

*Supporting information*

**Oxidative Cleavage of  $\beta$ -O-4 bonds in Lignin Model Compounds with Polymer-Supported Ni-Salen Catalysts**

Qiongli Liu,<sup>a,†</sup> Dianyong Yang,<sup>a,†</sup> Xiuge Zhao,<sup>a</sup> Zhiwei Xu,<sup>a</sup> Ji Ding,<sup>a</sup> Danqi Wu,<sup>a</sup> Ning An,<sup>a</sup>

Huiying Liao,<sup>a</sup> and Zhenshan Hou<sup>\*, a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>State Key Laboratory of Green Chemical Engineering and Industrial Catalysis, Research Institute of Industrial Catalysis, School of Chemistry & Molecular Engineering, East China University of Science and Technology, Shanghai 200237, China.

\*Corresponding author: houzhenshan@ecust.edu.cn.

†These authors contributed equally to this work.

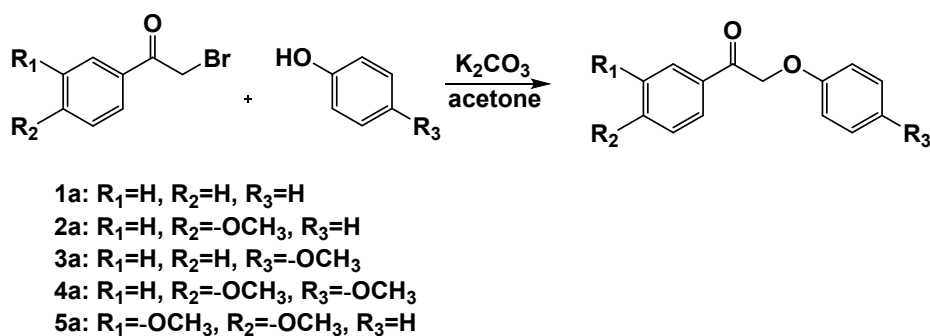
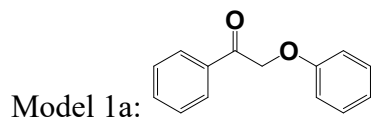


Figure S1 Synthesis route of  $\beta$ -O-4 lignin model compounds.



2-phenoxy-1-phenylethanone

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.03 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.64 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.53 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 2H), 7.31 (q,  $J = 6.8, 5.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.00 (dd,  $J = 18.3, 7.8$  Hz, 3H), 5.30 (s, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  194.56, 158.02, 134.61, 133.88, 129.60, 128.85, 128.16, 121.67, 114.83, 70.81.

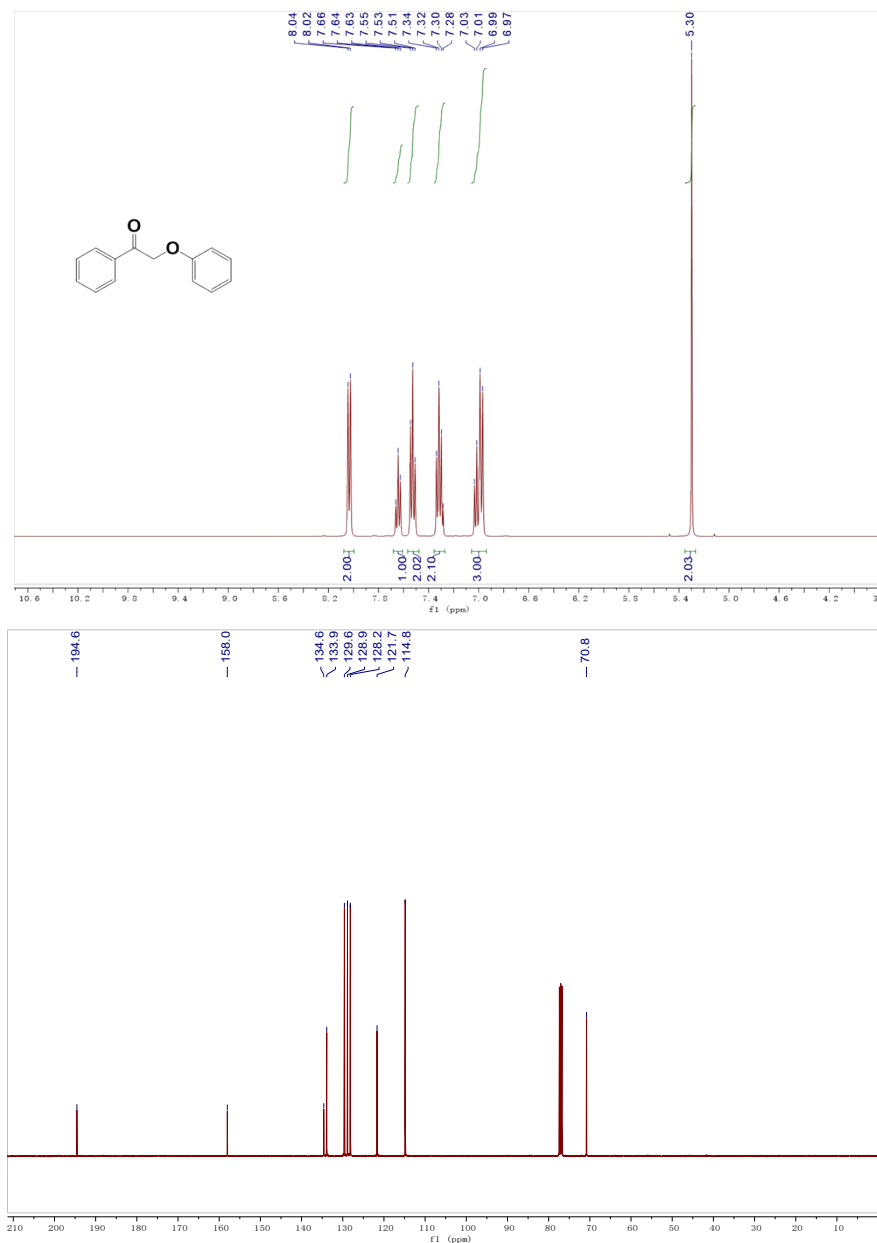
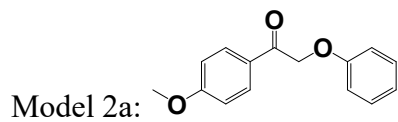


Figure S2  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of model 1a.



