hydroxy-GDGT bearing two glycosidic head groups. Likewise, all other
431 IPLs related to 1Gly-, 2Gly- and 3Gly-GDGT with mass differences of 18 Da and 36 Da
432 were tentatively identified as glycosidic mono- and dihydroxy-GDGTs (see molecular
433 structures provided in Fig. 5).

434 The relative abundances of these glycosidic hydroxy-GDGTs varied within
435 different samples and the distributions of intact polar GDGTs in analyzed samples are

436 shown in Table 1. 2Gly-OH-GDGT was generally the most common hydroxy-GDGT IPL,
437 which is consistent with earlier observations (cf. Lipp and Hinrichs, 2009; Schubotz et al.,
438 2009).

439

440 *3.5. Distribution and abundance of hydroxy-GDGT core lipids*

441

442 Hydroxy-GDGT core lipids occur widely and were present in all marine sediment
443 samples analyzed in this study. With our present analytical protocol it is difficult to gain
444 their absolute abundances due to their inherent dehydration during ionization. However,
445 the relative abundance of hydroxy-GDGTs compared to total GDGTs ($100\% \times [\text{hydroxy-}$
446 $\text{GDGTs}]/[\text{hydroxy-GDGTs} + \text{non-hydroxy-GDGTs}]$) was estimated with the APCI-MS
447 detection of both non-hydroxy-GDGT and hydroxy-GDGT core lipids in the same
448 analysis (data shown in Table 1). These ratios are based on the peak areas of $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ions
449 of GDGTs, $[\text{M}+\text{H}-18]^+$ ions of OH-GDGTs and $[\text{M}+\text{H}-36]^+$ ion of 2OH-GDGT-0, for
450 example, m/z 1298 for GDGT-2, OH-GDGT-1 and 2OH-GDGT-0 (Fig. 2). This
451 calculation does not provide the real abundance of hydroxy-GDGTs but a rough
452 estimation because the detected signal represents only ions that result from dehydration.
453 Nevertheless, the ratios are useful for comparing relative distributions between samples.
454 Using this approach for core lipids fractions from marine sediments, the estimated
455 abundances of hydroxy-GDGTs ranged from 1% to 8% of the total detected isoprenoid
456 GDGT core lipids, while 2OH-GDGT-0 generally comprises very small proportion
457 (Table 1). The widespread occurrence and remarkable abundance of hydroxy-GDGTs in

458 the marine environment renders these compounds an important target for future studies of
459 archaeal lipids.

460

461 3.6. Source of hydroxy-GDGT

462

463 In all analyzed marine sediments the ring composition of hydroxy-GDGT core
464 lipids differs markedly from that of non-hydroxylated GDGTs, suggesting that these two
465 lipid classes may be attributed to either distinct source organisms or production under
466 different environmental stresses. As it is shown in Fig. 2, GDGTs consist of 0-, 1-, 2-, 3-
467 and 5-ring structures (GDGT-4 was not taken into account because of the co-elution with
468 crenarchaeol and the interference of the $[M+H+2]^+$ signal of crenarchaeol) and with
469 GDGT-0 and crenarchaeol as the dominant components, however, there are only 0-, 1-
470 and 2-ring structures detected in hydroxy-GDGTs, and with the acyclic structure as the
471 most abundant component in both mono- and dihydroxy-GDGTs.

472 We also detected low abundant free core lipids of GDGT-0 and hydroxy-GDGT-0
473 in the TLE of *Methanothermococcus thermolithotrophicus*; the corresponding IPLs were
474 2Gly- and 3Gly-OH-GDGT (Table 1). Schouten et al. (2008) reported a 2Gly-GDGT
475 with a molecular mass elevated by 18 Da in *Candidatus 'Nitrosopumilus maritimus'*, a
476 marine group I crenarchaeon. We propose that this compound, observed as the same as
477 the H341-GDGT in a wide range of marine sediments, is 2Gly-OH-GDGT. The presence
478 of hydroxy-GDGTs in these two archaeal cultures showed that the biosynthesis of
479 hydroxy-GDGTs is not limited to either crenarchaeota or euryarchaeota (*M.*
480 *thermolithotrophicus*). However, the sources of hydroxy-GDGTs in marine sediments

481 may be as complex as the archaeal diversity (cf. Teske and Sørensen, 2008) and remain
482 to be constrained.

483

484 3.7. Potential degradation of hydroxy-GDGTs during sample preparation

485

486 Acid hydrolysis is a common approach to obtain core GDGTs from the IPLs or
487 biomass. We observed dehydrated by-products of hydroxy-GDGTs upon acid treatment.
488 With a simple experiment of acid hydrolysis on purified OH-GDGT-0 (Fig. 4D) and the
489 TLE of *Methanothermococcus thermolithotrophicus* (Fig. 4A and B), two major
490 dehydrated products resulting from hydrolyzed OH-GDGT-0 were detected (Fig. 4D).
491 The first dehydrated product, designated compound (1) in Fig. 4, which nearly co-eluted
492 with GDGT-1, showed the same molecular mass of 1300 Da as GDGT-1 and virtually
493 identical fragmentation behavior in MS². Compound (1) was assumed to be an acyclic
494 GDGT with one double bond as depicted in Fig. 4.

495 The second dehydration product, labeled as compound (2) in Fig. 4B and D, has
496 also the molecular mass of 1300 Da and reacts similarly in MS² as GDGT-1, but has a
497 higher polarity as indicated by its elevated retention time. It is questionable whether a
498 different double bond position, as could result from dehydration of OH-GDGT, would
499 cause this shift in retention time. We suggest that the compounds reported by Pitcher et al.
500 (2011) as GDGTs with head groups of 180 and 2 x 180 Da in marine sediment
501 enrichments were possibly glycosidic hydroxy-GDGTs. In their core lipid fractions
502 recovered from acid hydrolyzed lipid extracts, these authors observed both earlier and
503 later eluting 'isomers' of GDGT-1, -2 and -3. Considering the LC conditions used by

504 Pitcher et al. (2011), their later eluting ‘isomers’ could be the second dehydrated product
505 (compound (2)) and other analogues derived from OH-GDGT-0, -1 and -2.

