

1 **Identification of new transformation products during enzymatic**
2 **treatment of tetracycline and erythromycin antibiotics at**
3 **laboratory scale by an on-line turbulent flow liquid-**
4 **chromatography coupled to a high resolution mass**
5 **spectrometer LTQ-Orbitrap**

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20

21 **Abstract**

22 This work describes the formation of transformation products (TPs) by the enzymatic
23 degradation at laboratory scale of two highly consumed antibiotics: tetracycline (Tc) and
24 erythromycin (ERY). The analysis of the samples was carried out by a fast and simple method
25 based on the novel configuration of the on-line turbulent flow system coupled to a hybrid linear
26 ion trap - high resolution mass spectrometer. The method was optimized and validated for the
27 complete analysis of ERY, Tc and their transformation products within 10 min without any other
28 sample manipulation. Furthermore, the applicability of the on-line procedure was evaluated for
29 25 additional antibiotics, covering a wide range of chemical classes in different environmental
30 waters with satisfactory quality parameters.

31 Degradation rates obtained for Tc by laccase enzyme and ERY by EreB esterase enzyme
32 without the presence of mediators were ~78% and ~50%, respectively. Concerning the
33 identification of TPs, three suspected compounds for Tc and five of ERY have been proposed.
34 In the case of Tc, the tentative molecular formulas with errors mass within 2 ppm have been
35 based on the hypothesis of dehydroxylation, (bi)demethylation and oxidation of the rings A and
36 C as major reactions. In contrast, the major TP detected for ERY has been identified as the
37 "dehydration ERY-A", with the same molecular formula of its parent compound. In addition, the
38 evaluation of the antibiotic activity of the samples along the enzymatic treatments showed a
39 decrease around 100% in both cases.

40

1. Introduction

41 During last decades, antibiotic compounds have been considered “emerging
42 contaminants” due to their high consumption and pseudo-persistence in the environment (Fatta-
43 Kasinos D., 2011; Richardson *et al.*, 2011). The main input into the environment for
44 pharmaceuticals is through waste water treatment plants (WWTPs) (Richardson *et al.*, 2011).
45 This mild elimination represents an environmental problem since antibiotics can find their way to
46 natural environment through the effluent wastewaters by their direct discharged into the river.
47 Due to the low degradability of some of the antibiotics by conventional wastewater treatment,
48 different research groups have been focusing the study on alternative degradation processes in
49 order to increase the removal efficiency (Konstantinou *et al.*, 2010). However, these alternative
50 treatments can also lead to the formation of transformation products (TPs) of the pollutants that
51 might be either more persistent or toxic than the parent compound (Watkinson *et al.*, 2007;
52 Farré *et al.*, 2008; Onesios *et al.*, 2009; Michael *et al.*, 2013). In this context, in order to better
53 assess the removal efficiency of such alternative treatment methods, the detection of known
54 and unknown compounds (including TPs) is of high importance as well as to assess their
55 toxicity.

56 Nowadays, different methods are available which allow the detection and quantification
57 of a multiple class of known antibiotics in contaminated environmental compartments, most of
58 them based on liquid chromatography coupled to mass spectrometry in tandem (LC-MS/MS)
59 (Richardson, 2012; Gros *et al.*, 2013). During recent years, the development of on-line
60 methodologies has increased due to their advantages such as the reduction of sample
61 manipulation, the decrease of the analysis time and the increase in robustness of the analytical
62 method. Nevertheless, and in spite of their excellent analytical performance, these approaches
63 are slowly implemented for routine analysis. In this work the use of a turbulent flow
64 chromatography as a sample pre-treatment step before a screening analysis will be discussed.
65 The main difference between the turbulent flow chromatography with the normal on-line solid
66 phase extraction (SPE) is that, in the latest, laminar flow is used. The turbulence inside the
67 extraction column (flow ≥ 1.5 ml/min) allows the good removal of high molecular weight
68 compounds, whereas small molecules are trapped by the column pores, being a mixed
69 mechanism of sorption and size exclusion chromatography (Thermo Scientific; Llorca, 2012).
70 This technique has been used for the analysis of pharmaceuticals, their metabolites and known
71 transformation products in environmental water samples (López-Serna *et al.*, 2012) or for the
72 analysis of more complicated matrices such as food (Mottier *et al.*, 2007; Stolker *et al.*, 2010). In
73 addition to the common techniques based on the detection of known antibiotics in the
74 environment, different analytical methodologies are being developed in order to detect and
75 identify “new” contaminants and unknown substances that reach WWTPs through the so-called
76 non-target analysis (Krauss *et al.*, 2010). Regarding the identification, the most widely used
77 methodology for organic unknown compounds is based on MS analysis and, in particular, on
78 high resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS) (Hernández *et al.*, 2012).

