SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Supplementary Table 1

Calibration of radiocarbon data on ancient *Commiphora* seed using OxCal 4.4 (1-3)

ETH[a] no.	UZ[b] no	C-14 age [c]	$\delta^{13}C$ (‰)	Calibration	
				1 σ (68.3%)	2 σ (95.4%)
40349	5834	940 ± 35	-18.1 ± 1.0	1040 – 1156 cal CE	1026 – 1202 cal CE

[a] Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, [b] UZ (University of Zurich)

[c] Sample (fraction of the operculum) weight was 8.8 mg giving a CO_2 pressure in the reactor of 503 mbar. Organic C in the cracked sample was 41.0%. One sample was analysed (no repeat available due to small sample size). All data produced is shown here.

Supplementary Table 2

Measured and modelled (using different contamination scenarios) C-14 ages of the seed shell.

HU LMK G1.SF (sample name)				Calibrated ages (2 s)	Median age
ETH no. 40349 UZ no 5834	C-14age	SD	pMC (%)	calCE	(calCE)
measured	940	35	88.3	1026 - 1202	1103
1% addition of fresh C*	957	35	88.1	1021 - 1169	1099
2% addition of fresh C*	972	35	87.9	996 - 1161	1095
3% addition of fresh C*	988	35	87.8	993 - 1157	1085

* Corrected radiocarbon age assuming that 1, 2 or 3% of modern carbon was absorbed in the sample.

Supplementary Table 3

List of major compounds detected in "Sheba" resin by GC-MS (indicated in Supplementary Fig 2)

Peak	RT	Compound
1	8.47	α-pinene*
2	9.52	β-pinene*
3	10.69	limonene*
4	42.89	unknown triterpene $C_{30}H_{50}O$
5	42.98	β-amyrin*
6	43.34	unknown triterpene $C_{30}H_{50}O$
7	43.48	lupeol*
8	43.52	α-amyrin*

*confirmed with commercial standard

Supplementary Table 4

^{1}H (500 MHz, in $CDCl_3$) and ^{13}C (125 MHz) chemical shifts for compound II (cf Fig 4 for structure and Supplementary Fig 5 for structure and carbon numbering)

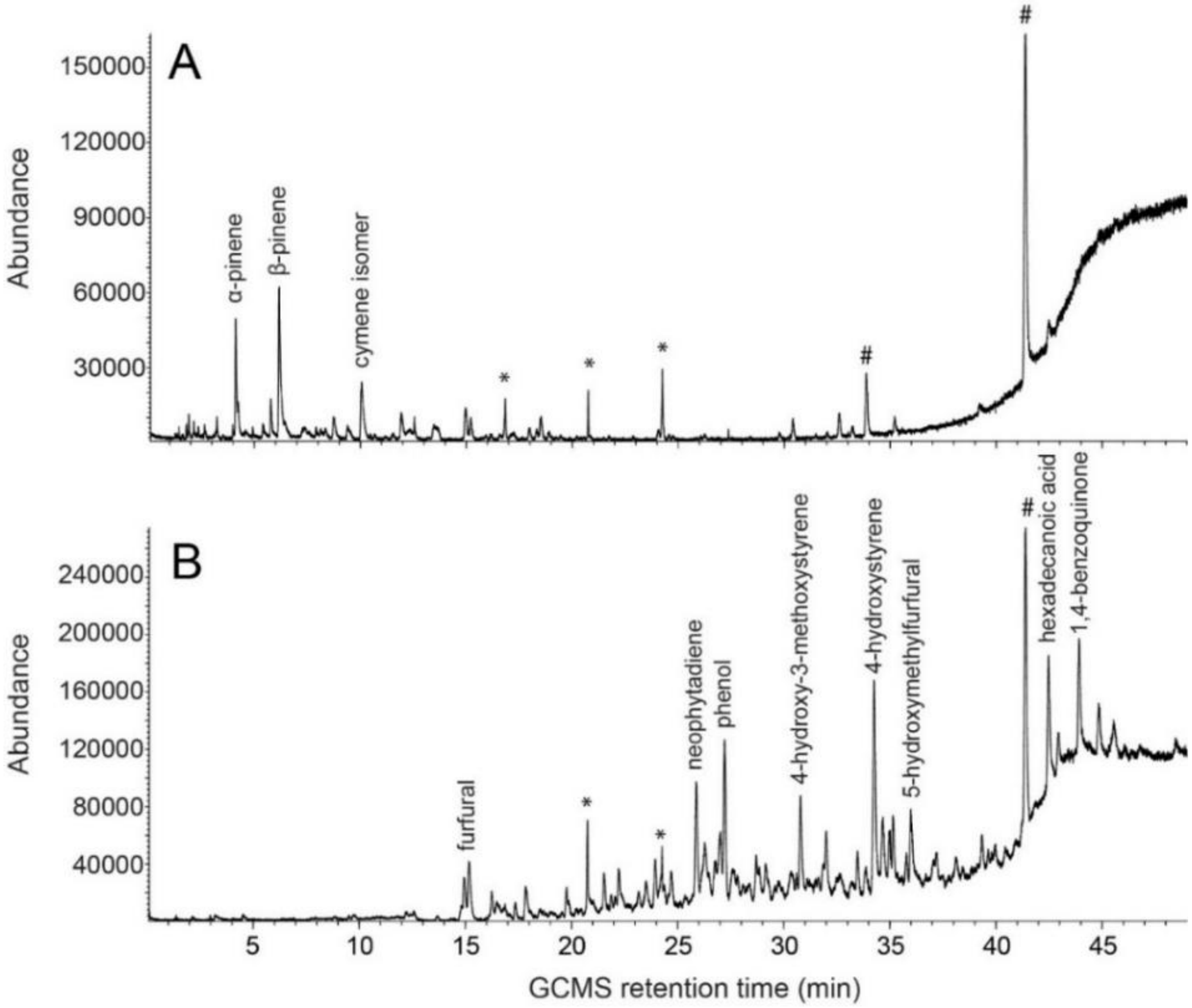
Position	δ_C	δ_H	δ_H	Position	δ_C	δ_H	δ_H
l_1	62.1	4.30	4.16	x_1	101.2	4.63	
l_2	71.8	5.14		x_2	70.6	4.84	
l_3	71.2	5.09		x_3	71.8	5.09	
l_4	25.6	1.62	1.28	x_4	69.0	4.90	
l_5	28.9	1.50	1.50	x_5	61.9	4.10	3.38
l_6	78.5	3.58		r_1	96.8	4.76	
l_7	34.5	1.54	1.44	r_2	72.3	5.05	
l_8	29.5	1.26	1.26	r_3	74.8	4.00	
l_{9-17}	29.8	1.26	1.26	r_4	72.8	5.03	
l_{18}	32.1	1.25		r_5	66.8	3.81	
l_{19}	22.8	1.29		r_6	17.4	1.150	
l_{20}	14.3	0.877		Acetates (CO)	169.4-170.8		
				Acetates (Me)	20.7-21.1	1.98-2.14	