506 Interestingly, we also noticed that compound (2) nearly co-elutes with H-shaped
507 GDGT-0. On the basis of its MS² spectrum, the structure of this compound cannot be
508 fully determined but based on its mass spectrometric fragmentation pattern we can
509 confidently exclude that it is a H-shaped structure. H-shaped GDGT-0 was detected in
510 only one of our marine sediment samples, ODP201 1229A 22H1 (Fig. 4E and F). The
511 same molecular mass of 1300 Da, and co-elution of compound (2) and H-shaped GDGT-
512 0 points to the danger of identifying H-shaped GDGT only on the basis of retention time
513 and molecular mass, if the lipid extracts were acid hydrolyzed.

514 In analogy to hydroxy-GDGTs, hydroxyarchaeol with its tertiary hydroxyl group
515 apparently degraded rapidly after *in-situ* production in methane-laden marine sediment
516 (Aquilina et al., 2010). Due to the labile nature of tertiary alcohols (cf., Nishihara and
517 Koga, 1991; Hinrichs et al., 2000), degradation of hydroxy-GDGT to its unsaturated
518 analogues in sedimentary environments needs to be evaluated and considered in future
519 work.

520

521 **4. Conclusion**

522

523 We identified OH-GDGT-0 on the basis of its mass spectrometric behavior and
524 NMR analysis. 2D-NMR analysis indicated hydroxylation at C-3 of the *sn*-3 biphytanyl
525 moiety. Combined with the tentative identification of monohydroxy-GDGTs with one
526 and two rings and 2OH-GDGT-0, this study has extended the known diversity of archaeal

527 lipids in marine sediments. These widespread hydroxy-GDGTs are subject to in-source
528 dehydration during the commonly applied protocols for LC-APCI-MS analysis of
529 GDGTs with the resulting dehydrated fragment showing highly similar mass spectral
530 fragmentation as the corresponding cycloalkyl-bearing molecular ion with identical mass;
531 this behavior may result in erroneous identification of the hydroxylated GDGTs. We also
532 identified the corresponding IPLs, comprising of a series of glycosidic hydroxy-GDGTs
533 that had been reported as unknowns in several previous studies.

534 Based on the occurrence of hydroxy-GDGTs in twelve widely distributed marine
535 sediments, we suggest that these lipids are as ubiquitous and widespread in marine
536 sediments as their non-hydroxylated analogues. In the samples analyzed in this study the
537 relative abundance of hydroxy-GDGT core lipids is substantial, up to 8% of total
538 isoprenoidal core GDGTs.

539 In marine sediments hydroxy-GDGTs contain up to two rings with the acyclic
540 compound being the most abundant component. Their biological sources in the
541 environment remain to be constrained. However, we identified hydroxy-GDGTs in one
542 methanogen, *Methanothermococcus thermolithotrophicus*, and based on our
543 interpretation of previously published findings (Schouten et al., 2008), we suggest that
544 2Gly-OH-GDGT is also present in *Candidatus 'Nitrosopumilus maritimus'*.
545 Consequently, it appears that both crenarchaeota and euryarchaeota are able to synthesize
546 this compound. Both the biophysical significance of hydroxylated tetraether lipids and
547 their ecological role need to be clarified in future biological studies. Tentatively, the
548 hydroxylation of the biphytanyl moiety may result in enhanced membrane rigidity due to

549 the potential for hydrogen bonding between the C-3 hydroxyl proton and the *sn*-2 and *sn*-
550 3 glycerol O-atoms

551

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570

571

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682

683

684 **Figure captions**

685

686 **Figure 1.** Molecular structures of major compounds mentioned in this report. Numbered
687 molecular structure of isolated compound (OH-GDGT-0 isomer-1) shows the carbon
688 labels used in Table 2. The occurrence of hydroxy-GDGT isomers is based on the
689 assumption that hydroxylation only occurred on the C-3 position of biphytane with fixed
690 cyclopentane ring position.

691

692 **Figure 2.** HPLC-APCI-MS chromatogram generated by the Agilent 6130 MSD single
693 quadrupole mass spectrometer, showing GDGTs, GDDs (Liu et al., 2012) and hydroxy-
694 GDGTs (compound a, b, c and d) in the core lipid fraction of GeoB 12806-2. Dehydrated
695 ions of monohydroxy-GDGTs (compound a, b, c) and dihydroxy-GDGT (compound d)
696 are displayed together with GDGTs in a separate mass window of extracted ion
697 chromatogram (EIC). The peak of 2OH-GDGT-0 is highlighted with the dashed circle.

698

699 **Figure 3.** MS² mass spectra from qTOF in centroid mode showing the major fragment
700 ions of selected precursor m/z 1298 (a), and MS¹ mass spectra in profile mode showing
701 the ‘in-source’ dehydration of OH-GDGT-1 and 2OH-GDGT-0 (b).

702

703 **Figure 4.** HPLC-APCI-MS chromatogram, generated by the Agilent 6130 MSD single
704 quadrupole mass spectrometer in SIM mode, showing the detection of compounds in
705 hydrolyzed TLE of *Methanothermococcus thermolithotrophicus*: (A) base peak
706 chromatogram (BPC) and (B) EIC, m/z 1300; in purified OH-GDGT-0: (C) BPC; in acid
707 hydrolyzed OH-GDGT-0: (D) EIC, m/z 1300 and in sample ODP201 1229A 22H1 core
708 lipid fraction: (E) BPC, (F) EIC, m/z 1300. Compounds (1) and (2) are two major
709 dehydration products of OH-GDGT-0, (3) and (4) are two isomers of OH-GDGT-0.
710 Possible molecular structures of (1), (3) and (4) are provided while the structure of
711 compound (2) remains ambiguous.

