

## **Supplementary Material**

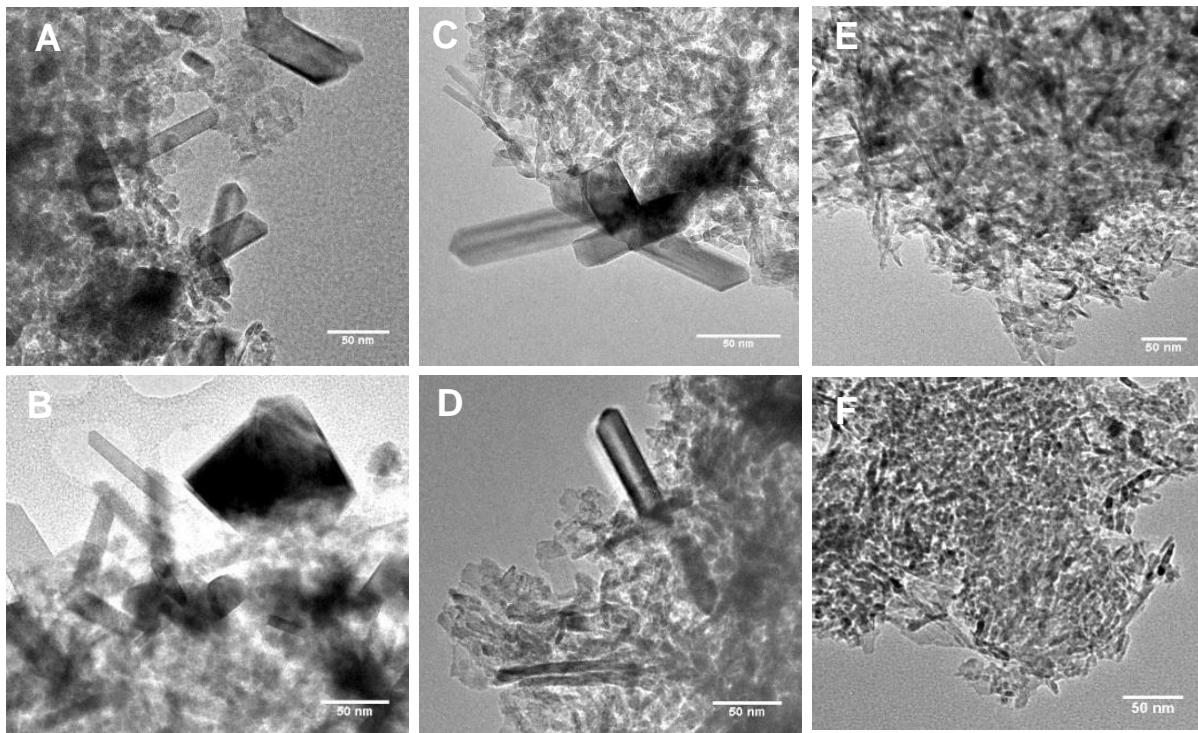
### **Ru-catalyzed oxidative cleavage of guaiacyl glycerol- $\beta$ -guaiacyl ether - a representative $\beta$ -O-4 lignin model compound**

