

1 Identification of unusual butanetriol dialkyl glycerol tetraether and pentanetriol dialkyl glycerol  
2 tetraether lipids in marine sediments

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10 **Running head:** Butanetriol or pentanetriol-based tetraether lipids

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11 **Abstract**

12 **RATIONALE:** Glycerol serves as the principal backbone moiety bound to various acyl/alkyl  
13 chains for membrane lipids of *Eukarya*, *Bacteria*, and *Archaea*. In this study, we report a suite of  
14 unusual tetraether lipids in which one of the two conventional glycerol backbones is substituted  
15 by butanetriol or pentanetriol.

16 **METHODS:** Identification of these lipids was achieved via diagnostic fragments and their  
17 expected acetylation products using liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (LC-MS), and  
18 their diagnostic ether cleavage products using gas chromatograph-mass spectrometry (GC-MS).

19 **RESULTS:** We observed structural variations in the polyol backbones and alkyl chains and term  
20 these core lipid derivatives: isoprenoidal butanetriol dialkyl glycerol tetraethers (iso-BDGTs),  
21 isoprenoidal pentanetriol dialkyl glycerol tetraethers (iso-PDGTs), and hybrid  
22 isoprenoidal/branched BDGTs and PDGTs (ib-BDGTs, ib-PDGTs). Of these, iso-BDGTs were  
23 the most abundant with a methylation at either *sn*-1 or *sn*-3 position of glycerol and were also  
24 found as part of intact polar lipids, adjoined to mono- or diglycosidic headgroups. Iso-BDGTs  
25 and iso-PDGTs are likely produced by *Archaea*, as indicated by the presence of the characteristic  
26 biphytanyl moieties.

27 **CONCLUSIONS:** Butanetriol and pentanetriol-based tetraether lipids occur in modern estuarine  
28 and deeply buried subseafloor sediments, suggesting the presence of alternative backbones in  
29 archaeal lipids.

30

31 **Key words:** glycerol, butanetriol, pentanetriol, tetraether lipids, lipid backbone

32

## 33 1. Introduction

34 Glycerol serves as a backbone moiety bound to acyl/alkyl chains and polar head groups,  
35 forming the major membrane lipids found in nature. Archaeal lipids primarily comprise  
36 isoprenoidal dialkyl glycerol diethers (iso-DGDs) and isoprenoidal glycerol dialkyl glycerol  
37 tetraethers (iso-GDGTs). The glycerol backbone of archaeal lipids is derived from *sn*-glycerol-1-  
38 phosphate (G1P; [Kates, 1978](#)), the enantiomer of *sn*-glycerol-3-phosphate (G3P) used to form  
39 the backbone of bacterial and eukaryotic membrane lipids. The stereochemistry of the glycerol  
40 backbone represents a chemotaxonomic hallmark that distinguishes *Archaea* from the other two  
41 life domains ([Kates, 1978](#)).

42 Biosynthesis of glycerol ether lipids in archaea involves dihydroxyacetonephosphate  
43 (DHAP), which is subsequently reduced by *sn*-glycerol-1-phosphate dehydrogenase (G1PDH) to  
44 form G1P ([Koga and Morii, 2007](#); [Pereto et al., 2004](#)). However, the detection of  
45 tetritoldiphytanyl diether (TDD; [de Rosa et al., 1986](#)), in which a tetritol replaces the glycerol  
46 backbone bound to two isoprenoidal alkyl chains, implies an alternative initial substrate for  
47 archaeal ether lipid biosynthesis. Nevertheless, TDD was only reported in *Methanosarcina*  
48 *barkeri* and *Methanosarcina mazei* as a minor archaeal lipid ([de Rosa and Gambacorta, 1988](#); [de](#)  
49 [Rosa et al., 1986](#)), such that one might view TDD as a metabolic byproduct during lipid  
50 biosynthesis. Recently, [Knappy \(2013\)](#) reported unusual tetraether lipids bearing one or two  
51 extra carbons relative to the archaeal GDGTs; these were tentatively assigned as homoglycerol  
52 tetraether lipids with an additional saturated C-C bond(s). However, the position of the additional  
53 C-C bond remains unknown.

54 Here, we provide three lines of evidence to confirm the existence of unusual tetraether lipids  
55 with 1,2,3-butanetriol as one of the two termini bound to dibiphytanyl alkyl chains, which we

56 termed isoprenoidal butanetriol dialkyl glycerol tetraethers (iso-BDGTs). Moreover, several ions  
57 exhibited similar retention time and fragmentation patterns after liquid chromatography-tandem  
58 mass spectrometry (LC-MS<sup>2</sup>), revealing a series of iso-BDGT homologues, which we tentatively  
59 assigned as isoprenoidal pentanetriol dialkyl glycerol tetraethers (iso-PDGTs) as well as their  
60 corresponding glycolipids and hybrid isoprenoidal/branched (cf. [Liu et al., 2012](#)) BDGTs and  
61 PDGTs (ib-BDGTs and ib-PDGTs). These unusual ether lipids are detected in shallow estuarine  
62 and deeply buried subsurface deep-sea sediments, indicating the existence of a  
63 butanetriol/pentanetriol-based lipid biosynthesis pathway.