712

713 **Figure 5.** Density maps generated by ESI-ion trap-MS analysis showing the detection of
714 glycosidic GDGTs and hydroxy-GDGTs in the IPL fractions of samples IODP 311

715 1327C 10H5, ODP 201 1226B 10H3 and M76/1 GeoB 12807-2. Tentative molecular
716 structures of compounds are provided.

717

718 **Figure 6.** MS² mass spectra of 2Gly-OH-GDGT-0 in sample ODP 201 1229D 4H4
719 generated by ESI-ion trap-MS analysis. At 100% collision energy (upper panel), the
720 neutral loss of two hexose moieties together with the hydroxyl group (as H₂O) from the
721 biphytanyl moiety, and under 25% collision energy (lower panel) the successive losses of
722 hexoses and the biphytanyl-derived hydroxyl group.

723

724

725

726 **Table 1.** Samples analyzed. Detailed information on the twelve marine sediment samples
 727 has been published in Liu et al., (2011). Ratio of hydroxy-GDGT vs. the total core GDGT
 728 was calculated based on the detection of hydroxy-GDGT with APCI-MSD single
 729 quadrupole mass spectrometer.

730

Samples		OH-GDGT/total Core GDGT (%)	2OH-GDGT/total Core GDGT (%)	Identified Intact Polar GDGTs
M76/1	GeoB			
	12806-2	6.0	0.06	1Gly-, 2Gly-GDGT; 1Gly-OH-GDGT
Namibia Margin	GeoB			
	12807-2	6.1	n.d.	1Gly-, 2Gly-GDGT; 1Gly-, 2Gly-OH-GDGT
ODP201	1229D			
	4H4	7.2	0.11	2Gly-GDGT; 2Gly-, 3Gly-OH-GDGT
Peru Margin	1229A			
	22H1	5.3	0.06	2Gly-GDGT
ODP201	1226B			
	10H3	4.7	1.72	2Gly-, 3Gly-GDGT; 2Gly-, 3Gly-OH-GDGT; 2Gly-2OH-GDGT
Equatorial Pacific	1226E			
	20H3	2.2	0.25	1Gly-, 2Gly-GDGT; 2Gly-OH-GDGT
ODP204	1250D			
	6H5	5.8	0.26	2Gly-GDGT; 2Gly-OH-GDGT
Hydrate Ridge	1250D			
	12H5	6.3	0.37	2Gly-, 3Gly-GDGT; 2Gly-, 3Gly-OH-GDGT
IODP311	1327C			
	10H5	7.9	0.47	2Gly-, 3Gly-GDGT; 2Gly-, 3Gly-OH-GDGT; 3Gly-2OH-GDGT
Cascadia. Margin	1327C			
	13X6	6.1	0.25	2Gly-GDGT; 2Gly-OH-GDGT
ODP160	966C			
	5H02	2.7	n.d.	2Gly-, 3Gly-GDGT; 2Gly-, 3Gly-OH-GDGT
Mediterranean Sapropel	966C			
	7H04	1.2	0.07	2Gly-GDGT; 2Gly-OH-GDGT
Methanothermococcus thermolithotrophicus		14.3	n.d.	1Gly-, 2Gly, 3Gly-GDGT; 2Gly-, 3Gly-OH-GDGT

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732 (n.d. not detected)

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736 **Table 2.** ^{13}C - and ^1H -NMR data of OH-GDGT-0

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Label	^1H shift (ppm)	^{13}C shift (ppm)
A1	3.44, 3.56	68.5
A2	1.41, 1.67	37.5
A3	1.65	30.1
A4	1.33, 1.37	30.1
A5	1.35, 1.38	24.9
A6	1.21, 1.42	37.8
A7	1.50	33.1
A8	1.21, 1.42	37.8
A9	1.35, 1.48	24.9
A10	1.21, 1.42	37.8
A11	1.50	33.1
A12	1.21, 1.42	37.8
A13	1.35, 1.48	24.9
A14	1.21, 1.42	37.8
A15	1.47	33.4
A16	1.25, 1.42	34.7
A17	0.94	19.9
A18	0.99	20.0
A19	0.99	20.0
A20	0.98	19.6
B1	3.48, 3.50	68.8
B2	1.57, 1.73	40.3
B3	-	71.7
B4	1.49, 1.56	43.3
B5	1.49, 1.53	21.8
B6	1.22, 1.42	38.2
B7	1.50	33.1
B8	1.21, 1.42	37.8
B9	1.35, 1.48	24.9
B10	1.21, 1.42	37.8
B11	1.50	33.1
B12	1.21, 1.42	37.8
B13	1.35, 1.48	24.9
B14	1.21, 1.42	37.8
B15	1.47	33.4
B16	1.25, 1.42	34.7
B17	1.21	27.1
B18	0.99	20.0
B19	0.99	20.0
B20	0.98	19.6
C1	3.54, 3.59 (1.43 OH)	62.4
C2	3.33	79.1
C3	3.36, 3.41	71.5