79 The objective of this work was to apply the on-line turbulent flow technology as sample
80 pre-treatment method coupled to a hybrid linear ion trap – Orbitrap mass spectrometer for the
81 detection of unknown compounds after enzymatic treatments with the aim to remove the
82 complex matrix of the samples. Although other on-line pre-treatments coupled to a HRMS have
83 been developed for similar purposes (Kovalova *et al.*, 2012; Gros *et al.*, 2014), this is the first
84 time that turbulent flow in combination with HRMS as a pre-treatment step has been used for
85 screening analysis. The developed methodology was applied to the study of unknown
86 degradation products of two antibiotics (Tc and ERY) generated through a novel enzymatic
87 decontamination treatment for waters (ENDETECH; de Gunzburg *et al.*, 2012). Both type of
88 antibiotics are hardly metabolized and further excreted from the body arriving unaltered to
89 WWTPs. For example, Tc arrives almost unaltered to WWTPs, where it is
90 eliminated/redistributed between 60 and 80% (Jia *et al.*, 2009; Pailler *et al.*, 2009; Watkinson *et*
91 *al.*, 2009; Gros *et al.*, 2010) using conventional activated sludge treatment (CAS) and then
92 discharged into the media through the effluent. Similar pattern is observed for ERY, where the
93 problematic associated to the discharged amounts into the environment from WWTPs is still
94 present at ng/L (Gros *et al.*, 2012). Another problem is associated to the presence of these
95 compounds into the media since it can induce the development of the so called “environmental
96 antibiotic-resistant pathogens” (Hirsch *et al.*, 1999; Bautitz and Nogueira, 2007; Alighardashi *et*
97 *al.*, 2009; Khan *et al.*, 2010; Huerta *et al.*, 2013). The development of this resistance to
98 antibiotics could cause problems at environmental levels (maybe affecting biota and, finally,
99 human health) although this information is scarce and contradictory (Rizzo *et al.*, 2013).
100 Nonetheless, and as an example, Szczepanowski *et al.* (2009) investigated this effect in
101 WWTPs. The authors detected relevant antibiotic-resistant genes to Tc and macrolides among
102 other antibiotics in WWTP bacteria from Germany. Similar pattern is observed for ERY
103 (macrolide), which also has been described to affect the resistance of bacterial communities in
104 activated sludge (Li and Zhang, 2010) but, in contrast, not in biofilms at environmental relevant
105 concentrations (Wunder *et al.*, 2013). Because of these problems, different authors have
106 studied an alternative degradation processes for both compounds as well as the generation of
107 any transformation products (Tc (Halling-Sørensen *et al.*, 2002; Parka and Chounga, 2007;
108 Chen and Huang, 2010; Khan *et al.*, 2010) and ERY (Kim *et al.*, 2004a; 2004b; Luiz *et al.*, 2010;
109 Pengelly, 2010)).

110 The studies described in the present work include the biodegradation efficiency of i) Tc
111 at laboratory scale by *laccase* enzyme and (ii) ERY by EreB esterase, both treatments without
112 mediators. The study of TPs generated has been studied by means of a screening method
113 based on on-line turbulent flow chromatography (TFC) coupled to LC–(ESI)–LTQ Orbitrap.

114 **2. Experimental section**

115 **2.1 Materials**

116 **Chemicals.** Pure standards of target compounds (Table S1) were of high purity grade
117 (>90%). All analytes were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. The calibration mixture used for high
118 resolution mass spectrometry purposes was supplied by Thermo Fisher Scientific (LTQ ESI
119 Positive Ion Calibration Solution and ESI Negative Ion Calibration Solution). Tetracycline
120 hydrochloride (97.5% purity grade) for biodegradation experiments was purchased from
121 Molekula (Dorset, United Kingdom).

122 **Solvents.** All the solvents were of high purity. HPLC grade methanol, acetonitrile and
123 water were supplied by Merck (Darmstadt, Germany). Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid disodium
124 salt (Na₂EDTA) solution was from Panreac and formic acid 98% was from Merck (Darmstadt,
125 Germany). For high-performance-liquid chromatography-high resolution mass spectrometry
126 HPLC grade methanol and water (Lichrosolv) were supplied by Thermo Fisher Scientific.

127 **Biodegradation experiments.** Laccase from *Trametes versicolor* (Sigma 51639
128 product) for the degradation of Tc was supplied by Sigma-Aldrich. EreB esterase from
129 *Escherichia coli* for the degradation of ERY was produced by c-LEcta.

130 **Extraction cartridges.** Solid phase extraction cartridges for off-line sample treatment
131 Oasis HLB (60 mg 3 ml) were from Waters Corporation (Miltford, MA, U.S.A).

132 **Water samples.** Different waters were collected during 2013 including effluent and
133 influent water from La Roca WWTP (Catalonia), surface river water from La Muga River
134 (Catalonia) and tap water from Girona (Catalonia). Influent, effluent and river waters were
135 previously filtered through 0.45 µm nylon filter (Millipore, Billerica, MA, USA).

