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Analysis of oxidised and glycated aminophospholipids: Complete structural characterisation by C30 liquid chromatography-high resolution tandem mass spectrometry

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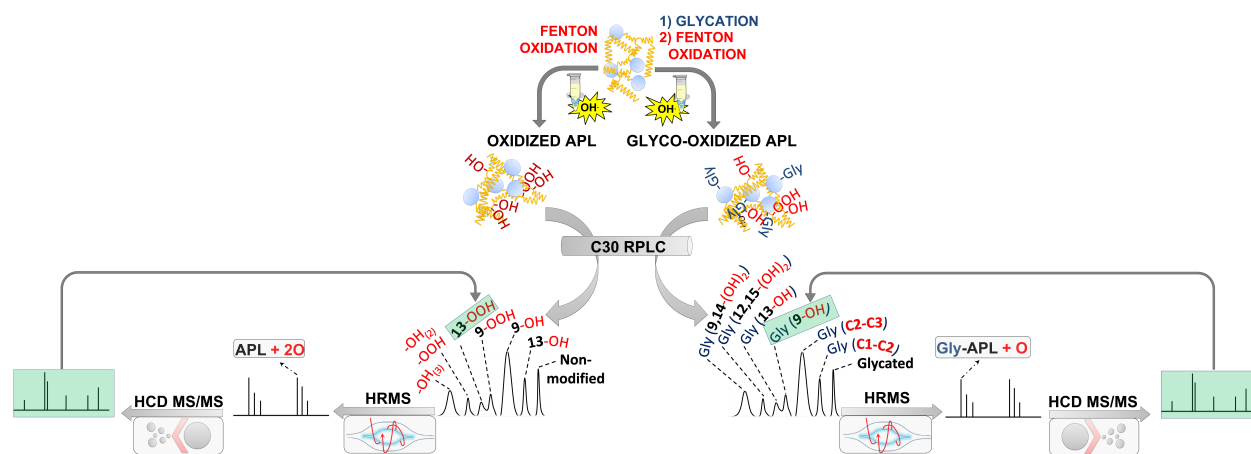
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1 **Analysis of oxidised and glycated aminophospholipids: complete structural characterisation**  
2 **by C30 liquid chromatography-high resolution tandem mass spectrometry**

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20

**Abstract**

The aminophospholipids (APL), phosphatidylethanolamine (PE) and phosphatidylserine (PS) are widely present in cell membranes and lipoproteins. Glucose and reactive oxygen species (ROS), such as the hydroxyl radical ( $\bullet\text{OH}$ ), can react with APL leading to an array of oxidised, glycated and glycoxidised derivatives. Modified APL have been implicated in inflammatory diseases and diabetes, and were identified as signalling molecules in regulating cell death. However, the biological relevance of these molecules has not been completely established, since they are present in very low amounts, and new sensitive methodologies are needed to detect them in biological systems. Few studies have focused on the characterisation of APL modifications using liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS), mainly using C5 or C18 reversed phase (RP) columns. In the present study, we propose a new analytical approach for the characterisation of complex mixtures of oxidised, glycated and glycoxidised PE and PS. This LC approach was based on a reversed-phase C30 column combined with high-resolution MS, and higher energy C-trap dissociation (HCD) MS/MS. C30 RP-LC separated short and long fatty acyl oxidation products, along with glycoxidised APL bearing oxidative modifications on the glucose moiety and the fatty acyl chains. Functional isomers (e.g. hydroxy-hydroperoxy-APL and trihydroxy-APL) and positional isomers (e.g. 9-hydroxy-APL and 13-hydroxy-APL) were also discriminated by the method. HCD fragmentation patterns allowed unequivocal structural characterisation of the modified APL, and are translatable into targeted MS/MS fingerprinting of the modified derivatives in biological samples.

**Keywords:** phosphatidylethanolamine, phosphatidylserine, oxidation, glycation, mass spectrometry, lipidomics



## 44 Introduction

45 The aminophospholipids (APL), phosphatidylethanolamine (PE) and phosphatidylserine  
46 (PS), are main constituents of mammalian cell membranes and lipoproteins, displaying both  
47 structural and signalling functions [1]. Upon oxidative stress, reactive oxygen species (ROS) such  
48 as the hydroxyl radical ( $\cdot\text{OH}$ ), mediate the oxidation of APL, resulting in radical oxidation of  
49 unsaturated lipids fatty acyl chains and polar heads with the formation of oxygenated derivatives  
50 and truncation products, overall leading to a plethora of new oxidized or glycated/glycoxidised  
51 molecular species [2–6].

52 Oxidised APL might lose the activity of the non-modified precursor or acquire new  
53 biological functions. Oxidised PE and PS are known to be involved in critical events, such as cell  
54 death and the regulation of the inflammatory response. For example, it is known that hydroperoxy-  
55 PE derivatives are involved in the mediation of ferroptotic cell death [7]. Also, oxidised PS,  
56 including long chain oxidation products such as hydroxy-PS and hydroperoxy-PS, contribute to  
57 apoptotic cell recognition by macrophages [8,9]. Oxidised PE has been associated with a pro-  
58 inflammatory phenotype in human peripheral blood [10,11]. The role of oxidised PS in  
59 inflammation was also described and was related to both pro-inflammatory and anti-inflammatory  
60 outcomes [11,12,13]. Both oxidised PE and PS were detected *in vivo* in various diseases. For  
61 example, mono-oxygenated PE derivatives were detected in fibrocystic bronchoalveolar lavage in  
62 humans [14], and on activated platelets, monocytes [15], and macrophages [16]. Hydroxy-PS,  
63 hydroperoxy-PS and hydroxy-hydroperoxy-PS were also detected in post-mortem human brains  
64 with Alzheimer's disease [17], whereas PS oxidised on the polar head were found in human  
65 keratinocytes stimulated with oxidative stress [18].