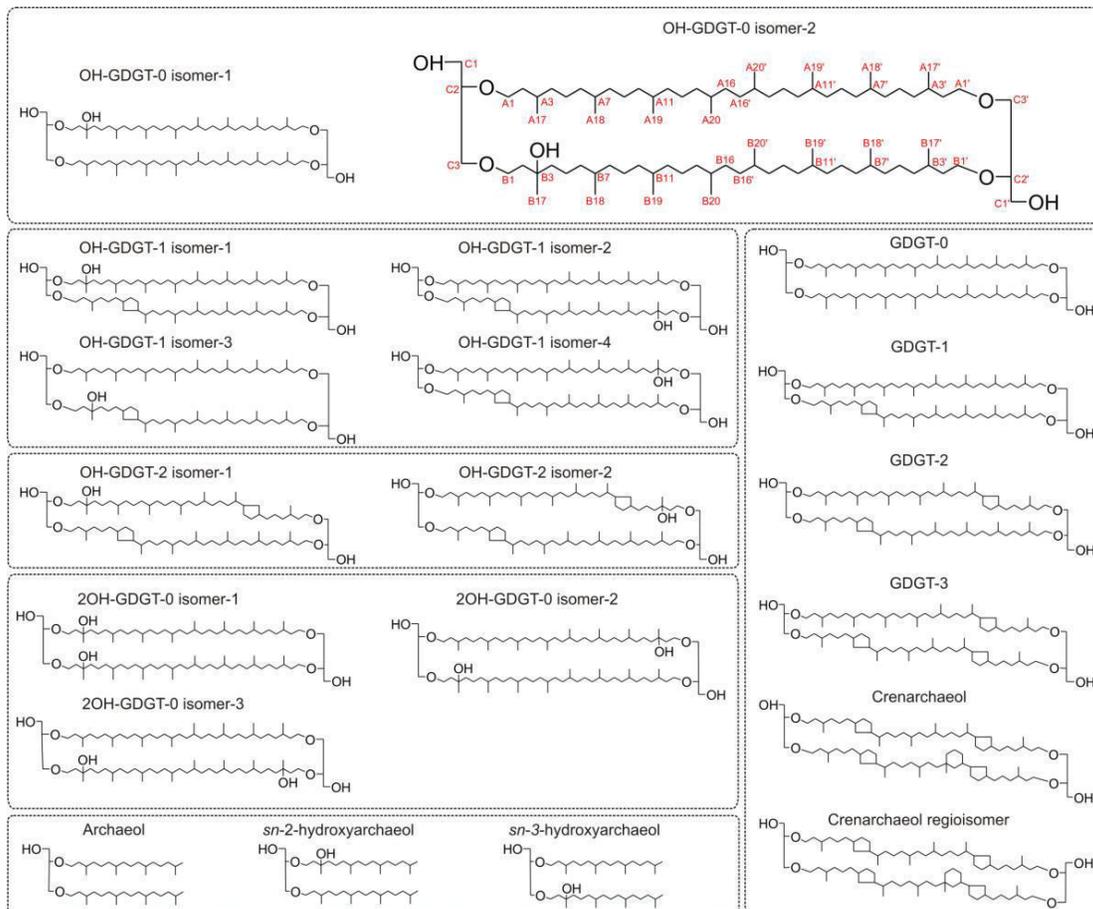
Label	^1H shift (ppm)	^{13}C shift (ppm)
A1'	3.38, 3.40	69.9
A2'	1.38, 1.67	37.0
A3'	1.65	30.1
A4'	1.33, 1.37	30.1
A5'	1.35, 1.38	24.9
A6'	1.21, 1.42	37.8
A7'	1.50	33.1
A8'	1.21, 1.42	37.8
A9'	1.35, 1.38	24.9
A10'	1.21, 1.42	37.8
A11'	1.50	33.1
A12'	1.21, 1.42	37.8
A13'	1.35, 1.38	24.9
A14'	1.21, 1.42	37.8
A15'	1.47	33.4
A16'	1.25, 1.42	34.7
A17'	0.94	19.9
A18'	0.99	20.0
A19'	0.99	20.0
A20'	0.98	19.6
B1'	3.50, 3.64	68.5
B2'	1.41, 1.65	37.5
B3'	1.65	30.1
B4'	1.33, 1.37	30.1
B5'	1.35, 1.48	24.9
B6'	1.21, 1.42	37.8
B7'	1.50	33.1
B8'	1.21, 1.42	37.8
B9'	1.35, 1.48	24.9
B10'	1.21, 1.42	37.8
B11'	1.50	33.1
B12'	1.21, 1.42	37.8
B13'	1.35, 1.48	24.9
B14'	1.21, 1.42	37.8
B15'	1.47	33.4
B16'	1.25, 1.42	34.7
B17'	0.99	20.0
B18'	0.99	20.0
B19'	0.99	20.0
B20'	0.98	19.6
C1'	3.67, 3.72 (2.05 OH)	63.0
C2'	3.51	79.2
C3'	3.43, 3.51	71.7

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739 Carbon labels in table refer to the numbered molecule in Fig. 1.