1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-phenylethanone

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.03 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.30 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.01 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 6.97 (d,  $J = 6.7$  Hz, 3H), 5.23 (s, 2H), 3.90 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  193.13, 164.05, 158.10, 130.57, 129.56, 127.65, 121.57, 114.81, 114.02, 70.72, 55.54.

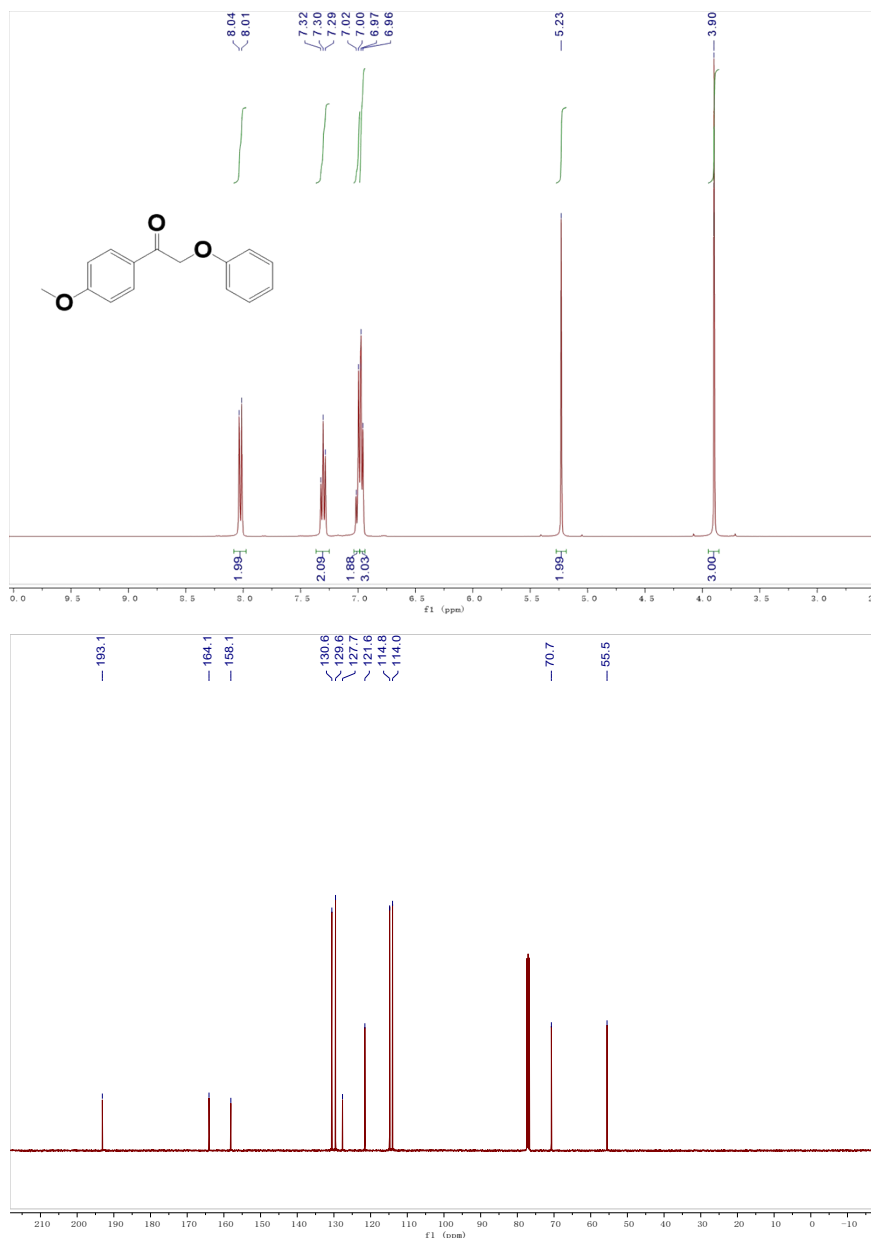
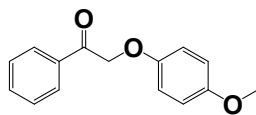


Figure S3  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of model 2a.



Model 3a:

### 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-phenylethanone

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.91 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.53 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.41 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 6.82 (d,  $J = 9.1$  Hz, 2H), 6.74 (d,  $J = 9.1$  Hz, 2H), 5.14 (s, 2H), 3.68 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  194.89, 154.47, 152.21, 134.62, 133.85, 128.83, 128.12, 115.99, 114.71, 71.75, 55.70.