136 **2.2 Biodegradation experiments**

137 The biodegradation experiments for Tc and ERY were carried out at laboratory scale for
138 the degradation of 100 µg/ml by laccase enzyme and EreB esterase, respectively. More
139 detailed information about the experimental procedure can be seen in section 1 from the
140 Supporting Information.

141 **2.3 Sample pre-treatment**

142 Depending on the experiment type the samples were treated by different procedures
143 before the analytical process. More detailed information can be seen in section 2 from the
144 Supporting Information.

145 **2.4 Instrumental analysis by liquid chromatography coupled to mass** 146 **spectrometry**

147 The quantification of the selected antibiotics in the samples from the degradation
148 processes was carried out in a Waters Acquity Ultra-Performance™ liquid chromatograph
149 system coupled to a hybrid quadrupole - linear ion trap QqLIT (5500 QTRAP from Applied
150 Biosystems, Foster City, CA, USA).

151 In contrast, the evaluation of the samples for the presence of any transformation
152 product was performed in an Aria TLX-1 turbulent flow chromatograph coupled to a HRMS LTQ-
153 Orbitrap (Thermo Fisher Scientific).

154 More detailed information about the methodology can be found in section 3 from the
155 Supporting Information as well as the data processing procedure for each case.

156 **3. Results**

157 **3.1 Optimization of on-line turbulent flow chromatography**

158 The optimization of the method for the analysis of ERY, Tc and their transformation
159 products was based on different steps that can be seen in section S4 of the Supporting
160 Information. The optimum methodology for the on-line TFC-LC-(ESI)-LTQ Orbitrap was
161 validated according to Commission Decision 2002/657/EC (European_Commission, 2002) in
162 buffered water for a whole set of antibiotics (see Table S1) including ERY and Tc. The analytical
163 quality parameters are summarized in Table S3 and an example of chromatogram can be seen
164 in Figure S1. In addition, the method was tested for different water types including tap water,
165 surface river water as well as effluent and influent waters from WWTP. The results are
166 summarized in Tables S4 and S5.

167 The MLOD working in full scan mode with mass accuracy of 60,000 were, in general,
168 between 0.01 and 0.07 ng/ml and MLOQ in the range of 0.02 – 0.70 ng/ml. Although these
169 limits were much higher than those reported for the same analytes in more sensitive instruments
170 working in selected reaction monitoring (i.e., QqLIT (Gros *et al.*, 2013)), the still good sensitivity
171 working in full scan acquisition mode should be considered as one advantage of LTQ-Orbitrap
172 mass spectrometer. The combination of the good sensitivity in full scan and the high resolution
173 offers better capabilities for the detection and identification of unknown compounds based on
174 mass accuracy (< 5 ppm) (Gros *et al.*, 2014). Additionally, the performance of MSⁿ experiments
175 for structural elucidation of TPs should be taken as an advantage (Llorca, 2012). The
176 percentage of recovery of the on-line extraction method was tested at three different spiking
177 levels. The values were ranging between 51 to 115% for all the antibiotics and between 69 –
178 84% for Tc and 103-115% for ERY in buffered water. As regards to method precision, it was
179 evaluated by the interday and intraday percentage of relative standard deviation (%RSDs) with
180 values below 20%. The applicability of the method to other water matrices showed recoveries
181 between 50 and 120% in almost all waters tested. In addition, no significant deviation of the
182 retention times was observed between real and buffered waters remarking the efficiency of the
183 clean-up process. Finally, the precision showed values below 30% in all the cases (Tables S4
184 and S5).

185 The validation of the method proved its applicability for the study of different type of
186 antibiotics in water samples when a pre-cleaning step is necessary. This high-throughput
187 methodology significantly reduces sample manipulation (the analysis is completed in 10 min)

188 preventing sample contamination and, consequently, increasing its robustness. In addition, this
189 process helps to maintain clean the ultra-high sensitive LTQ-Orbitrap and thus increases its
190 lifetime. Finally, the method was applied to the analysis of samples from enzymatic degradation
191 experiments where a clean-up was necessary

192 **3.2 Degradation of tetracycline**

193 3.2.1 Tetracycline degradation rates

194 The results of the study based on degradation of 100 µg/ml of Tc at lab-scale with
195 laccase, without the presence of mediators, reached the 78% of removal after 18 hours of
196 exposure (Figure 1 A) and the decrease of the inhibitory activity was estimated to 87% ± 10%,
197 according to the bioassay. These elimination rates can be improved by the use of mediators as
198 shown by Suda *et al.* (2012). The authors showed that tetracycline antibiotics were completely
199 removed after 1h of exposure in the presence of 1-hydroxybenzotriazole (a redox mediator).
200 The same effect was observed by Wen *et al.* (2009) in another study using a crude lignin
201 peroxidase from *Phanerochaete chrysosporium* (white rot fungus) with degradation rates up to
202 99% after 30 min of exposure in the presence of veratryl alcohol as a mediator.