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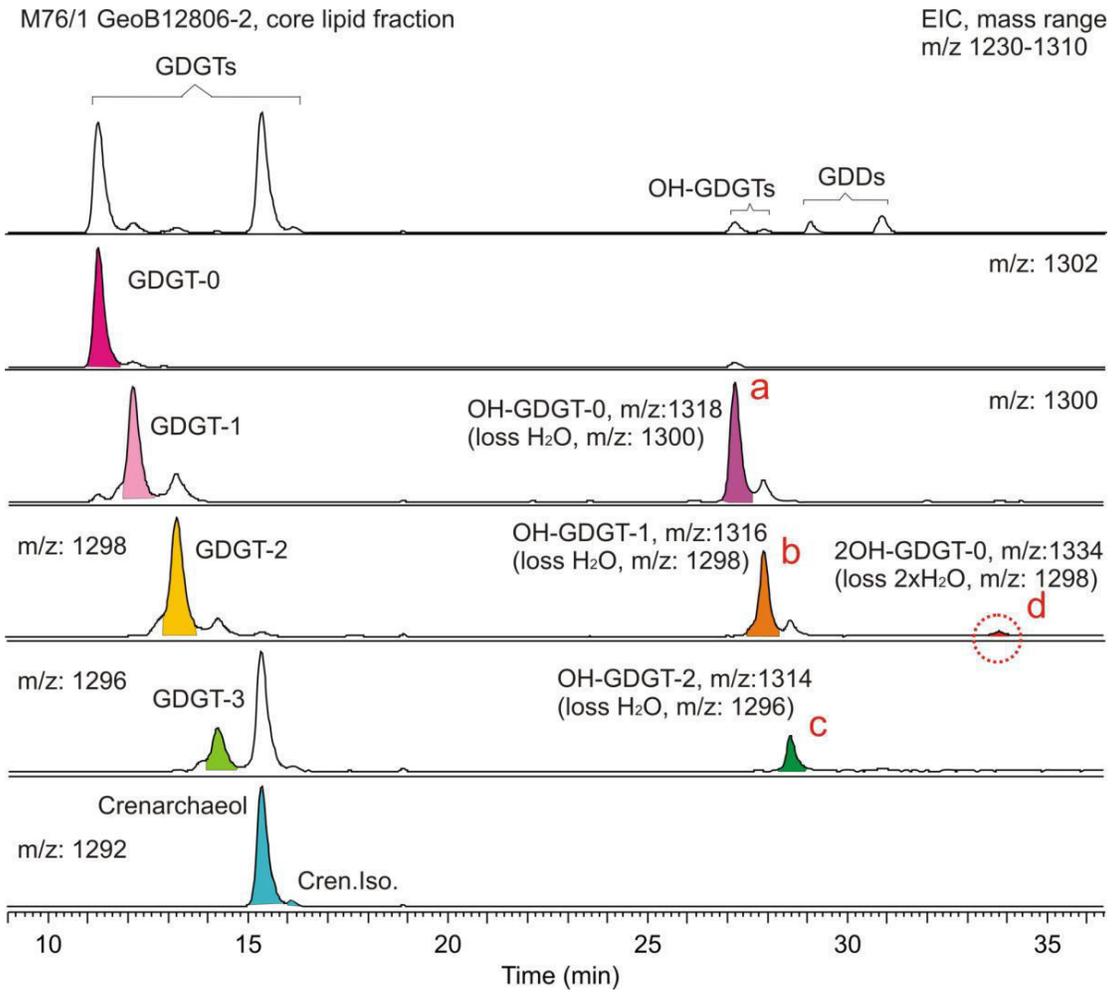


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Figure 1.

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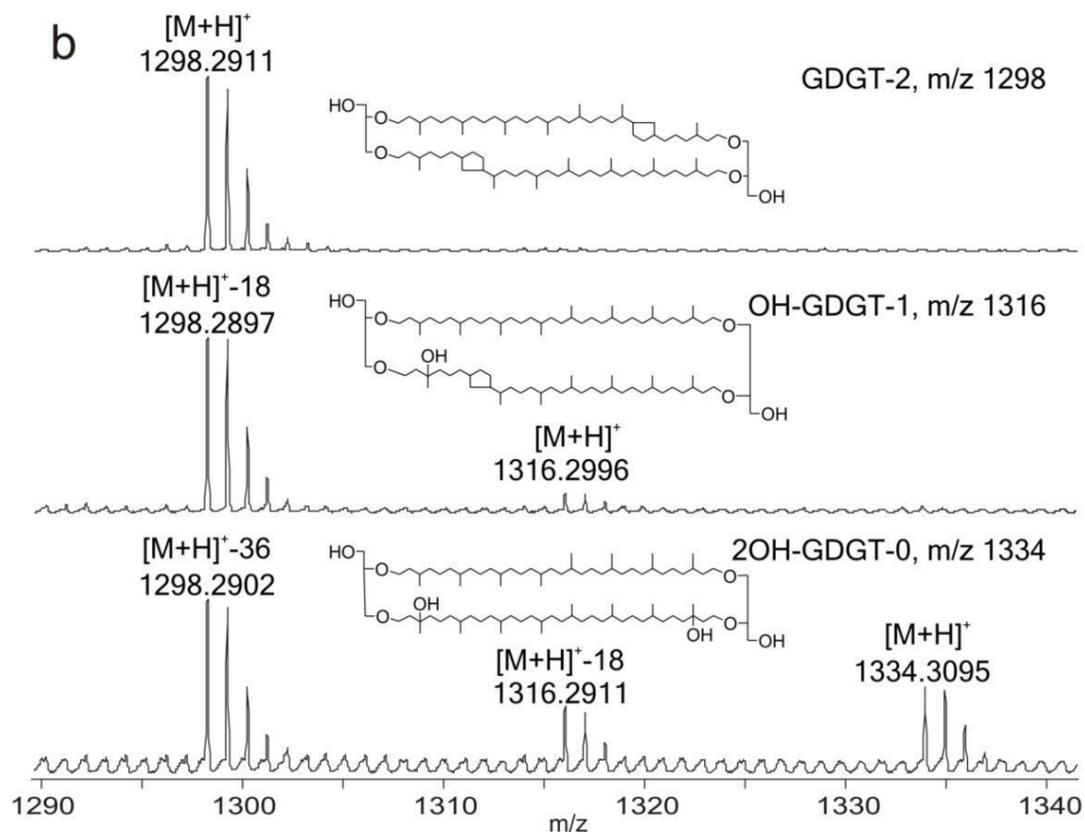
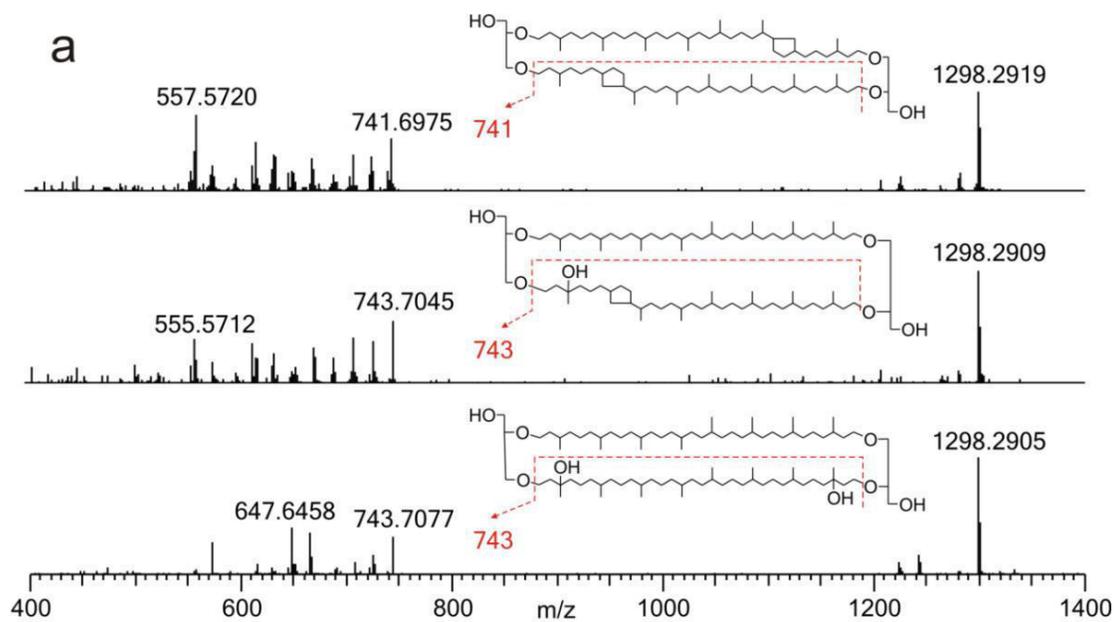
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Figure 2.