Supplementary Table 5

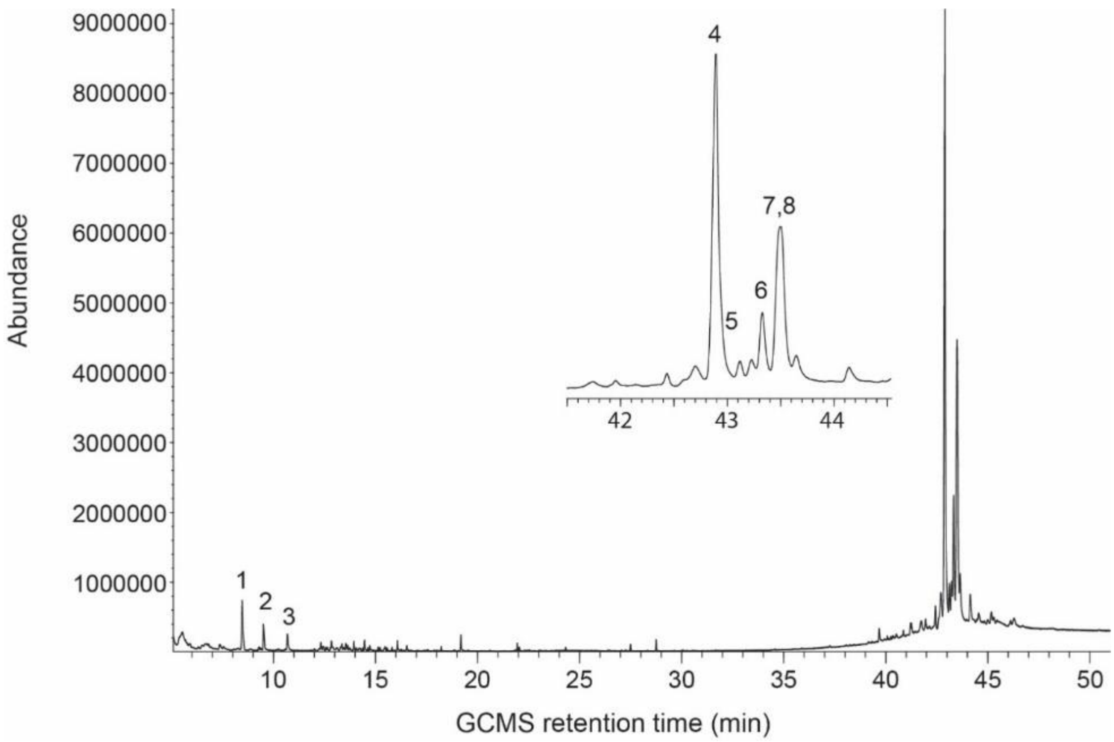
Authors and sources in antiquity discussing Judean Balsam

Author	Period	Source
Theophrastus	4th century BCE	*Hist. Plant.* 9: 6:1–4; 9:7:3
Diodorus Siculus,	1st century BCE	*Bibl. Hist.* 2 :48:9; 19:98
Strabo	1st century BCE -1st century CE	*Geogr.*16:2:41;17:1:15 and 16:4:19)
Gnaeus Pompeius Trogus (excerpted by Justin in the 2nd century CE)	1st century BCE	*Epitoma Historiarum Philippicarum* 36:3:1–5 https://www.attalus.org/translate/justin5.html
Dioscorides Pedanius	1st century CE	*Mat. Med.* 1:19:1
Josephus	1st century CE	*Flavius Josephus, War 1:138, 361, Ant*. 4:100; 14:54; 15:96, *Ant*. 8: 6: 6.
Pliny the Elder	1st century CE	*Historia Naturalis* 12: 54 (25). Ed. Bostock J, (Taylor and Francis, London 1855)
Tacitus	1st century CE	*Tacitus, Hist.* 5: 6: 1. (Loeb Classical Library Edition Tacitus https://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Tacitus/home.html
Galen	2nd century CE	*De Antidotis 1.4*
Solanus	3rd century CE	*Collectanea 35.5.5-6*
Eusebius of **Caesarea** (**Eusebius Pamphili**)	4th century CE	*Onomasticon* 42:1-5:
Saint Jerome, Hieronymus	4-5th century CE	*Letter 108* to Eustochium, 11. 5
Bede **(Beda Venerabilis)**	7th -8th century CE	*Loc. Sanct*.9.3/313
St Willibald	8th century CE	*Hodeoporicon* : Transl: Rev Canon Brownlow, (Palestine Pilgrims Text Society 1891)
Talmud*	3rd -5th century CE	Jerusalem Talmud: *Yoma* 4:5; Tractate Shabbat 25b, 26a
Talmud*	3rd-6th century CE	Babylonian Talmud *Kritut* 6a,

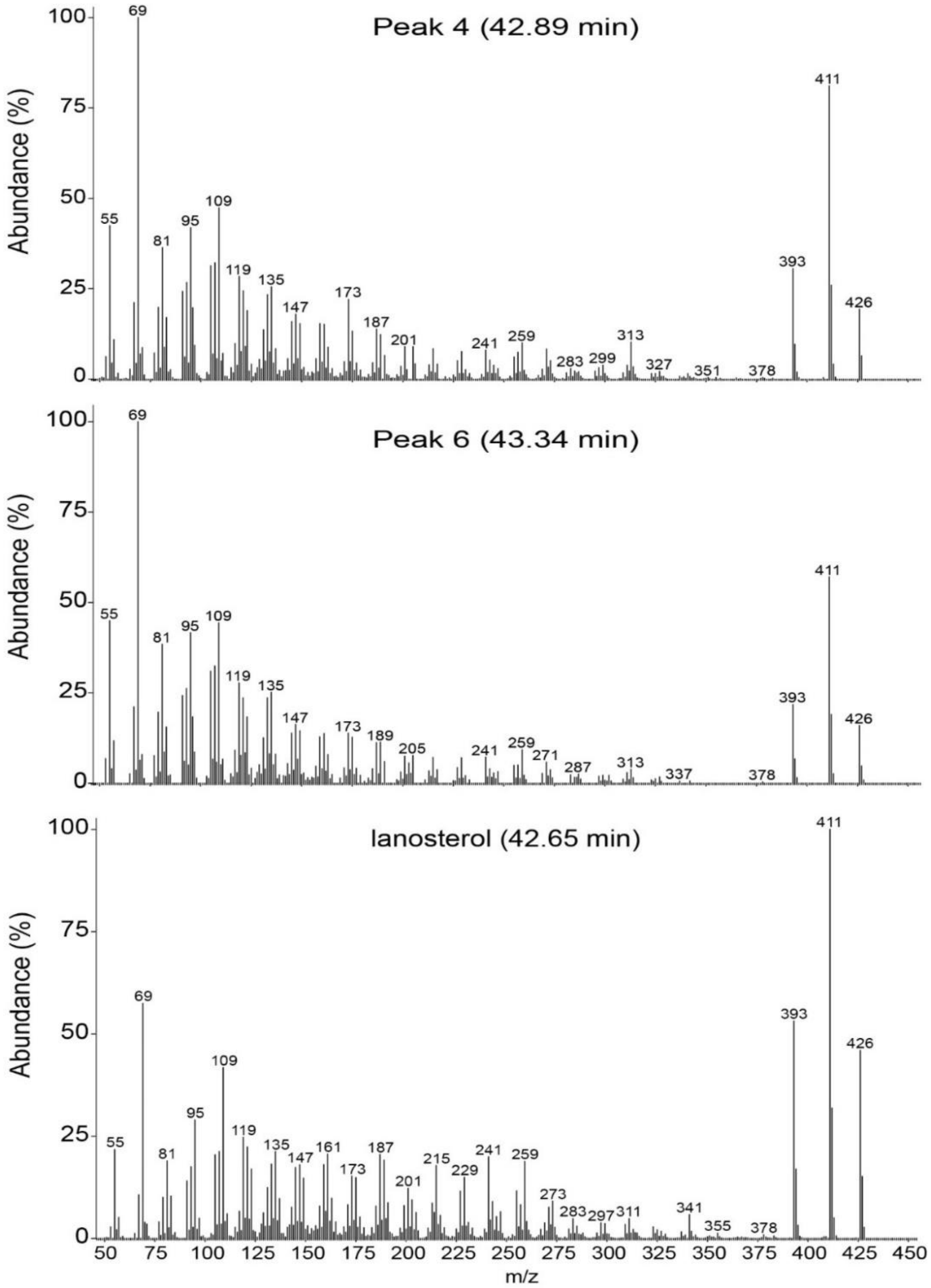
*Referring to Biblical "*tsori* "



