

# Green synthesis of alkyl 8-(2-butyl-5-octyl-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl)octanoate derivatives as potential biolubricants from used frying oil

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**ABSTRACT:** Three pentanal-derived acetal esters have been prepared using a sonochemical method employing the principles of green chemistry. As many as two steps were required to produce these esters of alkyl 9,10-dihydroxystearate in 67–85% yield. The green synthesis evaluation was carried out through a comparison between reflux and sonochemical methods, as well as homogeneous and solid acid catalysts. Activation of Indonesian natural bentonite was conducted by Bronsted acid-enabled dealumination to obtain a low-cost solid acid catalyst. It was found that sonochemical esterification of the acid-catalyzed by H-bentonite gave products in up to 70% yield in 3 times shorter reaction time than the reflux method, which is remarkable. The final acetalization step with n-pentanal in the presence of H-bentonite with sonochemical method afforded three pentanal-derived dioxolane derivatives in 69–85% yields, which are higher than the conventional method. Examination of the physicochemical properties of each product revealed that methyl 8-(2-butyl-5-octyl-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl)octanoate is the most suitable novel biolubricant to substitute currently commercial lubricant.

**KEYWORDS:** biolubricant, used frying oil, green synthesis, activated bentonite, sonochemical method

## INTRODUCTION

As annual world energy consumption rises every year, the utilization of renewable raw materials as the energy source will undoubtedly play an important role in the near future [1–3]. Among available alternatives, vegetable oils are the most consumed materials [4,5]. Specifically, research concludes that vegetable oils have the potential to substitute currently used lubricant composed solely of hydrocarbons. This is because vegetable oils are abundantly available, biodegradable, and have low toxicity [6,7]. However, due to the unsaturation bonds are present, they exhibit low thermal and oxidative stability [8]. Structural modification of the vegetable oils is thus needed to overcome these problems, while at the same time maintaining their ability as biolubricant [9–12].

Efforts on biolubricant formulation from vegetable oils have been carried out to find the best biolubricant candidate [13–20]. Epoxidation of oleic acid and followed by a ring-opening reaction gave ether-based biolubricant; however, the biolubricant gave low viscosity index, which is unfavorable [13]. On the other hand, hydroxylation and acylation of

oleic acid gave triester-based biolubricant; however, the total acid numbers were too high to be employed in a real application [14]. As part of our contribution to finding a substitute for conventional lubricant, we reported in our previous work that the ketal-derived ethyl 9,10-dihydroxystearate showed considerably good physicochemical properties, i.e. lower total acid number (TAN) value and iodine value (IV) than commercial lubricant [15,16]. Furthermore, the density of the esters is in the range of what is required to be a good lubricant. However, their total base number (TBN) value is still high (14.0 mg KOH/g), which, in turn, indicates that further improvement is needed to obtain ideal biolubricant. Meanwhile, the aromatic aldehyde derivatives gave solid products, thus, the products could not be used as biolubricant [17].

On the other hand, green synthesis process of biolubricant has been also considered for a better future and environmental sustainability [21–24]. Anastas and Eghbali introduced the principles of green chemistry, some of which are the design of energy-efficient synthetic method, employ heterogeneous catalyst, conduction of less hazardous chemical syntheses, and use of safer chemicals and

solvents [25]. One alternative to replacing reflux as a synthetic method is sonochemical synthesis as it utilizes sound waves rather than requiring heat for the reaction [26]. Heterogeneous catalysts are generally favored over homogenous catalysts in terms of a simple and green process [27].

Indonesia, specifically Tasikmalaya, is rich in natural clays. One of the most commonly found natural clays is bentonite. So far, bentonites have found variable uses such as acid catalyst [21], ion-exchange agent [28], heavy metals adsorbent [29], and slow-release agent [30] in the industrial conversion of crude oil [31], owing to their porosity and acidity. Additionally, bentonite is able to act as a heterogeneous catalyst in esterification and then recovered after the reaction process [32]. To overcome all the aforementioned problems, in the present work, we reported the green synthesis of pentanal-derived dioxolane compounds and the evaluation of their potential application as biolubricants. Pentanal was selected because it is commercially available to be used as a raw material in the rubber and resin industries. The aspects of green chemistry met in this experiment were the use of the green synthesis method (sonochemistry), the avoidance of hazardous reagent (sulfuric acid), and the employment of heterogenous catalysis (activated bentonite). Furthermore, the physicochemical properties of the synthesized compounds were tested in comparison to the commercial lubricants.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Materials

Used frying oil was obtained from a traditional market in Yogyakarta, Indonesia; while natural bentonite was obtained from Tasikmalaya, Indonesia. The other chemicals, such as sulfuric acid, methanol, ethanol, *n*-propanol, isopropanol, dichloromethane, pentanal, sodium hydroxide, potassium permanganate, anhydrous sodium sulfate, sodium bicarbonate, and *p*-toluenesulfonic acid (*p*-TSA) were purchased from Merck in pro analytical grade and used without any further purification.

