

**Carbohydrate-Protein recognition probed by density functional theory and *ab initio* calculations including dispersive interactions.**

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Table S1. Relative energies ( $\text{kcal mol}^{-1}$ ) and O-H vibrational frequencies ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) for fucose monomers (DFT-D/TZV2D).

Monomer	Relative Energy <sup>a</sup>	O-H Stretch			
		OH1	OH2	OH3	OH4
A	0.16	3673	3678	3656	3631
B	0.00	3628	3661	3662	3632
C	1.63	3643	3656	3634	3631

<sup>a</sup> with zero point and thermodynamic corrections, at 298 K.

Table S2. C-H frequencies ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) for fucose monomers (DFT-D/TZV2D).

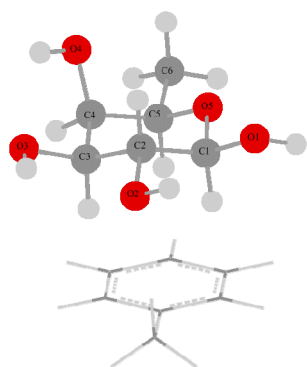
Monomer	C-H Stretch							
	CH1	CH2	CH3	CH4	CH5	CH6(a)	CH6(b)	CH6(c)
A	2853	2973	2924	2904	2879	2980	3040	3062
B	2920	2946	2926	2909	2890	2980	3042	3062
C	2874	3002	2890	2912	2877	2980	3042	3062

Table S3. Structures of  $\alpha$ -methyl glucose-toluene complexes at the MP2/6-31G\*\* level. U, L and S label Upper, Lower and Side-on structures, Lower being on the same side as the OMe group of the sugar. M, C and CC label the arrangement of the C(2), C(3) and C(4) hydroxyl groups of the sugar, M for mixed (meaning no pattern), C for all clockwise and CC for all counter clockwise. T, GP and GM label the orientation of the exogenous side chain oxygen atom. For T structures the O-C(5)-C(6)-O dihedral angle is approximately trans, whilst for GP and GM structures the dihedral angle is gauche (P for counter clockwise and M for clockwise). The final value is the O-C(6)...C(T)-CH<sub>3</sub> dihedral angle (unsigned) where C(T) is the tertiary carbon of toluene and CH<sub>3</sub> is the methyl group of toluene, and gives the relative orientation of the sugar and toluene. Finally the relative energies of each complex to the lowest are given in kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>.

U-M-T-116	4.91	L-M-T-59	4.38
U-M-T-71	4.54	L-M-T-55	3.08
S-CC-GP-127	1.88	L-M-GP-40	5.41
U-M-GP-42	3.50	L-M-T-7	1.48
S-M-GP-44	4.74	L-M-GM-33	2.93
U-M-T-37	3.15	L-CC-GM-3	0.31
U-M-GP-121	3.06	L-CC-GM-41	1.36
U-M-GP-166	2.50	L-CC-T-6	0.00
U-M-GP-42	1.82	L-CC-GP-104	1.82
U-CC-T-148	2.44	L-CC-GP-105	2.18
U-CC-T-31	1.98	L-CC-GP-133	1.81
U-CC-GM-145	2.49	L-CC-GP-171	2.12
U-CC-GP-156	1.30	L-CC-GP-27	1.29
U-CC-GP-48	1.29	L-CC-GP-2	0.39
U-CC-GP-93	2.02	L-CC-GP-42	3.13
S-CC-GP-83	4.78	L-M-T-97	4.98
U-CC-GP-45	3.63	L-M-T-149	2.07
U-M-GP-160	3.55	L-C-T-117	5.52
U-C-T-151	6.60	S-CC-GP-58	4.39
U-CC-GM-26	2.12		

Table S4. The relative energies (kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>) of the three main sugar conformations of  $\alpha$ -methyl glucose at the MP2/6-31G\*\* and, in parentheses, at the DFT-D/TZV2D level.

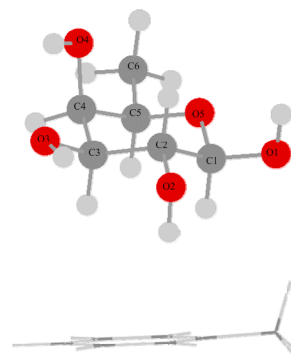
Sugar conformation		
	Energy	Free energy
A (T)	0.09 (0.24)	0.29 (0.45)
B (G-)	0.01 (0.00)	0.32 (0.00)
C (G+)	0.00 (0.13)	0.00 (0.08)