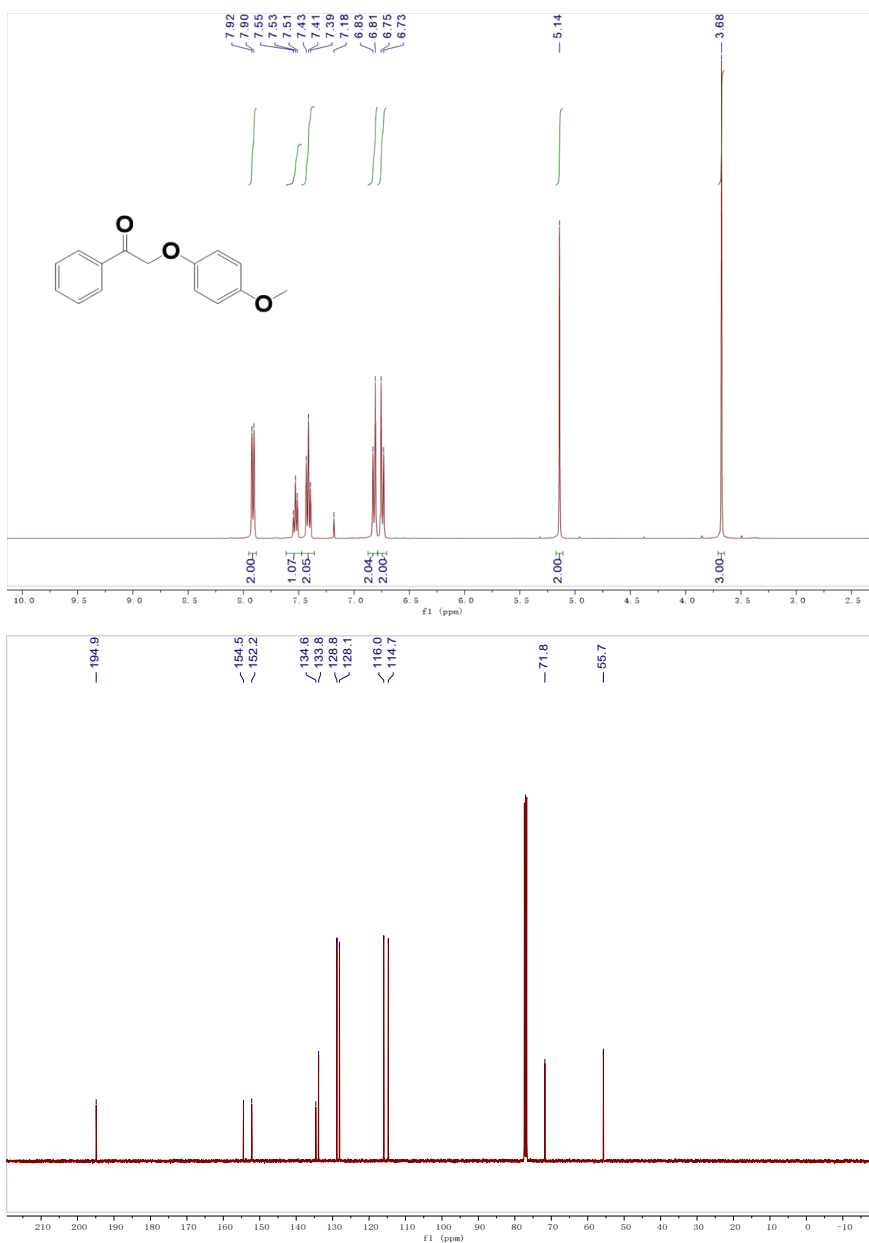
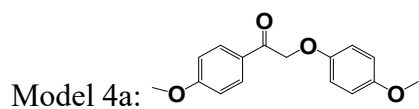


Figure S4  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of model 3a.



1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)- phenylethanone

$^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.92 (d,  $J = 8.9$  Hz, 2H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 6.83 (s, 1H), 6.81 (s, 1H), 6.75 (s, 1H), 6.73 (s, 1H), 5.09 (s, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.68 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  193.44, 164.00, 154.39, 152.29, 130.53, 127.67, 115.93, 114.68, 113.99, 71.63, 55.70, 55.54.

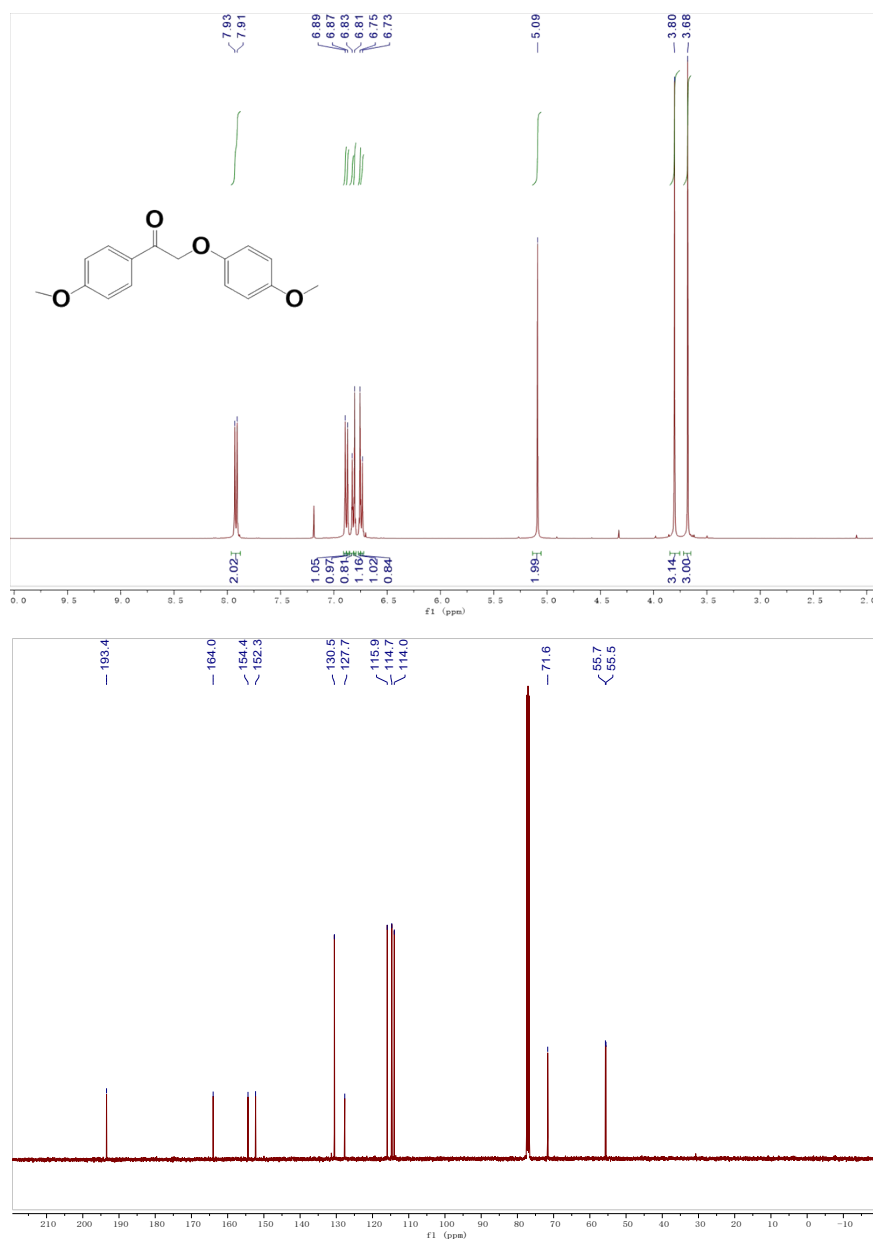
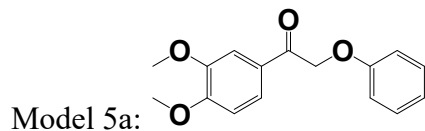