66 Due to the presence of a free amino group in the polar head, APL are also prone to form  
67 covalent adducts with glucose [19]. Once formed, glycated APL can be further oxidised, leading to  
68 glycoxidised APL, also known as advanced glycoxidation end products (AGE) [20,21]. Some

69 authors reported that glycated and glycoxidised PE promotes lipid peroxidation via generation of  
70 ROS [21,22]. Similarly to oxidized PE, glycated and glycoxidised PE were found to promote an  
71 inflammatory phenotype in peripheral blood [10,23]. Glycated and glycoxidised PE have also been  
72 identified as factors modulating the expression of several proteins in rat cardiomyocytes [21].  
73 Glycated PE was detected in the plasma of patients associated with hyperglycemic conditions  
74 [19,22]. Glycated and glycoxidised PE were also detected in red blood cells and plasma samples  
75 from healthy and diabetic subjects [19,22,24–28], in diabetic rats [29], and mitochondrial  
76 membranes of several mammalian species [30]. However, mostly because of their low abundance *in*  
77 *vivo*, the potential of oxidised, glycated and glycoxidised APL as biomarkers for disease is still far  
78 from being clarified and deserves to be explored.

79 Several studies suggest that there is a structure-activity relationship for oxidised PE and  
80 oxidised PS [7,8,10,14,15]. Indeed, the detection of specific isomers of modified APL in  
81 inflammatory diseases could confirm their role in the disease pathogenesis, validate biomarkers for  
82 early diagnosis, and highlight new targets for drug development. Thus, there is a need to develop  
83 sensitive and selective liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) platforms  
84 that can lead to a more detailed characterisation of modified APL in complex mixtures or matrices.  
85 As reviewed elsewhere, LC-MS/MS has been widely used to characterise oxidised PC [4,5], but  
86 little work has been done to investigate modified PE [31–35] and modified PS [36,20,37]. In studies  
87 reporting the LC-MS/MS analysis of oxidised PE and PS, columns packed with C5 [20,32,37], and  
88 C18 [27,15,38,28,14] were the most commonly employed. The first application of a C30 column for  
89 the analysis of APL was proposed by Houjou and co-authors [39], which have identified 110  
90 species (PC, PE, PI and PS) from rat liver. More recently, C30 columns were successfully  
91 employed in the lipidomic analyses of human plasma [40], rat plasma and rat liver [41]. C30  
92 reversed phase (RP) LC has not yet been used to study modified APL. In the present study, we  
93 propose an LC-MS/MS approach based on C30 RP-LC, high-resolution MS identification and

94 higher energy C-trap dissociation (HCD) MS/MS for the analysis of the oxidised, glycated and  
95 glycoxidised derivatives of four different APL standards – two from the PE class and two from the  
96 PS class. This method, herein tested for the first time on complex mixtures of modified APL, could  
97 separate positional and functional isomers of oxidised, glycated and glycoxidised PE and PS, which  
98 showed characteristic HCD-type fragmentation patterns for each group of modified derivatives.

99

## 100 **Materials and Methods**

### 101 *Reagents / chemicals*

102 Phospholipid standards 1-palmitoyl-2-oleoyl-*sn*-3-glycerophosphoethanolamine (POPE), 1-  
103 palmitoyl-2-linoleoyl-*sn*-3-glycerophosphoethanolamine (PLPE), 1-palmitoyl-2-oleoyl-*sn*-3-  
104 glycerophosphoserine (POPS) and 1-palmitoyl-2-linoleoyl-*sn*-3-glycerophosphoserine (PLPS) were  
105 purchased from Avanti Polar Lipids, Inc. (Alabaster, AL, USA) and used without further  
106 purification. Acetonitrile, isopropanol, water, methanol, ammonium formate (Optima™ LC/MS  
107 grade) and chloroform (LC-MS grade) were obtained from Fisher Scientific (Schwerte, Germany).  
108 Formic acid (LC-MS grade) was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (Sigma-Aldrich, Munich,  
109 Germany). FeCl<sub>2</sub> and hydrogen peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) (30%, w/v) used for the Fenton reaction were  
110 acquired from Merck (Darmstadt, Germany). Glucose and ammonium bicarbonate were purchased  
111 from Sigma-Aldrich (Saint Louis, MO, USA).

### 112 *Phospholipid glycation and oxidation*

113 Glycated PL samples were synthesised by adding to 1.2 mg of glucose, dissolved in 150 µL  
114 of methanol, to 0.5 mg of dry PL. The solution was mixed thoroughly, and the reaction glass was  
115 introduced in boiling H<sub>2</sub>O with continuous magnetic stirring, for 45 minutes [33,37].

116 Non-modified and glycated phospholipids were oxidised by Fenton reaction. Briefly, 125 µg  
117 of phospholipid previously dried under nitrogen stream were resuspended in 62.5 µL ammonium  
118 bicarbonate buffer (pH 7.4) containing 50 mM H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and 40 µM FeCl<sub>2</sub>. The suspension was  
119 incubated in the dark at 550 RPM, 37 °C, during 48 h. Phospholipids were analysed by C30 RP-LC-  
120 MS/MS after 24h and 48h from the beginning of the Fenton reaction. For the detailed experimental  
121 procedures of PL oxidation, the reader is referred to previously published works in which the same  
122 protocol was applied [11,37].

### 123 *C30 RP-LC-MS/MS*

124 The oxidation, glycation and glycooxidation products were analyzed by RP-LC-MS/MS  
125 performed on a Thermo Fisher Scientific UltiMate3000<sup>TM</sup> UHPLC system (Thermo Fisher  
126 Scientific, Germering, Germany) coupled to a Q Exactive<sup>TM</sup> HF hybrid quadrupole-Orbitrap mass  
127 spectrometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Bremen, Germany) using the conditions recently reported  
128 by Criscuolo *et al*, with slight modifications [42]. The reaction mixture was diluted in methanol to  
129 the final concentration of 250 ng/µL, and 5 µL of this solution were introduced into an Accucore<sup>TM</sup>  
130 C30 column (150 x 2.1 mm) equipped with 2.6 µm diameter fused-core particles (Thermo Fisher  
131 Scientific, Germering, Germany). The mobile phases consisted of H<sub>2</sub>O /acetonitrile 50/50 v/v with  
132 0.1% formic acid and 5 mM ammonium formate (phase A), and isopropanol/acetonitrile/ H<sub>2</sub>O  
133 85/10/5 v/v/v with 0.1% formic acid and 5 mM ammonium formate (phase B). The solvent gradient  
134 was set up with an initial ramp from 10% B to 86% B at 20 min, followed by a linear increase to  
135 95% B at 22 min, which was isocratically held for 4 minutes. The percentage of B was decreased to  
136 10% at minute 26.1 and maintained isocratically until the end of the run at minute 32. The flow rate  
137 was 300 µL/min.