### Activation of natural bentonite

Activation of natural bentonite was carried out through an acidic activation in a similar manner to the previously described procedure [33]. Briefly, natural bentonite (250 g) was grounded and filtered to 100 mesh. Then 1.0 M sulfuric acid in distilled water was poured into the material and the mixture

was heated at 350 K for 3 h. The residue was filtered and washed with distilled water until the filtrate was free from sulfate ions. The residue was dried and filtered to 100 mesh to obtain activated bentonite (abbreviated as H-bentonite). Natural bentonite and H-bentonite were characterized by FTIR, XRD, surface analysis, and SEM-EDX.

### Esterification of used frying oil

In the present work, used frying oil was utilized as the fatty acid source. Briefly, the mixture between used frying oil (20 g) and 20% wt/vol sodium hydroxide in methanol (50 ml) was refluxed for 1 h. Afterward, *n*-hexane (3 × 20 ml) was added into the mixture for extracting the fatty acid methyl esters as the product. The organic phase was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and, then, the solvent was removed under vacuum. The obtained fatty acid methyl esters were characterized by FT-IR (Fourier Transform Infrared, Shimadzu Prestige 21) and GC-MS (Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry, Shimadzu QP 2010S with Agilent GC Type 6890-MS Type 5973) spectrometry. See supplementary data for the characterization of the products.

### Hydrolysis of fatty acid methyl esters

The mixture of fatty acid methyl esters (5.0 g) was added into 2% wt/vol KOH in methanol (30 ml); and the mixture was refluxed for 2 h. After that, the mixture was acidified with 1 M hydrochloric acid until a pH of 1.0 was reached. Then, petroleum ether (5 × 10 ml) was added to the mixture, the organic phase was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, and the solvent was removed under vacuum. The obtained fatty acids were characterized by FT-IR spectrometry.

### Esterification of 9,10-dihydroxyoctadecanoic acid

The 9,10-dihydroxyoctadecanoic acid was prepared using potassium permanganate as the oxidation agent under an alkaline condition as previously described [16]. The 9,10-dihydroxyoctadecanoic acid (0.316 g, 1 mmol) was dissolved in 100 mmol of alcohol (methanol, ethanol, *n*-propanol, and isopropanol separately). Then acid catalyst (2 ml of concentrated sulfuric acid or 50 mg of heterogenous catalyst) was added to the mixture. The mixture was refluxed as a representative of the conventional method or sonicated for 10–30 min. After the reaction had been completed, the catalyst was filtered off. Distilled water (10 ml) was added to the filtrate. The precipitated product was filtered and

recrystallized with acetonitrile to obtain the desired product.

### Acetalization of alkyl 9,10-dihydroxyoctadecanoate

The alkyl 9,10-dihydroxyoctadecanoate ester (2 mmol) and *n*-pentanal (0.2 g, 2 mmol) were dissolved in dichloromethane (25 ml). Then, acid catalyst (50 mg of *p*-TSA or 50 mg of heterogeneous catalyst) was added to the mixture. The mixture was refluxed as a representative of the conventional method or sonicated for 30 min. After the reaction, the mixture was filtered. Then, the organic phase was washed with brine (10 ml) three times and 3.0% w/t sodium bicarbonate solution (10 ml) twice. The organic phase was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and the solvent was removed under vacuum to obtain the desired product.

### Biolubricant test of alkyl 8-(2-butyl-5-octyl-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl)octanoates

The density of the synthesized products was determined by a 10.0 ml pycnometer according to the American Society for Testing and Material (ASTM) D1481 standard method. The dynamic viscosity and viscosity index of the synthesized products were measured by Ostwald viscometer according to ASTM D445 and D2770 methods.