Figure S5  $^1\text{H NMR}$  and  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  of model 4a.



1-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-phenylethanone

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.58 (dd,  $J = 8.4, 1.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d,  $J = 1.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.25 – 7.18 (m, 2H), 6.91 (d,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 1H), 6.85 (dd,  $J = 15.3, 8.5$  Hz, 3H), 5.15 (s, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  193.20, 158.10, 153.92, 149.28, 129.57, 127.79, 122.86, 121.59, 114.81, 110.38, 110.16, 70.73, 56.14, 56.04.

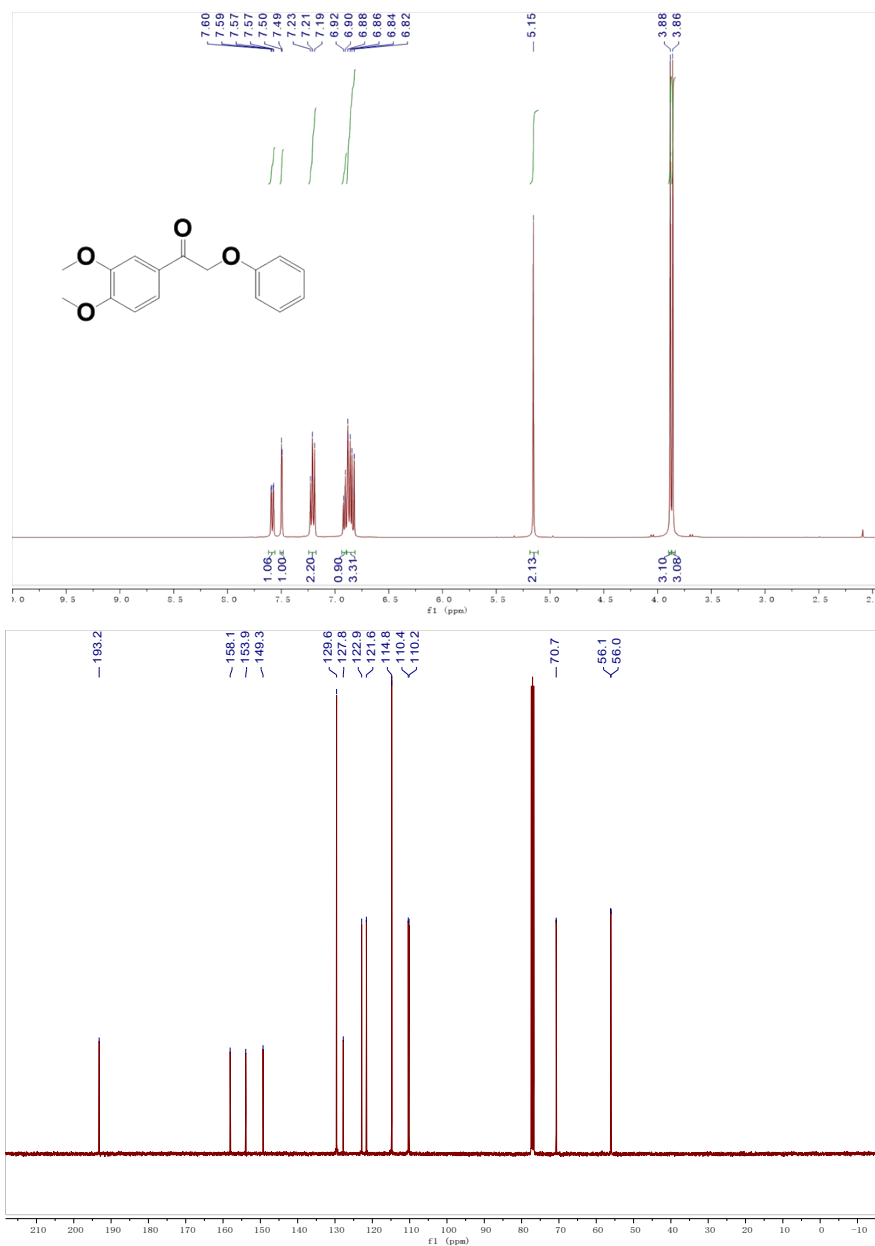
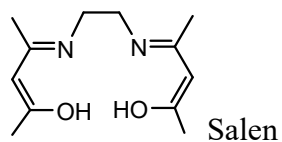


Figure S6  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of model 5a.