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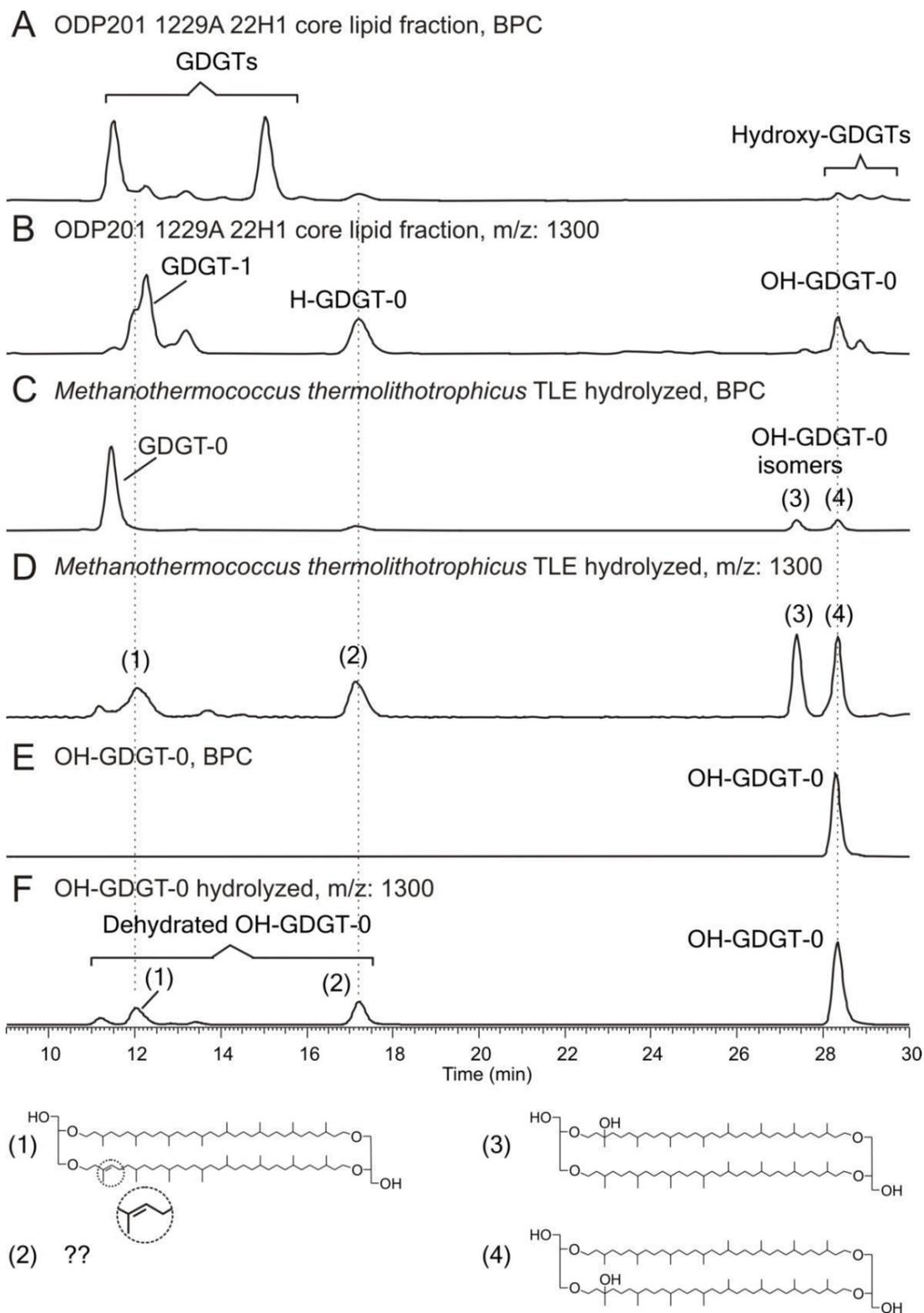