Supplementary Fig 1: Comparison of volatile compounds by SPME/GC-MS analysis from "Sheba" plant material (leaves and stems).



Supplementary Fig 2: Analysis of the hexanes extract of "Sheba" resin by GC-MS. Peaks marked with numbers correspond with identified compounds in **Supplementary Table 2**.



Supplementary Fig. 3: Mass spectra of the two unknown triterpenoids from "Sheba" resin (corresponding to **Supplementary Fig 2** and **Supplementary Table 2)** compared with lanosterol analysed under identical GC-MS conditions.

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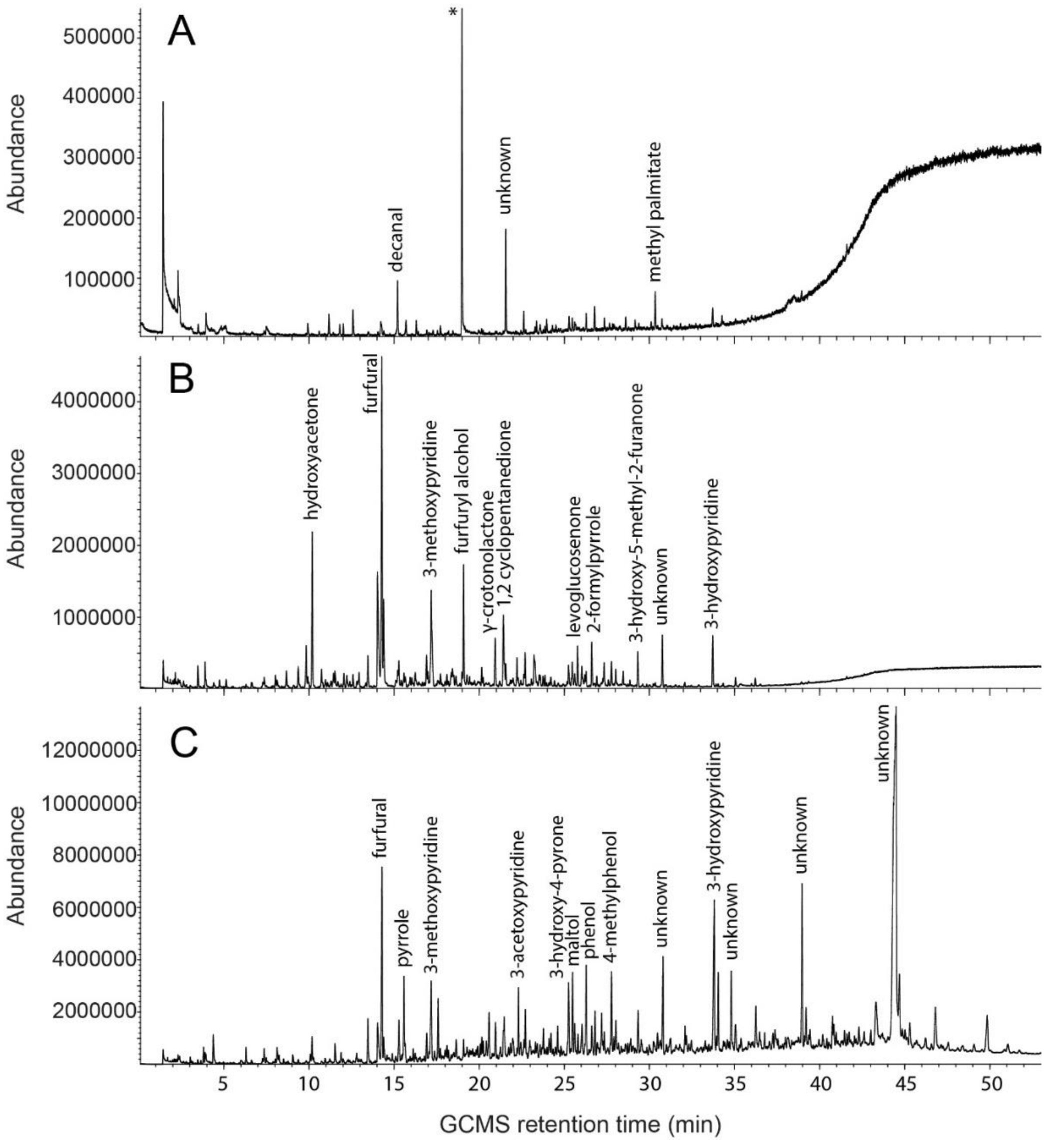
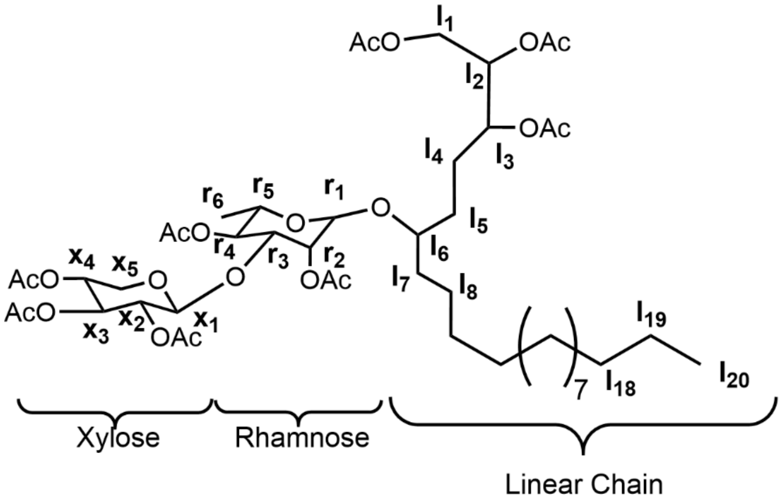
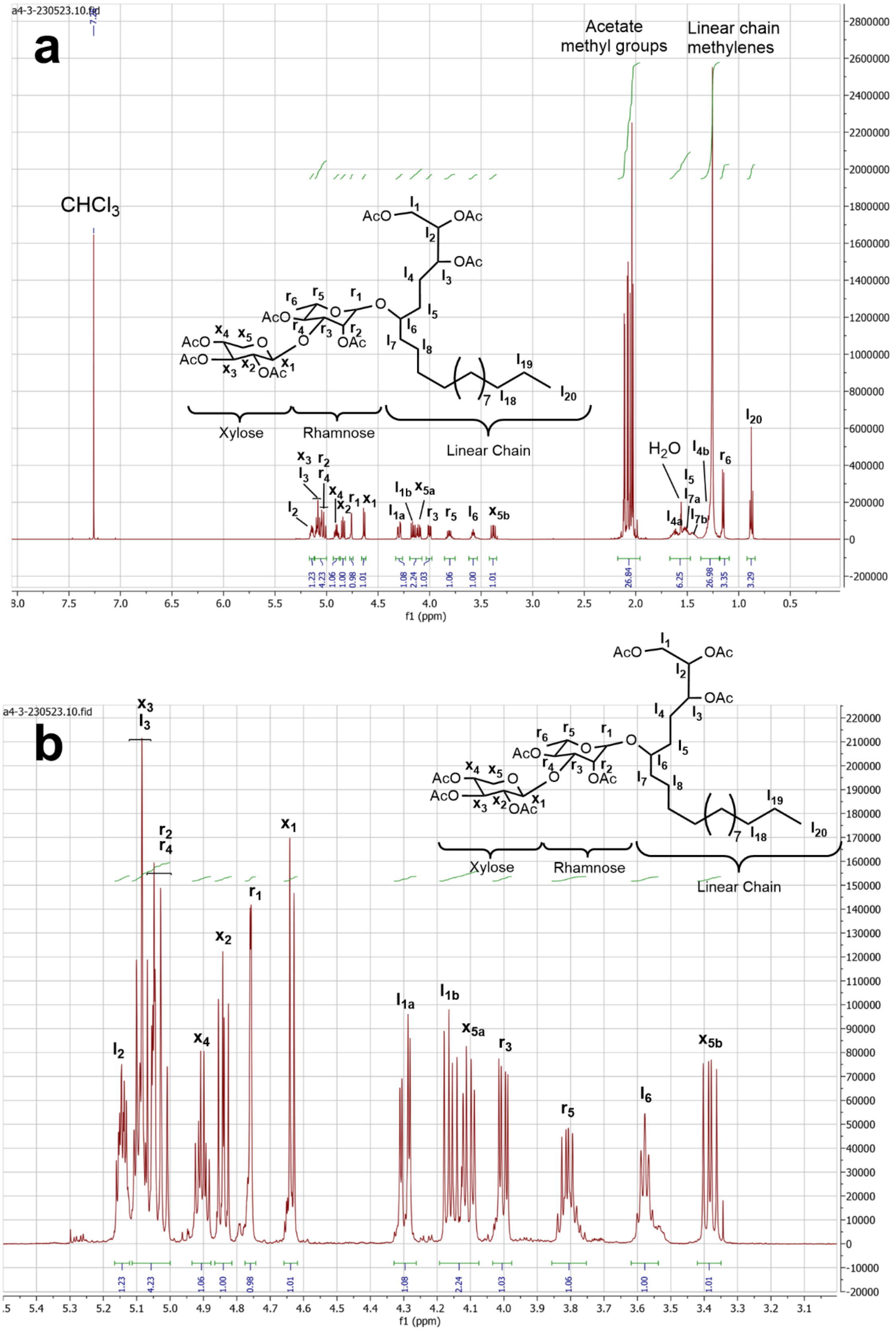


Supplementary Fig 4: Comparison of volatiles emitted from heating "Sheba" resin for increasing time and resulting volatile compounds trapped by SPME. **A**. 1 min, low heat. **B** 2 min, medium heat. **C** 5 min, high heat. *siloxane impurity.