$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  10.89 (s, 1H), 4.99 (s, 1H), 3.50 – 3.36 (m, 2H), 2.00 (s, 3H), 1.90 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  195.55, 162.86, 96.09, 43.52, 28.98, 28.81, 18.78, 18.64.

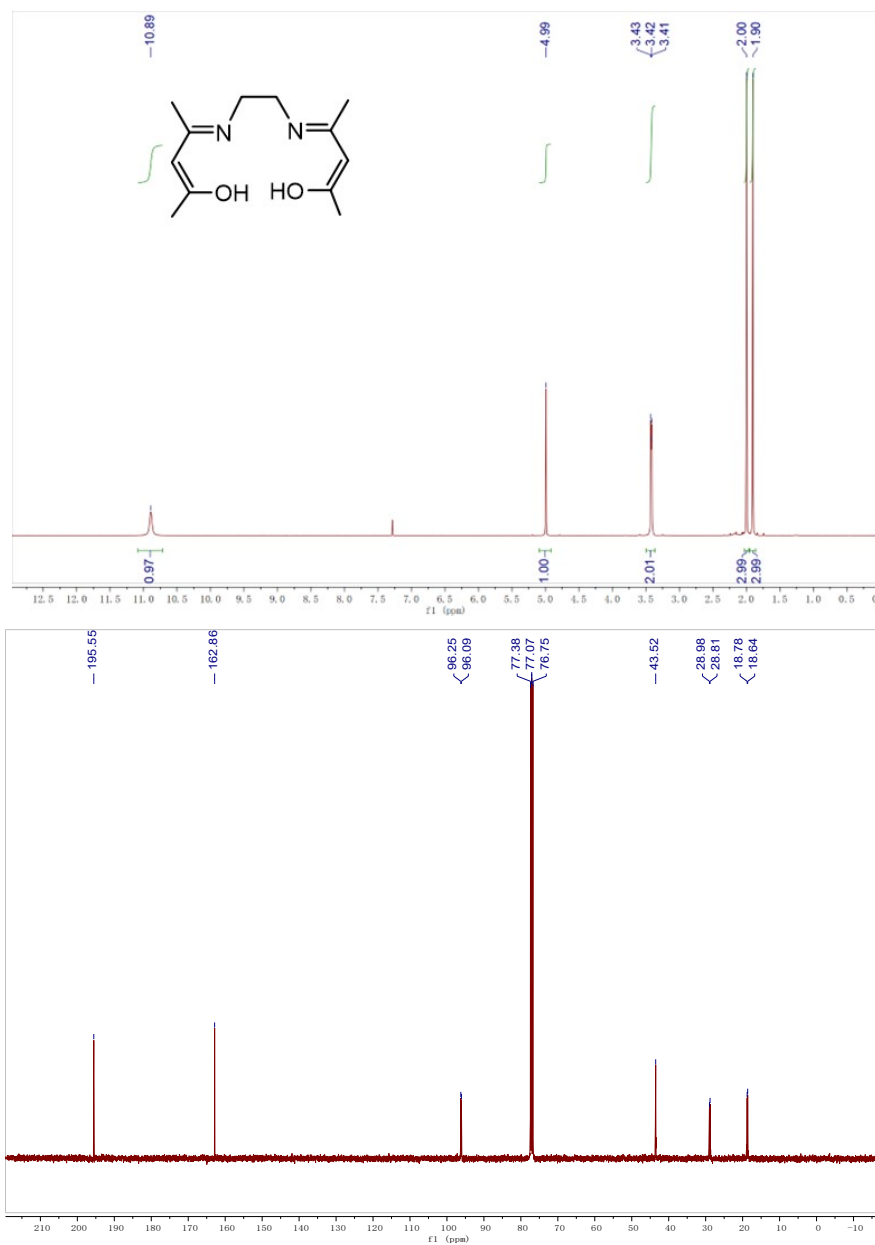
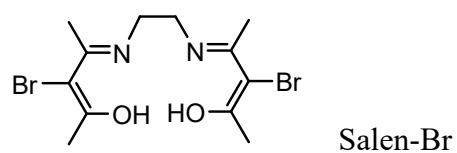


Figure S7  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of Salen.



$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  11.62 (s, 2H), 3.45 –3.40 (m, 4H), 2.30 (s, 6H), 2.15 (s, 6H). $^{13}\text{C}$

NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  194.52, 161.94, 92.59, 44.45, 30.45, 19.32.