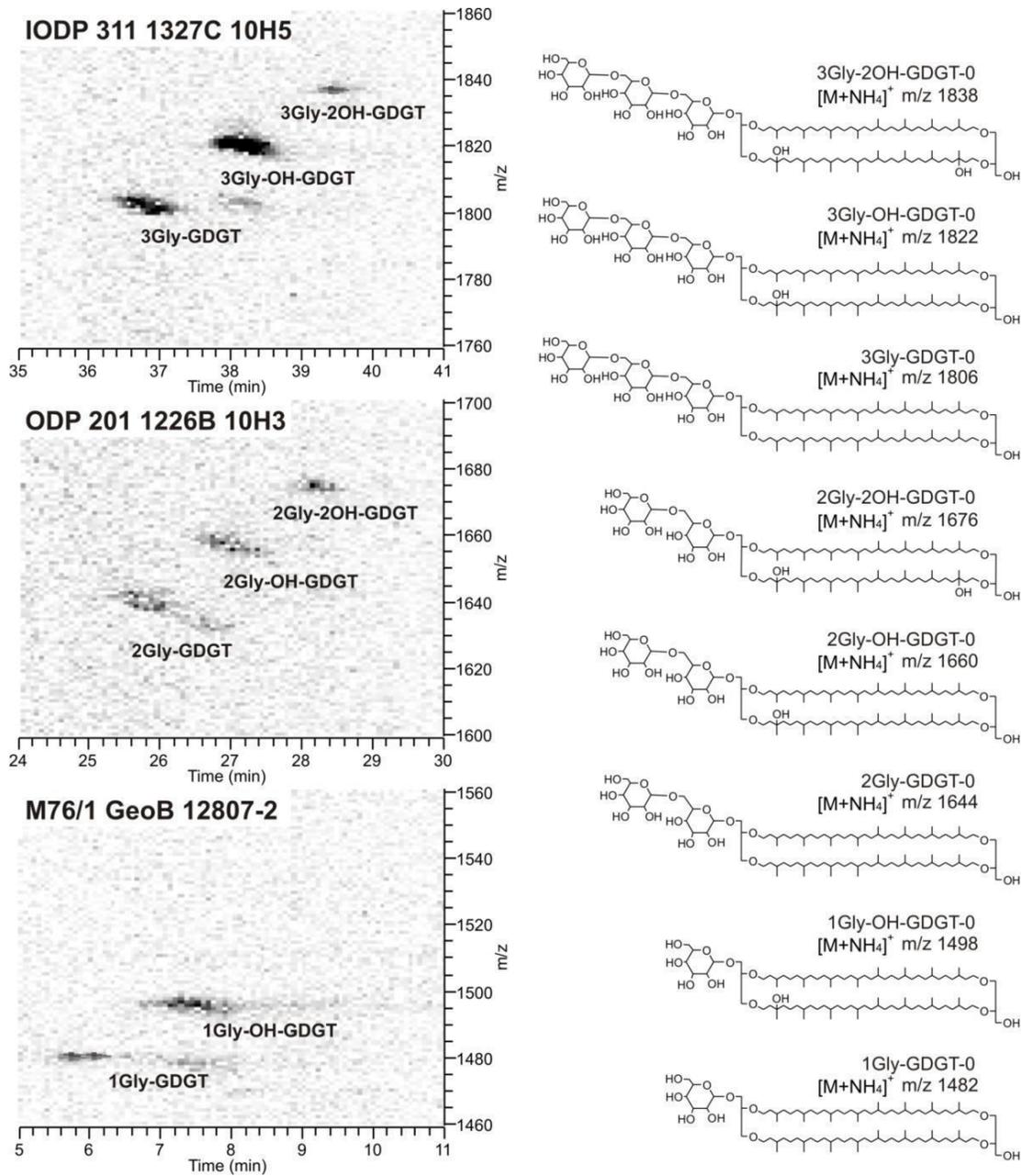
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Figure 3.

**Figure 4.**



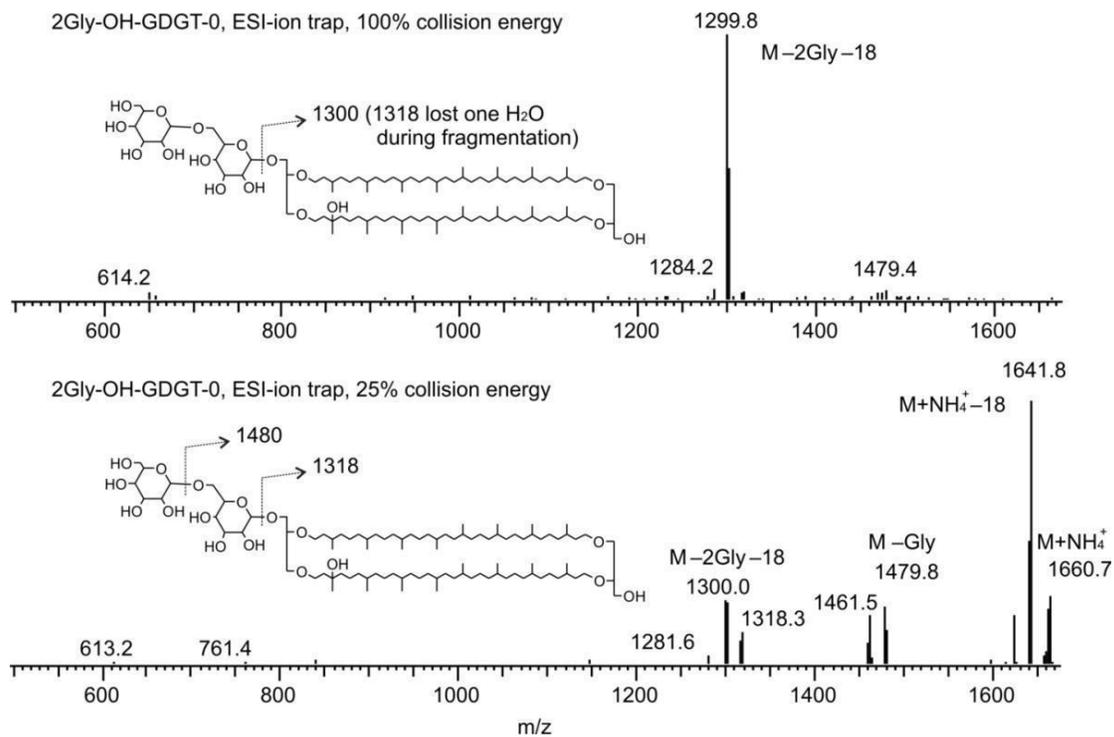
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763 **Figure 5.**

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Figure 6.

