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Pyrolysis reactions of Japanese cedar and Japanese beech woods in a closed ampoule reactor

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Abstract The chemical structures of hemicellulose and lignin are different for two distinct types of wood, i.e., softwood and hardwood. Such differences are expected to affect pyrolysis behavior. In this article, the differences are discussed for Japanese cedar wood (a softwood) and Japanese beech wood (a hardwood) pyrolyzed in a closed ampoule reactor ($N_2/600^\circ C/40\text{--}600\text{ s}$). Oven-dried samples were used to eliminate the influence of initial water. Demineralized samples (prepared by acid washing) were also used to determine the influence of the minerals contained in the wood samples. As a result, some features were disclosed for secondary char (coke) formation, char reactivity, tar formation, and subsequent decomposition.

Key words Pyrolysis · Secondary reaction · Hardwood · Softwood · Tar composition · Char reactivity

Introduction

Devolatilization products of wood and other lignocellulosic biomass are known to be degraded further as the pyrolytic reactions proceed. These phenomena have been discussed as “primary pyrolysis” and “secondary reactions,” although their strict definitions are difficult. In this article, the devolatilization step to form the volatile products such as levoglucosan (1,6-anhydro- β -D-glucopyranose), glycolaldehyde, hydroxyacetone and furans (from wood polysaccharides), and substituted guaiacols and syringols (from lignin) is defined as “primary pyrolysis.”

Primary pyrolysis and secondary reactions are the fundamental steps in various thermochemical conversion proc-

esses that include wood carbonization, gasification, and fast pyrolysis. In wood gasification, the primary pyrolysis products, i.e., tar and char, undergo extensive secondary reactions, usually in the presence of gasifying agents (oxidants such as steam and oxygen).¹ On the other hand, such secondary reactions are minimized in fast pyrolysis processes to maximize the oil yield.² Thus, better understanding of the primary pyrolysis and secondary reactions of wood and other lignocellulosic biomass will be helpful in developing more efficient thermochemical processes for effective utilization of biomass as renewable fuels and chemicals.

There are two distinct types of wood species, i.e., softwood and hardwood. Chemical structures of hemicellulose and lignin are known to be different for these groups. Hardwoods contain *O*-acetyl-4-*O*-methylglucuronoxylan as their main hemicellulose component, whereas the major hemicellulose of softwoods is galactoglucomannan.³ Xylan (arabino-4-*O*-methylglucuronoxylan) is a minor hemicellulose component in softwoods. The content of the acetyl group in hardwood hemicellulose is usually higher than that of softwood hemicellulose.³ As for lignin, the aromatic structure of softwood lignins is mainly the guaiacyl type, whereas hardwood lignins include the syringyl type along with the guaiacyl nuclei.⁴ Such differences in the aromatic ring structure are also known to result in different compositions of the linkage types of phenylpropane units.⁵ The content of the condensed structures such as biphenyl type are usually lower in hardwood lignins. From such differences in the chemical structures of the composing polymers, softwoods and hardwoods are expected to be pyrolyzed differently.

Primary pyrolysis reactivities of wood samples have been studied with their mass-loss behaviors.^{6–14} However, there are few publications^{6–8} that focus on the differences between softwoods and hardwoods. Grønli et al.⁶ compared the thermogravimetric (TG) curves of five softwoods and four hardwoods in heating conditions at $5^\circ C/min$, and they reported that the differential thermogravimetric (DTG) peaks of devolatilization of hemicellulose in hardwoods were observed at lower temperatures than those of softwoods. From these observations, they concluded that hemicellulose

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in softwood has lower reactivity in pyrolysis. Similar results have been reported for large wood chips⁷ and cylinders⁸ by Di Blasi's group.

Primary pyrolysis pathways have been studied by analyzing the pyrolysis products with such techniques as gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS)^{11–17} and nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR).^{14,18} Various model compounds were used to study the reaction pathways and mechanisms, especially for lignin.^{19–24} As for the secondary reactions of the primary pyrolysis products, many articles discuss char gasification reactivity^{25,26} in relationship to wood gasification.

Flow-type dual-zone reactor systems^{27–32} are used to study the secondary reactions of primary pyrolysis vapor. Antal³² reported that the cellulose-derived volatiles were converted into noncondensable gases more effectively than the lignin-derived volatiles at 500°–700°C in the presence of steam. Evans and Milne²⁸ analyzed the vapor-phase secondary reaction products with molecular beam mass spectrometry (MBMS). They reported that the primary tars were converted into polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) via light hydrocarbons, aromatics, and oxygenates. Rath and Staudinger³³ used TG with a consecutive tubular reactor to study the reactivities of the primary vapors that were produced in different temperature ranges. Some low MW compounds have been used as the model substances of the primary tars to understand the secondary reaction pathways.^{34–38}

Hosoya et al.^{34–36,39} used a closed ampoule reactor to study the secondary reactions of cellulose- and lignin-derived primary pyrolysis products. Their vapor-phase interactions,⁴⁰ secondary char (coke) formation mechanism from the lignin-derived low MW aromatic components,³⁶ and different decomposition pathways of levoglucosan in vapor and liquid phases³⁵ are studied effectively with this reactor. With the closed ampoule reactor, it is easy to set the heating time of the primary pyrolysis products and to recover whole gaseous, tar, and char fractions.

In spite of these studies conducted to understand the primary pyrolysis and secondary reactions, there are no reports in which these behaviors are systematically compared for softwoods and hardwoods. In this article, primary pyrolysis and secondary reaction behaviors are compared for Japanese cedar (*Cryptomeria japonica*) wood (a softwood) and Japanese beech (*Fagus crenata*) wood (a hardwood) with a closed ampoule reactor under the heat treatment conditions of N₂/600°C/40–600 s.

Experimental methods

Materials

Extractive-free wood flour (<80 mesh) prepared from the sapwood of Japanese beech or Japanese cedar was used immediately after oven-drying at 105°C for 24 h. The demineralized samples were also prepared by the following procedure. Wood flour (1 g) was stirred in 0.05 M HCl/methanol (30 ml) at room temperature for 24 h. After filtra-

Table 1. Compositions of major inorganic elements in beech and cedar wood samples

Wood species	Content of inorganic species (ppm)					
	Ca	Fe	Mg	Na	K	Cu
Beech	770	17	300	85	830	1.04
Cedar	600	5	100	47	400	1.35

tion, the treated wood flour was washed with distilled water repeatedly until the pH of the supernatant became neutral. This procedure was repeated twice, and the demineralized sample was dried at 105°C for 24 h. In this procedure, the wood constituent polymers are expected not to be removed from the wood samples, because methanol and water are not good solvents for these polymers. Compositions of the major inorganic elements in the wood samples (Table 1) were determined with inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) on a Agilent ICP-MS 7500CS after incineration in air at 600°C for 2 h. Detectable amounts of residues were not observed after incineration of the demineralized samples (100 mg; air/600°C/2 h). As for the chemical composition of beech and cedar woods, it is generally known that beech has larger and smaller amounts of xylan and lignin, respectively, as described in the relevant report:⁴¹ xylan: 21.3%–26.2% (beech), 9.6%–12.0% (cedar); lignin: 18.3%–24.2% (beech), 28.0%–34.8% (cedar).