203 3.3.2 Identification of transformation products of tetracycline

204 The chromatograms generated working in full scan mode from the sample at t=0 and
205 after the enzymatic treatment were compared using SIEVE software. Different peaks were
206 found in the chromatogram from the treated sample and not in the samples at time 0, and can
207 thus be considered as potential TPs of Tc degradation (see an example in Figure S2). In order
208 to confirm their identity and to provide a plausible structure, structural elucidation studies based
209 on MS² parallel experiments were performed as it has been explained before. These spectra
210 allowed the elucidation of the fragmentation of the molecule based on the proposed structure.
211 This fragmentation was also compared with the fragmentation pattern of Tc in order to look for
212 common fragments of the potential TPs. For this reason, previous experiments achieving the
213 MS⁶ fragmentation of this compound were carried out and the elucidation postulated in Figure
214 S3. Finally, the molecular structure for every TP was tentatively proposed by the confirmation of
215 exact mass and ring-double bound equivalent number (RDB).

216 Three different TPs were detected during degradation experiments of Tc: TP 618, TP
217 396 and TP 431. The proposed structures are summarized in Table 1 and an approximation of
218 their formation ratio based on chromatographic peak areas are shown in Figure 1 B. As it can
219 be seen, the degradation rate of Tc is near to 70% while TPs generated are estimated to reach
220 the 2.3% for TP 431 and 8% for TP 618 and TP 396. This difference in mass balance could
221 indicate the final mineralization of Tc. However, more studies would be necessary in order to
222 confirm this hypothesis. As regards to molecular structure for the compounds, TP 431 could be
223 generated in a metabolic pathway where Tc is oxidized in the position 5 generating the
224 corresponding ketone (oxytetracycline) and the amino group is bi-demethylated in the position 4

225 (Table 1). This last bi-demethylation step was described by Halling-Sorensen *et al.* (2003)
226 during the abiotic degradation of oxytetracycline in soil interstitial water. Although, based on this
227 theory the formation of oxytetracycline is a necessary pre-step for the formation of TP 431, its
228 presence was not confirmed in our experiments. Nonetheless, the molecular formula of this
229 compound has been confirmed by the loss of the amino group during MS² experiments and
230 RDB equivalents. However, more identification points would be necessary in order to assure the
231 position of the oxidation process. In contrast, the formation of TP 396 (suggested structure in
232 Table 1) can be explained by dehydrogenation in position 12 generating the 12-
233 dehydrotetracycline, the subsequent water elimination in the position 6 and the oxidation in the
234 position 4. The oxidation of the position 4 has been reported in a previous work by Kahn *et al.*
235 (2010) during ozonation of Tc. Finally, the molecular formula postulated for TP 618 (TP 618 A
236 and B in Table 1) remains unclear after structural elucidation studies and further efforts should
237 be done in order to know the position of the R group and its correct structural formula. To the
238 authors' knowledge, this is the first time that these TPs have been detected during the
239 enzymatic degradation of Tc with laccase.

240 **3.4 Degradation of erythromycin**

241 3.4.1 Erythromycin degradation rates

242 Degradation rate of ERY by EreB esterase achieved 52% after 16 h of treatment
243 (Figure 1 A). The qualitative assay of antibiotic activity also showed a decrease after the
244 treatment. The efficiency of different organisms in the degradation of ERY has been tested
245 before by, for example, Alighardashi *et al.* (2009). The authors observed the high efficiency in
246 the inactivation of this compound by sludge bacteria. Another example was given by Kim *et al.*
247 (2004b) with the study of mineralization of ERY by sediment microbial. The results showed the
248 partial or complete mineralization probably due to the increase in the microbial population
249 density that metabolizes this compound. In addition, the degradation in aqueous solution at
250 different pH was studied by the same authors and different mechanistic models were proposed
251 (Kim *et al.*, 2004a).

252 3.4.2 Identification of transformation products of erythromycin

253 Regarding the studies based on TPs for ERY, a longer analytical chromatographic
254 column was used instead of the Hypersil GOLD: Acquity UPLC[®] HSS T3 (2.1 x 100 mm; 1.8
255 μm), in order to obtain a better chromatographic separation between the TPs. The
256 chromatographic deconvolution (by SIEVE software) of the samples showed the presence of 5
257 suspected TPs in the treated sample: TP 734, TP 752, TP 750, TP 748 (A) and TP 748 (B). The
258 summary of the main proposed structures can be seen in Table 1 and the tentatively
259 degradation pathways are shown in Figure 2. The hypothetical structures were elucidated through
260 exact mass, MS² fragmentation and RDB equivalents of molecular ion and the fragments. With
261 the aim of identifying the most common fragments of ERY, as in the case of Tc, MSⁿ

262 experiments were previously performed. The proposed pathway (Figure S4) is confirmed by a
263 previous study carried out by Haghedooren *et al.* (2006).