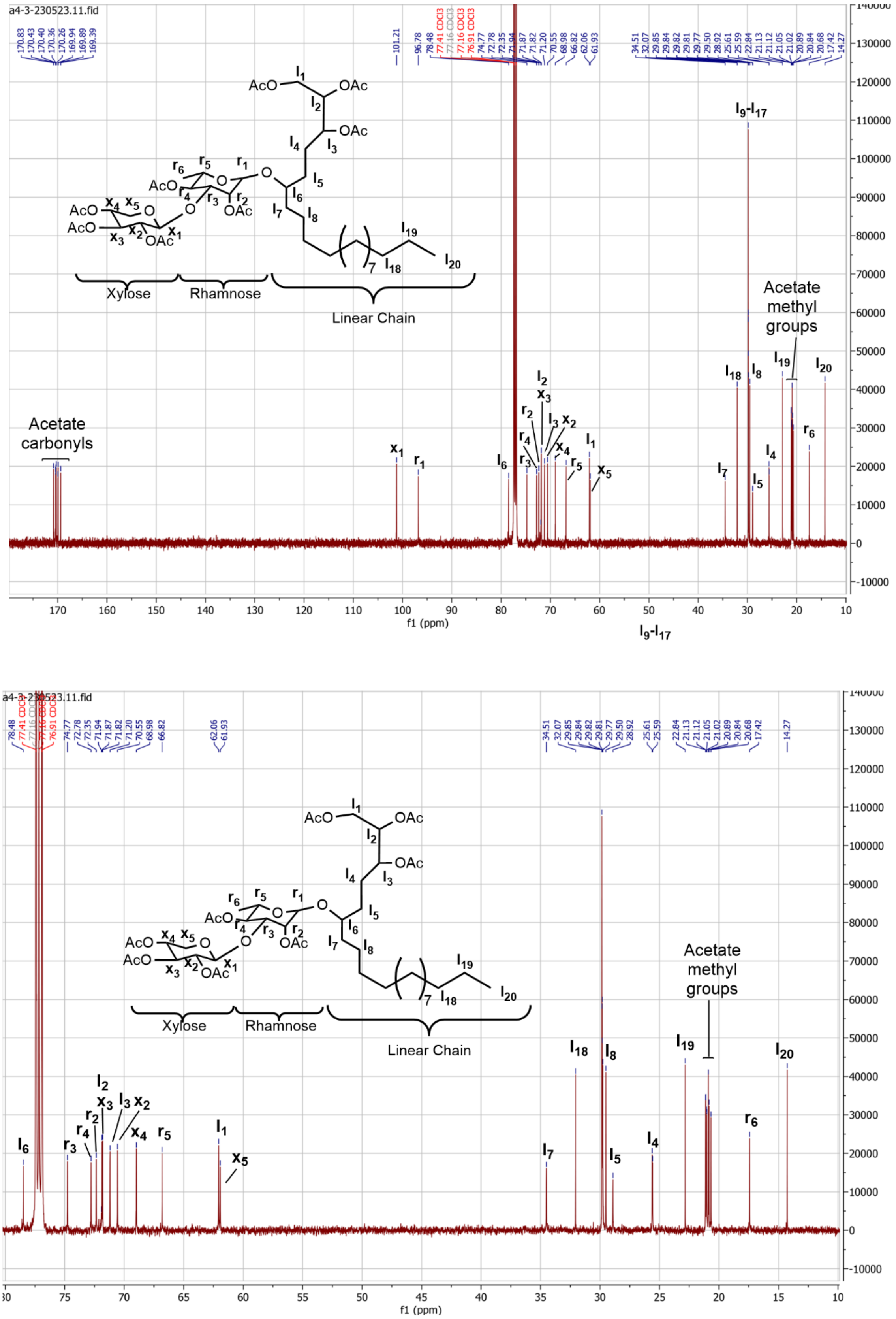


II

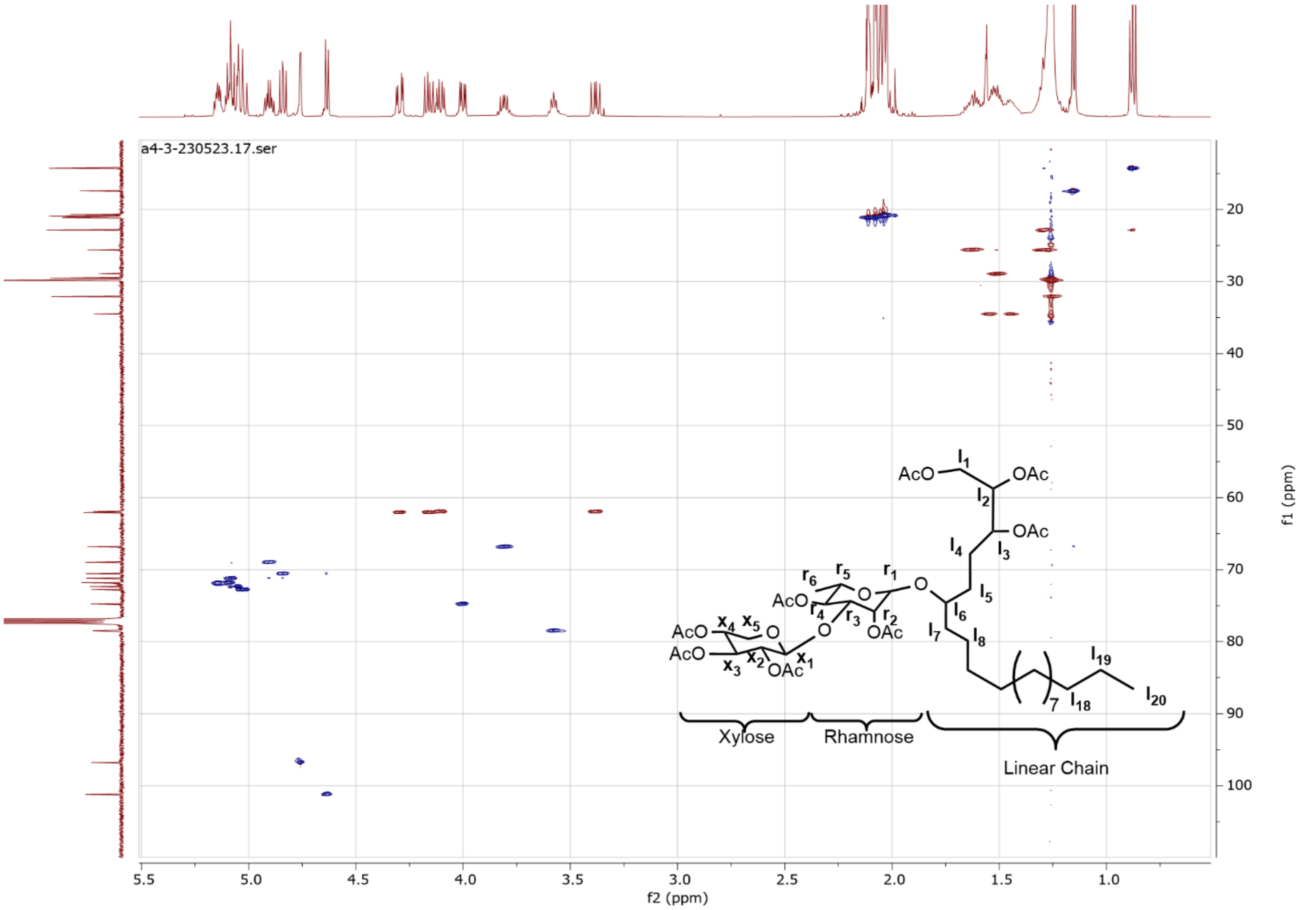
Supplementary Fig 5: Structure of compound **II** isolated from “Sheba” resin (cf **Fig. 4**) and identified using Nuclear Magnetic Resonance and High Resolution Mass Spectrometry.