Heat treatment in a closed ampoule reactor

The heat treatment method and the apparatus are described in a previous paper.³⁹ A wood sample (10 mg) was placed at the bottom of a Pyrex glass ampoule (internal diameter, 8.0 mm; length, 120 mm; glass thickness, 1.0 mm). After exchanging the air inside the reactor with N₂, the ampoule was closed and heated in a muffle furnace preheated at 600°C for 40–600 s. During the treatment, the ampoule was maintained in the upright setting. After the treatment, the ampoule was immediately cooled by flowing air for 1 min, and noncondensable gases were analyzed by GC, as described later. After gas analysis, the ampoule was extracted with methanol (1.0 ml × 2) to obtain methanol-soluble (tar) and insoluble (char) fractions. Char was observed at the bottom of the reactor and on the upper side of the reactor wall, defined as primary char and secondary char (or coke), respectively, here. Char yield was determined from the weight difference of the glassware after incineration of char in air at 600°C for 2 h. Water formed in the heat treatment was determined by analyzing the methanol-soluble fractions with a Karl Fisher moisture titrator MKC-520 (Kyoto Electronics MFG). Tar yield was obtained by subtracting the total weight of gas, char, and water from that of the wood sample.

Gas analysis

The gas sampling method is described in detail elsewhere.³⁹ Noncondensable gases were determined with GC by using

a Shimadzu GC-18B under the following conditions: column, Shincarbon ST (4.0 m × 3.0 mm in diameter); carrier gas, argon; flow rate, 20 ml/min; column temperature, 40°C (0–1 min), 40–200°C (1–21 min, 8°C /min), 200°C (21–31 min); detector, thermal conductivity detector (TCD); retention times, H₂ (3.8 min), N₂ (9.6 min), CO (11.2 min), CH₄ (16.8 min), and CO₂ (22.6 min).

Tar analysis

The methanol-soluble fractions were analyzed by GC-MS for determination of mainly lignin-derived low MW products. From the total ion chromatograms, the yields of low MW products were determined by comparing their peak areas with that of *p*-dibromobenzene as an internal standard. The analysis was carried out by using a Hitachi G-7000 gas chromatograph and a Hitachi M9000 mass spectrometer under the following conditions: column, Shimadzu CBP-M25-O25 (length, 25 m; diameter, 0.25 mm); injector temperature, 250°C; column temperature, 40°C (1 min), 40 → 300°C (1 → 53 min), 300°C (53 → 60 min); carrier gas, helium; flow rate, 1.5 ml/min; emission current, 20 μA; ionization time, 2.0 ms. Identification of the products was conducted by comparing their mass fragmentation patterns and retention times with those of authentic compounds or literature data.^{16,42}

The carbohydrate-derived tar components were mainly determined with ¹H-NMR analysis of the dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO)-*d*₆-soluble fractions, which were prepared by extracting the heat-treated products with DMSO-*d*₆ (1.0 ml) instead of methanol. ¹H-NMR spectra were recorded with a Bruker AC-400 (400 MHz) spectrometer in the presence of 10 μl D₂O and *p*-dibromobenzene as an internal standard, and chemical shifts are shown in δ values by using trimethylsilane as an internal standard. Yields of acetic acid, hydroxyacetone, methanol, levoglucosan, formic acid, furfural, and 5-hydroxymethylfurfural (5-HMF) were determined with the peak areas or peak heights of the signals at δ 1.9 (CH₃), δ 2.0 (CH₃), δ 3.2 (CH₃), δ 5.1 (C₁-H), δ 8.3 (aldehyde-H), δ 9.6 (aldehyde-H), and δ 9.7 (aldehyde-H), respectively, as compared with those of *p*-dibromobenzene. The yields of glycolaldehyde and acetaldehyde were determined as the oxime derivatives (*E*- and *Z*-isomers) by the addition of 2.0 mg hydroxylamine hydrochloride in the DMSO-*d*₆ solution [oximes of glycolaldehyde (–HC=N–OH): δ 7.3 for *E*-isomer, δ 6.7 for *Z*-isomer; oximes of acetaldehyde (CH₃–CH=N–OH): δ 1.71 for *E*-isomer, δ 1.69 for *Z*-isomer].

All experiments were repeated several times, and yields of the products were not very different in these sets of experiments.

Results and discussion

Gas, tar, char, and water formation behaviors

The reactors after tar extraction and methanol-soluble tar fractions are illustrated in Fig. 1. Figure 2 shows the time-

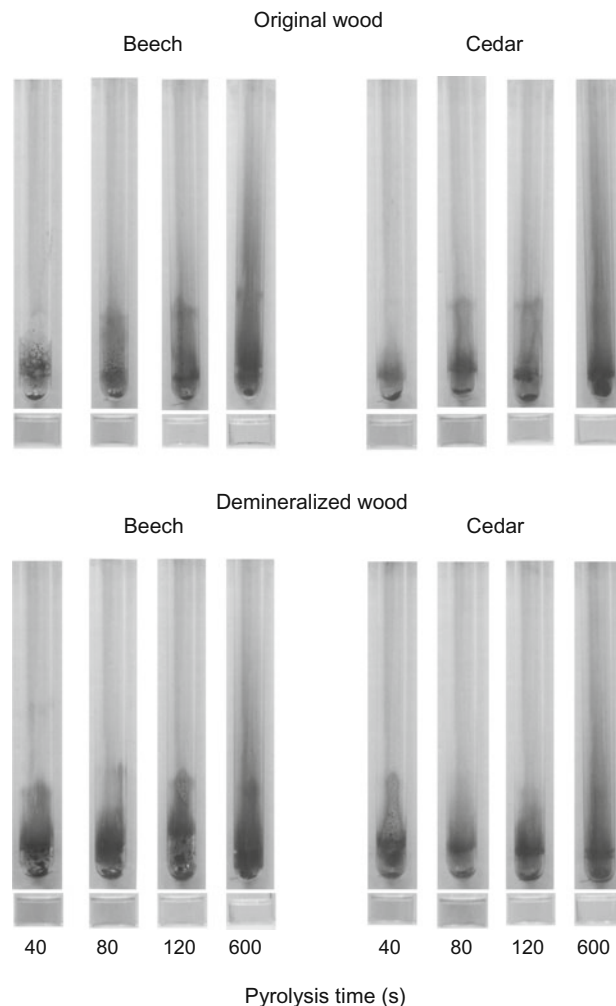


Fig. 1. Pictures of the ampoule reactors and the methanol-soluble tar fractions after heat treatment of original and demineralized wood samples (oven-dried/N₂/600°C/40–600 s)

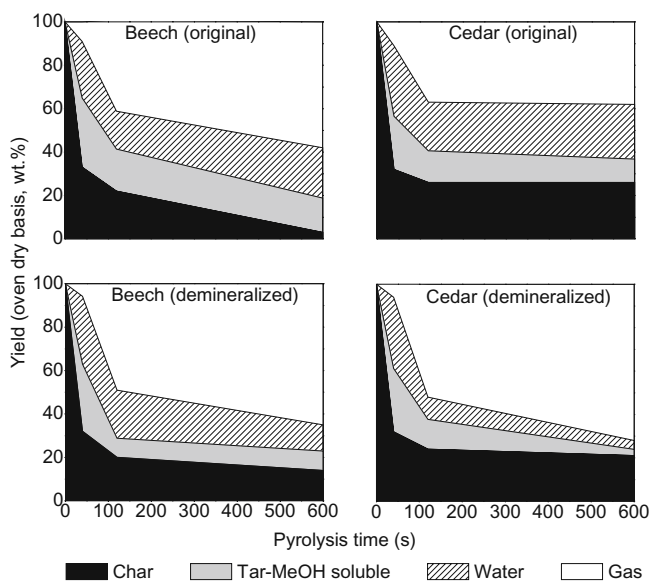


Fig. 2. Yields of gas, tar, char, and water in heat treatment of original and demineralized wood samples (oven-dried/N₂/600°C).