264 During data analysis, TP 734 was identified as the major degradation product. The ratio
265 formation of this compound is estimated to reach the 100% whereas only 50% of degradation of
266 ERY was observed (Figure 1 C). This can be explained by de different ionization efficiency in
267 ESI. Concerning to the hypothetic pathway formation for this TP (TP 734, “dehydration
268 erythromycin A”), it was also identified by Pengley (Pengelly, 2010) as the major product of ERY
269 treated with EreB esterase by the formation of the intermediate TP 752 as it has been
270 tentatively proposed in Figure 2. This last TP was also detected in other enzymatic study (with
271 ERY esterase) carried out by Kim *et al.* (2004b) in aquaculture sediment containing ERY-
272 resistant *Pseudomonas* species. Moreover, other biodegradation studies have reported this
273 compound (Feldman *et al.*, 1963; Flickinger and Perlman, 1975; Kim *et al.*, 2002).

274 Additionally, other minor TPs were detected. For example, TP 748 (A) (known as
275 erythromycin E) could be generated during the biodegradation of ERY (Vara *et al.*, 1989;
276 Gerhard, 1999). In this case, the estimation of the calculated formation ratio was around 7%.
277 The TP 750 could be generated by the oxidation of the methyl group in the position C2 (~ 1%)
278 and its consequent dehydrogenation could lead to TP 748 (B) (~ 5%). In addition, a structural
279 isomer compound of TPs 748 (A) and (B), namely TP 748 (C) ($t_r = 8.09$ min, see Table 1), was
280 observed. This compound was proposed to be generated through the methylation of the
281 hydroxyl group in the position C6 but with a minimum ration formation (0.5%). As regards to TP
282 720 (~2.8%), this one could be generated by the L-cladinose demethylation of ERY. To
283 conclude with minor TPs, the dehydroxylation of the C11 (the most likely position) was
284 proposed for the generation of TP 718 (also named erythromycin D) with a ratio formation of
285 5%. The consequent L-cladinose demethylation of this TP could lead the TP 704 (ratio of 0.4%).
286 However, the generation of TP 720 (erythromycin C) and TP 718 (erythromycin D) is quite
287 peculiar since they have been described to be formed by different biosynthesis pathways to
288 generate ERY by an irreversible reaction (Vara *et al.*, 1989; Gerhard, 1999).

289 **4. Conclusions**

290 The novel combination of TFC coupled to LTQ-Orbitrap has been proved to be a useful
291 methodology for the analysis of 27 antibiotics in water samples as well as for the investigation of
292 transformation products of target antibiotics after an enzymatic treatment. The method allows
293 low sample manipulation and time consumption as well as high robustness and precision.
294 Another advantage is the structural elucidation of the compounds by means of accurate mass of
295 the molecular ion as well as the fragment ions from MS² experiments performed in parallel. The
296 analytical approach has been used for the clean-up of complex samples from the enzymatic
297 treatment of Tc and ERY and to identify transformation products. The promising results
298 (quantitative removal of antibiotic concentration and activity) situate the enzymatic
299 decontamination as a reliable complementary water treatment for elimination of antibiotics. In

300 addition, the study of transformation products denoted the generation of three tentatively TPs
301 for Tc and five for ERY. Further studies are needed in order to decrease the degradation time
302 and to enlarge the applicability of the enzymatic treatment.

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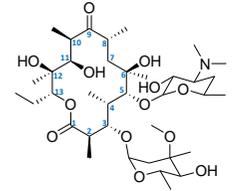
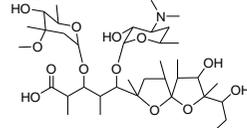
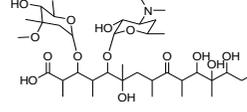
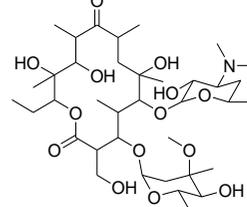
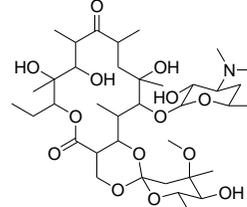
468 **Figure captions**

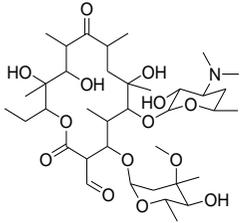
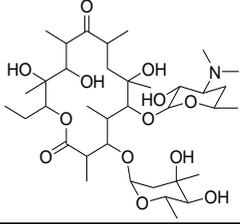
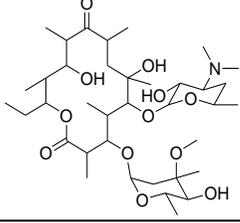
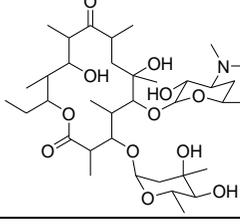
469 **Figure 1: A)** Biodegradation rates of 100 µg/ml of Tc by *Laccase* from *Trametes versicolor*
470 (17.5 µg/ml) after 18 h and 100 µg/ml of ERY by EreB esterase (1.8 µg/ml) after 16 h; **B)** ratio
471 formation of detected TPs during Tc degradation studies; **C)** ratio formation of detected TPs
472 during ERY degradation studies by EreB. A: Area of the corresponding chromatographic peak,
473 A₀: Peak area of Tc at time 0 and A: Area at time 18 h or 16 h