138 During full MS experiments, the Q Exactive<sup>TM</sup> HF hybrid quadrupole-Orbitrap mass  
139 spectrometer operated on a mass range comprised between  $m/z$  400 and  $m/z$  1600, with a 120000  
140 resolution setting, an injection time of 100 ms and an AGC target of 1E<sup>6</sup>, in positive (electrospray

141 voltage +3.5 kV) and negative (electrospray voltage -3.5 kV) ion modes, through a polarity  
142 switching method. The capillary temperature was 230 °C, the vaporiser temperature was 300 °C, the  
143 S-Lens RF level was at 35%, and the sheath gas and the auxiliary gas flows were respectively 45  
144 arbitrary units (AU) and 15 AU.

145 Tandem mass spectra of  $[M+H]^+$  and  $[M-H]^-$  precursor ions were generated through polarity  
146 switching and HCD fragmentation, with cycles consisting of one full scan mass spectrum plus five  
147 data-dependent MS/MS, scans for each mode, with an isolation window of 1  $m/z$ , a dynamic  
148 exclusion of 10 seconds and an intensity threshold of  $3.3E^4$ . Normalised collision energy<sup>TM</sup> (NCE)  
149 was stepped between 10, 20 and 30 eV. The instrument operated with the resolution setting of  
150 15000, an injection time of 150 ms and an AGC target of  $1E^5$  throughout all the MS/MS  
151 acquisitions.

## 152 Results

153 In this work, we have analysed oxidised PLPE, PLPS, POPE and POPS, and their glycosylated  
154 derivatives by reversed-phase liquid chromatography with high-resolution MS, and HCD MS/MS  
155 fragmentation detection using a C30 LC column (C30 LC-MS). Lipid species were oxidised by  $\bullet OH$   
156 generated under Fenton reaction, as reported in previous studies [11,37]. Several types of oxidation  
157 and glycooxidation products were analysed for the first time using C30 LC-MS and characterised by  
158 HCD MS/MS. These oxidation and glycooxidation products included long chain products (mono-,  
159 di- and tri-oxygenated derivatives), short chain products (APL esterified with oxononanoic and  
160 azelaic acid), and glycosylated APL with polar head oxidation, i.g, APL adducted to end products  
161 of glucose oxidation [44]. All the modified APL analysed in the present study were summarised in  
162 Table 1.

163 **Table 1.** The ion identities, measured (Exp  $m/z$ ), theoretical masses (Theo  $m/z$ ), mass  
164 measurement errors (Error ppm) and retention time (RT) for the oxidation and glycooxidation  
165 products of PE and PS analysed by C30 LC-MS.

Derivative	Phosphatidylethanolamine (X=E)				Phosphatidylserine (X=S)			
	Exp $m/z$ [M+H] <sup>+</sup>	Theo $m/z$ [M+H] <sup>+</sup>	Error [ppm]	RT [min]	Exp $m/z$ [M+H] <sup>+</sup>	Theo $m/z$ [M+H] <sup>+</sup>	Error [ppm]	RT [min]
PLPX-(9-OH)	732.517	732.518	-1.4	14.0	776.506	776.508	-2.6	12.8
PLPX-(13-OH)	732.517	732.518	-1.4	13.8	776.506	776.508	-2.6	12.6
PLPX-(9-OOH)	748.511	748.513	-2.7	13.1	792.501	792.503	-2.5	9.9
PLPX-(12-OOH)	748.511	748.513	-2.7	12.8				
PLPX-(13-OOH)					792.501	792.503	-2.5	9.6
PLPX-(9-OH,14-OH)	748.511	748.513	-2.7	11.3	792.501	792.503	-2.5	10.3
PLPX-(12-OH,15-OH)	748.511	748.513	-2.7	11.1	792.501	792.503	-2.5	10.3
PLPX-(13-OH,15-OH)	748.511	748.513	-2.7	11.1				
PLPX-(9-OH,12-OH,15-OH)	764.506	764.508	-2.6	9.6	808.496	808.498	-2.5	8.6
PLPX-(9-OH,12-OOH)	764.506	764.508	-2.6	11.2	808.496	808.498	-2.5	10.3
PLPX-(9-OOH,12-OH)	764.506	764.508	-2.6	11.2	808.496	808.498	-2.5	10.3
POPX-(8-OH)	734.532	734.534	-2.7	13.4				
POPX-(9-OH)	734.532	734.534	-2.7	14.8	778.522	778.523	-1.3	13.6
POPX-(10-OH)	734.532	734.534	-2.7	14.8	778.522	778.523	-1.3	13.6
POPX-(8-OOH)	750.527	750.529	-2.7	13.8	794.517	794.518	-1.3	12.3
POPX-(9-OOH)	750.527	750.529	-2.7	13.8	794.517	794.518	-1.3	12.3
PONPX	608.391	608.393	-3.3	8.8	652.381	652.383	-3.1	7.5
PAzPX	624.386	624.388	-3.2	8.1	668.375	668.377	-3.0	6.9
Glycated PLPX	878.576	878.576	0.0	17.4	922.565	922.566	-1.1	15.8
Formyl-PLPX	744.518	744.518	0.0	16.3				
Carboxymethyl-PLPX	774.528	774.529	-1.3	16.2				
Glycated PLPX-(9-OH)	894.570	894.571	-1.1	14.6				
Glycated PLPX-(13-OH)	894.570	894.571	-1.1	14.3				
Glycated PLPX-(9-OH,14-OH)	910.565	910.566	-1.1	11.1				
Glycated PLPX-(12-OH,15-OH)	910.565	910.566	-1.1	11.6				
Glycated POPX	880.591	880.592	-1.1	18.1	924.581	924.581	0.0	16.8
Formyl-POPX	746.534	746.533	1.3	17.3	790.523	790.523	0.0	17.0
Carboxymethyl-POPX	776.544	776.544	0.0	17.2	820.534	820.534	0.0	14.6
Glycated POPX-(9-OH)	896.586	896.586	0.0	15.4				
Glycated PONPX	770.446	770.446	0.0	8.5				
Glycated PAzPX	786.440	786.440	0.0	7.8	830.430	830.430	0.0	6.2