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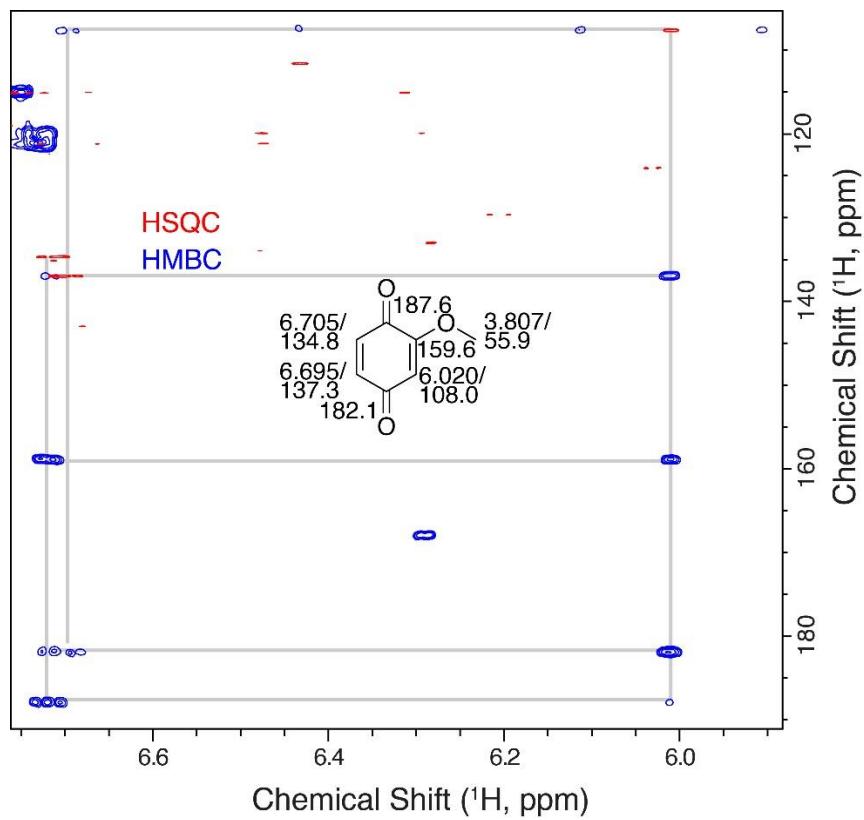
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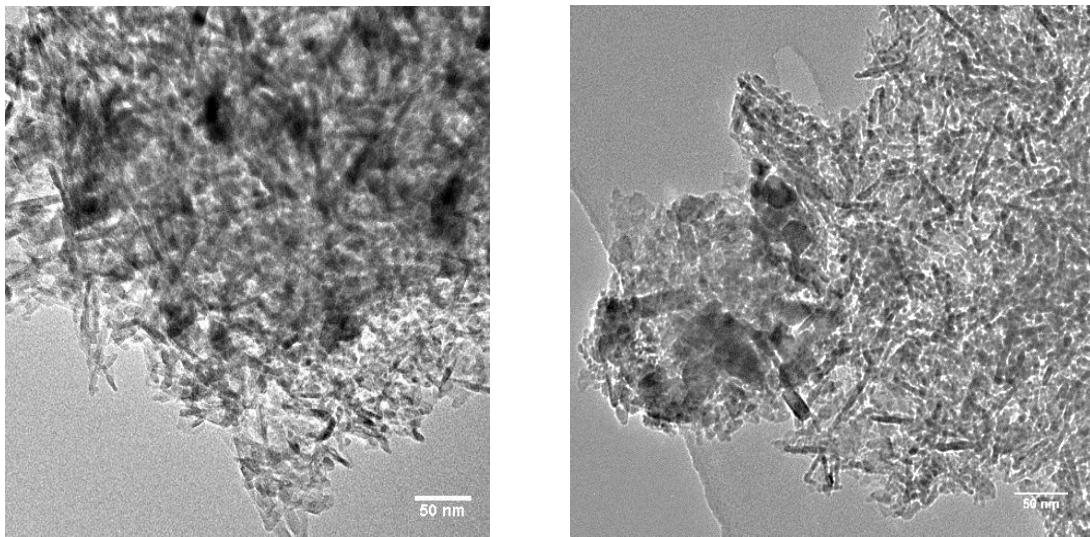
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**Figure S1.** High-resolution TEM images of (A) fresh 1 wt.% Ru/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (1) catalyst, (B) used 1 wt.% Ru/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (1) catalyst, (C) fresh 3 wt.% Ru/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (1) catalyst, (D) used 3 wt.% Ru/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (1) catalyst, (E) fresh 5 wt.% Ru/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (1) catalyst and (F) used 5 wt.% Ru/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (1) catalyst.



**Figure S2.** Overlay of  $^1\text{H}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$  HSQC and  $^1\text{H}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$  HMBC NMR spectra of post-reaction material displayed as contour plots, showing the single and multiple-bond correlations in 2-methoxy-1,4-benzoquinone, with the inset displaying the full chemical shift assignment of the compound. NMR data for 2-methoxy-1,4-benzoquinone (acetonitrile-d3, 800 MHz, 25 °C):  $\delta$   $^1\text{H}/\text{ppm}$ : 6.705 (H6), 6.695 (H5), 6.020 (H3), 3.807 (OMe);  $\delta$   $^{13}\text{C}/\text{ppm}$ : 187.6 (C1), 182.1 (C4), 159.6 (C2), 137.3 (C5), 134.8 (C6), 108.0 (C3), 55.9 (OMe).



**Figure S3.** High-resolution TEM catalysts images of (left) fresh 5 wt.% Ru/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (3) catalyst, and (right) 5 wt.% Ru/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (3) catalyst after five reaction runs.