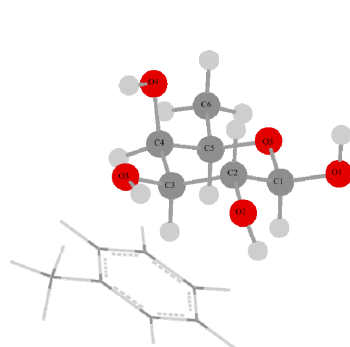
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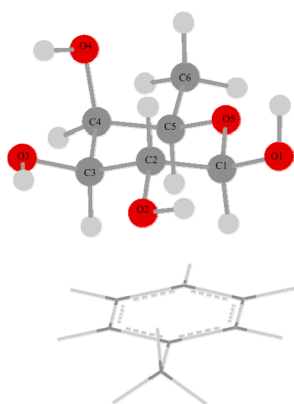
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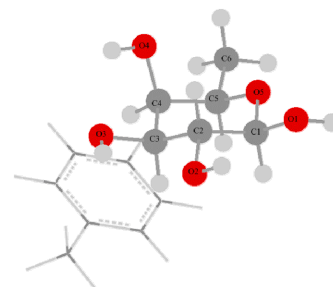
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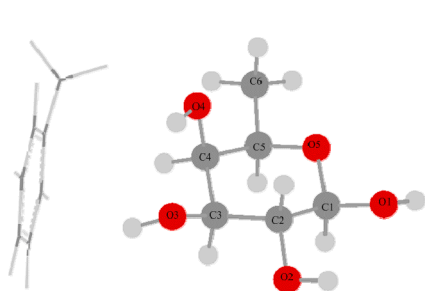
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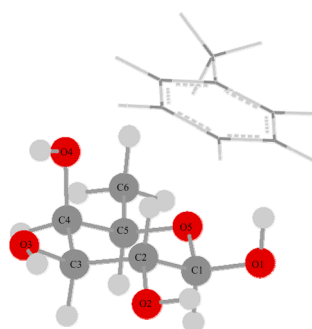
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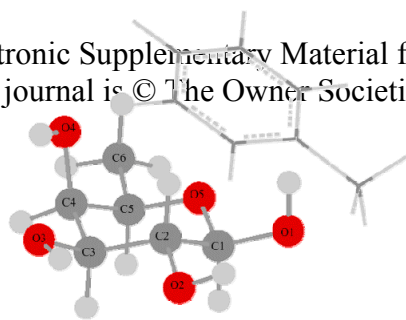
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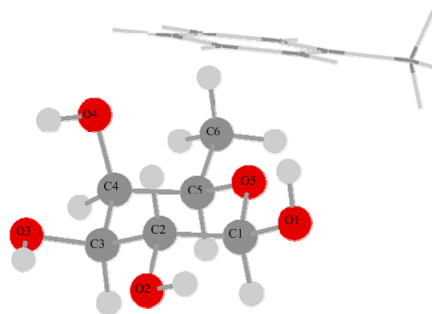
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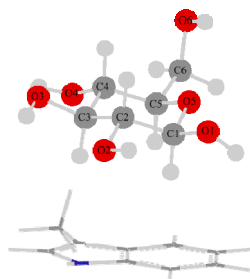


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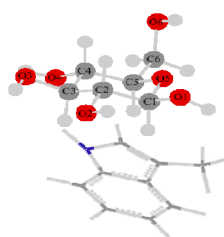


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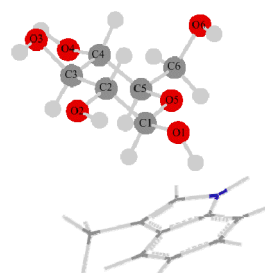
Fig. S1 Optimized structures of fucose-toluene complexes at DFT-D/TZV2D level.