166

167

*Separation of oxidised derivatives of APL by C30 LC and characterisation by MS and*

168

***HCD MS/MS***

169

A comparison of the total LC-MS base peak chromatograms of the oxidised APL is depicted

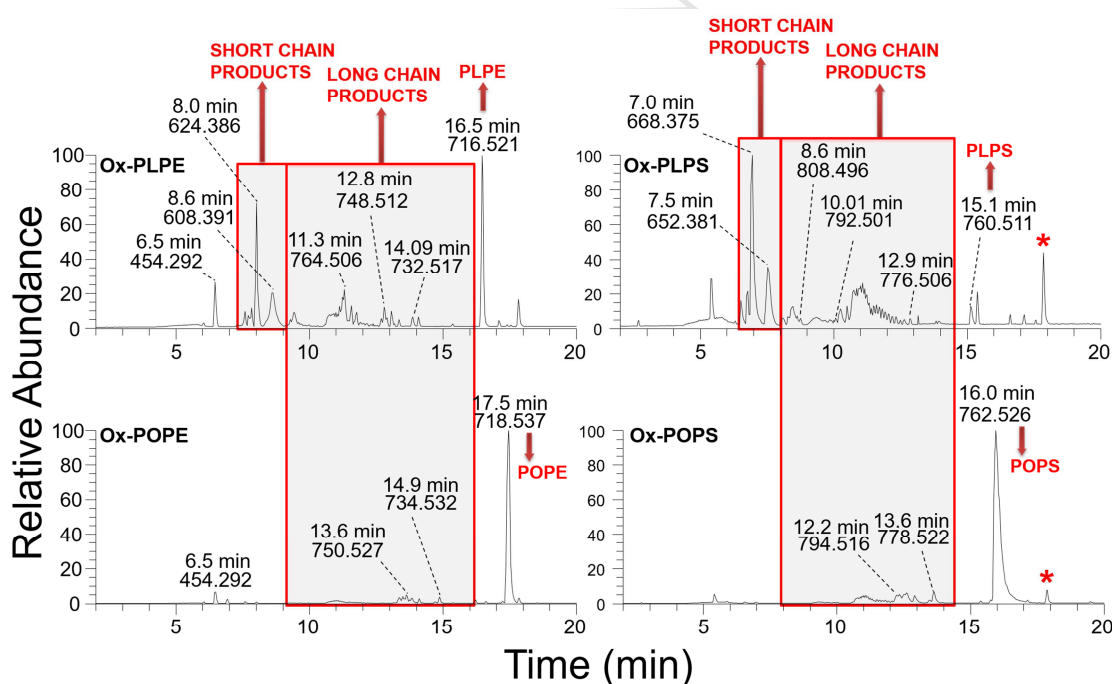
170

in Figure 1. Non-modified APL eluted at the highest RT, between 15.1 - 17.5 min. Modified APL

171

showed different elution profiles and eluted at lower RT when compared with non-modified APL:

172 Mono-hydroxy derivatives (APL+O, mass shift: + 15.995 Da) eluted with an RT between 12.9 -  
 173 14.9 min, hydroperoxy and di-hydroxy derivatives (APL+2O, mass shift: +31.990 Da) eluted  
 174 between 10.1 and 13.6 min, hydroxy-hydroperoxy and tri-hydroxy derivatives (APL+3O, mass  
 175 shift: + 47.985 Da), observed only in ox-PLPS and ox-PLPE, eluted between at 8.6 min and 11.3  
 176 min. Short chain oxidation products were also only observed in ox-PLPS and ox-PLPE, as  
 177 previously reported [32,33,45]. These short chain derivatives, esterified to an oxidatively cleaved  
 178 *sn*-2 fatty acid chain, eluted with the lowest RT, between 6.5 min and 8.0 min (azelaoyl derivative  
 179 at 6.9 min and 9-oxo-nonanoyl derivative at 7.5 min). Non-modified APL esterified to linoleic acid,  
 180 along with their hydroxy, di-hydroxy and hydroperoxy derivatives, eluted on average 1.05 minutes  
 181 before the correspondent species esterified to oleic acid.



182

183 **Figure 1.** Comparison of the LC-MS base peak profiles of PLPE, PLPS, POPE and POPS  
 184 subjected to Fenton reaction for 24 h, acquired in positive ion mode. \*Uncharacterized impurities  
 185 eluting at 18 min.