The total acid number (TAN) of the synthesized products was determined by alkalimetric titration according to ASTM D964 standard method; while the total base number (TBN) of the synthesized products was determined by acidimetric titration according to ASTM D974 standard method. The iodine value (IV) of the synthesized products was determined by iodometric titration according to ASTM D2078 standard method. Each measurement was carried out in three replications and the average values from the measurement data were used.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Catalyst activation

Characterization of H-bentonite using FT-IR spectroscopy (Fig. 1(A)) reveals that activation of bentonite has been successfully carried out. After the activation process, the O—Si—O stretching peak at  $787\text{ cm}^{-1}$  is sharpened and the  $\text{TO}_4$  ( $\text{T} = \text{Si}$  or  $\text{Al}$ ) absorption peak becomes wider in the range of  $1203\text{--}979\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . These prove that the dealumination process by acid treatment of the parent natural bentonite is achieved since the Si/Al ratio was decreased as previously described [29–31]. Further-

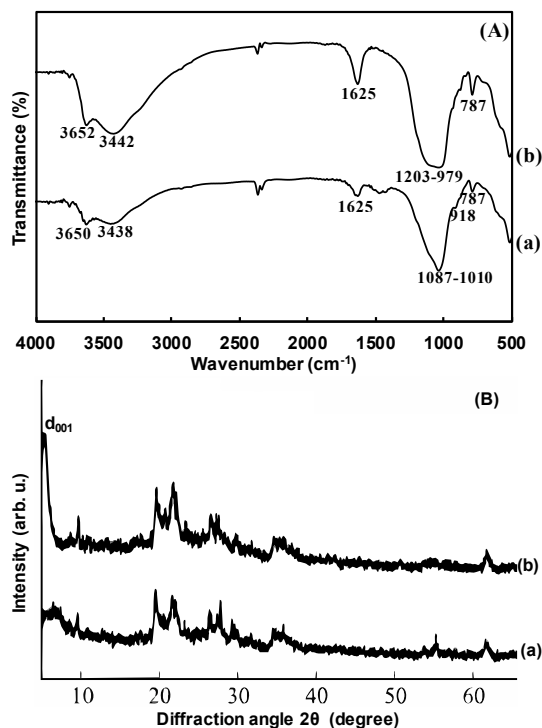


Fig. 1 (A) FTIR spectra and (B) XRD diffractogram of (a) bentonite and (b) H-bentonite.

more, the O—H absorption peaks of silanol groups in  $3400\text{--}3650\text{ cm}^{-1}$  were shifted towards larger wavenumbers as the cationic impurities coordinated to the water in the pore of zeolite is eluted during the activation process [29]. The success of bentonite activation can also be elucidated by the reduced Al—O—Al bending absorption intensity at  $918\text{ cm}^{-1}$  as most of aluminum in the clay is dissolved in the acid. The XRD spectrum (Fig. 1(B)) shows that the  $d_{001}$  peak of bentonite structure was shifted to a lower  $2\theta$  value (from  $6.790$  to  $5.279$ ) with a higher peak intensity confirming successful removal of impurities from bentonite structure; thus, the  $d_{001}$  was increased from  $13.0076$  to  $16.7269\text{ nm}$ . This result is in agreement with the previous literature [33]. The SEM images of both catalyst materials were shown in Fig. 2. After the activation process, the particles were well-distributed. Furthermore, from the gas adsorption isotherm analysis, the pore characters of natural bentonite and H-bentonite materials were listed in Table 1. It was found that the surface area of the H-bentonite ( $133.5\text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ ) is 1.7 times higher than that of the natural bentonite ( $76.87\text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ ). Furthermore, the Bronsted acid sites were determined from the vapor adsorption of ammonia and pyridine on the surface