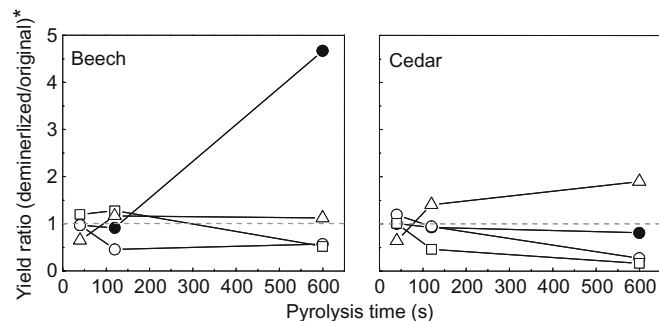


Fig. 3. Yield ratios (demineralized/original) of gas (triangles), tar (open circles), char (solid circles), and water (squares) in heat treatment of the original and demineralized wood samples (oven-dried/ $N_2/600^\circ C/40\text{--}600$ s). *, yield ratio (demineralized/original): yield (demineralized wood)/yield (original wood)

course changes of the gas, tar, char, and water yields. Influence of demineralization on these yields is more easily understandable with the yield ratio (summarized in Fig. 3), which is defined as yield (demineralized wood)/yield (original wood). From this definition, a yield ratio >1.0 indicates higher yield in demineralized wood. As discussed later under tar composition, the reaction mode changed from primary pyrolysis to secondary reactions in the period of 40–120 s.

Secondary char (coke) was observed on the upper side of the reactor wall, and this formation proceeded up to the higher part in the longer heating time of 600 s (see Fig. 1). The secondary char formation was more significant in beech than in cedar, especially in their demineralized samples. Demineralization enhanced the secondary char formation, and this tendency was more striking in beech. This type of secondary char is reported to be characteristic of lignin.¹⁴ Thus, these differences would be related to the different chemical structures of lignins.

The color of the methanol-soluble tar fractions changed to darker in 40–80 s, and then became pale yellow or almost colorless with an increase in heating time. Conjugated colored substances may decompose in 80–600 s. Minerals in wood tend to reduce the color, and this tendency was more striking in beech.

As for the product yields (see Figs. 2, 3), a major difference between two original wood samples was observed in char yield. The char yield from the beech wood was reduced significantly from 22 wt% (40 s) to only 3 wt% (600 s), and the gas yield increased significantly in the period of 120 s (41 wt%) to 600 s (57 wt%). On the other hand, the gas, tar, char, and water yields were not so different for 120 and 600 s in the cedar wood.

Interestingly, such high char reactivity of beech wood was observed only in the oven-dried samples and not in the air-dried ones: char yield (for air-dried) was 27 wt% (120 s) and 25 wt% (600 s). Water contained in the beech wood may change the primary char formation reaction, resulting in a lowering of char reactivity, although the role of water is not presently known. Reactivity of beech wood char was also reduced in the demineralized sample. Thus, minerals in the beech wood are suggested to be responsible for this

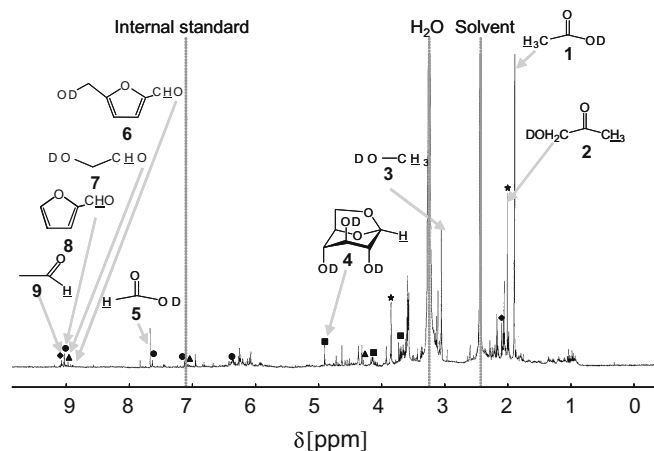


Fig. 4. ¹H-nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectrum of tar fraction obtained from heat treatment of the original beech wood (oven-dried) in N_2 at $600^\circ C$ for 40 s. Solvent, $DMSO-d_6$ including $10 \mu l D_2O$. Squares, levoglucosan; circles, furfural; triangles, 5-hydroxymethylfurfural; stars, hydroxyacetone; diamonds, acetaldehyde

high char reactivity. Even in the demineralized samples, the beech wood char still had higher reactivity than cedar. In contrast to the beech wood, demineralization rather increased the reactivity of cedar wood char slightly.

As for the tar cracking reaction to form noncondensable gases (Figs. 2, 3), reduction rates of the tar yields in the period of 40–600 s increased after demineralization. The water yields showed a similar tendency. With these trends, the noncondensable gas yields dramatically increased in the cedar wood. Because the char yields from the demineralized cedar wood were not so different for 120 and 600 s, these higher gas yields arise from the enhanced tar cracking reactivity. Water (vapor) would be used in this tar cracking. In the beech wood, the gas yields (120 and 600 s) were not so different for original and demineralized samples, because the enhanced gas formation through tar cracking is compensated with the reduced char reactivity.

In contrast to the foregoing results, the gas yield rather decreased after demineralization in 40 s for both species. This result would be related to the influence of minerals on the primary pyrolysis step. Enhanced char formation in the presence of minerals is known in wood pyrolysis.

Change in the tar composition

The polysaccharide- and lignin-derived tar components were mainly analyzed by ¹H-NMR and GC/MS analysis of the tar fractions, respectively. Because not all the authentic compounds were available in GC/MS analysis, the yields of lignin-derived products are shown only in the ratio of peak areas against the area of *p*-dibromobenzene as an internal standard.