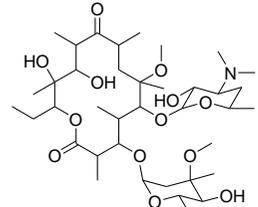
474 **Figure 2:** proposed degradation pathways of ERY by EreB esterase

475 **Table 1:** Accurate mass measurements of Tc and ERY after enzymatic degradations and proposed molecular structures for the TPs

Retention time (min)	Compound	Ion	Measured mass [m/z]	Elemental composition	Calculated mass [m/z]	Relative error [ppm]	Double-bond equivalents (RDB)	Proposed structure
Tc								
4.68 (on-line)	Tc	[M+H] ⁺	445.1608	C ₂₂ H ₂₅ N ₂ O ₈	445.1605	0.579	11.5	
		[M+H-H ₂ O] ⁺ *	427.1505	C ₂₂ H ₂₃ N ₂ O ₇	427.1500	1.223	12.5	
3.08 (off-line)		[M+H-H ₂ O-NH ₃] ⁺ *	410.1239	C ₂₂ H ₂₀ NO ₇	410.1234	1.150	13.5	
Tc degradation by lab-scale experiments (results obtained by on-line TFC experiments)								
5.19	TP 618 (A)	[M+H] ⁺ [M+H-R] ⁺ * [M+H-R-NH ₃] ⁺ *	618.1894 412.1267 395.1005	C ₂₄ H ₂₈ N ₉ O ₁₁ C ₂₁ H ₂₀ N ₂ O ₇ C ₂₁ H ₁₇ NO ₇	618.1903 412.1265 395.1000	1.456 0.479 1.384	15.5 13.0 14.0	 R: C ₃ H ₈ O ₄ N ₇
5.19	TP 618 (B)	[M+H] ⁺ [M+H-R] ⁺ * [M+H-R-NH ₃] ⁺ *	618.1894 412.1267 395.1005	C ₂₆ H ₃₀ N ₆ O ₁₂ C ₂₁ H ₂₀ N ₂ O ₇ C ₂₁ H ₁₇ NO ₇	618.1916 412.1265 395.1000	-3.594 0.479 1.384	15.0 13.0 14.0	 R: C ₅ H ₁₀ O ₅ N ₄
5.66	TP 396	[M+H] ⁺ [M+H-NH ₃] ⁺ * [M+H-NH ₃ -CO] ⁺ *	396.0714 379.0449 351.0500	C ₂₀ H ₁₄ NO ₈ C ₂₀ H ₁₁ O ₈ C ₁₉ H ₁₁ O ₇	396.0713 379.0448 351.0499	0.018 0.148 0.202	14.5 15.5 14.5	
5.95	TP 431	[M+H] ⁺ [M+H-NH ₃] ⁺ *	431.1087 396.0717	C ₂₀ H ₁₉ N ₂ O ₉	431.1085	0.449	12.5	
ERY								