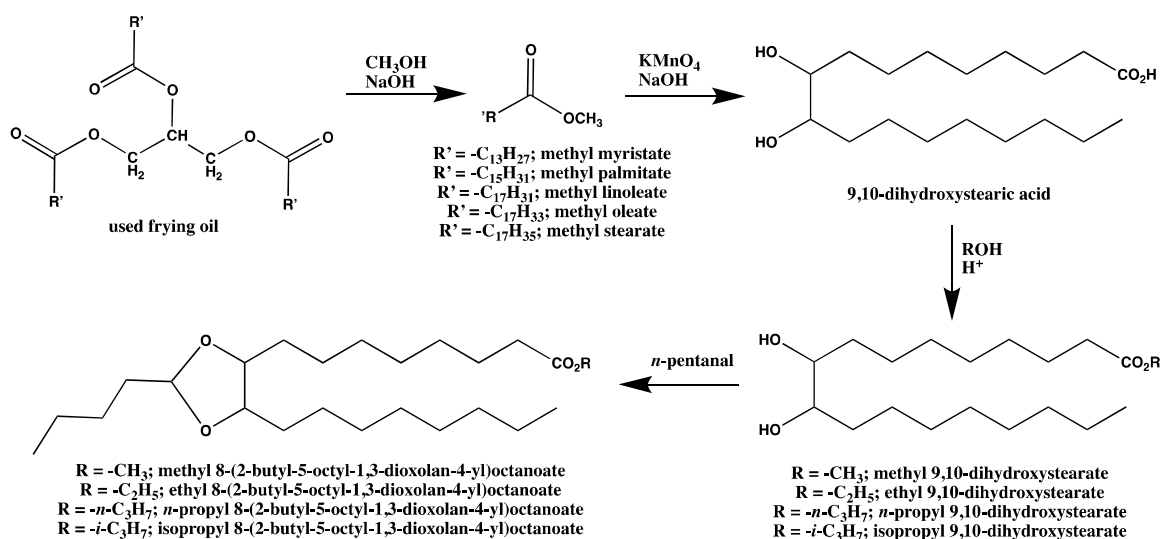


Fig. 3 Synthesis scheme of alkyl 8-(2-butyl-5-octyl-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl)octanoate derivatives from used frying oil.

### Green esterification of 9,10-dihydroxystearic acid

The obtained 9,10-dihydroxystearic acid was esterified with various types of alcohol, i.e. methanol, ethanol, *n*-propanol, and isopropanol, in the presence of an acidic catalyst (concentrated sulfuric acid or natural bentonite or H-bentonite). The synthesis experiment was begun by comparing the esterification result between conventional, i.e. reflux (Table 2, entries 1, 5, 9, and 13), and sonochemical method (Table 2, entries 2, 6, 10, and 14). Both methods were conducted in the presence of concentrated sulfuric acid. The reflux method required a longer reaction time than the sonochemical method, and remarkable yield of each ester was obtained using the sonochemical method. However, much lower yield for sonochemical method was resulted, when ethanol, *n*-propanol, and isopropanol were used. It is reasonable since the reaction time of the reflux method was longer than the sonochemical method [26]. Despite this, the calculated energy needed to drive the sonochemical reaction (257 kW) was tremendously lower than the conventional method (16 000 kW). Moreover, the time of reaction for sonochemical method (10 min) was three times shorter than the reflux one (30 min). Therefore, the product yield can be compensated by these facts.

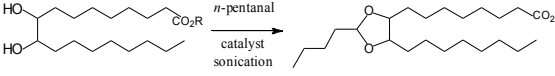
With the decision that sonochemical method was reasonable to use, then, the synthesis process was moved on to analyze the performance of each heterogeneous catalyst on this sonochemical esterification reaction. Overall, under the same mass

and reaction time, H-bentonite catalyzed the reaction more efficiently compared to natural bentonite (Table 2). This finding is in agreement with the reported literatures [31–33]. This higher catalytic activity of H-bentonite compared to natural bentonite is probably due to the higher number of acid site, larger surface area, larger pore volume, and larger pore size in H-bentonite (Table 1) so that 9,10-dihydroxystearic acid molecules are more efficiently bound to the active sites of the catalysts. Furthermore, the uniformity of H-bentonite aggregates is higher than its unmodified counterpart, as can be seen by the SEM image (Fig. 2). The yield of H-bentonite catalyzed esterifications are comparable to the conventionally obtained yield for methyl and ethyl esters using concentrated sulfuric acid. Thus, the protocol for green practical methyl and ester esterification of 9,10-dihydroxystearate was successfully established using a sonochemical method with H-bentonite catalyst, while the preparation of the propyl and isopropyl esters will remain a challenge in the future.

### Green synthesis of pentanal-derived dioxolanes

Attempts to synthesize pentanal-derived dioxolanes were done by acetalization of methyl, ethyl, propyl, and isopropyl 9,10-dihydroxystearate. Firstly, we compared the acetalization product of methyl 9,10-dihydroxystearate obtained between conventional (catalyzed by *p*-TSA) and greener method (catalyzed by natural bentonite or H-bentonite) to determine the better catalyst among the three of them (Table 3, entries 1–3). Unsurprisingly, the reaction



**Table 3** Effect of different catalysts on the yield of pentanal-derived dioxolanes.


Entry	R	Catalyst	Reaction time (min)	Yield (%)
1	—CH <sub>3</sub>	<i>p</i> -TSA	30	74
2	—CH <sub>3</sub>	Bentonite	30	68
3	—CH <sub>3</sub>	H-bentonite	30	85
4	—CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	<i>p</i> -TSA	30	67
5	—CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	Bentonite	30	59
6	—CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	H-bentonite	30	78
7	—CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	H-bentonite	30	69
8	—CH(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	H-bentonite	30	0