¹H-NMR analysis

An example of the ¹H-NMR spectra of the $DMSO-d_6$ -soluble tar fractions is shown in Fig. 4. Although the spec-

trum is somewhat complicated, the well-resolved signals assigned for anhydrosugar [levoglucosan (**4**)], furans [furfural (**8**) and 5-hydroxymethyl furfural (**6**, 5-HMF)], ketone [hydroxyacetone (**2**)], aldehydes [glycolaldehyde (**7**) and acetaldehyde (**9**)], acids [acetic acid (**1**) and formic acid (**5**)], and alcohol [methanol (**3**)] were observed as their deuterioxy derivatives. Glycolaldehyde forms dimers and oligomers in solution, and this makes the quantification difficult.⁴³ Acetaldehyde was also suggested to be involved in such dimerization and oligomerization, because the yields determined by the analysis of the DMSO-*d*₆-solutions were much lower than those with the corresponding oximes. Hence, these compounds were quantified as their oximes in the ¹H-NMR spectra, which were measured after the addition of oximation reagent into the DMSO-*d*₆-solutions.^{35,39,40,43}

Figure 5 shows the time-course changes of the identified tar components. Most of these compounds are derived from cellulose and hemicellulose, although acetic acid, formic acid, and methanol can be formed also from lignin.⁴⁰ The compositions of the polysaccharide-derived tar components changed drastically depending on the heating time. These compounds disappeared within 120 or 200 s, except for acetic acid and methanol, which were still observed even at 600 s. Thus, acetic acid and methanol are the important low MW components in the tar fractions after a long heating time. Hosoya et al.³⁹ reported that most of the cellulose-derived tar components were decomposed to form the noncondensable gases within 120 s under the similar heating conditions, whereas the lignin-derived tar was comparatively stable for gas formation. Based on these lines of information, most of the polysaccharide-derived tar components would be converted into noncondensable gases effectively.

Levoglucosan, glycolaldehyde, 5-HMF, and formic acid had the highest yields in 40 s and disappeared within 120 or 200 s. These observations indicate that these compounds are formed in the early stage of pyrolysis. On the other hand, formation of acetaldehyde, acetic acid (cedar), and methanol from the original wood samples tend to be delayed (maximum yields in 80 or 120 s). Formation of hydroxyacetone, furfural, and acetic acid (beech) was also delayed by demineralization. Minerals in wood samples may catalyze these formations, probably by acting as base catalysts.

Demineralization tends to increase the product yields (Fig. 5) in 40 s except for hydroxyacetone and acetic acid. As a result, total yield of compounds **1–9** in 40 s from the cedar wood increased by demineralization from 8.7 wt% (35.5 wt%) (original) to 14.0 wt% (48.0 wt%) (demineralized) (yield in parentheses is based on tar fraction). Such increasing yields of the polysaccharide-derived tars in 40 s (primary pyrolysis stage) would lead to the higher gas yields observed for the demineralized cedar wood in longer heating time (120 and 600 s; see Figs. 2, 3). As for beech wood, total yields of compounds **1–9** in 40 s were not so different [14.5 wt% (45.4 wt%) (original) and 14.9 wt% (48.1 wt%) (demineralized) (yield in parentheses is based on tar fraction)]. The large decrease in the acetic acid yield from 4.6 wt% to 2.1 wt% is a reason.

Acetic acid is a major product from hardwood pyrolysis.⁴⁴ Formation of about 10% of acetic acid was reported in pyrolysis of *O*-acetyl-4-*O*-methylglucuronoxylan at 500°C, and the yield was reduced to 1.5% in the deacetylated xylan.¹⁵ Accordingly, the higher yield of acetic acid from the original beech wood arises from the higher content of the acetyl group in beech hemicellulose (xylan). Alkali and alkaline earth metal cations are considered to be bound to uronic acid units in hemicellulose.⁴⁵ Pan and Richards¹⁰ clearly demonstrated that demineralization reduced the acetic acid yield from cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*) wood (a hardwood) at 250°C, although the yield was recovered up to the level of the original wood by addition of K cation (content, 0.2%) through the cation-exchange method. Based on this information, significant reduction in the acetic acid yield by demineralization of the beech wood is explained by elimination of the catalytic effect of metal cations. Alkali metal carboxylates in xylan are expected to act as base catalysts in hydrolysis of the acetyl groups. In the demineralized beech wood, these acetyl groups would be decomposed differently.

Reduced yield of hydroxyacetone by demineralization would be explained by the two competitive pyrolysis pathways to give levoglucosan and hydroxyacetone, respectively, which have been proposed in cellulose pyrolysis.^{46,47} Minerals may act as base catalysts in retro-aldol-type reaction in formation of hydroxyacetone.

GC/MS analysis

Figure 6 illustrates the total ion chromatograms in GC/MS analysis of the methanol-soluble tar fractions. Most of these signals were assigned to the lignin-derived low MW products, which are categorized into guaiacols, syringols, phenols, cresols, catechols, pyrogallols, and PAHs depending on the aromatic structure. Chemical structures of the identified products are summarized in Fig. 7. Anhydrosugars (**4** and **33**) and C5 carbonyls **10**, **12**, and **13** are the exceptions, which are mainly formed from cellulose and hemicellulose. Table 2 shows the mass fragments used for identification of the products, especially the syringyl types and PAHs. Identification of the guaiacyl types was made according to the previous paper.¹⁴

Similar to the polysaccharide-derived products, chemical compositions of the lignin-derived products varied significantly in the short heating time of 40–120 s. This trend can be seen in the time-course change of the product yield as illustrated in Figs. 8 (beech) and 9 (cedar). The chromatograms (see Fig. 6) were very different for these species only in a relatively short heating time, <80 s. The cedar wood afforded guaiacols and catechols in 40 s, whereas the beech wood gave syringols and 3-methoxycatechol along with these cedar-derived products. In contrast to this, their compositions became similar after a longer heating time, >80 s. Accordingly, the influence of different chemical structures of lignins on the GC/MS-detectable products is large only in primary pyrolysis and the early stage of secondary reactions. Demineralization did not change the compound types.