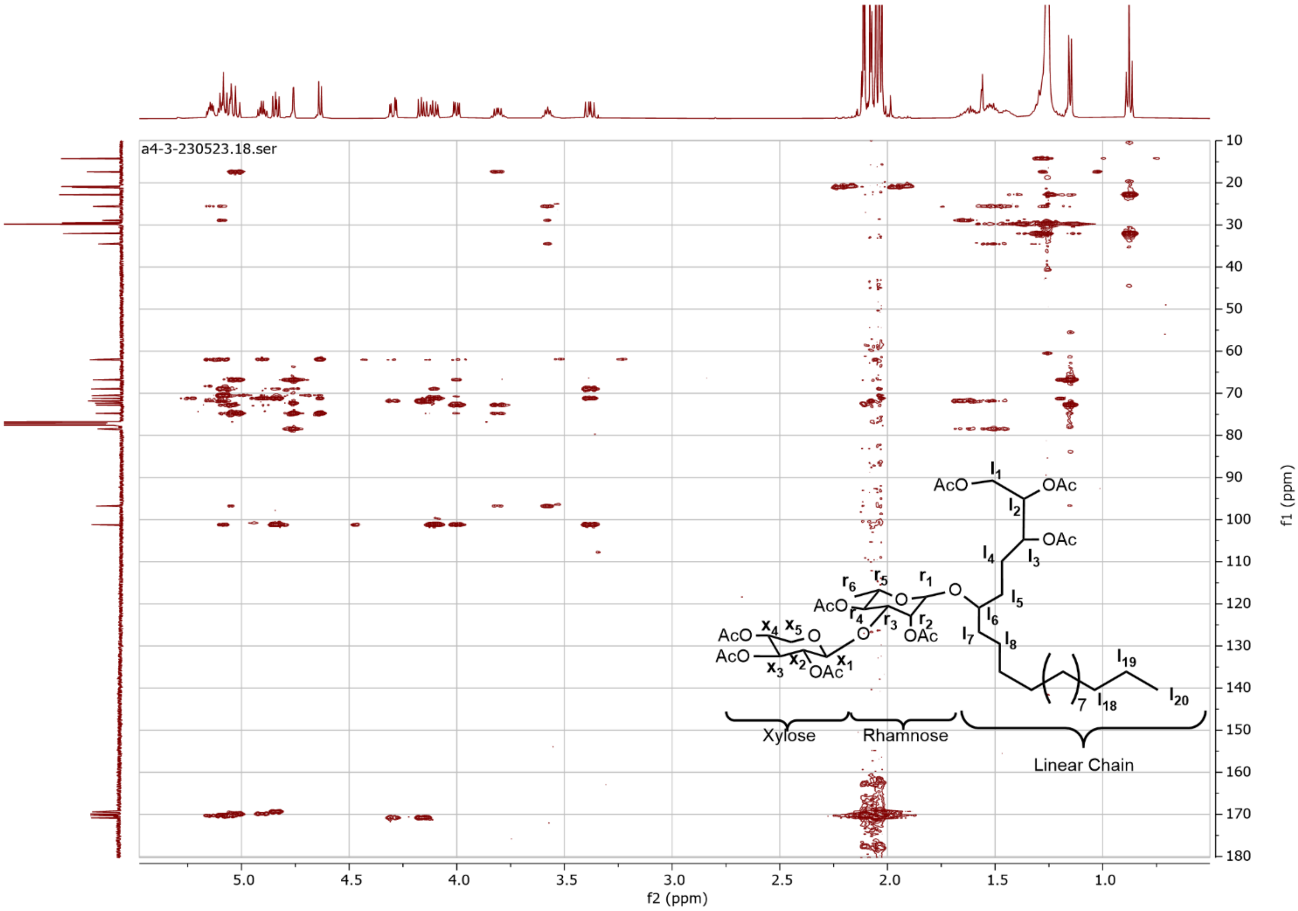
Supplementary Fig 6: ^{1}H-NMR spectrum (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) of compound **II** (**a**) 0.0-8.0 ppm range; (**b**) 3.0-5.5 ppm range.



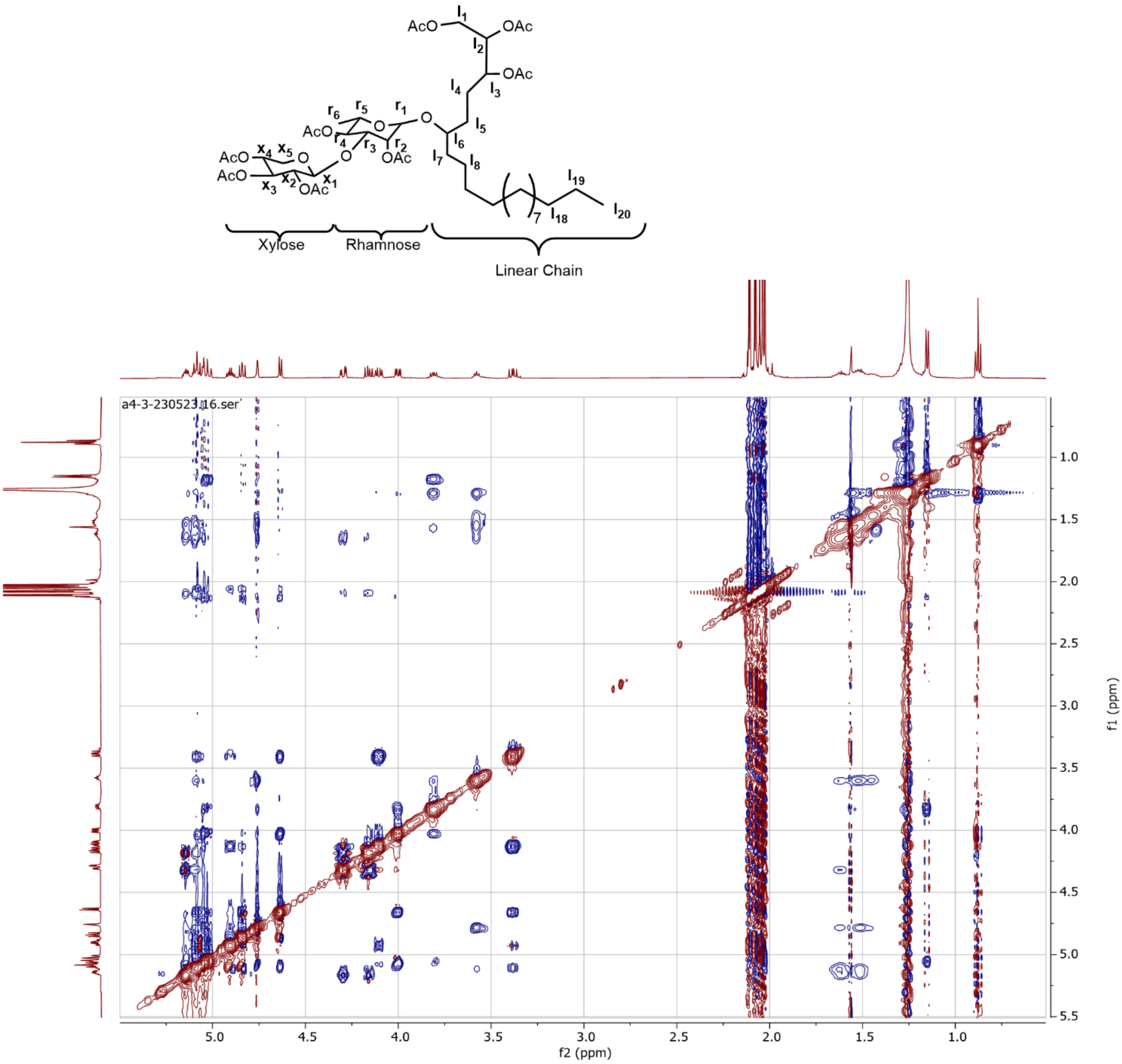
Supplementary Fig 7: ^{13}C-NMR spectrum (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$) of compound **II** (**a**) 10-190 ppm range; (**b**) 10-80 ppm range.