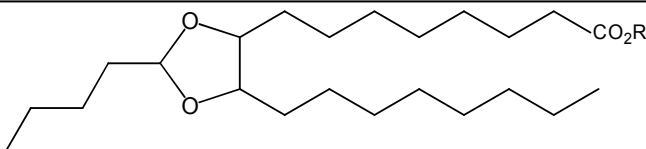
catalyzed by H-bentonite gave the highest product yield compared to those catalyzed by *p*-TSA and natural bentonite. The same trend was observed for the synthesis using ethyl 9,10-dihydroxystearate as a substrate (Table 3, entries 4–6). This result indicated that the catalytic activity of H-bentonite as heterogeneous catalyst surpasses that of *p*-TSA as conventional homogeneous one, which fulfills the green chemistry principle [25]. One way to explain this finding is that *p*-TSA has a higher Brønsted acidic character than H-bentonite. Because acetalization is a reversible reaction, this ability of *p*-TSA has a major drawback as some of the *p*-TSA might hydrolyze the acetal back to the reactants. The calculated *e*-factor of using H-bentonite, i.e. 3.91, is lower than using *p*-TSA, i.e. 4.83. Lower *e*-factor describes that the procedure gives a lower amount of waste [25]. This is due to the fact that H-bentonite can be filtered out of the product mixture and further reused as a recycled catalyst. The parameter of yield and *e*-factor concluded that the sonochemical acetalization conducted in the presence of H-bentonite as catalyst was found as a greener method.

With this conclusion, propyl and isopropyl 9,10-dihydroxystearate were then subjected to the same sonochemical H-bentonite-catalyzed acetalization (Table 3, entries 7 and 8). The product obtained from *n*-propyl 9,10-dihydroxystearate was in gel form, which was, therefore, not suitable to be applied as lubricant. Meanwhile, the acetal was hardly obtained from isopropyl 9,10-dihydroxystearate due to steric hindrance. Therefore, the biolubricant evaluation was conducted only for methyl, ethyl, and *n*-propyl pentanal-derived dioxolane compounds.

### Physicochemical properties of pentanal-derived dioxolanes

Based on ASTM as the standard method [18], some physicochemical properties, such as density, viscosity, viscosity index, TAN, TBN, and IV, were determined for synthesized dioxolane compounds as grease and oleic acid as starting material. The results are presented in Table 4. A better lubricant has a low density to allow less mechanical work required by the machines [1]. Of all the products obtain, only methyl ester dioxolane has the density which is in the range of that required to be a good lubricant, i.e. 0.70–0.95 g/ml. Even though the methyl ester is denser than the commercial lubricant, both methyl and ethyl esters synthesized have a lower density than oleic acid. In these esters, only van der Waals forces present, while there are van der Waals and hydrogen bonding occurring intramolecularly in oleic acid [18]. The viscosities and viscosity indexes of methyl ester obtained are comparable to commercial lubricant. The high viscosity of lubricants is desired as it will prevent friction among metal parts in the machine [5].

The degree of engine corrosion due to the use of grease can be expressed as TAN [7]. As the acid functional group is converted into the corresponding esters, the resulting synthesized products have much a lower TAN value than oleic acid. The lower TAN value of methyl and ethyl esters means that the utilization of these compounds will result in lower probability of engine corrosion compared to that of commercial lubricants. On the other hand, TBN values can be used to interpret the ability of lubricants to neutralize the acids that might come from fuel combustion processes and prevent dirt from sticking on the engine component [1]. The higher value of TBN reveals the higher detergency ability of a compound. However, too high TBN value of a compound would make it not suitable as a lubricant, as the presence of base tends to hydrolyze ester back to the acids. From the result presented in Table 4, pentanal-derived dioxolane from methyl ester compensates both of these effects. In fact, its TBN is slightly higher than commercial lubricant but lower than our previously reported TBN for ketal derived dioxolane (14.0 mg KOH/g). Lubricants are sometimes exposed to air and, consequently, those that have many double bonds or unsaturated groups could be oxidized [11]. The oxidative stability of a lubricant can be determined by a parameter called iodine value (IV). Dihydroxylation followed by acetalization of the alkene functional groups

**Table 4** Physicochemical properties of pentanal-derived dioxolanes.


Compound	Density (g/ml)	Viscosity (mPa s) <sup>a</sup>	Viscosity index	TAN (mg KOH/g)	TBN (mg KOH/g)	IV (mg I <sub>2</sub> /g)
R = -CH <sub>3</sub>	0.926	162	108	59.9	8.26	0.13
R = -CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	0.977	59.8	105	38.2	16.8	0.58
R = -CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	—	—	—	18.1	27.5	0.84
Oleic acid <sup>d</sup>	0.985	29.0	152	196	0.54	89.9
Commercial lubricant	0.882	138	115	85.4	5.36	31.7

<sup>a</sup> Dynamic viscosity at 313 K.

yields C—O  $\sigma$  bonds which are more stable than the  $\pi$  bonds. This explains the lower IV of the ester products compared to oleic acid. Fortunately, these values are also lower compared to those in the commercial lubricant, with methyl esters having the best attribute as the potential biolubricant candidate for a real application.