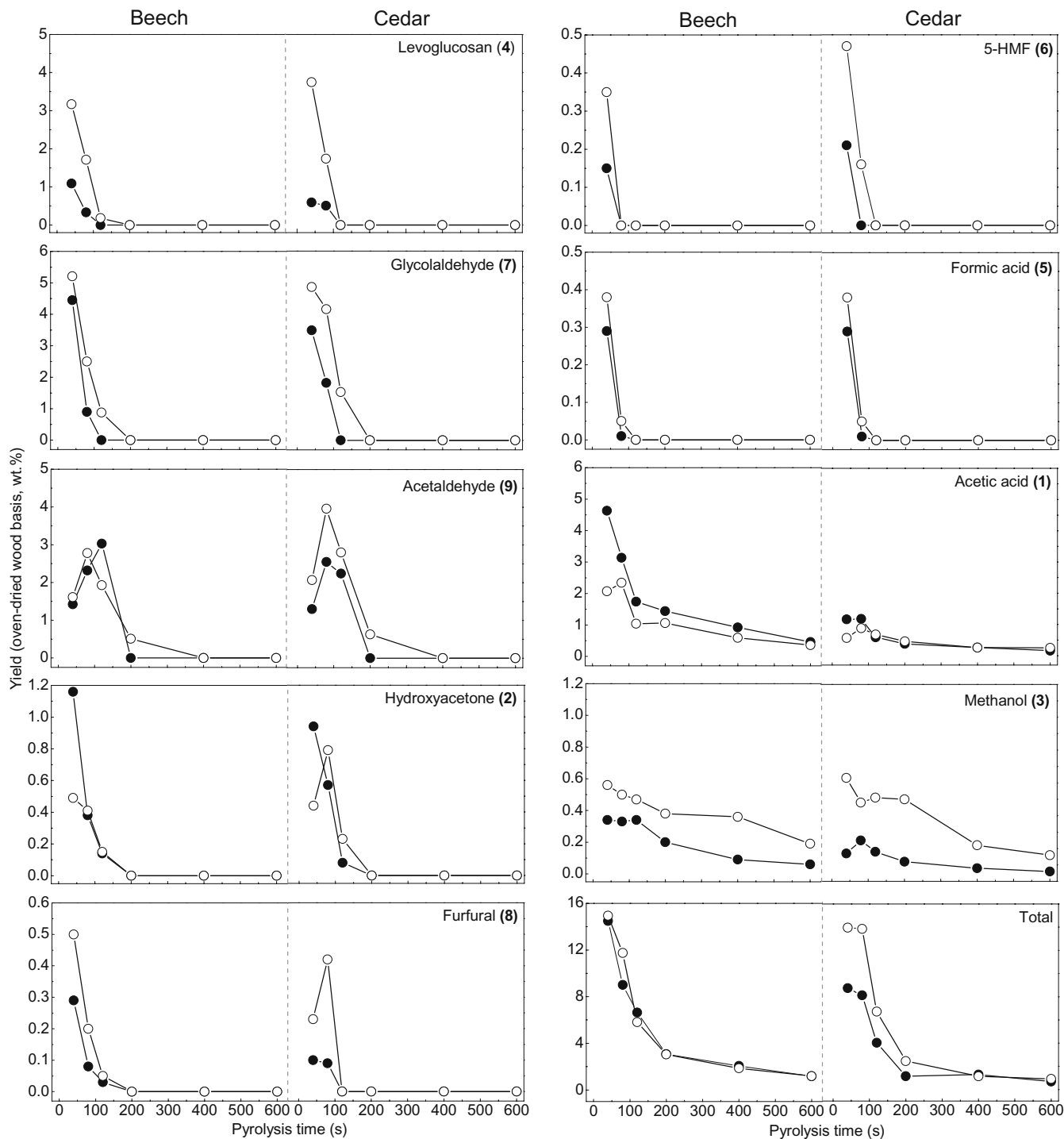


Fig. 5. Yields of tar components in heat treatment of the original and demineralized wood samples (oven-dried/ N_2 /600°C/40–600 s). *Solid circles*, original wood; *open circles*, demineralized wood

The aromatic ring structures changed in the direction of guaiacols and syringols \rightarrow catechols, pyrogallols, cresols, xylenol, and phenols \rightarrow PAHs. In the second group, cresols and phenol were comparatively stable and observed even in 600 s. Formation of naphthalenes, phenanthrene, and anthracene, which were identified as PAHs, proceeded in the longer heating time of 120–600 s.

The transformation mechanism of guaiacols to catechols or *o*-cresols is well documented.^{40,48} Catechols and *o*-cresols are formed through two competitive reactions, i.e., an O-CH₃ bond homolysis pathway⁴⁰ and a radical-induced rearrangement pathway starting from the guaiacyl phenoxy radicals,⁴⁸ respectively. Hosoya et al.³⁶ also suggested that the latter reaction is a key step for the secondary char for-

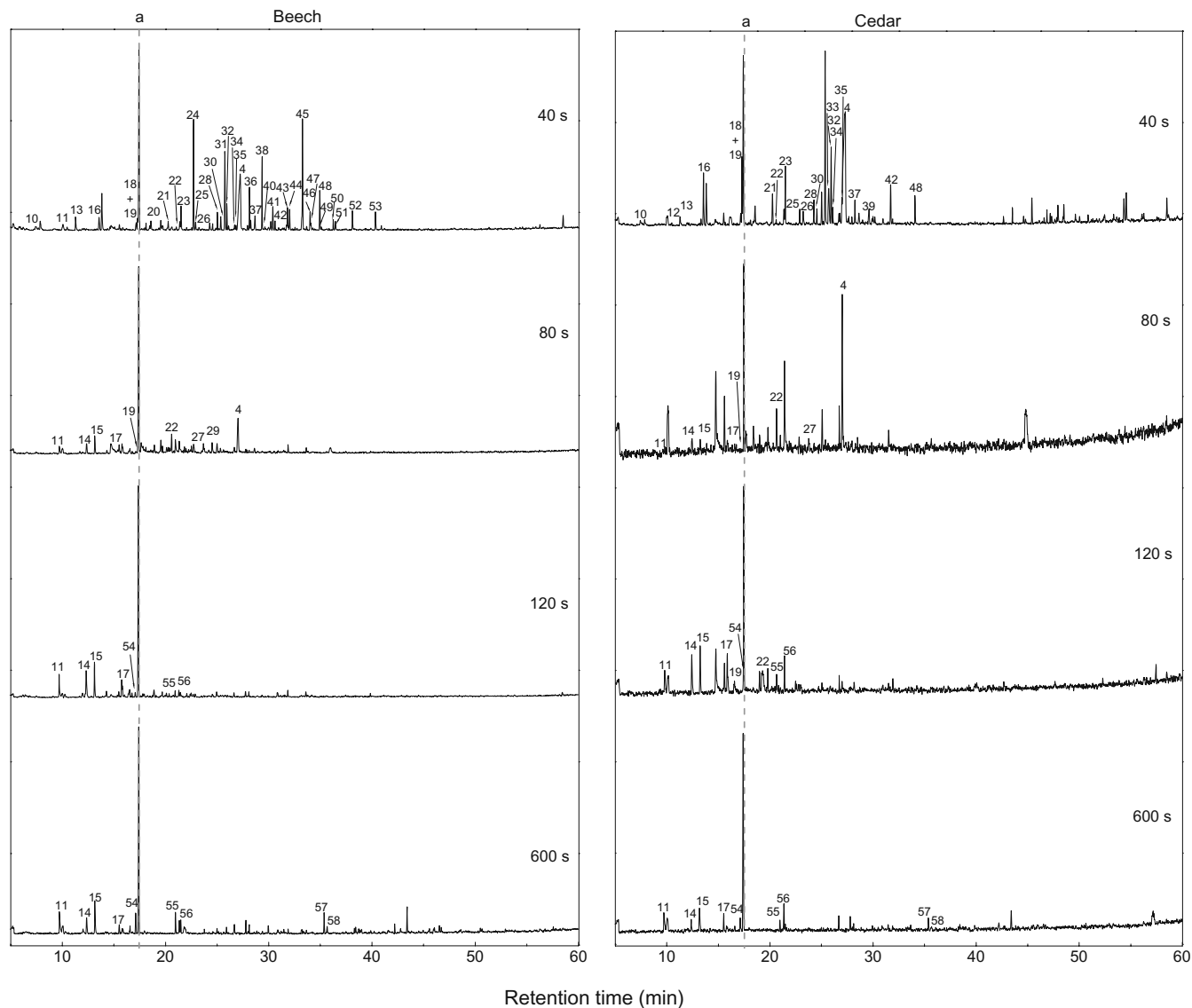


Fig. 6. Total ion chromatograms of the methanol-soluble tar fractions obtained from the original wood samples (oven-dried/ $N_2/600^\circ C/40\text{--}600\text{ s}$). a, internal standard (*p*-dibromobenzene)

mation. They proposed *o*-quinonemethide as a key intermediate for this char formation.