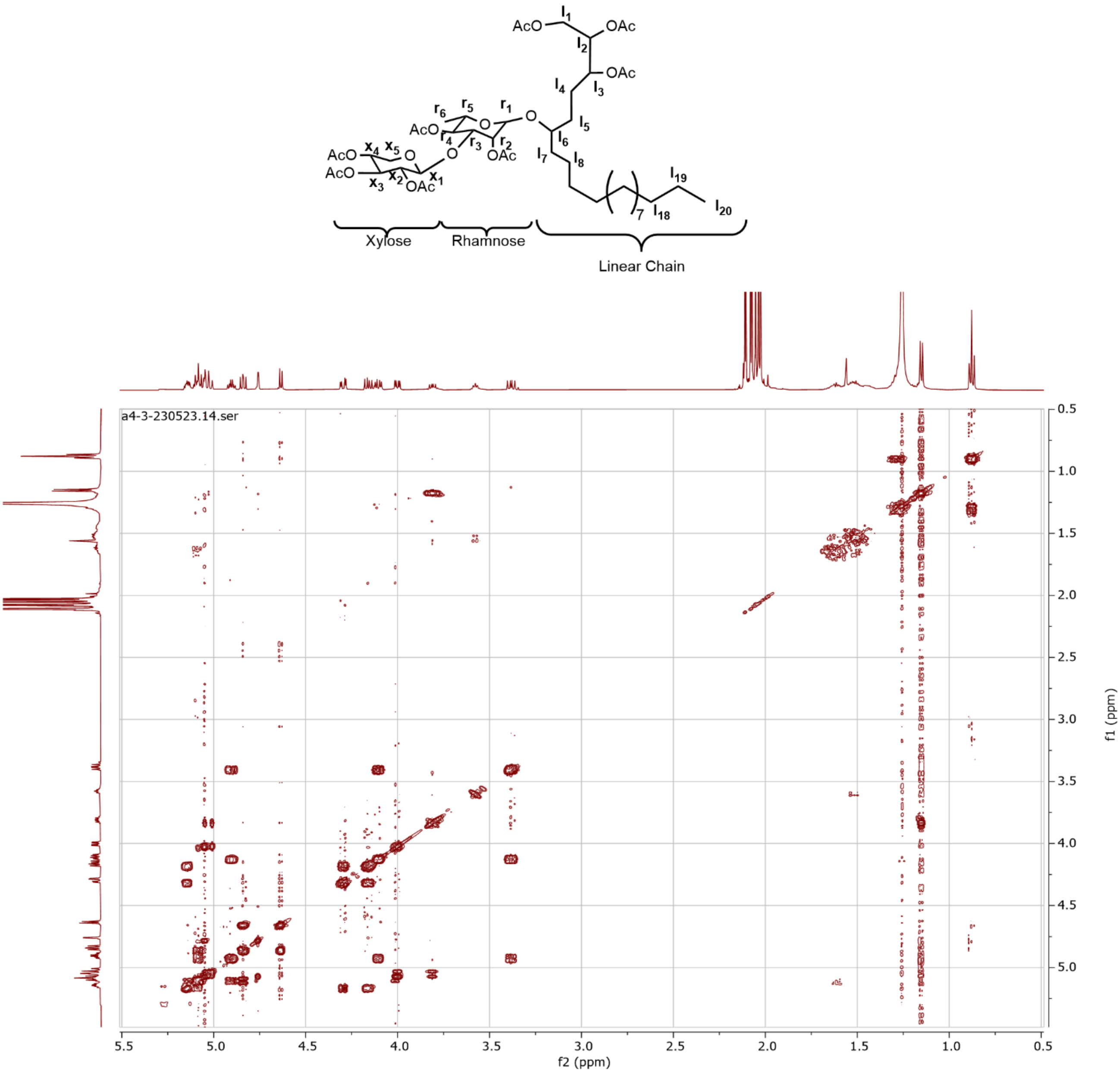
Supplementary Fig 8: ^{1}H-^{13}C one bond (^{1}J) correlation pattern (HSQC, 500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) for compound **II** (^{1}H: 0.5-5.5 ppm range/ ^{13}C: 10-110 ppm range).



Supplementary Fig 9: ^{1}H-^{13}C long range ($^{2,3}J$) correlation pattern (HMBC, 500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) for compound **II**. ^{1}H: 0.5-5.5 ppm range/ ^{13}C: 10-180 ppm range