## CONCLUSION

The green synthesis of pentanal-derived alkyl ester dioxolanes has been performed in two-step sequence from 9,10-dihydroxystearic acid which is in turn obtained from used frying oil. Esterification of the acid by sonochemical method in the presence of H-bentonite gave alkyl 9,10-dihydroxystearates in reasonable yield and in a shorter reaction time than conventional method. Then, H-bentonite-catalyzed sonochemical acetalization of the esters with *n*-pentanal afforded methyl, ethyl, and *n*-propyl ester dioxolanes in higher yields than the obsolete method. Evaluation of phase, density, viscosity, TAN, TBN, and IV of each product reveals that methyl 8-(2-butyl-5-octyl-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl)octanoate is the most suitable novel candidate as a biolubricant. These findings are hopefully expected to find application in the mechanical industry as means of contribution towards achieving environmentally benign processes.

## Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found at <http://dx.doi.org/10.2306/scienceasia1513-1874.2021.010>.

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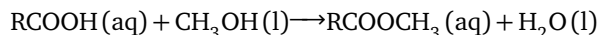


## Appendix A. Supplementary data

### CHARACTERIZATION OF THE SYNTHESIZED PRODUCTS BY FT-IR, GC-MS AND NMR

#### A: Isolation of oleic acid from used frying oil

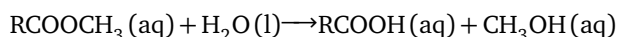
Reaction equation:



17.27 g of fatty acid methyl ester was obtained with 85.92% reaction yield. FT-IR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2924 & 2835 (C–H  $\text{sp}^3$  stretching), 1743 (C=O ester), 1458 ( $\text{CH}_2$  bending), 1180 (C–O ester), 725 (cis C=C). GC-MS: 1.20% methyl myristate (retention time ( $t_R$ ) = 23.7 min,  $M^+$  = 242), 36.99% methyl palmitate ( $t_R$  = 28.2 min,  $M^+$  = 270), 12.03% methyl linoleate ( $t_R$  = 31.6 min,  $M^+$  = 294), 41.73% methyl oleate ( $t_R$  = 31.8 min,  $M^+$  = 296), and 5.73% methyl stearate ( $t_R$  = 32.1 min,  $M^+$  = 298).

#### B: Hydrolysis of fatty acid methyl esters

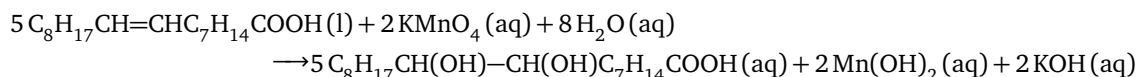
Reaction equation:



3.77 g of fatty acids was obtained with 79.52% reaction yield. FT-IR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3394 (O–H stretching), 2924 & 2854 (C–H  $\text{sp}^3$  stretching), 1712 (C=O carboxylic acid), 1458 ( $\text{CH}_2$  bending), 1188 (C–O carboxylic acid), 725 (cis C=C).

#### C: Oxidation of oleic acid

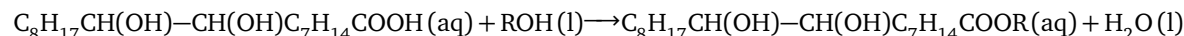
Reaction equation:



1.47 g of 9,10-dihydroxystearic acid was obtained with 45.17% reaction yield. FT-IR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3279-3202 (O–H stretching), 2916 & 2855 (C–H  $\text{sp}^3$  stretching), 1697 (C=O carboxylic acid), 1435 ( $\text{CH}_2$  bending).