Along with the change in the aromatic structure, the side-chain structures also changed significantly in 40–80 s. As reported for Japanese cedar milled wood lignin,³⁴ unsaturated side chains ($>C=C<$, $CH=O$, and $>C=O$) were observed in 40 s that are usually attached to the guaiacol or syringol types of aromatic rings. Other types of the aromatic rings observed in the longer heating time of 80–600 s have only saturated groups, i.e., methyl and ethyl groups, or do not have any side chains. According to the model compound studies,^{19,24} lignin primary pyrolysis forms low MW products with conjugated $>C=C<$ and $>C=O$ structures. Coniferyl alcohol and stilbene are formed in significant yields from β -ether- and β -aryl-types of dimers, respectively.¹⁹ Nakamura et al.²⁰ and Hosoya et al.³⁴ also reported that the conjugated $>C=C<$ structures are subject to condensation to form higher MW products. Hosoya et al.³⁴

indicated that the saturated side chains are formed through cracking of the side chains in the condensates.

Based on these tar analysis results, compositional change of the aliphatic and aromatic tar components with an increase in the heating time was clarified as depicted in Fig. 10.

Change in the gas composition

Figure 11 summarizes the gas compositions (mol%) and gas yields (wt%). The yield ratios are also summarized in Fig. 12. For both species, gas composition changed significantly in 40–120 s and was not so different at 120 and 600 s. In 40 s, the proportion of CO_2 tends to be larger than those of other gases.

Demineration increased the methane yields in 40 s with reduction of the other gas yields. Methane is reported

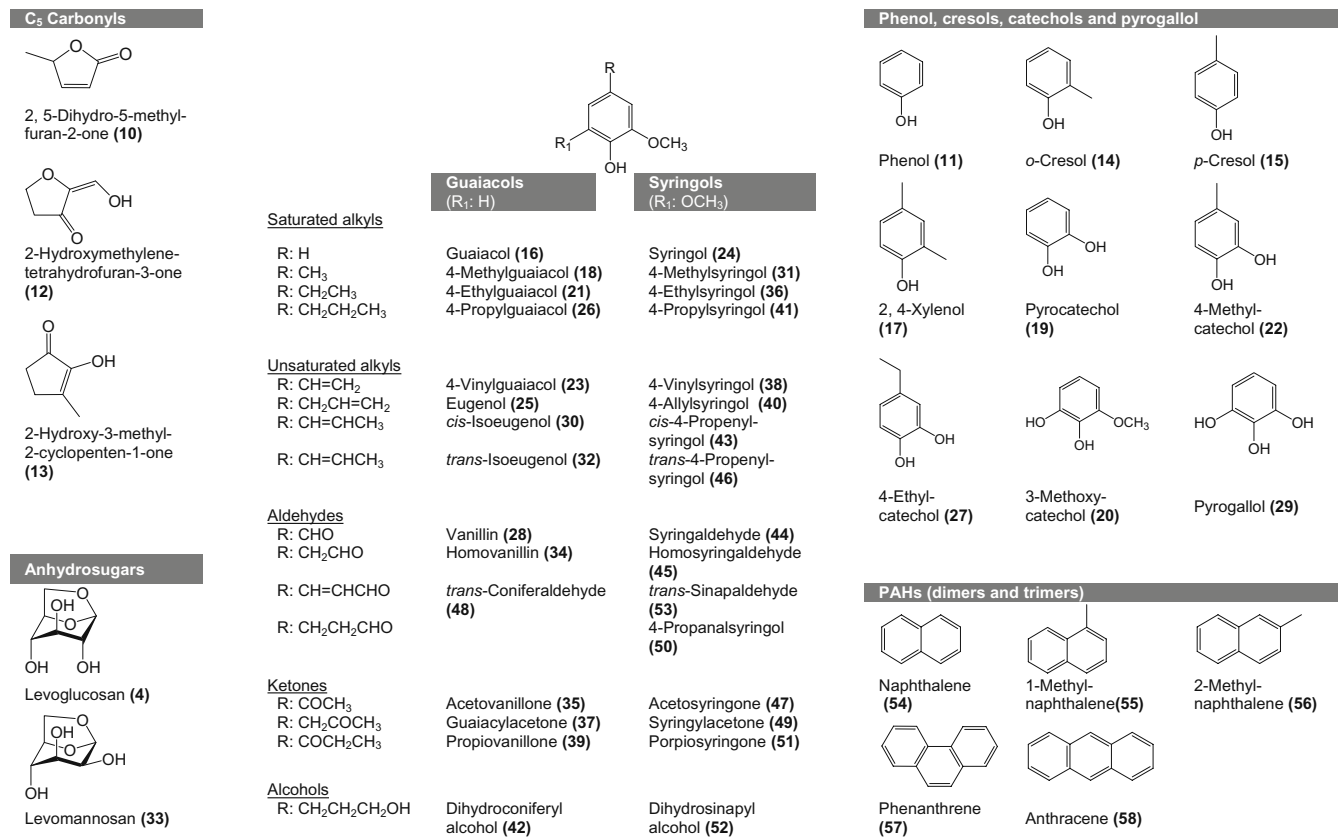


Fig. 7. Chemical structures of the compounds identified in gas chromatography-mass spectroscopy (GC-MS) analysis

Table 2. Identification of the products by their mass spectra

No.	MW	Major EI fragments	Identification method ^a
20	140	140 , 125, 97, 79, 51, 39, 28	R
24	154	154 , 155, 139, 111, 96, 93, 65	R
29	126	126 , 108, 80, 52, 39	R
31	168	168 , 169, 153, 125, 107, 85, 79, 77, 53	R
36	182	167 , 182, 168, 107, 79, 28	L ¹⁶
37	180	137 , 180, 138, 122, 94, 73, 43, 32, 28	R
38	180	180 , 181, 165, 137, 122, 119, 91, 77, 65, 51, 43, 39, 32, 28	L ¹⁶
39	180	151 , 180, 123, 116, 77, 51, 43, 29	R
40	194	194 , 195, 179, 163, 151, 131, 119, 103, 91, 77, 65	R
41	196	167 , 196, 168, 123, 43, 32, 28	L ¹⁶
42	137	137 , 182, 138, 122, 91, 77, 40, 32, 28	L ¹⁶
43	194	194 , 195, 179, 151, 131, 119, 103, 91, 77, 65	L ¹⁶
44	182	182 , 183, 181, 167, 153, 111, 93, 65, 53, 29	R
45	196	167 , 196, 168, 123, 122, 78, 29	L ¹⁶
46	194	194 , 195, 193, 151, 131, 119, 91, 77, 65	L ¹⁶
47	196	181 , 196, 153, 43, 32, 28	R
49	210	167 , 210, 168, 123, 43, 28	L ¹⁶
50	210	167 , 210, 182, 154, 122, 118, 77, 53	L ⁴²
51	210	181 , 210, 153, 65, 32, 28	L ¹⁶
52	168	168 , 212, 153, 123, 108, 91, 77, 43, 28	L ¹⁶
53	208	208 , 180, 177, 165, 137, 122, 119, 91, 77, 66, 51	R
54	128	128 , 129, 127, 102, 63, 51	R
55	142	141 , 143, 142, 115, 89	R
56	142	142 , 143, 141, 139, 115, 89, 63	R
57	178	178 , 188, 179, 150, 89, 76	R
58	178	178 , 189, 188, 177, 76, 63	R

Bold figures show base-ion peak

EI, electron induced

^a Identified with authentic compound (R) and the mass fragmentation pattern reported in the literature (L)