64

## 65 **2. Experimental**

### 66 *2.1. Materials*

67 A shallow estuarine sediment sample was collected from the White Oak River Estuary  
68 (WORE, [Lloyd et al., 2009](#)), North Carolina, USA, in October 2010; a deep subsurface sediment  
69 sample with approximate age of 1 Ma was obtained from the Peru Margin during Ocean Drilling  
70 Program Leg 201 ([D'Hondt et al., 2003](#)). This initial sample set spans geographically and  
71 temporally distinct sediment regimes. Standards of glycerol, 1,2,3-butanetriol, and 1,2,4-  
72 butanetriol were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich GmbH, Munich, Germany.

73

### 74 *2.2. Sample preparation*

75 The sample preparation procedure is summarized in [Scheme 1](#). Total lipid extracts (TLEs)  
76 were obtained from freeze-dried and homogenized sediments using a modified Bligh and Dyer  
77 protocol ([Sturt et al., 2004](#)). TLEs were separated into fractions of core lipids (CLs, without head  
78 groups) and intact polar lipids (IPLs, with head groups) after preparative chromatography, using

79 an Intersil Diol column (150 × 10 mm, 5 μm particle size; GL Sciences Inc., Tokyo, Japan)  
80 installed in an Agilent 1200 series HPLC equipped with an Agilent 1200 series fraction collector.  
81 TLEs were dissolved in *n*-hexane:2-propanol (7:3, v/v) prior to injection and were eluted using a  
82 binary solvent system consisting of *n*-hexane: 2-propanol (85:15, v/v; eluent A) and 2-propanol:  
83 water (90:10, v/v; eluent B). The gradient ramped from 0% B to 10% B at 5 min, and then to  
84 100% B at 6 min, subsequently holding for 10 min; the flow rate was 3 mL min<sup>-1</sup>. The column  
85 was maintained at 30°C and re-equilibrated with 100% A for 10 min before the next injection.  
86 CL and IPL fractions were collected in the time windows of 1.0-5.1 min and 5.1-12 min,  
87 respectively. Carryover of CLs into the IPL fraction was minor (typically <1%) as determined by  
88 liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (LC-MS). Aliquots of the IPL fractions were  
89 hydrolyzed in a mixture of 6M HCl/methanol/dichloromethane (1:9:1, v/v) at 70°C for 24 h  
90 ([Lipp and Hinrichs, 2009](#)), which converts IPLs to CLs by cleaving the polar head groups.

91 Target iso-BDGTs and iso-GDGTs were further isolated from the CL fraction after  
92 preparative HPLC using a PerfectSil 100 CN-3 column (250 × 10 mm, 5 μm particle size, MZ  
93 Analysentechnik, Germany). CL mixtures were dissolved in *n*-hexane/2-propanol (99:1, v/v) and  
94 eluted isocratically with 100% A for 1 min, followed by a slow gradient to 10% B over 14 min,  
95 and then increased to 60% B over another 15 min at a flow rate of 3 mL/min. Eluent A was *n*-  
96 hexane/2-propanol (99:1, v/v) and B was *n*-hexane/2-propanol (90:10, v/v). The column  
97 temperature was 25°C. The column was washed for 15 min with 100% B and then another 15  
98 min with 100% A before each injection. Iso-BDGTs and iso-GDGTs were collected in the time  
99 intervals of 11.0-13.0 min and 13.1-18.0 min, respectively. Purity was monitored by LC-MS,  
100 which confirmed that iso-BDGTs dominated the iso-BDGT fraction and were not detected in the  
101 iso-GDGT fraction. An aliquot of each fraction was then subjected to ether cleavage (after [Lin et](#)

102 [al., 2012](#)) to obtain tetraether-derived triols and biphytanes. Alcohols were derivatized by N,O-  
103 bis(trimethylsilyl)trifluoroacetamide (BSTFA) prior to gas chromatography-mass spectrometry  
104 (GC-MS) analysis ([Lin et al., 2012](#)).

105 Aliquots of the CL fraction were acetylated by adding 100  $\mu$ L acetic anhydride (Sigma-  
106 Aldrich, Steinheim, Germany) and 20  $\mu$ L 1-methylimidazole (Sigma-Aldrich, Steinheim,  
107 Germany) to the dry sample. The headspace was replaced with N<sub>2</sub> before tightening caps and the  
108 reaction vials were kept at room temperature for 15 min, after which excess acetic anhydride was  
109 quenched by adding 0.5 mL water. After 10 min, 0.5 mL methylene chloride was added to  
110 extract the acetylated CLs. This was repeated 3 times and the extracts were combined and dried  
111 under N<sub>2</sub>. Samples were then resuspended in 0.5 mL hexane and dried under N<sub>2</sub>; this was  
112 repeated 3 times before samples were finally suspended in the injection solvent and analyzed by  
113 LC-MS as above.