#### D: Esterification of 9,10-dihydroxyoctadecanoic acid

Reaction equation:



Methyl 9,10-dihydroxyoctadecanoate. White solid. m.p. 87.0–88.7 °C. FT-IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3271 (O–H stretching), 2916 & 2854 (C–H  $\text{sp}^3$  stretching), 1735 (C=O ester stretching), 1443 ( $-\text{CH}_2-$  bending), 1387 ( $-\text{CH}_3$  bending), 1180 (C–O–C stretching). GC: a single peak at retention time ( $t_R$ ) = 34.97 min.  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 0.87 (t, 3H,  $-\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.23–1.42 (m, 24H,  $-\text{CH}_2-$ ), 1.62 (m, 2H,  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CO}-$ ), 2.31 (t, 2H,  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CO}-$ ), 3.59 (m, 2H,  $-\text{CH}-\text{OH}$ ), 4.11 (s, 3H,  $-\text{OCH}_3$ ), 5.29 (s, 2H, OH). MS: 312 ( $M^+ - \text{H}_2\text{O}$ ), 281, 187, 155, 139, 74 (Mc Lafferty rearrangement), 69, 55, 43 (base peak).

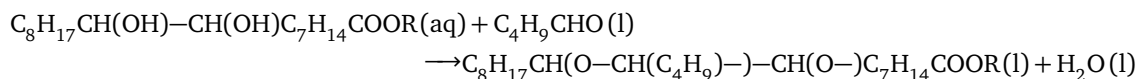
Ethyl 9,10-dihydroxyoctadecanoate. White solid. m.p. 82.0–83.0 °C. FT-IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3433 (O–H stretching), 2924 & 2854 (C–H  $\text{sp}^3$  stretching), 1735 (C=O ester stretching), 1465 ( $-\text{CH}_2-$  bending), 1387 ( $-\text{CH}_3$  bending), 1180 (C–O–C stretching). GC: a single peak at retention time ( $t_R$ ) = 34.88 min.  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 0.87 (t, 3H,  $-\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.27 (t, 3H,  $-\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.23–1.42 (m, 26H,  $-\text{CH}_2-$ ), 1.62 (m, 2H,  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CO}-$ ), 2.29 (t, 2H,  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CO}-$ ), 3.60 (m, 2H,  $-\text{CH}-\text{OH}$ ), 4.11 (qt 2H,  $-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ). MS: 342 ( $M^+$ ), 313, 281, 155, 88 (Mc Lafferty rearrangement), 69, 55 (base peak), 43.

*n*-Propyl 9,10-dihydroxyoctadecanoate. White solid. m.p. 80.5–81.2 °C. FT-IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3279 (O–H stretching), 2924 & 2854 (C–H  $\text{sp}^3$  stretching), 1735 (C=O ester stretching), 1435 ( $-\text{CH}_2-$  bending), 1387 ( $-\text{CH}_3$  bending), 1180 (C–O–C stretching). GC: a single peak at retention time ( $t_R$ ) = 35.17 min.  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 0.87 (t, 3H,  $-\text{CH}_3$ ), 0.93 (t, 3H,  $-\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.28–1.43 (m, 24H,  $-\text{CH}_2-$ ), 1.50 (m, 2H,  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CO}-$ ), 1.63 (m, 2H,  $-\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 2.29 (t, 2H,  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CO}-$ ), 3.59 (t, 2H,  $-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$ ), 4.02 (t, 2H,  $-\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 5.30 (s, 2H,  $-\text{CH}-\text{OH}$ ). MS: 281 ( $M^+ - \text{C}_3\text{H}_9\text{O}_2$ ), 215, 155, 138, 109, 102 (Mc Lafferty rearrangement), 83, 74, 69, 55, 43 (base peak).

Isopropyl 9,10-dihydroxyoctadecanoate. White solid. m.p. 79.0–80.0 °C. FT-IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3395 (O–H stretching), 2916 & 2855 (C–H  $\text{sp}^3$  stretching), 1736 (C=O ester stretching), 1466 (–CH<sub>2</sub>– bending), 1387 (–CH<sub>3</sub> bending), 1180 (C–O–C ester stretching). GC: a single peak at retention time ( $t_R$ ) = 36.92 min. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 0.88 (t, 3H, –CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.19 (d, 6H, –OCH(CH<sub>3</sub>)), 1.28–1.43 (m, 26H, –CH<sub>2</sub>–), 2.32 (t, 2H, –CH<sub>2</sub>CO–), 3.59 (t, 2H, –CH–CH–), 4.92 (m, 1H, –OCH(CH<sub>3</sub>)), 5.31 (s, 2H, –CH–OH). MS: 281 ( $\text{M}^+$ –C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>9</sub>O<sub>2</sub>), 215, 186, 155 (base peak), 138, 109, 102 (Mc Lafferty rearrangement), 83, 74, 69, 55, 43.