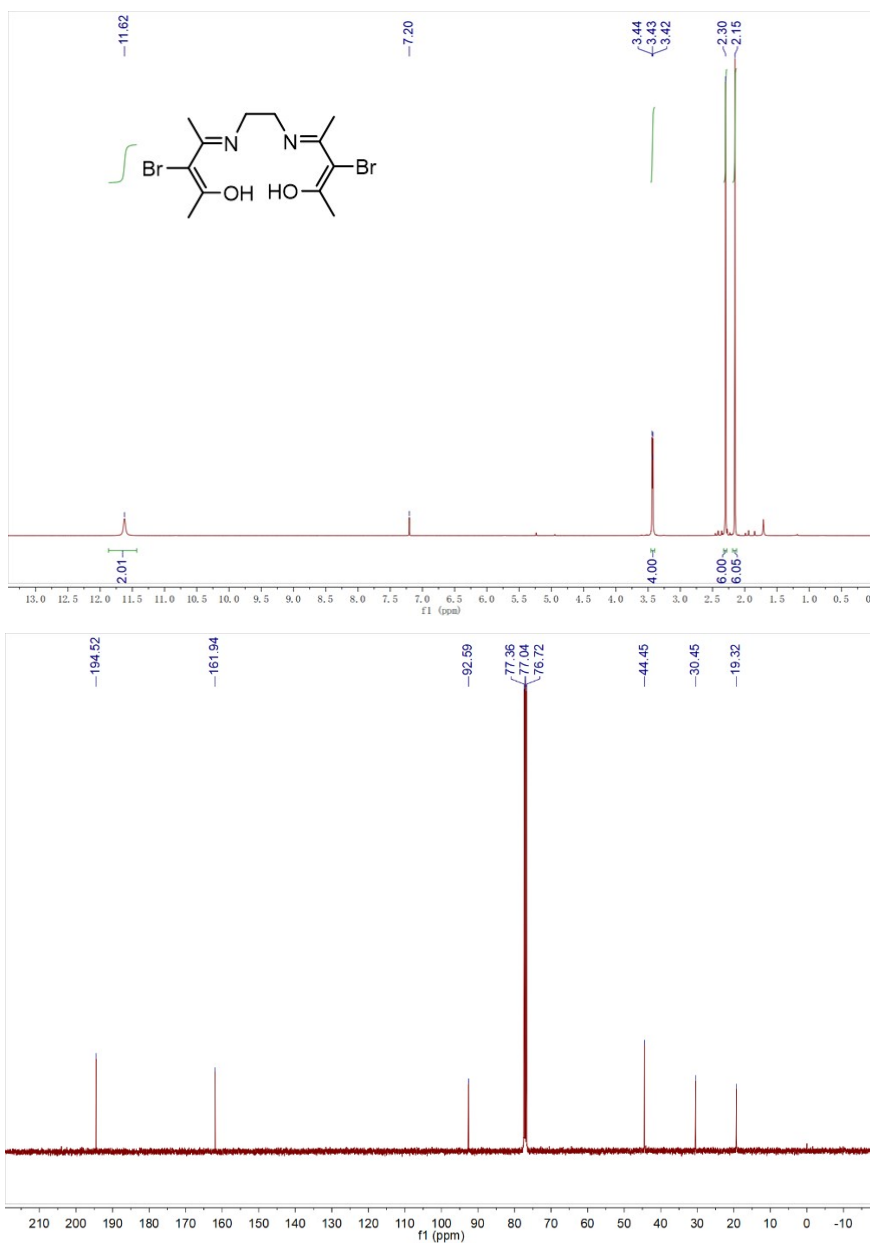
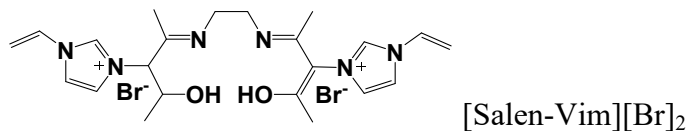


Figure S8  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of Salen-Br.





<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 9.31 (d, *J* = 64.6 Hz, 1H), 8.20 (d, *J* = 56.6 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 28.4 Hz, 1H), 6.08 (ddd, *J* = 15.7, 7.7, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 5.97 (dd, *J* = 34.3, 15.7 Hz, 1H), 5.44 (d, *J* = 22.0 Hz, 1H), 5.33 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 2H), 2.34 – 2.10 (m, 3H), 2.06 – 1.72 (m, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 190.66, 163.66, 139.34, 136.06, 129.35, 128.66, 120.32, 109.88, 107.41, 39.57, 26.36, 14.77.