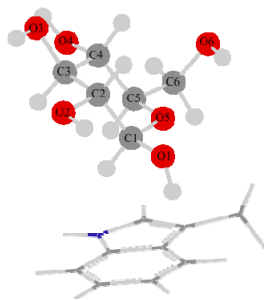
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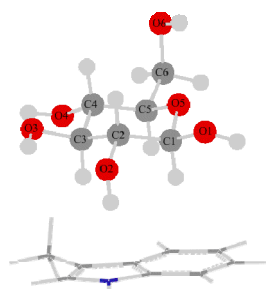
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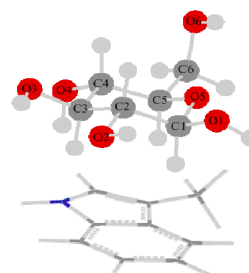
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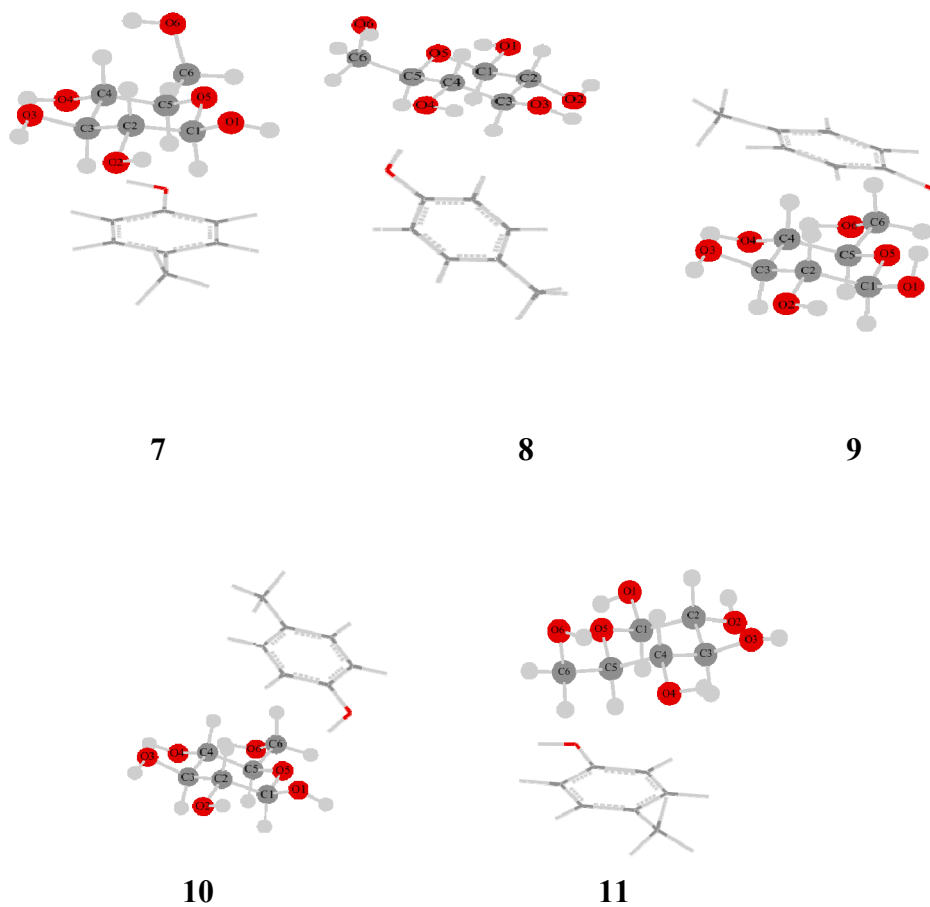


Fig. S2. Optimized structures of glucose–3-methylindole and –*p*-hydroxytoluene complexes

**The procedure for extrapolating the MP2 energy to the complete basis set (CBS) limit .**

The extrapolation to the basis set limit requires calculations at both MP2 and Hartree Fock (HF) levels using two basis sets of different sizes, here taken to be aug-cc-pVDZ and aug-cc-pVTZ .

The corresponding energies are substituted into the following equations of Helgaker and co-workers <sup>1</sup>.

$$E^{\text{HF}}(X) = E^{\text{HF}}(\text{CBS}) + Ae^{-\alpha X}$$

$$E^{\text{corr}}(X) = E^{\text{corr}}(\text{CBS}) + BX^{-3}$$

Here  $E^{\text{HF}}$  and  $E^{\text{corr}}$  are the Hartree Fock and correlation (MP2) energies,  $X=2$  for a double-zeta basis set (aug-cc-pVDZ) and  $X=3$  for a triple-zeta basis set (aug-cc-pVTZ), and  $\alpha$  equals 1.43. These equations are then solved to give  $E^{\text{corr}}(\text{CBS})$  and  $E^{\text{HF}}(\text{CBS})$ , which are then combined to give the required CBS total energy.

The individual energies for the two complexes (au) are:

Complex	HF	MP2
<u><i>Benzene and <math>\beta</math>-Galactose</i></u>		
aug-cc-pVDZ	-914.182064	-917.081990
aug-cc-pVTZ	-914.386055	-917.867677
<u><i>Benzene</i></u>		
aug-cc-pVDZ	-230.729362	-231.545350
aug-cc-pVTZ	-230.779954	-231.746515
<u><i><math>\beta</math>-Galactose</i></u>		
aug-cc-pVDZ	-683.455682	-685.526994
aug-cc-pVTZ	-683.609096	-686.110627

*Fucose and Toluene*

aug-cc-pVDZ	-878.355166	-881.216459
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aug-cc-pVTZ	-878.551763	-881.978908
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*Fucose*

aug-cc-pVDZ	-608.586920	-610.463857
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aug-cc-pVTZ	-608.723880	-610.987078
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*Toluene*

aug-cc-pVDZ	-269.769561	-270.738300
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aug-cc-pVTZ	-269.829187	-270.976177
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1 A. Halkier, T. Helgaker, P. Jorgensen, W. Klopper, H. Koch, J. Olsen and A. K. Wilson, Chem. Phys. Letters, 1998, **286**, 243.