#### E: Acetalization of alkyl 9,10-dihydroxyoctadecanoate

Reaction equation:



Methyl 8-(2-butyl-5-octyl-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl)octanoate. Yellowish liquid. FT-IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2916 & 2855 (C–H  $\text{sp}^3$  stretching), 1735 (C=O ester stretching), 1443 (–CH<sub>2</sub>– bending), 1387 (–CH<sub>3</sub> bending), 1180 (C–O–C ester stretching), 1072 (C–O–C ether). GC: a single peak at retention time ( $t_R$ ) = 47.43 min. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 0.88 (t, 6H, –CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.20–1.48 (m, 30H, –CH<sub>2</sub>–), 1.61 (m, 2H, –CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CO–), 2.31 (t, 2H, –CH<sub>2</sub>CO–), 3.60 (t, 1H, –CH–O), 3.66 (s, 3H, –OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.90 (t, 1H, –CH–O), 4.87 (t, 1H, *n*Bu–CH(O)<sub>2</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 14.10, 14.20, 22.77, 24.97, 26.07, 26.18, 26.28, 26.37, 26.43, 29.14, 29.26, 29.40, 29.54, 29.96, 31.19, 31.29, 31.97, 34.14, 34.67, 51.56 (–OCH<sub>3</sub>), 78.58 (–OCH–), 79.67 (–OCH–), 103.60 (*n*Bu–HC(O)<sub>2</sub>–), 174.49 (C=O). MS: 397 ( $\text{M}^+$ –H), 341, 281, 263, 155, 139, 97, 83, 69, 55 (base peak), 43, 28.

Ethyl 8-(2-butyl-5-octyl-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl)octanoate. Yellowish liquid. FT-IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2917 & 2854 (C–H  $\text{sp}^3$  stretching), 1735 (C=O ester stretching), 1439 (–CH<sub>2</sub>– bending), 1386 (–CH<sub>3</sub> bending), 1180 (C–O–C ester stretching), 1073 (C–O–C ether). GC: a single peak at retention time ( $t_R$ ) = 40.63 min. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 0.88 (t, 6H, –CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.03 (t, 3H, –OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.26–1.43 (m, 30H, –CH<sub>2</sub>–), 1.51 (m, 2H, –CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CO–), 2.31 (t, 2H, –CH<sub>2</sub>CO–), 3.65 (t, 1H, –CH–O), 3.78 (t, 1H, –CH–O), 4.01 (q, 2H, –OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.85 (t, 1H, *n*Bu–CH(O)<sub>2</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 14.14, 14.27, 14.96, 22.50, 24.88, 26.05, 26.51, 26.53, 26.66, 26.77, 29.06, 29.60, 29.72, 29.69, 29.97, 31.23, 31.74, 31.95, 34.42, 34.69, 61.63 (–OCH<sub>3</sub>), 78.58 (–OCH–), 79.67 (–OCH–), 103.23 (*n*Bu–HC(O)<sub>2</sub>–), 174.12 (C=O). MS: 412 ( $\text{M}^+$ –H), 281, 155, 139, 97, 83, 69, 55 (base peak), 43, 28.

*n*-Propyl 8-(2-butyl-5-octyl-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl)octanoate. White gel. FT-IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2916 & 2855 (C–H  $\text{sp}^3$  stretching), 1736 (C=O ester stretching), 1435 (–CH<sub>2</sub>– bending), 1387 (–CH<sub>3</sub> bending), 1180 (C–O–C ester stretching), 1072 (C–O–C ether). GC: a single peak at retention time ( $t_R$ ) = 33.98 min. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 0.87 (t, 6H, –CH<sub>3</sub>), 0.93 (t, 3H, –OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.28–1.42 (m, 30H, –CH<sub>2</sub>–), 1.49 (m, 2H, –CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CO–), 1.63 (m, 2H, –OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.29 (t, 2H, –CH<sub>2</sub>CO–), 3.58 (t, 1H, –CH–O), 3.88 (t, 1H, –CH–O), 4.01 (t, 2H, –OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.86 (t, 1H, *n*Bu–CH(O)<sub>2</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 10.43, 14.03, 14.12, 22.07, 22.30, 22.70, 24.98, 26.04, 26.16, 26.21, 26.31, 26.36, 29.11, 29.20, 29.23, 29.63, 29.72, 29.78, 31.90, 34.29, 34.35, 65.89 (EtCH<sub>2</sub>–O–), 78.52 (–OCH–), 78.60 (–OCH–), 103.53 (*n*Bu–HC(O)<sub>2</sub>–), 174.07 (C=O). MS: 425 ( $\text{M}^+$ –H), 369, 341, 323, 263, 179, 155, 125, 97, 83, 69, 57, 43 (base peak), 28.

Isopropyl 8-(2-butyl-5-octyl-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl)octanoate. The product was hardly obtained in less than 1% yield thus not characterized.