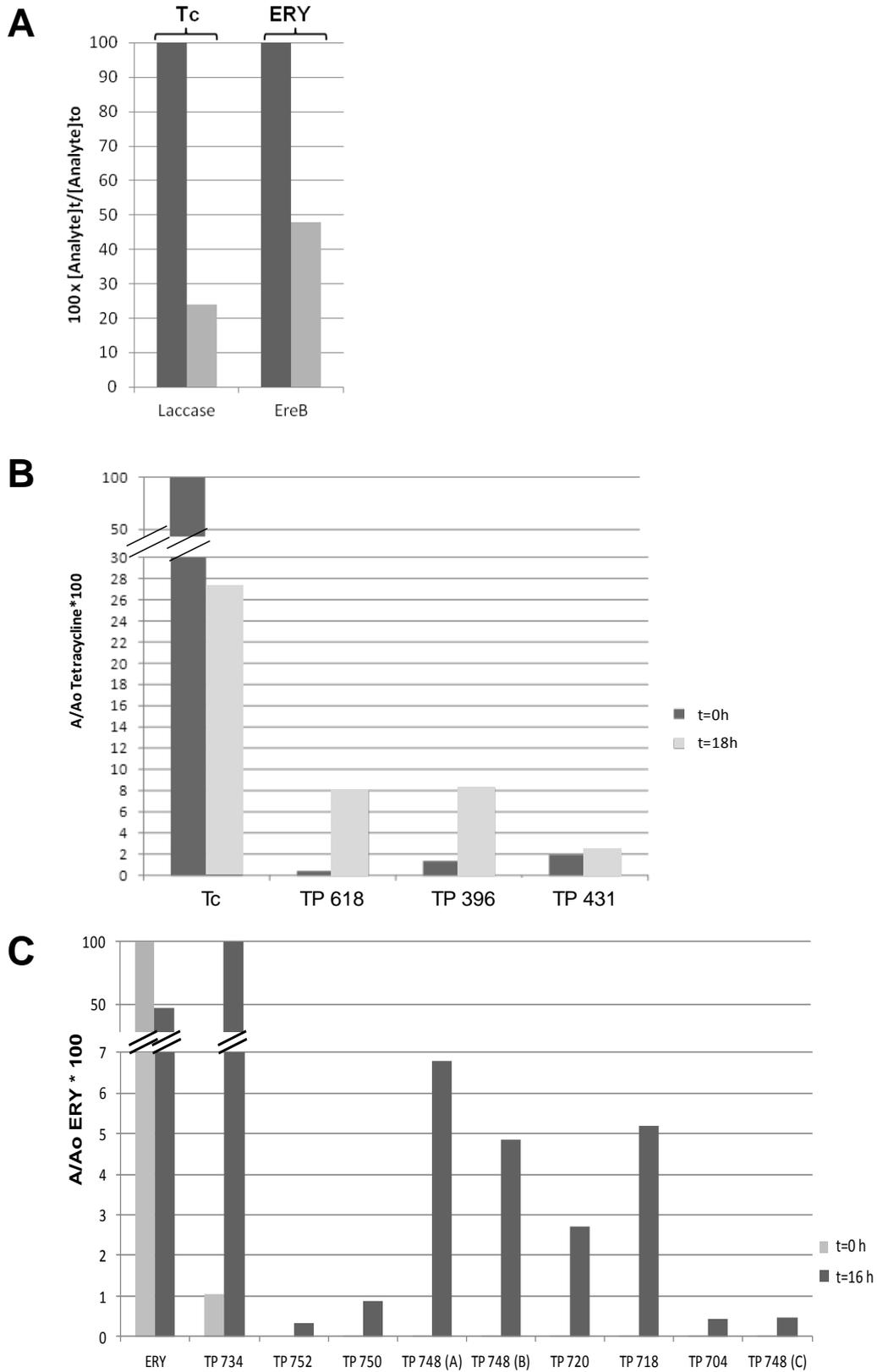
7.48 (on-line)	ERY	[M+H] ⁺	734.4693 576.3748	C ₃₇ H ₆₈ NO ₁₃ C ₂₉ H ₅₄ NO ₁₀	735.4763 576.3742	1.065 1.001	4.5 3.5	
4.49 (off-line)		[M+H- (L-cladinose)] ⁺ *						
ERY degradation by lab-scale experiments (results obtained by on-line TFC experiments)								
7.96 [†]	TP 734 (dehydration ERY)	[M+H] ⁺ [M+H- (L-cladinose)] ⁺ *	734.4688 576.3745	C ₃₇ H ₆₈ NO ₁₃ C ₂₉ H ₅₄ NO ₁₀	735.4763 576.3742	0.317 0.480	4.5 3.5	
7.46 [†]	TP 752	[M+H] ⁺ [M+H- OH] ⁺ * [M+H- (L-cladinose)] ⁺ *	752.4768 735.4733 594.3876	C ₃₇ H ₇₀ NO ₁₄ C ₃₇ H ₆₉ NO ₁₃ C ₂₉ H ₅₆ NO ₁₁	752.4791 735.4763 594.3847	-2.966 -4.191 4.731	3.5 4.0 2.5	
7.56 [†]	TP 750	[M+H] ⁺ [M+H- (L-cladinose)] ⁺ * [M+H- [O-(L-cladinose)]] ⁺ *	750.4643 592.3701 576.3752	C ₃₇ H ₆₈ N O ₁₄ C ₂₉ H ₅₄ N O ₁₁ C ₂₉ H ₅₄ N O ₁₀	750.4634 592.3691 576.3742	1.143 1.557 1.764	4.5 3.5 3.5	
7.69 [†]	TP 748 (A) (ERY-E)	[M+H] ⁺ [M+H-[O- (L-cladinose)]] ⁺ *	748.4482 576.3748	C ₃₇ H ₆₆ NO ₁₄ C ₂₉ H ₅₄ NO ₁₀	748.4479 576.3742	0.612 0.983	5.5 3.5	

7.26 †	TP 748 (B) (from ERY-E)	[[M+H] ⁺ [M+H-CO] ⁺ * [M+H-CO-(L-cladinose)] ⁺ *	748.4482 720.4539 576.3745	C ₃₇ H ₆₆ NO ₁₄ C ₃₆ H ₆₆ NO ₁₃ C ₂₉ H ₅₄ NO ₁₀	748.4479 720.4528 576.3742	0.612 1.433 0.446	5.5 4.5 3.5	
7.66 †	TP 720 (ERY-C)	[M+H] ⁺ [M+H- (L-desmethyl-cladinose)] ⁺ *	720.4542 576.3749	C ₃₆ H ₆₆ NO ₁₃ C ₂₉ H ₅₄ NO ₁₀	720.4528 576.3742	1.794 1.244	4.5 3.5	
8.05 †	TP 718	[M+H] ⁺ [M+H- [O-(L-cladinose)]] ⁺ *	718.4746 560.3801	C ₃₇ H ₆₈ NO ₁₂ C ₂₉ H ₅₄ NO ₉	718.4736 560.3793	1.318 1.359	4.5 3.5	
7.74 †	TP 704	[M+H] ⁺ [M+H- (L-desmethyl-cladinose)] ⁺ *	704.4599 560.3805	C ₃₆ H ₆₆ NO ₁₂ C ₂₉ H ₅₄ NO ₉	704.4579 560.3793	2.807 2.055	4.5 3.5	