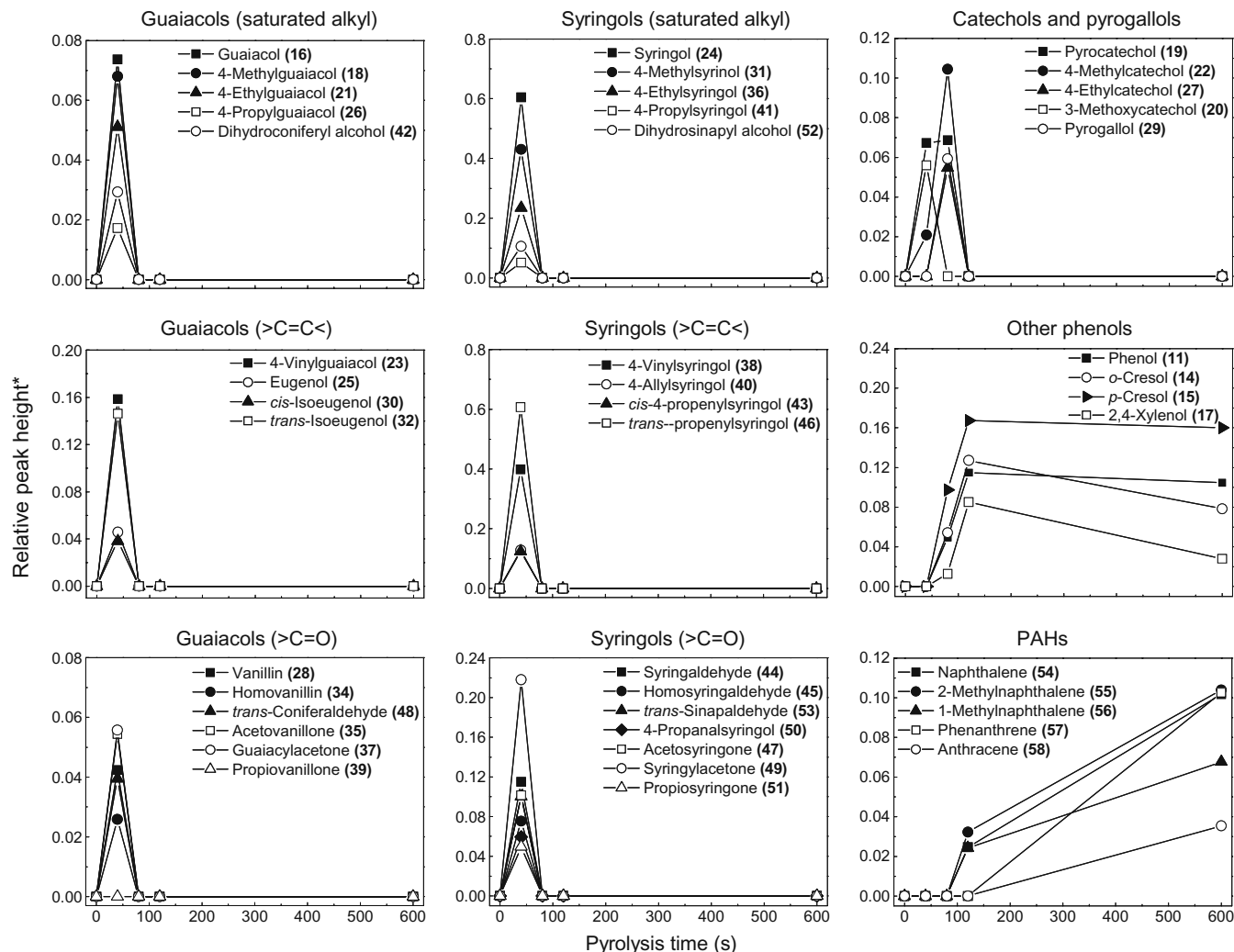


Fig. 8. Time-course changes of tar components in heat treatment of original beech wood (oven dried/ N_2 /600°C/40–600 s). *, relative peak height, peak height of compound/peak height of internal standard (*p*-dibromobenzene)

to be formed from lignin methoxyl groups in early stage of pyrolysis.⁴⁰ Methane is formed via the O-CH₃ homolysis to form the ·CH₃ radical and subsequent abstraction of hydrogen. This process is known to be influenced by the polysaccharide-derived tar. Hosoya et al.⁴⁰ clearly demonstrated that the methane yield increased by the action of the polysaccharide-derived tars as H-donors to the ·CH₃ radical. This stage also leads to the increasing gas yield, especially CO, from the polysaccharide-derived tars. In the present study, yields of CO and CO₂ rather decreased by demineralization. Some complex interactions of lignin with other wood-composing polymers and minerals may be involved in these behaviors.

Although the yields are not large, the methane yields from the beech wood samples in 40 s were greater than those from cedar. These results are consistent with the higher methoxyl content of the beech wood lignin, which contains syringyl units with two methoxyl groups.

In ¹H-NMR analysis of the tar fractions, the signals around 3.7–3.8 ppm (see Fig. 4), which were assigned to the lignin methoxyl methyl protons, disappeared in 80 s (chromatograms not shown). Thus, formation of methane in

longer heating time, >120 s, originates from another pathway than the O-CH₃ homolysis route.

As already discussed, demineralization increased the yields of polysaccharide-derived tar components in the primary pyrolysis stage; this leads to enhanced gas formation in the secondary reaction stage (120–600 s). In the gas composition from cedar wood in 120 and 600 s, the proportion of CO₂ tends to be smaller in the demineralized samples (Fig. 12); this would be related to the increasing contribution of the cracking reactions of the polysaccharide-derived tars. Such an influence was not clearly observed for beech wood, because the gas yields and composition are also changed by reducing the char reactivity.

Based on these results, it was found that minerals in wood samples affect the gas formation behavior in primary pyrolysis and secondary reaction stages differently. The minerals increase the H₂, CO, and CO₂ yields and reduce the methane yield in the primary pyrolysis stage. In the secondary reaction stage, the minerals lower the gas yield through reducing the formation of polysaccharide-derived tars with comparatively high gas formation reactivities.

