

Table of contents

Acknowledgements.....	iii
Abstract.....	v
Résumé.....	vii
Table of contents.....	ix
List of Figures.....	xii
List of Tables.....	xvi
List of Equations.....	xvii
List of Symbols.....	xx
Chapter 1: Introduction.....	1
1.1 Global energy and carbon demand: Current scenario.....	1
1.2 Biomass as feedstock.....	4
1.3 The biorefinery concept.....	9
1.4 The kinetics of polysaccharides and lignin depolymerization.....	19
1.5 Strategies for high yield polysaccharides depolymerization.....	23
1.6 Protecting group chemistry.....	31
Chapter 2: Objectives.....	37
2.1 Objective 1. Stabilization of carbohydrates with formaldehyde during hemicellulose and cellulose depolymerization using conventional acid organosolv processes.....	37
2.2 Objective 2. Purify and characterize acetal-stabilized sugars found in the saccharification of hemicellulose and cellulose from beech wood.....	37
2.3 Objective 3. Mechanistic study of the deprotection and dehydration reaction of acetal-stabilized sugars.....	38

2.4 Objective 4. Preliminary techno-economic analysis of acetal-stabilized biomass-derived sugars for the production of ethanol	38	6.4 Final product price due to formaldehyde losses	79
2.5 Objective 5. Direct upgrading of acetal-stabilized xylose for the production of xylitol	38	6.5 Further considerations.....	80
Chapter 3: Stabilization of biomass-derived carbohydrates by acetal formation	39	6.6 Potential challenges and limitation of the process	83
3.1 Biomass pretreatment.....	40	6.7 Conclusions.....	84
3.2 Cellulose depolymerization	45	Chapter 7: Upgrading of acetal-stabilized xylose into polyols.....	85
3.3 Conclusions.....	52	7.1 Production, separation and purification of diformylxylose	85
Chapter 4: Synthesis, purification and characterization of acetal-stabilized carbohydrates and intermediates	53	7.2 Reaction network of the tandem hydrolysis-hydrogenation of diformylxylose to xylitol	88
4.1 Preparation and purification of diformylxylose	54	7.3 Changes in the catalyst active sites.....	91
4.2 Preparation and separation of diformylglucose isomers.....	55	7.4 Conclusions.....	96
4.3 Synthesis of other acetal-stabilized sugars present in beech wood.....	58	Chapter 8: Conclusions and Outlook	99
4.4 Preparation and separation of 1-hydroxymethyl-xylofuranose (HMXF)	61	8.1 Conclusions.....	99
4.5 Conclusions.....	62	8.2 Outlook	101
Chapter 5: Mechanistic study of the tandem hydrolysis-dehydration conversion of acetal-stabilized carbohydrates into furans	63	Appendix.....	103
5.1 Tandem hydrolysis-dehydration of acetal-stabilized carbohydrates.....	63	A.1 Experimental methods	103
5.2 <i>Operando</i> ¹³ C NMR studies.....	69	A.2 Analytical methods	111
5.3 Conclusions.....	72	A.3 Supplementary figures	117
Chapter 6: Preliminary techno-economic analysis for the production of ethanol from acetal-stabilized carbohydrates	73	A.4 Supplementary tables	119
6.1 Analysis approach.....	73	References.....	121
6.2 Solvent to biomass ratio calculations.....	76	Curriculum de vitae.....	145
6.3 Correlation of ethanol price with solvent to biomass ratio	78		