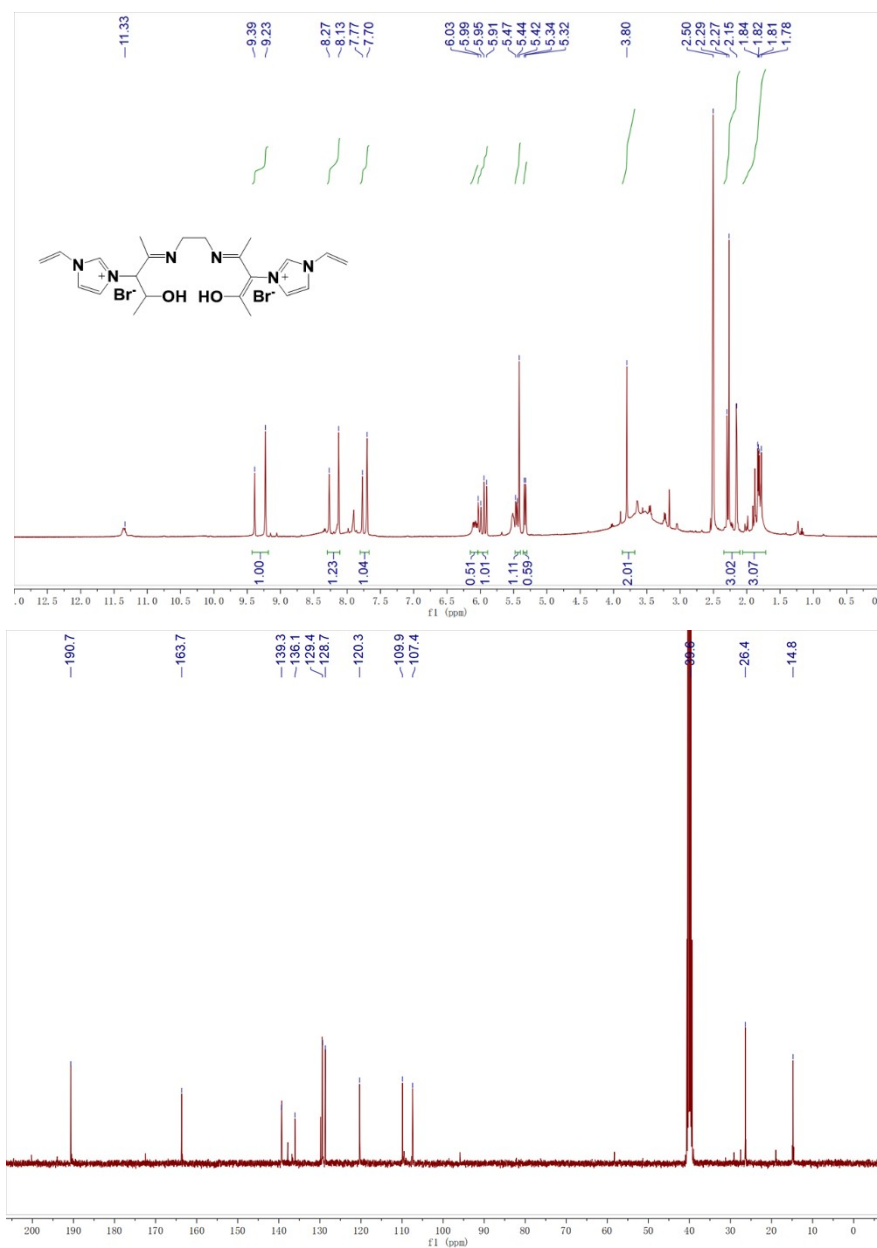


Figure S9 <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of [Salen-Vim][Br]<sub>2</sub>.

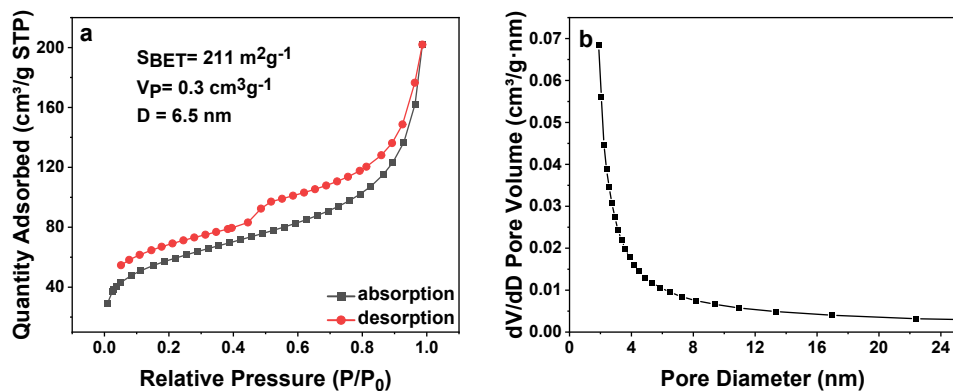


Figure S10 (a) N<sub>2</sub> sorption isotherms and (b) Pore size distribution curves of poly Ni-[Salen-Vim][OAc]<sub>2</sub>. S<sub>BET</sub>: Total surface area obtained by using BET method; V<sub>p</sub>: pore volume; D: average diameter.

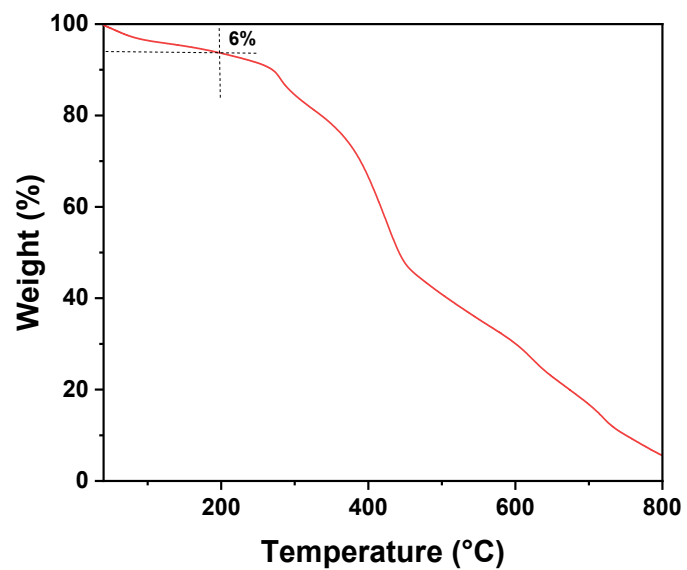


Figure S11 TGA patterns of poly Ni-[Salen-Vim][OAc]<sub>2</sub>.

Table S1 Different catalysts for oxidative cleavage of 2-phenoxy-1-phenylethanone.

Entry	Catalyst	Additives	Catalytic system <sup>a</sup>	T (°C)	t (h)	Conv. (%)	Sel. (%) <sup>b</sup>	Ref.
1	/	NaOH	Homo.	30	5.5	8	7	[1]
2	CuCl <sub>2</sub>	NaOH	Homo.	30	5.5	80	60	[1]
3	Cu/C <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub>	K <sub>7</sub> HNb <sub>6</sub> O <sub>39</sub>	Heter.	80	12	96	94	[2]
4	CTF-mDCB-10	/	Heter.	140	2	89	82	[3]
5	Hf(OTf) <sub>4</sub>	/	Homo.	80	4	99	82	[4]
6	Fe-N-C-950	/	Heter.	140	4	94	73	[5]
7	Fe-ZnS/650	/	Heter.	120	2	99	85	[6]
8	Poly Ni-[Salen-Vim][OAc] <sub>2</sub>	/	Heter.	110	12	99	83	This work

<sup>a</sup>Homo.= Homogeneous, Heter.= Heterogenous; <sup>b</sup>Selectivity to cleavage product.

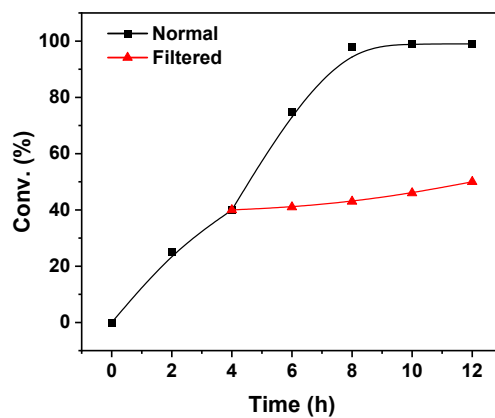


Figure S12 Hot filtration experiments of poly Ni-[Salen-Vim][OAc]<sub>2</sub>. Reaction conditions: 0.25mmol PP-one, 50 mg poly Ni-[Salen-Vim][OAc]<sub>2</sub>, 3mL MeOH, 0.5MPa O<sub>2</sub>, 110°C.