114

### 115 2.3. Instrumental analysis

116 CL analysis was performed using a Dionex Ultimate 3000 ultra-high pressure LC (UHPLC)  
117 coupled to a Bruker maXis Ultra-High Resolution quadrupole time-of-flight mass spectrometer  
118 (qTOF-MS) via an APCI II ion source according to [Becker et al. \(2013\)](#). IPLs were analyzed  
119 with the same qTOF-MS instrument using the method by [Zhu et al. \(2013\)](#). MS<sup>2</sup> spectra for both  
120 CL and IPL analysis were recorded using automated data-dependent fragmentation of the three  
121 most abundant ions that were selected for collision induced dissociation (CID). Acetylated CLs  
122 were analyzed according to [Liu et al. \(2012\)](#), using an Agilent 6130 MSD single quadrupole  
123 mass spectrometer coupled to an Agilent 1200 series HPLC via an APCI ion source. GC-MS  
124 analyses of tetraether lipid-derived triols and biphytanes were performed on an Agilent 5973

125 inert MSD system equipped with a Restek Rxi-5ms column (30 m × 250 μm × 0.25 μm, Restek,  
126 Bad Homburg, Germany) as described by [Lin et al. \(2012\)](#).

127

### 128 **3. Results and discussion**

#### 129 *3.1. LC-MS identification*

130 LC-MS<sup>2</sup> analysis of modern and ancient sediments revealed iso-GDGT lipids containing 0-4  
131 cyclopentyl and up to one cyclohexyl moiety in the isoprenoidal chains ( $m/z$  1302.3 - 1292.3).  
132 Notably, we observed three isobaric ions of  $m/z$  1316.3401, 1316.3398, and 1316.3381 ([Fig. 1A](#);  
133 peaks **I**, **III**, and **IV**, respectively) and one of  $m/z$  1330.3356 ([Fig. 1A](#); peak **II**), whose protonated  
134 formulae correspond to  $[C_{87}H_{175}O_6]^+$  (<1 ppm) for peaks **I**, **III**, **IV** and  $[C_{88}H_{177}O_6]^+$  (<1 ppm)  
135 for **II**, indicating the presence of one or two additional methylene moieties compared to the  
136 acyclic iso-GDGT ( $m/z$  1302.3), respectively. Methoxy acyclic iso-GDGT ([Knappy et al., 2009](#))  
137 and methylated acyclic iso-GDGT, which has a methyl group substitution at the C-13 position  
138 (i.e., homocaldarchaeol; [Galliker et al., 1998](#)), have been previously reported and share the same  
139 protonated chemical formulae as peaks **I**, **III**, and **IV**. These compounds can be identified by the  
140 differences in their polarities and MS<sup>2</sup> spectra (e.g., [Knappy et al., 2009](#)). After fragmentation,  
141 peak **I** displayed product ions of  $m/z$  1284.3 and 757.7, consistent with neutral losses of methanol  
142 (32.0 Da) and one of the two constituent biphytanyl chains (557.6 Da), respectively. The  $m/z$   
143 743.7 ion was absent ([Fig. 1D](#)), indicating that the additional methyl group was etherified at one  
144 of two terminal hydroxyl groups of acyclic iso-GDGT ([Knappy et al., 2009](#)). In contrast,  
145 fragmentation of peak **IV** ([Fig. 1E](#)) is characterized by product ions of  $m/z$  743.7 and 1242.3,  
146 derived from cleavage of a methylated biphytadiene and a C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O<sub>2</sub> unit, respectively, indicating

147 incorporation of the additional methyl group into one of the two alkyl chains. Therefore, peaks **I**  
148 and **IV** are assigned as acyclic methoxy acyclic iso-GDGT and homocaldarchaeol, respectively.

149 The MS<sup>2</sup> spectrum of peak **III** ( $m/z$  1316.3398) displays two clusters of product ions (Fig.  
150 **1B**). The higher mass products result from losses of water and other small molecules from the  
151 precursor ions and the lower mass products are formed after dissociation of one alkyl chain  
152 ( $C_{40}H_{80}$ ,  $m/z$  557.6) and concomitant/sequential elimination of 1-4 molecules of water and other  
153 small molecules during CID (Fig. **1B**), consistent with the typical fragmentation of archaeal  
154 GDGTs (Knappy et al., 2009; Liu et al., 2012; Becker et al., 2013). However, there are subtle,  
155 informative differences. After CID, peak **III** generates a strong product ion of  $m/z$  1228.3,  
156 derived from a loss of  $C_4H_8O_2$  (88.1 Da), rather than the typical  $C_3H_6O_2$  (74.0 Da) of  
157 conventional GDGTs. Furthermore, the product ion of  $m/z$  1284.3 that is generated from  
158 methoxy acyclic iso-GDGT ( $m/z$  1316.3401) via cleavage of a terminal methanol (cf. Fig. **1D**) is  
159 absent. Such fragments likely indicate that the additional carbon atom bound directly to the triol  
160 backbone moiety but not as a methoxy group. This is evidence for the possible presence of a  
161 butanetriol rather than methoxy glycerol as one terminus for peak **III**. Likewise, the MS<sup>2</sup>  
162 spectrum of peak **II** ( $m/z$  1330.3356) shows a strong ion of  $m/z$  1228.3 formed by the neutral loss  
163 of  $C_5H_{10}O_2$  (102.1 Da), indicating the presence of a pentanetriol terminus (Fig. **1B**). Consistent  
164 with this interpretation, the polarities of peaks **II** and **III** are intermediate, eluting between the  
165 relatively more apolar methoxy acyclic iso-GDGT (**I**) and more polar homocaldarchaeol (**IV**)  
166 after normal phase chromatography (Fig. **1A**).