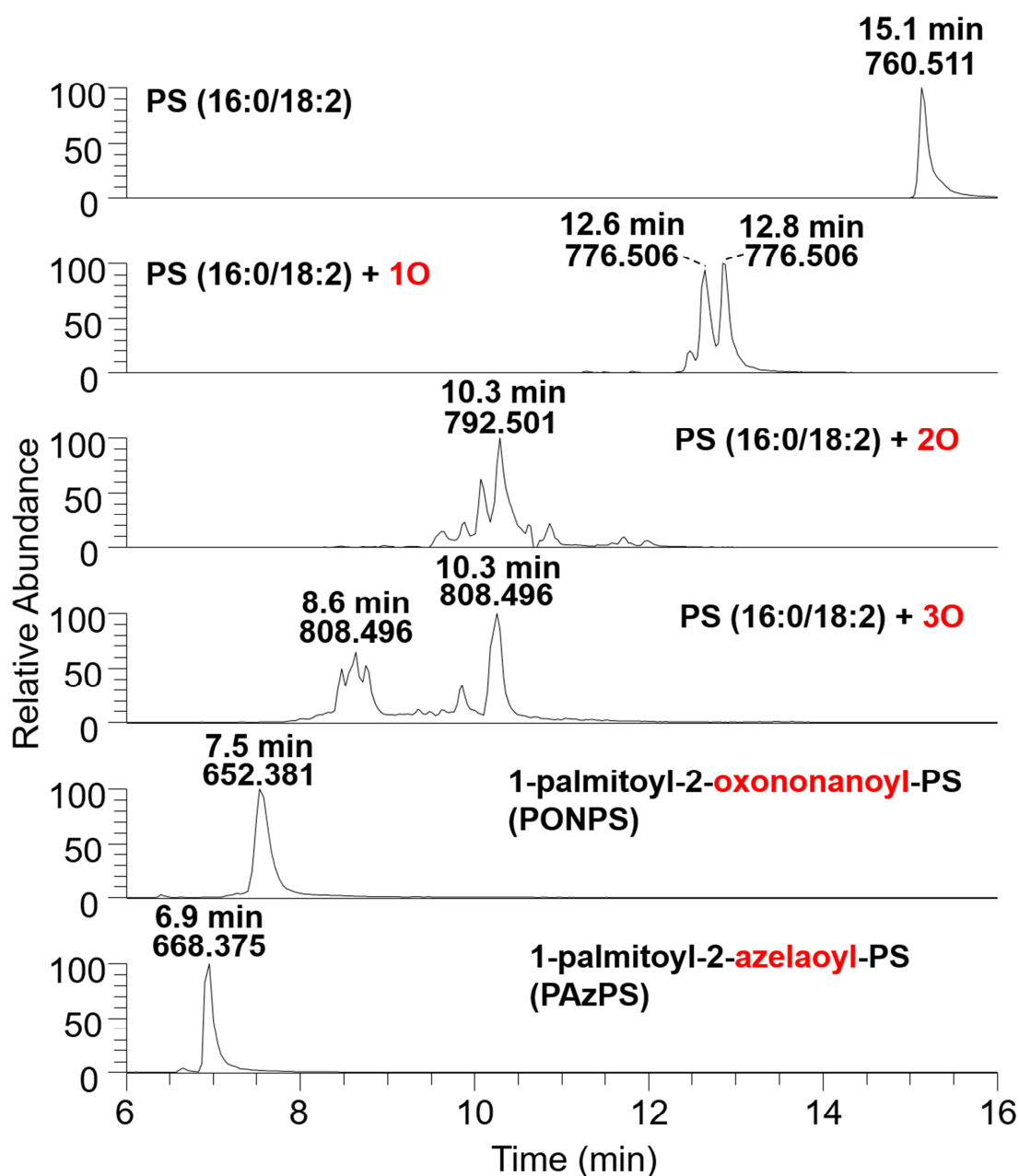
186

187 The extracted ion current (XIC) chromatograms of PLPS and its main oxidation products,  
 187 acquired in positive ion mode, were plotted in Figure 2 as an example. As depicted in Figure 2, the



188 XIC chromatograms plotted for each  $m/z$  of interest often resulted in more than one peak,  
189 suggesting the presence of functional and positional isomers. Whenever the separation of these  
190 isomers was possible using C30 LC, the HCD MS/MS spectra for each isomer were acquired, thus  
191 enabling the analysis of their characteristic fragmentation patterns and the identification of common  
192 and specific product ions.

193



194



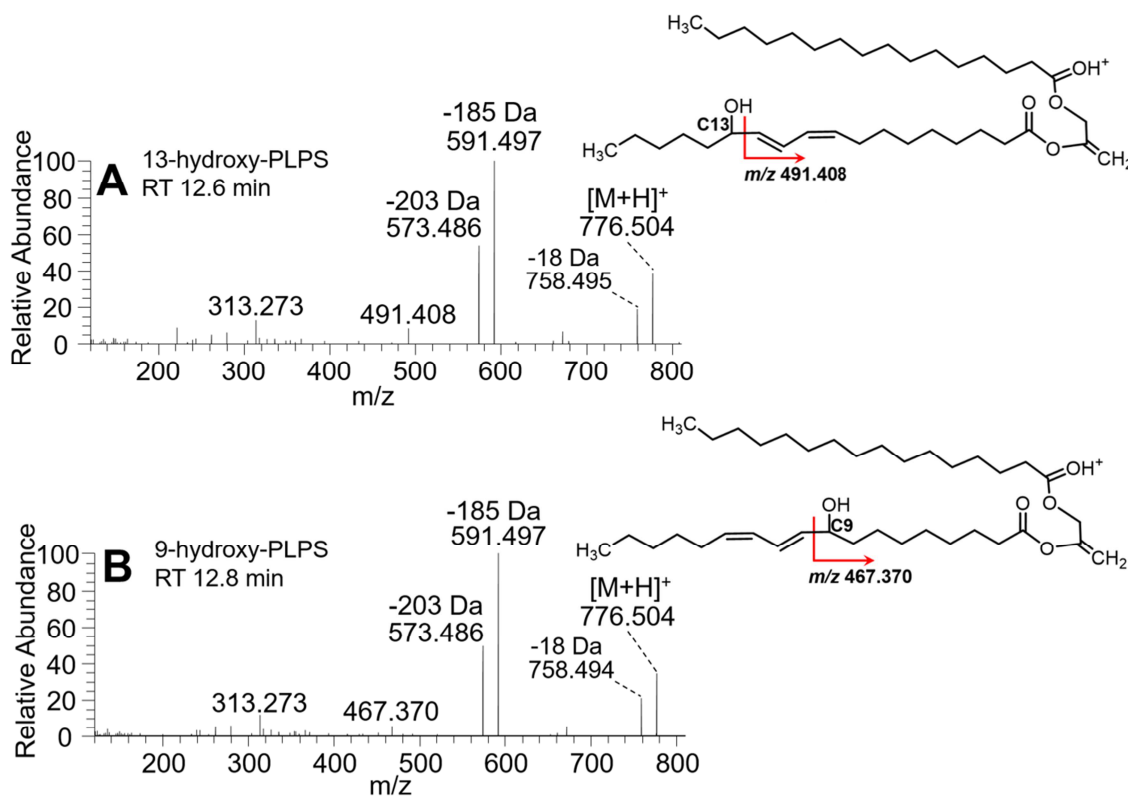
195 **Figure 2.** XIC chromatograms ( $\pm 5$  ppm) of PLPS and its main oxidation products acquired  
196 in positive ion mode.