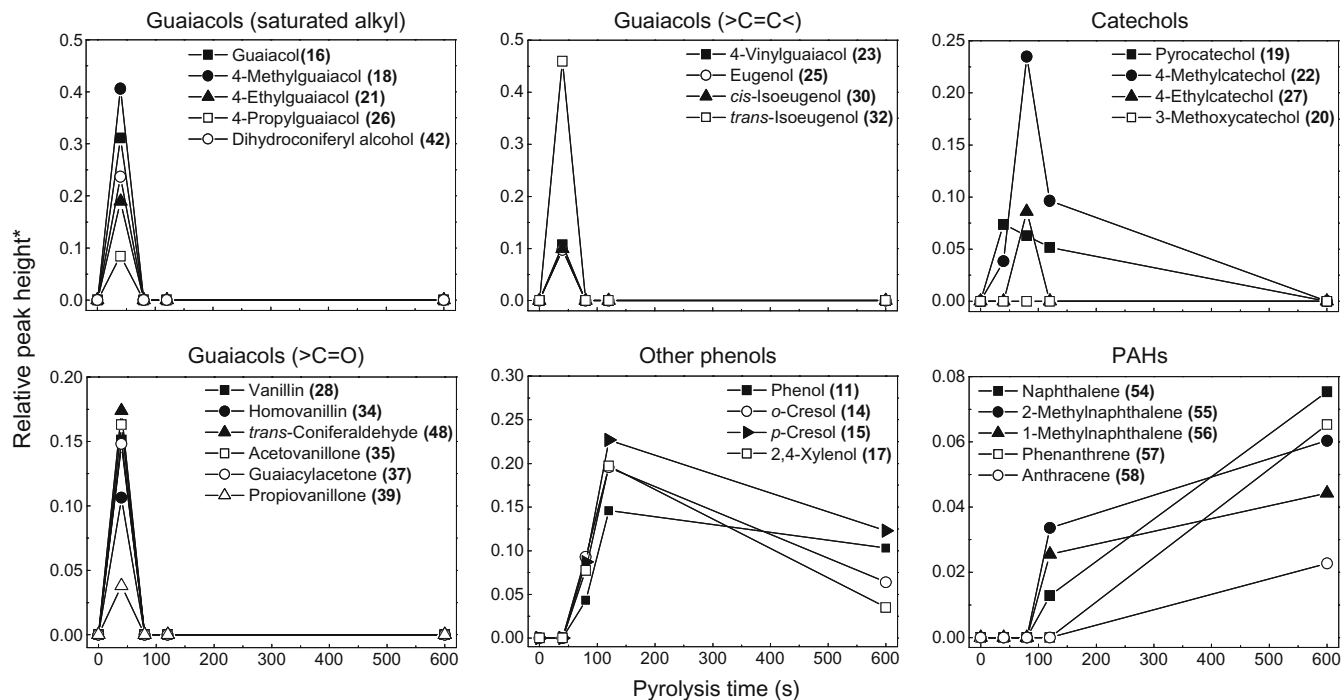


Fig. 9. Time-course changes of tar components in heat treatment of original cedar (oven dried/ $N_2/600^\circ C/40\text{--}600$ s). *, relative peak height, peak height of compound/peak height of internal standard (*p*-dibromobenzene)

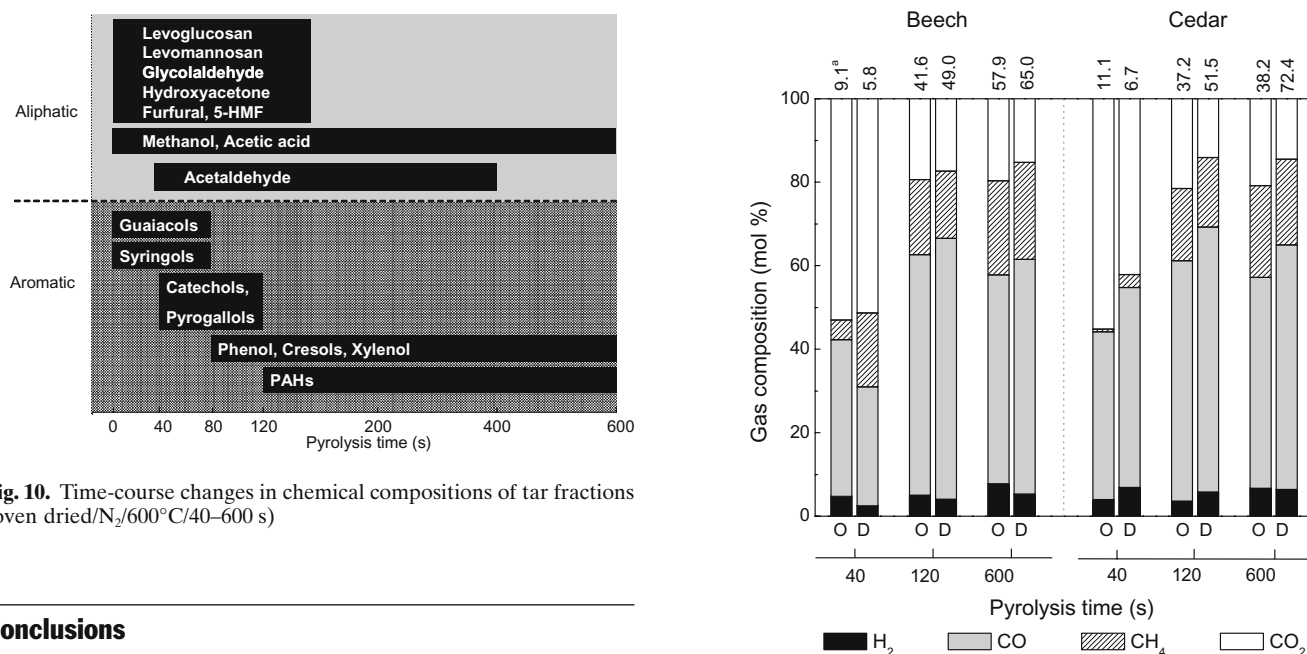


Fig. 10. Time-course changes in chemical compositions of tar fractions (oven dried/ $N_2/600^\circ C/40\text{--}600$ s)

Conclusions

The following results were obtained by comparing the pyrolysis behaviors of Japanese cedar wood (a softwood) and Japanese beech wood (a hardwood) in a closed ampoule reactor (oven-dried/ $N_2/600^\circ C/40\text{--}600$ s).

1. Secondary char (coke) formation was more significant in beech than cedar. Minerals in wood reduced the secondary char formation.
2. Beech wood char had higher reactivity than cedar wood char. Minerals in beech wood are related to this high char reactivity.

Fig. 11. Gas compositions in heat treatment of the original and demineralized wood samples (oven-dried/ $N_2/600^\circ C$). O, original wood; D, demineralized wood; ^a, total gas yield based on oven dry basis, wt%

3. Minerals in wood samples reduced the yields of polysaccharide-derived tars with relatively high gas formation reactivities in the primary pyrolysis stage. This reduces the gas formation in secondary reaction stage.
4. Yield of acetic acid was greater in beech than in cedar. Minerals in wood samples catalyzed acetic acid formation.

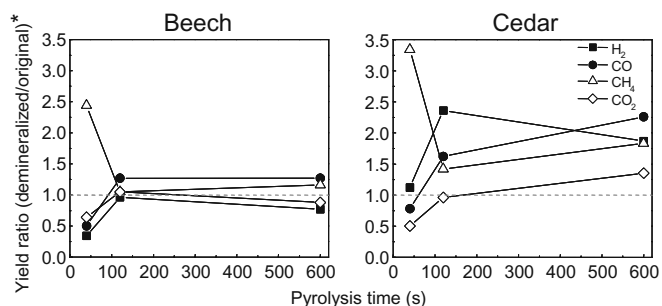


Fig. 12. Yield ratios (demineralized/original) of gaseous products in heat treatment of original and demineralized wood samples (oven-dried/N₂/600°C). *, yield ratio (demineralized/original): yield (demineralized wood)/yield (original wood)

- Aromatic tar compositions, which are mainly derived from lignin, were quite different only in the primary pyrolysis stage and early stage of the secondary reactions. In a longer heating time, the compositions became similar.
- Minerals in the wood sample affected the gas formation in primary pyrolysis and secondary reaction stages differently. The minerals increased the gas yield in the former stage with reducing the methane yield, while lowering the gas yield in the latter stage. Beech wood tends to produce more methane than does cedar wood in the primary pyrolysis stage.

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