167 After an acetylation reaction, only the di-acetylated product of peak **III** ( $m/z$  1400.2) was  
168 detected (data not shown), further confirming that the additional methyl group located within the  
169 backbone-triol moiety was part of a  $C_4$  carbon chain rather than a methoxy derivative; the latter



170 molecule would have received only one acetyl group on the opposite glycerol terminus. Parallel  
171 analysis of an acyclic iso-GDGT standard ( $m/z$  1302.3) indicated a high yield of the di-acetylated  
172 product (i.e.,  $m/z$  1386.3) while the  $m/z$  1302.3 ion and the mono-acetylated product were not  
173 detectable after acetylation. We thus assign peak **III** as isoprenoidal acyclic butanetriol dialkyl  
174 glycerol tetraether (iso-BDGT<sub>0</sub>) and, by inference, peak **II** as isoprenoidal acyclic pentanetriol  
175 dialkyl glycerol tetraether (iso-PDGT<sub>0</sub>). We note that iso-PDGT<sub>0</sub> was below the detection limit  
176 in the TLE from the White Oak River Estuary analyzed for the acetylation experiment.

177

### 178 3.2. GC-MS identification

179 The proposed butanetriol backbone of compound **III** may have constitutional isomers such  
180 as 1,2,3-butanetriol and 1,2,4-butanetriol, and the C<sub>40</sub>H<sub>80</sub> alkyl moieties may also have isomers  
181 alternative to the typical biphytanyl chains. Both the alternative backbones and the associated  
182 alkyl moieties cannot be confirmed by LC-MS<sup>2</sup> alone. We thus analyzed the alcohol and  
183 hydrocarbon products after ether cleavage of a concentrated BDGT fraction by GC-MS. As  
184 expected, glycerol (detected as a TMS derivative) and biphytanes with 0-2 cyclopentyl moieties  
185 were detected, consistent with the products observed for GDGTs (suppl. Figure). An additional  
186 product, identified as 1,2,3-butanetriol, was only present in the BDGT fraction but not in the  
187 GDGT fraction (Fig. 2), corroborating the structural assignment based on the LC-MS<sup>2</sup> and the  
188 acetylation experiments. We thus conclude that the backbone corresponds to a glycerol  
189 methylated at either the *sn*-1 or *sn*-3 position to form the 1,2,3-butanetriol backbone (Fig. 3).  
190 These compounds differ from 1,2,4-butanetriol backbone-based lipids found in some eukaryotes  
191 (Vaver et al., 1964; 1967). Although the exact stereochemistry of the butanetriol backbone  
192 remains to be determined, the iso-BDGTs containing isoprenoidal tetraether moieties are

193 structurally related analogues of archaeal iso-GDGTs, strongly suggesting that they are  
194 biosynthetic products of certain members of *Archaea*. We did not detect pentanetriol as an ether  
195 cleavage product, likely due to poor recovery combined with the low concentration of iso-  
196 PDGTs in the sample from White Oak River Estuary used for this experiment. However, as  
197 homologues of iso-BDGTs, an archaeal origin of iso-PDGTs is suggested.

198

### 199 3.3. IPL counterparts and analogues

200 Iso-BDGTs bearing 0-3 cyclopentanyl rings (iso-BDGT<sub>0-3</sub>) and their IPL counterparts,  
201 present as mono- and di-glycosidic iso-BDGTs (1G-, 2G-iso-BDGTs; Fig. 3), were also detected  
202 in estuarine sediments with LC-MS<sup>2</sup> (Fig. 1F and G). These head groups are common in archaeal  
203 IPLs found in marine sediments and were assigned according to diagnostic neutral losses (e.g.,  
204 Sturt et al., 2004). Analysis of acid hydrolysis products of IPLs confirmed the core structures as  
205 iso-BDGTs rather than homocaldarchaeol and revealed that IPL-iso-BDGTs accounted for  
206 significant proportions (~10% and ~30% for subseafloor Peru margin and modern estuarine  
207 sediments, respectively, based on the relative MS responses) of total archaeal IPLs.