197

198 *Identification and structural characterisation of different isomers of oxidised APL by HCD-*  
199 *MS/MS*

200 Oxygenated products having the same elemental composition, namely positional or  
201 functional isomers, showed different retention on the C30 column. HCD MS/MS data acquired in  
202 positive ion mode provided information about the type of oxygenated moieties and their position on  
203 the fatty acyl chains. HCD MS/MS acquired in negative ion mode are not described in this  
204 manuscript, since no additional information could be obtained.

205 The hydroxy-PLPS ( $[M+H]^+$ ,  $m/z$  776.506) eluted in two major peaks at 12.6 and 12.8 min,  
206 corresponding to different positional isomers (Figure 2). The MS/MS spectra of the two isomers  
207 (Figure 3), showed ions arising from the neutral loss (NL) of water (18 Da), and combined NL of  
208 water and the phosphoserine polar head (185+18 Da=203 Da) (Table 2).



209

210 **Figure 3.** HCD MS/MS spectra and proposed fragmentation pathways of hydroxy-PLPS  
 211 isomers ( $[M+H]^+$ ,  $m/z$  776.506) that eluted at 12.6 min (A) and 12.8 min (B).

212 In the MS/MS spectra of PLPS+O acquired at 12.6 min (Figure 3A), it is possible to see a  
 213 minor diagnostic product ion at  $m/z$  491.409 indicating the insertion of the hydroxy group at C-13  
 214 (13-hydroxy-PLPS isomer); in the MS/MS spectrum of PLPS+O at 12.8 min (Figure 3B), the minor  
 215 product ion at  $m/z$  467.370 pinpointed the hydroxy group at C-9 (9-hydroxy-PLPS isomer). Product  
 216 ions observed at  $m/z$  491.409 and  $m/z$  467.370 resulted from the cleavage between the carbon  
 217 bearing the hydroxy functional group and the unsaturated carbon in vinylic position, after the NL of  
 218 the polar head (185 Da) [23,32].

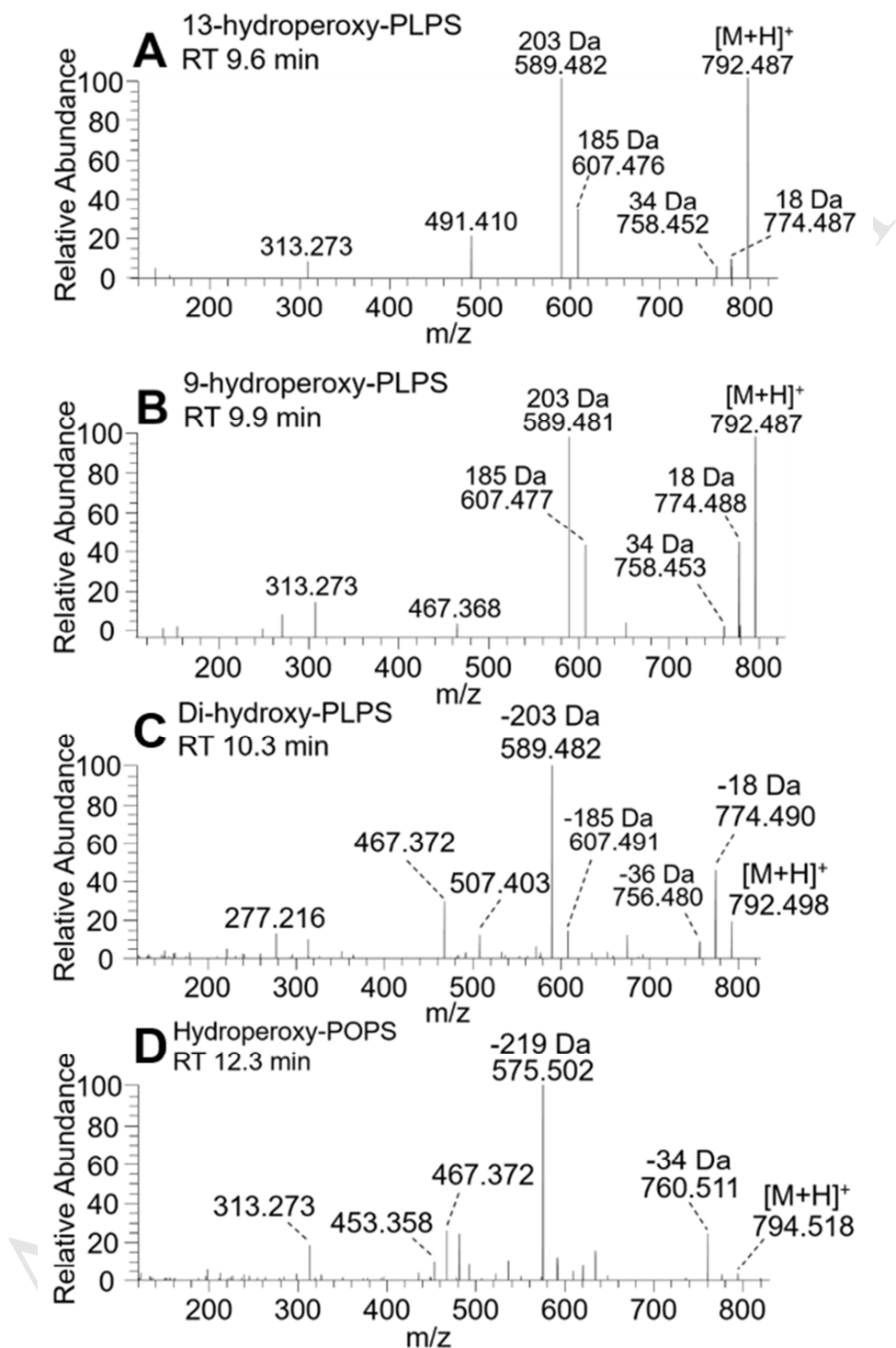
219 Hydroxy-PLPE derivatives ( $[M+H]^+$ ,  $m/z$  732.517) eluted in two major peaks at RT 13.8 min  
 220 and 14.0 min (Supplementary Figure 1). Both MS/MS spectra showed the NL of water (18 Da), NL  
 221 of phosphoethanolamine (141 Da) and the combined NL of water and the phosphoethanolamine  
 222 polar head (141+18 Da) (Table 2). In the MS/MS spectra, it was also possible to observe the

223 diagnostic product ions that suggested the formation of the 13-hydroxy-PLPE ( $m/z$  491.409) and 9-  
224 hydroxy-PLPE ( $m/z$  467.368) isomers, respectively for the isomers that eluted at 13.8 min and 14.0  
225 min (Supplementary Figure 4), as observed for PLPS.