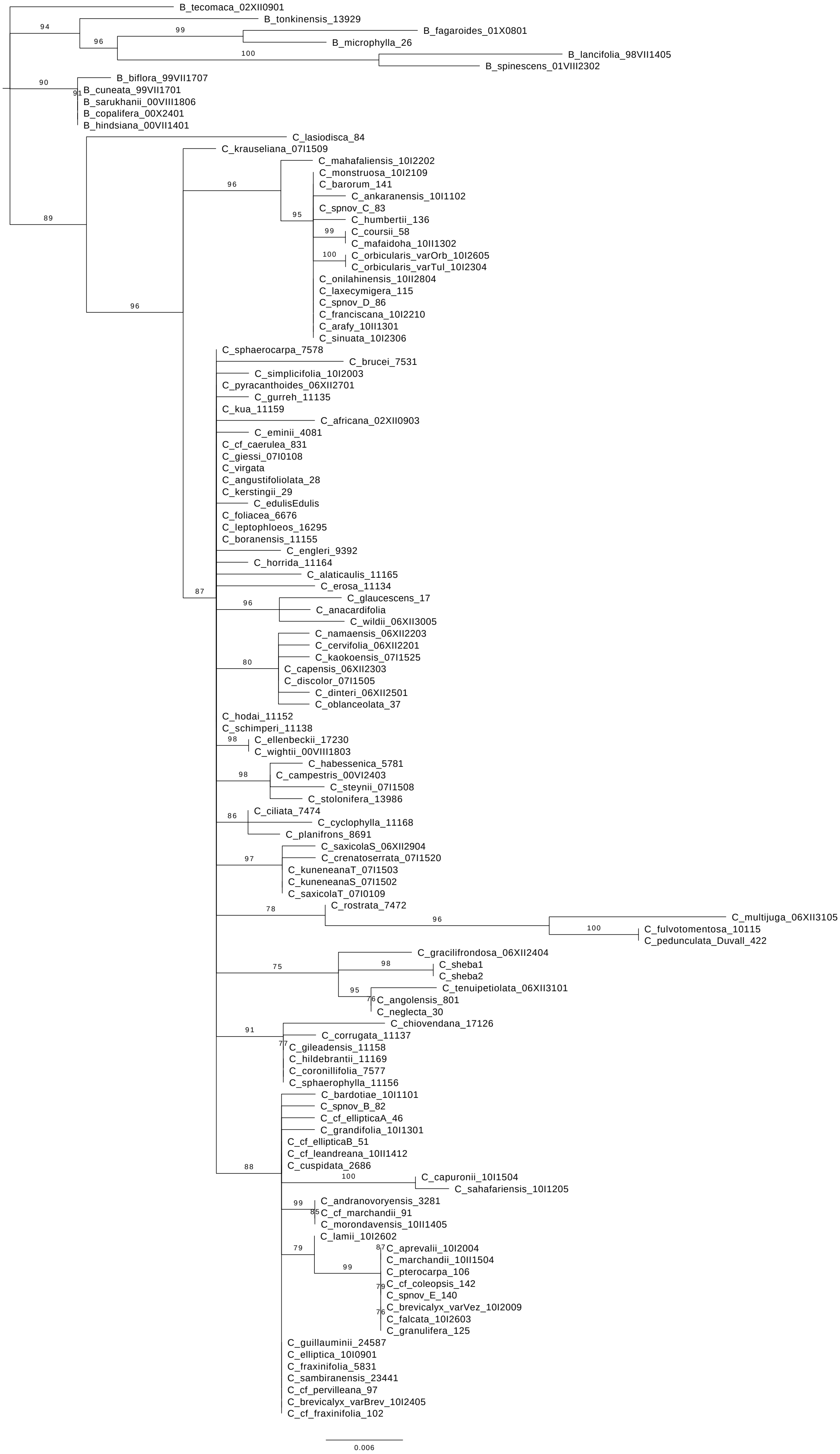


Supplementary Fig 10: ^{1}H-^{1}H NOESY correlation pattern (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) for compound **II** (0.5-5.5 ppm range).

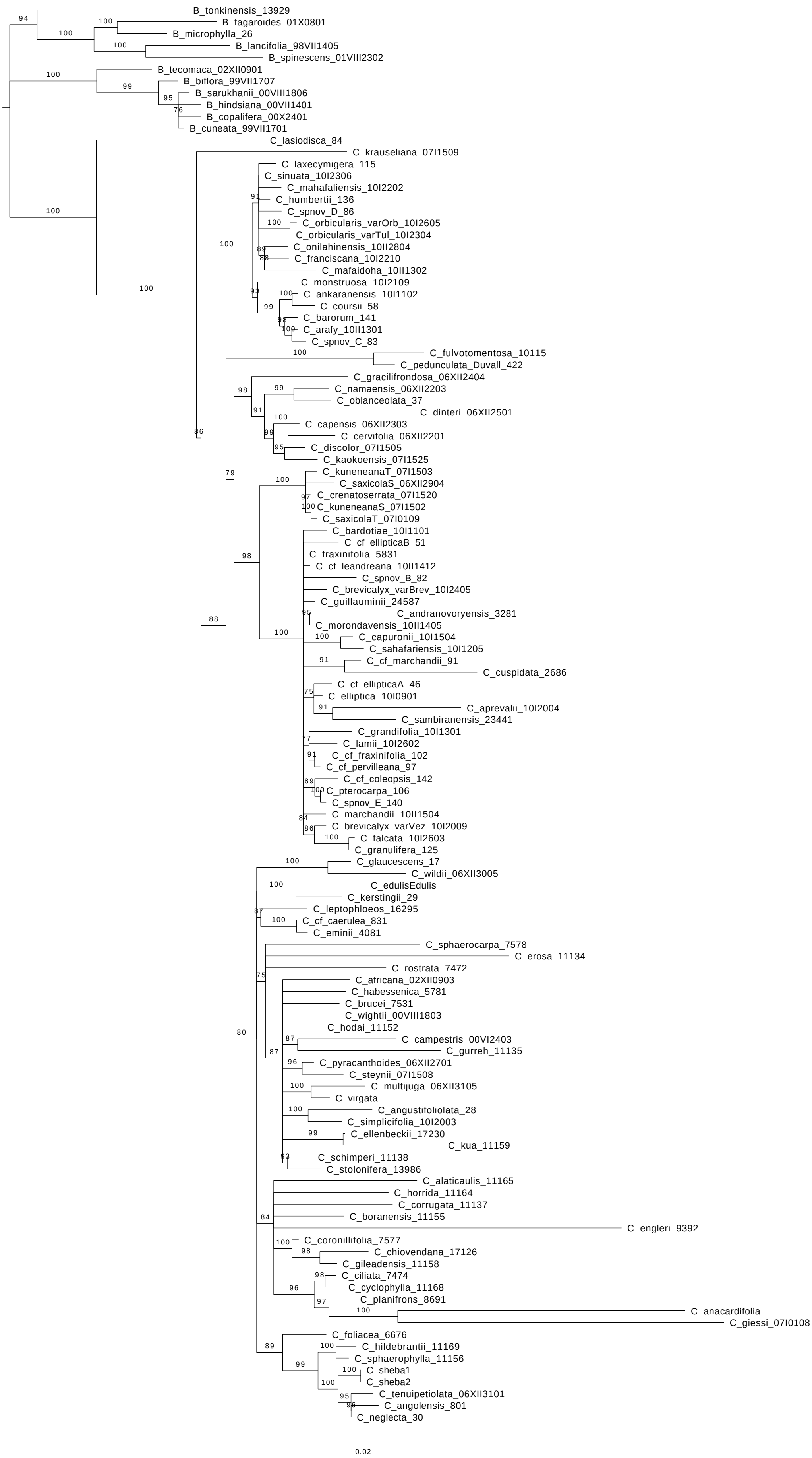


Supplementary Fig 11: ^{1}H-^{1}H COSY correlation pattern (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) for compound **II** (0.5-5.5 ppm range).

Supplementary Fig 12: Phylogeny of *Commiphora* based on maximum likelihood analysis of nuclear DNA sequence data. Tree topology is the 75% majority rule consensus phylogram of 1000 ultrafast bootstrap replicate trees.



Supplementary Fig 13: Phylogeny of *Commiphora* based on maximum likelihood analysis of chloroplast DNA sequence data. Tree topology is the 75% majority rule consensus phylogram of 1000 ultrafast bootstrap replicate trees.



Supplementary Fig 14: Phylogeny of *Commiphora* based on maximum likelihood analysis of combined nuclear and chloroplast DNA sequence data. Tree topology is the 75% majority rule consensus phylogram of 1000 ultrafast bootstrap replicate trees.

Supplementary References

1.Bronk Ramsey, C. Development of the radiocarbon calibration program. Radiocarbon 43, 355-363 (2001) DOI: https://doi.org/10.1017/S0033822200038212

2.Bronk Ramsey, C.Bayesian analysis of radiocarbon dates. Radiocarbon 51, 337-360 (2009) DOI: https://doi.org/10.1017/S0033822200033865

3. Reimer, P. J. et al. The IntCal20 Northern Hemisphere radiocarbon age calibration curve (0–55cal kBP). Radiocarbon. 62, 4, 725–757 (2020). DOI:10.1017/RDC.2020.41