208 Based on differences in the alkyl chains, Liu et al. (2012) broadly designated GDGT lipids  
209 into five groups, including isoprenoidal GDGTs (iso-GDGTs; C<sub>86</sub>), hybrid isoprenoidal/branched  
210 GDGTs (ib-GDGTs; C<sub>74-80</sub>), overly branched GDGTs (ob-GDGTs; C<sub>69-74</sub>), conventional  
211 branched GDGTs (b-GDGTs; C<sub>66-68</sub>), and sparsely branched GDGTs (sb-GDGTs; C<sub>62-65</sub>). We  
212 observed BDGTs and PDGTs bearing hybrid isoprenoidal/branched alkyl moieties, termed ib-  
213 BDGTs (C<sub>76-81</sub>) and ib-PDGTs (C<sub>77-82</sub>). These compounds were identified based on their  
214 retention pattern as well as diagnostic neutral losses of C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>8</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (88.1 Da) and C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>10</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (102.1  
215 Da), respectively (Fig. 3 and 4). However, BDGTs or PDGTs with other alkyl moieties (i.e., b-,

216 ob-, or sb-GDGTs) were not detected, possibly due to their low concentrations or the lack of  
217 biosynthetic pathways producing these lipids.

218

### 219 *3.4. Implications*

220 There are multiple proposed pathways of archaeal polar lipid biosynthesis, however  
221 dihydroxyacetone phosphate (DHAP) has been accepted as an initial substrate (Koga and Morii,  
222 2007; Nishihara et al., 1999). The spatially and temporally widespread BDGT and PDGT lipids  
223 likely indicate the use of alternative substrates by *Archaea* during the initiation of lipid  
224 biosynthesis. The enzyme involved in DHAP reduction is stereo-specific, which leads to the  
225 formation of G1P (Kates, 1978). Enzymes catalyzing the formation of C<sub>4,5</sub> polyol backbone for  
226 iso-BDGTs and iso-PDGTs may also be stereo-specific. Because the detected 1,2,3-butanetriol  
227 lipid backbone has two stereogenic centers, any of the possible four isomers (enantiomers and  
228 diastereoisomers) could serve as a novel backbone for these lipids. The occurrence of BDGT and  
229 PDGT lipids in environmental samples, as well as tetrityldiphytanyl diether lipids in archaeal  
230 cultures (de Rosa et al., 1986), suggests that in addition to glycerol and calditol, archaea are able  
231 to use 1,2,3-butanetriol, pentanetriol, and tetrityl as backbones for their membrane lipids.  
232 Because chemotaxonomic and functional diversity of membrane lipids is largely reflected by  
233 lipid structural variation (Fahy et al., 2011), future studies should determine the properties of  
234 butanetriol and pentanetriol-based ether lipids, including their stereochemistry, biological  
235 functions, and biosynthetic pathways.

236

### 237 **Conclusions**

238 We report a suite of unusual tetraether lipids, characterized by the replacement of one  
239 terminal glycerol moiety with a butanetriol or pentanetriol that is bound to either isoprenoidal or  
240 hybrid isoprenoidal/branched alkyl chains. We term these lipids as iso-BDGTs, iso-PDGTs, ib-  
241 BDGTs, and ib-PDGTs. IPL-iso-BDGTs (i.e., 1G- and 2G-iso-BDGTs) were also detected and  
242 accounted for significant proportions of total sedimentary archaeal IPLs in our studied samples.  
243 Although the stereochemistry of such C<sub>4-5</sub> backbones remains to be determined, the iso-BDGTs  
244 and iso-PDGTs are structurally related analogues of archaeal iso-GDGTs, consistent with an  
245 archaeal source, whereas the sources of ib-BDGTs and ib-PDGTs remain unknown. These  
246 butanetriol and pentanetriol-based tetraether lipids were detected in estuarine and deep-sea  
247 subseafloor sediments, suggesting polyol backbone diversity in tetraether lipids and the  
248 flexibility of prokaryotes to utilize additional substrates during membrane lipid biosynthesis.