Table 1. Samples analyzed. Detailed information on the twelve marine sediment samples has been published in Liu et al., (2011). Ratio of hydroxy-GDGT vs. the total core GDGT was calculated based on the detection of hydroxy-GDGT with APCI-MSD single quadrupole mass spectrometer.

Samples		OH-GDGT/total Core GDGT (%)	2OH-GDGT/total Core GDGT (%)	Identified Intact Polar GDGTs
M76/1 Namibia	GeoB 12806-2	6.0	0.06	1Gly-, 2Gly-GDGT; 1Gly-OH-GDGT
	GeoB 12807-2			
ODP201 Peru	1229D 4H4	7.2	0.11	2Gly-GDGT; 2Gly-, 3Gly-OH-GDGT
	1229A 22H1			
ODP201 Equatorial Pacific	1226B 10H3	4.7	1.72	2Gly-, 3Gly-GDGT; 2Gly-, 3Gly-OH-GDGT; 2Gly-2OH-GDGT
	1226E 20H3			
ODP204 Hydrate Ridge	1250D 6H5	5.8	0.26	2Gly-GDGT; 2Gly-OH-GDGT
	1250D 12H5			
IODP311 Cascadia. Margin	1327C 10H5	7.9	0.47	2Gly-, 3Gly-GDGT; 2Gly-, 3Gly-OH-GDGT; 3Gly-2OH-GDGT
	1327C 13X6			
ODP160 Mediterranean Sapropel	966C 5H02	2.7	n.d.	2Gly-, 3Gly-GDGT; 2Gly-, 3Gly-OH-GDGT
	966C 7H04			
Methanothermococcus thermolithotrophicus		14.3	n.d.	1Gly-, 2Gly, 3Gly-GDGT; 2Gly-, 3Gly-OH-GDGT

(n.d. not detected)

1 **Table 2.** ^{13}C - and ^1H -NMR data of OH-GDGT-0

2

Label	^1H shift (ppm)	^{13}C shift (ppm)
A1	3.44, 3.56	68.5
A2	1.41, 1.67	37.5
A3	1.65	30.1
A4	1.33, 1.37	30.1
A5	1.35, 1.38	24.9
A6	1.21, 1.42	37.8
A7	1.50	33.1
A8	1.21, 1.42	37.8
A9	1.35, 1.48	24.9
A10	1.21, 1.42	37.8
A11	1.50	33.1
A12	1.21, 1.42	37.8
A13	1.35, 1.48	24.9
A14	1.21, 1.42	37.8
A15	1.47	33.4
A16	1.25, 1.42	34.7
A17	0.94	19.9
A18	0.99	20.0
A19	0.99	20.0
A20	0.98	19.6
B1	3.48, 3.50	68.8
B2	1.57, 1.73	40.3
B3	-	71.7
B4	1.49, 1.56	43.3
B5	1.49, 1.53	21.8
B6	1.22, 1.42	38.2
B7	1.50	33.1
B8	1.21, 1.42	37.8
B9	1.35, 1.48	24.9
B10	1.21, 1.42	37.8
B11	1.50	33.1
B12	1.21, 1.42	37.8
B13	1.35, 1.48	24.9
B14	1.21, 1.42	37.8
B15	1.47	33.4
B16	1.25, 1.42	34.7
B17	1.21	27.1
B18	0.99	20.0
B19	0.99	20.0
B20	0.98	19.6
C1	3.54, 3.59 (1.43 OH)	62.4
C2	3.33	79.1
C3	3.36, 3.41	71.5

Label	^1H shift (ppm)	^{13}C shift (ppm)
A1'	3.38, 3.40	69.9
A2'	1.38, 1.67	37.0
A3'	1.65	30.1
A4'	1.33, 1.37	30.1
A5'	1.35, 1.38	24.9
A6'	1.21, 1.42	37.8
A7'	1.50	33.1
A8'	1.21, 1.42	37.8
A9'	1.35, 1.38	24.9
A10'	1.21, 1.42	37.8
A11'	1.50	33.1
A12'	1.21, 1.42	37.8
A13'	1.35, 1.38	24.9
A14'	1.21, 1.42	37.8
A15'	1.47	33.4
A16'	1.25, 1.42	34.7
A17'	0.94	19.9
A18'	0.99	20.0
A19'	0.99	20.0
A20'	0.98	19.6
B1'	3.50, 3.64	68.5
B2'	1.41, 1.65	37.5
B3'	1.65	30.1
B4'	1.33, 1.37	30.1
B5'	1.35, 1.48	24.9
B6'	1.21, 1.42	37.8
B7'	1.50	33.1
B8'	1.21, 1.42	37.8
B9'	1.35, 1.48	24.9
B10'	1.21, 1.42	37.8
B11'	1.50	33.1
B12'	1.21, 1.42	37.8
B13'	1.35, 1.48	24.9
B14'	1.21, 1.42	37.8
B15'	1.47	33.4
B16'	1.25, 1.42	34.7
B17'	0.99	20.0
B18'	0.99	20.0
B19'	0.99	20.0
B20'	0.98	19.6
C1'	3.67, 3.72 (2.05 OH)	63.0
C2'	3.51	79.2
C3'	3.43, 3.51	71.7

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4 Carbon labels in table refer to the numbered molecule in Fig. 1.

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