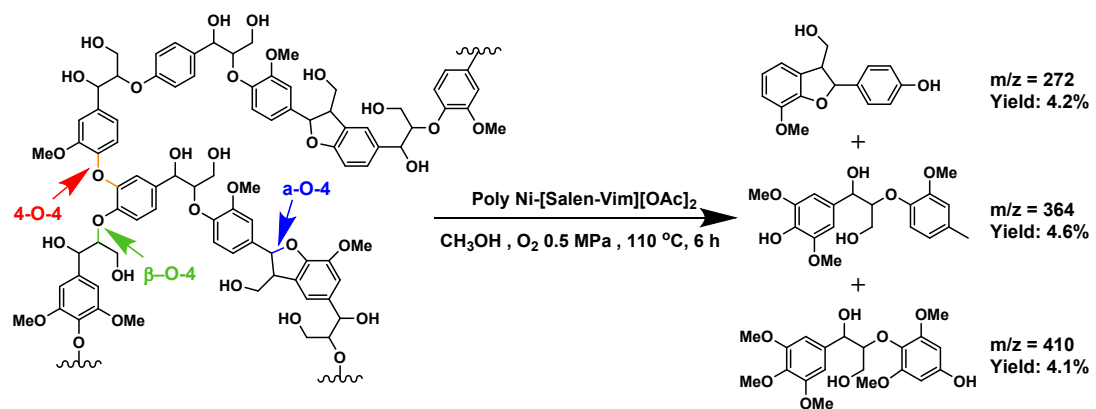


Figure S13 Catalytic conversion of birch lignin into phenolic compound over the Ni-[Salen-Vim][OAc]<sub>2</sub> catalyst.

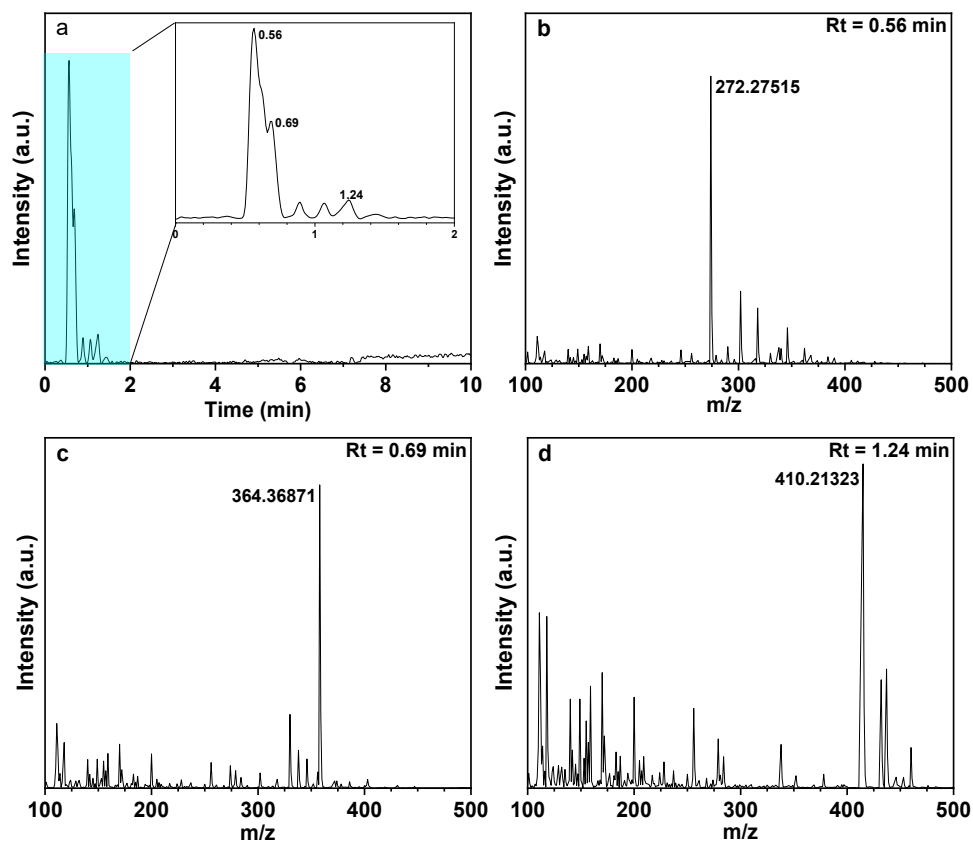


Figure S14 HPLC-MS spectra of birch lignin degradation over the Ni-[Salen-Vim][OAc]<sub>2</sub> catalyst. (a) HPLC chromatogram (FTMS + p ESI Full ms 100-1000) of HPLC-MS, (b) Mass spectrum of HPLC-MS at  $t_R=0.56$  min, (c) Mass spectrum of HPLC-MS at  $t_R=0.69$  min. (d) Mass spectrum of HPLC-MS at  $t_R=1.24$  min.

## Reference

- [1] Y. Hu, L. Yan and X. Zhao, *Green Chem.*, 2021, 23, 7030-7040.
- [2] J. Li, Z. Li and J. Dong, *ACS Catal.*, 2023, 13, 5272-5284.
- [3] G. Zhu, S. Shi and L. Zhao, *ACS Catal.*, 2020, 10, 7526-7534.
- [4] R. Zhu, C. Mao and F. Gao, *ChemSusChem.*, 2024, 17, e202301743.
- [5] S. Guo, X. Tong and L. Meng, *Catal. Sci. Technol.*, 2023, 13, 1748-1754.
- [6] H. Guo, Z. Chen and Q. Yin, *Appl. Catal. B-Environ.*, 2023, 339, 123129.