249

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259

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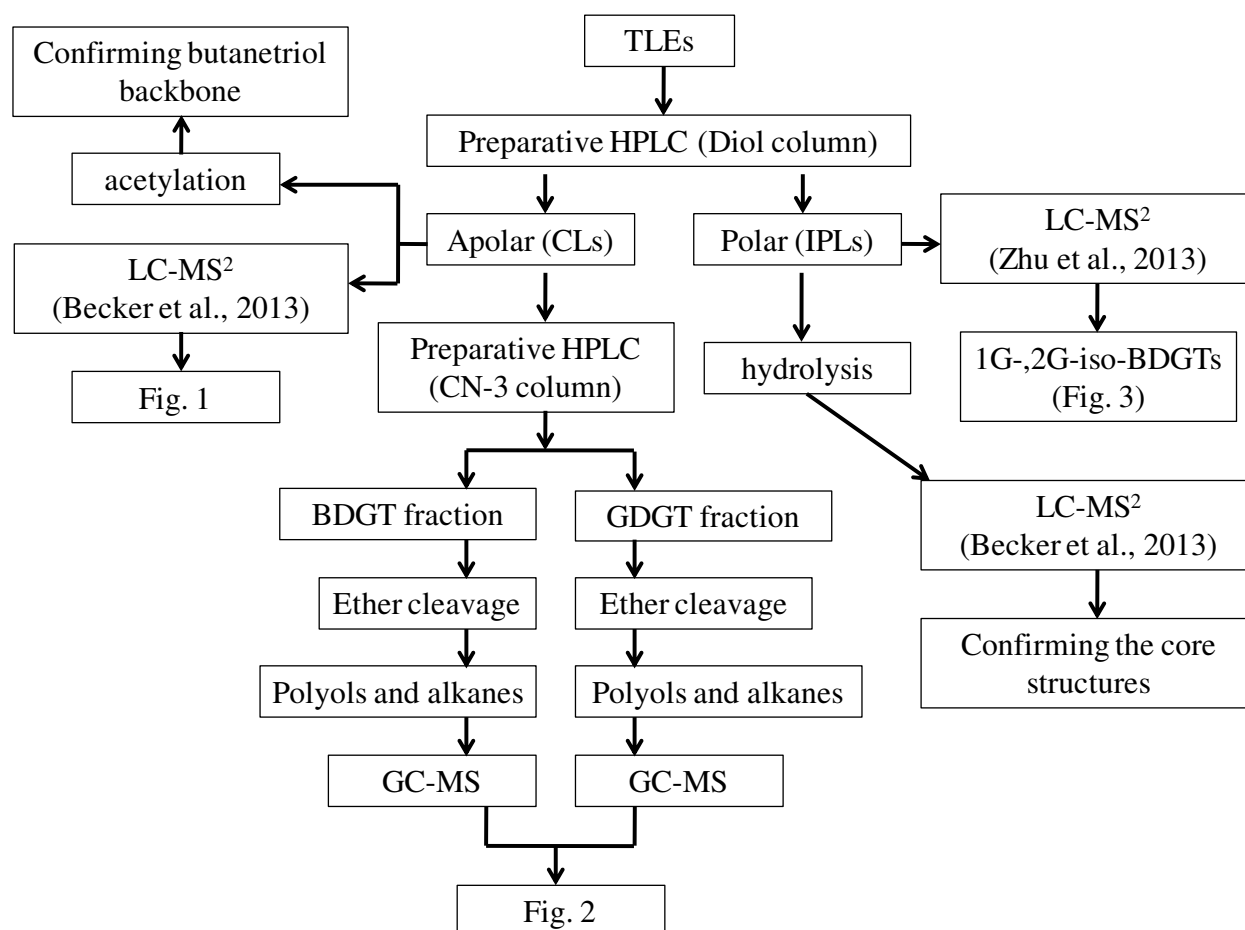
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313

314 **Scheme**

315  
 316 **Scheme 1.** Flowchart of the sample preparation procedure. CLs = core lipids, IPLs = intact polar  
 317 lipids. The details of preparative HPLC are provided in the text.

318  
 319



320 **Figure captions**

321 **Fig. 1.** LC-MS<sup>2</sup> analysis of tetraether CLs (Panels A-E) in Peru margin sediments (Leg 201,  
322 1229A-12H3, 102.75 meter below the seafloor) and IPLs (Panels F-G) in WORE sediments (0-  
323 20 cm). Panel A shows an extracted ion chromatogram (EIC) of protonated ions (peaks **I-IV**)  
324 that are 14.0 or 28.0 Da higher than protonated caldarchaeol ( $m/z$  1302.3). Panels B-E show MS<sup>2</sup>  
325 spectra of **II** (B), **III** (C), **I** (D), **IV** (E), 1G-iso-BDGT<sub>0</sub> (F), and 2G-iso-BDGT<sub>0</sub> (G). Note,  
326 accurate masses (four digits) are used in panel A for constraint of the protonated lipid formulae,  
327 while masses with one digit are used in MS<sup>2</sup> spectra for simplicity, where protonated precursor  
328 ions are marked with blue diamonds (panels B-E). CL and IPL analysis was based on Becker et  
329 al. (2013) and Zhu et al, (2013), respectively.

330

331 **Fig. 2.** GC-MS analysis of TMS derivatives of 1,2,3-butanetriol standard and butanetriol  
332 products liberated from the ether cleavage of iso-BGDG and iso-GDGT fractions, which were  
333 purified from the total lipid extract of WORE sediments (0-20 cm).

334

335 **Fig. 3.** Constrained structures of iso-BDGTs, ib-BDGTs and ib-PDGTs detected in Peru Margin  
336 sediments (Leg 201, 1229A-12H3, 102.75 meter below the seafloor), and mono- and  
337 diglycosidic-iso-BDGTs (1G-, 2G-iso-BDGTs) detected in WORE sediments (0-20 cm).

338

339 **Fig. 4.** A composite chromatogram (A) showing methoxy-iso-GDGTs, iso-PDGTs, iso-BDGTs,  
340 iso-GDGTs, and methylated-iso-GDGTs (homo-caldarchaeol), and a schematic density map (B)  
341 of all determined tetraethers by LC-APCI-MS<sup>2</sup> analysis of TLE extracted from Peru Margin

342 sediments (ODP Leg 201, 1229A-12H3, 102.75 meter below the seafloor). The insert shows a  
343 representative MS<sup>2</sup> spectrum of an ib-PDGT (*m/z* 1232.2; C<sub>81</sub>).