226 Besides positional isomers, oxidation of APL can also lead to the formation of functional  
227 isomers, which occurred for poly-oxygenated APL. PLPS+2O derivatives ( $[M+H]^+$ ,  $m/z$  792.491)  
228 eluted in two minor peaks at RT 9.6 and 9.9 min, and one major peak at RT 10.3 min (Figure 1).  
229 The MS/MS spectra acquired at 9.6 min and 9.9 min showed the NL of the serine polar head (185  
230 Da) and the combined NL of the polar head and water (203 Da) (Figure 4). In both MS/MS spectra,  
231 it was possible to observe the NL of water (18 Da) and the NL of  $H_2O_2$  (34 Da), which confirmed  
232 the presence of the hydroperoxy moiety. The minor diagnostic product ions at  $m/z$  491.410 (Figure  
233 4A) and  $m/z$  467.368 (Figure 4B) indicated that the compounds eluting at RT 9.6 min and 9.9 min  
234 were modified by a hydroperoxy moiety at C-13 and C-9, respectively. The MS/MS spectrum of  
235 PLPS+2O at 10.3 min (Figure 4C) showed the NL of 185 Da, combined NL of water and  
236 phosphoserine (203 Da), and multiple NL of water molecules (18 Da and 36 Da), which overall  
237 indicated the presence of a di-hydroxy-PLPS (Table 2). Additionally, the minor diagnostic product  
238 ions observed at  $m/z$  507.403 and  $m/z$  467.372 indicated the presence of the isomers 12,15-  
239 dihydroxy-PLPS and 9,14-dihydroxy-PLPS, respectively, coeluting at RT 10.3 min.

240 POPS+2O ( $[M+H]^+$ ,  $m/z$  794.518) eluted in one broad peak at 12.3 min (Supplementary  
241 Figure 2). The MS/MS spectrum showed the NL of  $H_2O_2$  (34 Da), which confirmed the formation  
242 of a hydroperoxy derivative (hydroperoxy-POPS), and a product ion formed by the combined NL of  
243  $H_2O_2$  and phosphoserine (219 Da), as base peak (Table 2, Figure 4D). This intense NL of 219 Da  
244 was not observed in the MS/MS spectra of hydroperoxy-PLPS (Figures 4A, 4B), nor in the MS/MS  
245 spectra of di-hydroxy-PLPS (Figure 4C). The minor diagnostic product ions at  $m/z$  453.538 and  $m/z$   
246 467.372 indicated the coelution of two positional isomers, 8-hydroperoxy-POPS and 9-hydroperoxy  
247 POPS, respectively.

248



249

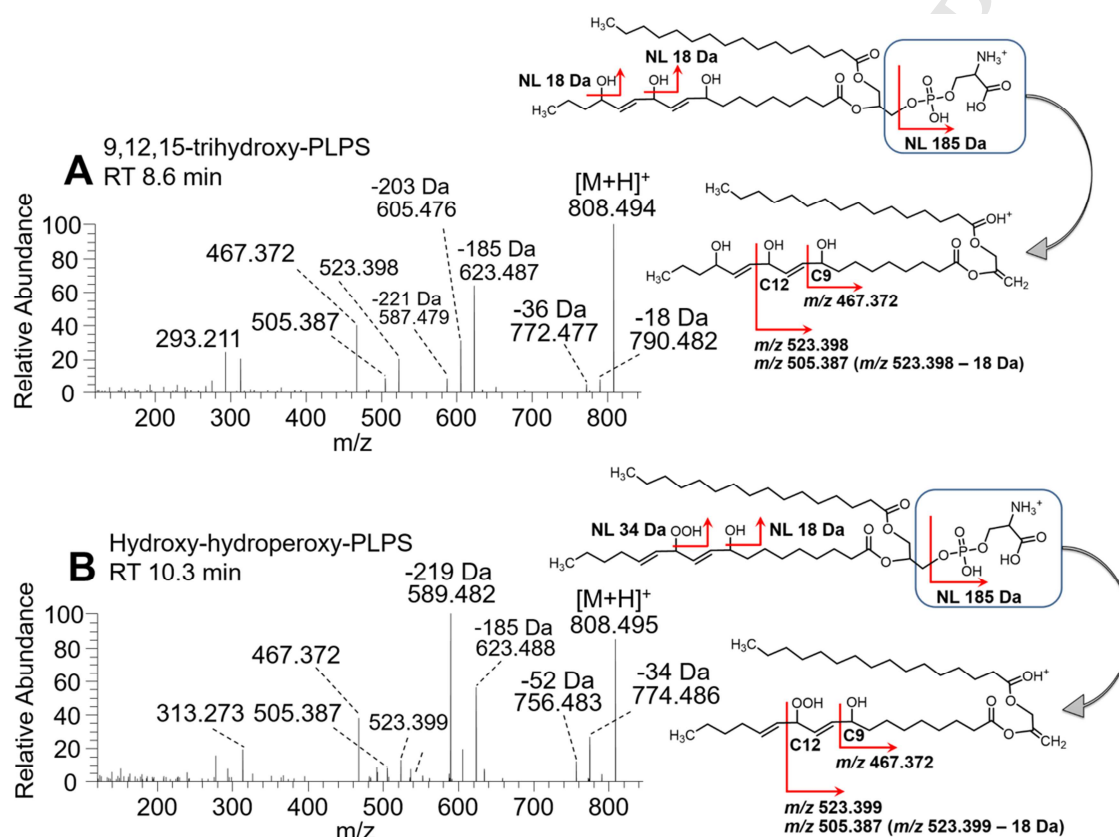
250 **Figure 4.** HCD MS/MS spectra of di-oxygenated PLPS isomers ( $[M+H]^+$ ,  $m/z$  792.501) that  
 251 eluted at 9.6 min (A), 9.9 min (B) and 10.3 min (C) and di-oxygenated POPS ( $[M+H]^+$   $m/z$  794.518)  
 252 that eluted at 12.3 min (D).