8.09 [†]	TP 748 (C)	[M+H] ⁺ [M+H-CH ₂ O] ⁺ * [M+H-CH ₃ -[O-(L-cladinoso)]] ⁺ *	748.4851 718.4750 560.3804	C ₃₈ H ₇₀ NO ₁₃ C ₃₇ H ₆₈ NO ₁₂ C ₂₉ H ₅₄ NO ₉	748.4842 718.4736 560.3793	1.232 1.986 2.001	4.5 4.5 3.5	
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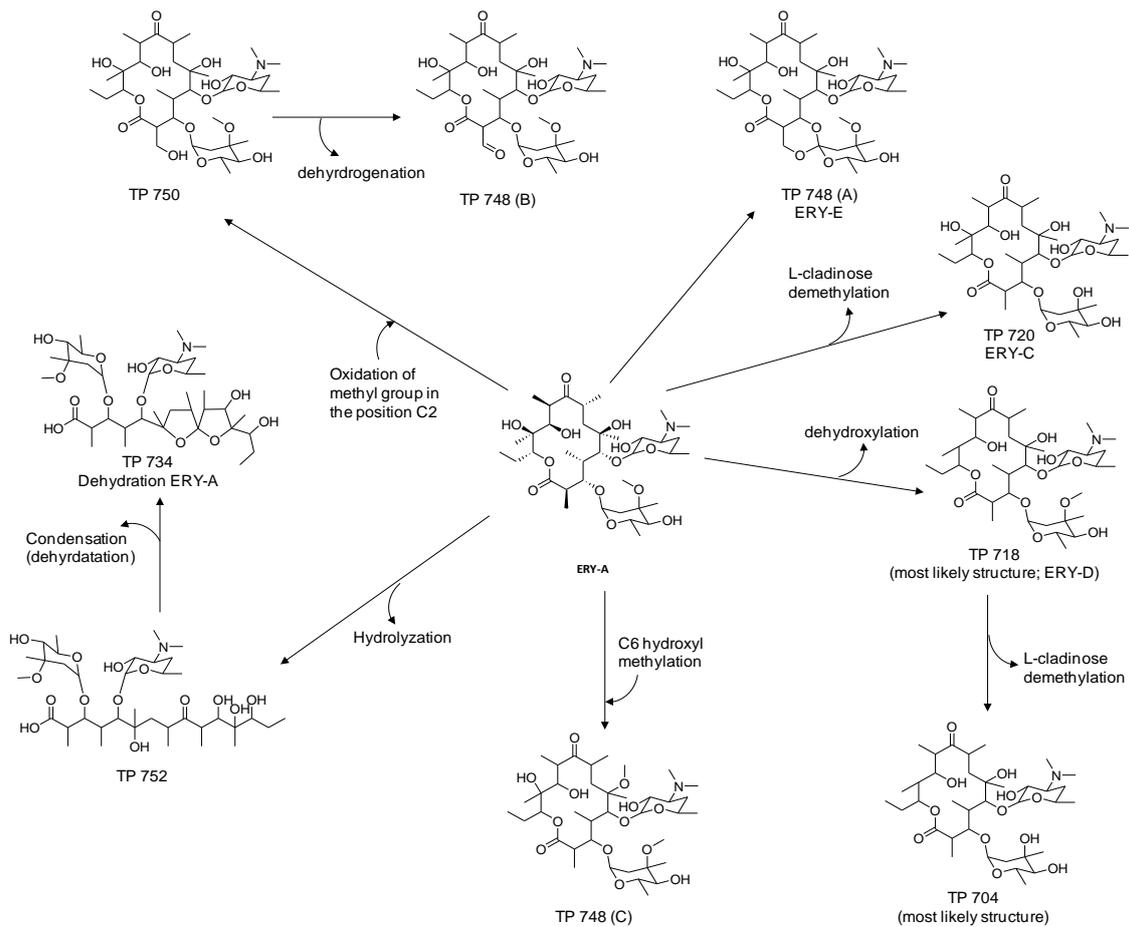
476 * Fragments confirmed by full scan at mass accuracy of 60,000 and by MS² experiments

477 [†] The analytical column was an Acquity UPLC® HSS T3 (2.1 x 100 mm; 1.8 μm), longer than the normally used in order to increase the chromatographic
478 separation between TPs



479
480

Figure 1



481

482 **Figure 2**

Supplementary Material

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