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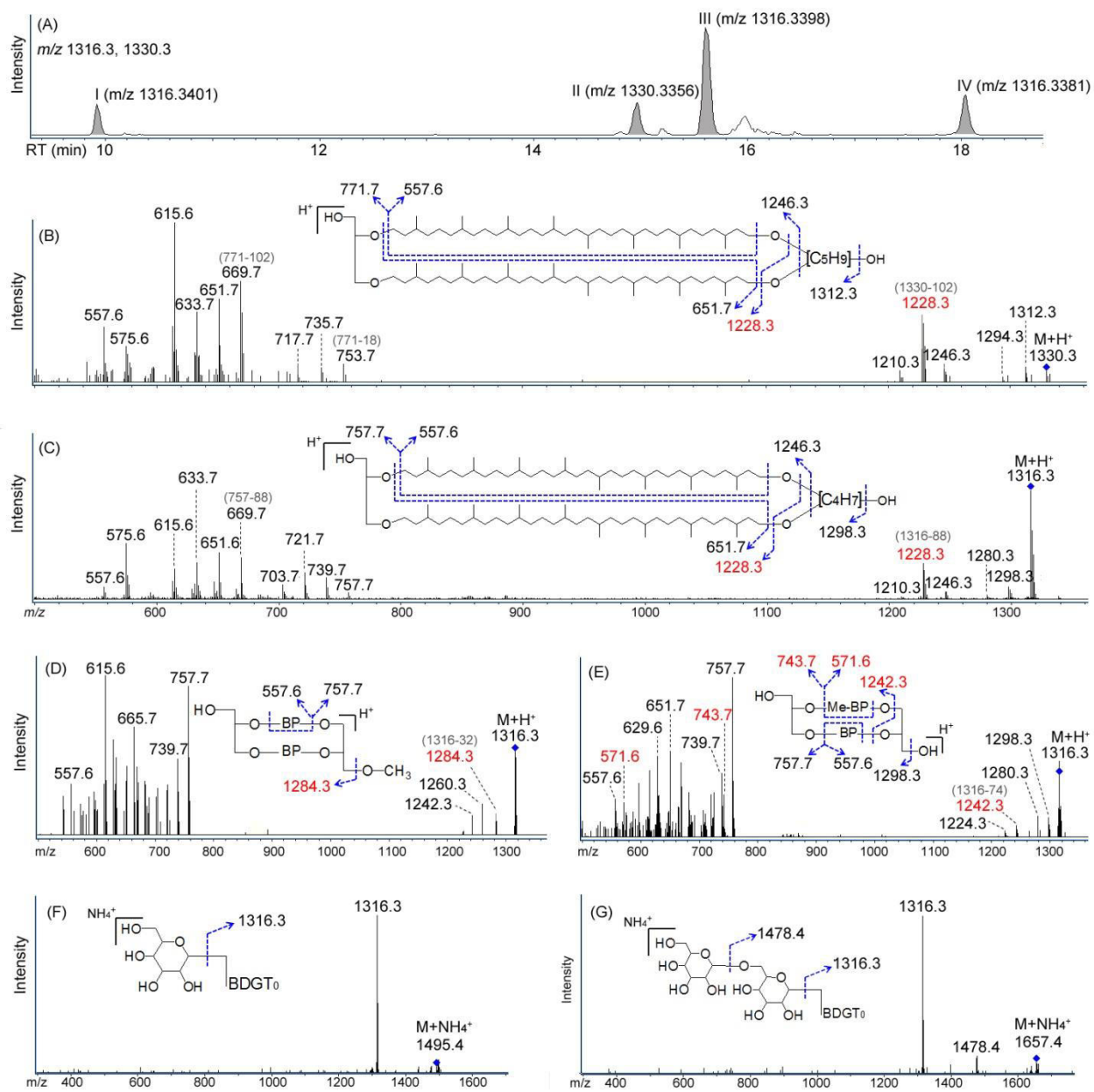
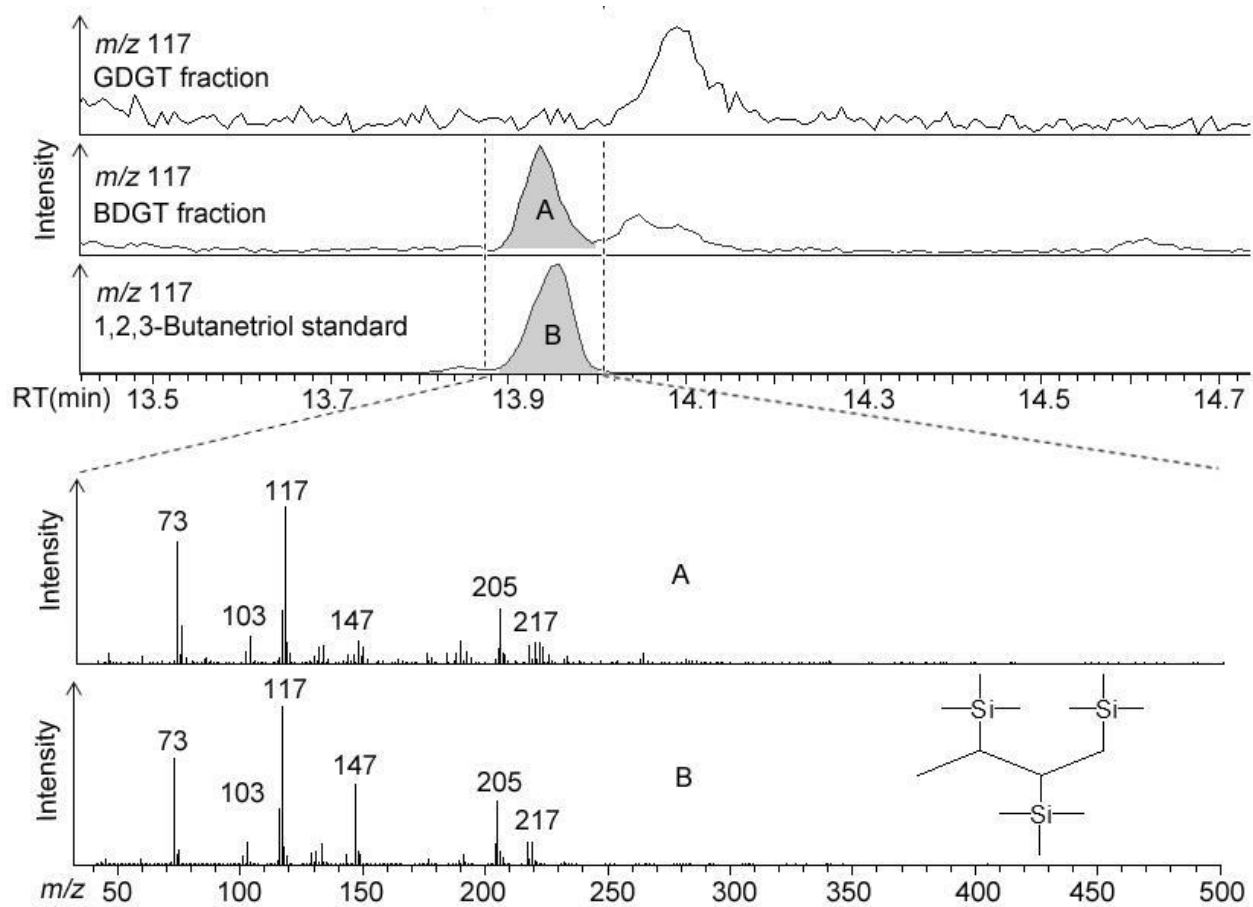


Fig. 1.

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**Fig. 2.**

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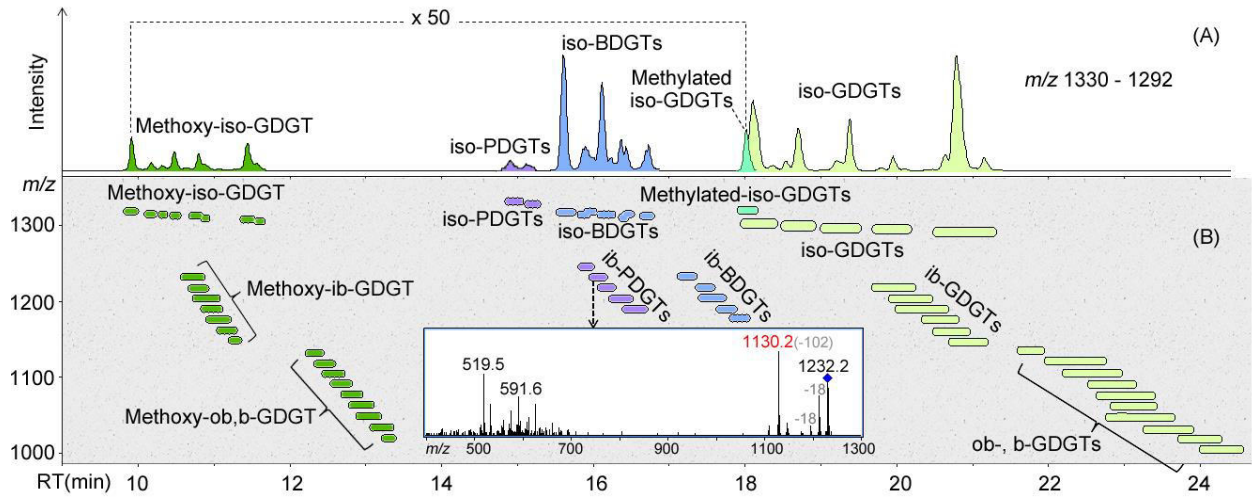


Fig. 4.

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