253 The PLPE+2O derivatives ( $[M+H]^+$ ,  $m/z$  748.512) eluted in four peaks at RT 11.1, 11.3,  
254 12.8 and 13.1 min (Figure 1). The discrimination of di-hydroxy-PLPE from hydroperoxy-PLPE was  
255 confirmed by the same set of product ions reported for PLPS+2O (Table 2, Supplementary Figures  
256 5 and 6). Using the same approach, the presence of the 9-hydroperoxy positional isomer was also  
257 confirmed at RT 13.1 min (Supplementary Figure 5). The 12,15-dyhydroxy and 9,14-dihydroxy  
258 isomers were also identified at RT 11.1 min and 11.3 min (Supplementary Figure 6). All PLPE+2O  
259 and PLPS+2O species yielded a characteristic and intense product ion formed by the combined NL  
260 of water and the polar head (NL of 203 Da for PS and 159 Da for PE).

261 The POPE+2O derivatives eluted in one broad peak at 13.8 min (Supplementary Figure 3).  
262 The MS/MS spectrum featured the NL of  $H_2O$ ,  $H_2O_2$ , and the combined NL of  $H_2O_2$  and polar head  
263 (NL 175 Da) which confirmed the presence of hydroperoxy-POPE (Table 2, Supplementary Figure  
264 7). The minor diagnostic product ions at  $m/z$  453.357 and  $m/z$  467.372 indicated the coelution of the  
265 8-hydroperoxy and 9-hydroperoxy positional isomers, as described for hydroperoxy-POPS. Overall,  
266 the same positional isomers were found to occur for hydroperoxy-POPS and hydroperoxy-POPE  
267 and these were confirmed with a similar set of product ions.

268 The PLPS+3O derivatives eluted in two major peaks at RT 8.6 and 10.3 min  
269 (Supplementary Figure 1). The MS/MS spectrum acquired at 8.6 min showed the NL of polar head  
270 (185 Da), multiple NL of water molecules (18 Da and 36 Da), and combined NL of phosphoserine  
271 with 1 and 2 water molecules (203 Da and 221 Da, respectively), which overall indicated the  
272 presence of a tri-hydroxy derivative (Table 2, Figure 5A). The diagnostic product ions at  $m/z$   
273 467.372,  $m/z$  505.387 and  $m/z$  523.398 indicated the location of the hydroxy groups at C-9, C-12,  
274 and C-15, respectively (9,12,15-trihydroxy-PLPS isomer). The MS/MS spectrum acquired at 10.3  
275 min showed ions arising from the combined NL of  $H_2O_2$  and phosphoserine (219 Da) as the most  
276 abundant product ions. The NL of phosphoserine (185 Da) was also observed. The NL of  $H_2O_2$  (34  
277 Da), and  $H_2O_2$  and water (52 Da) revealed that this isomer was a hydroxy-hydroperoxy-derivative;

278 the diagnostic product ions at  $m/z$  467.372 pinpointed the hydroxy group at C-9; the diagnostic ions  
 279 at  $m/z$  523.399 suggested the insertion of the hydroperoxy group at C-12, whose loss of  $H_2O$  would  
 280 generate the ions at  $m/z$  505.387 (9-hydroxy-12-hydroperoxy-PLPS) (Figure 5B). However, the data  
 281 does not exclude the formation of the isomer with the hydroxy group at C-12 and the hydroperoxy  
 282 group at C-9.



283

284 **Figure 5.** HCD MS/MS spectra and proposed fragmentation pathways of tri-oxygenated  
 285 PLPS isomer ( $[M+H]^+$ ,  $m/z$  808.496) that eluted at 8.6 min (A) and 10.3 min (B).

286 PLPE+3O derivatives ( $[M+H]^+$ ,  $m/z$  764.506) eluted in two peaks at RT 9.6 and 11.2 min  
 287 (Supplementary Figure 1). The first peak to elute (9.6 min) was 9,12,15-tri-hydroxy-PLPE, which  
 288 MS/MS spectrum included the same set of product ions that were analysed for 9,12,15-tri-hydroxy-  
 289 PLPS (Table 2, Supplementary Figure 8). The ion eluting at 11.2 min was assigned as a 9-hydroxy-  
 290 12-hydroperoxy-PLPE, which also yielded the same ions described above for 9-hydroxy-12-

291 hydroperoxy-PLPS. The same positional isomers (9,12,15-tri-hydroxy- and 9-hydroxy-12-  
292 hydroperoxy-) were formed for both PLPE+3O and PLPS+3O.

293 Each of the short chain oxidation products of PE and PS eluted in one peak, as observed for  
294 1-palmitoyl-2-oxononanoyl-PS (PONPS), 1-palmitoyl-2-azelaoyl-PS (PAzPS), 1-palmitoyl-2-  
295 oxononanoyl-PE (PONPE) and 1-palmitoyl-2-azelaoyl-PE (PAzPE), that eluted at 7.6, 7.0, 8.7 and  
296 8.1 min, respectively (Figure 2, Supplementary Figure 1). The elution of each species in one peak  
297 suggests the presence of only one short chain derivative isomer. The MS/MS spectra of these short  
298 chain products essentially showed the NL of the polar head groups, thus hindering any additional  
299 information on the structure of the oxidatively cleaved fatty acid (Supplementary Figure 9).  
300 However, the MS/MS spectra of PONPE and PONPS showed the NL of H<sub>2</sub>O, indicating the  
301 presence of the terminal aldehydic function.

302

303 **Table 2.** Summary of the most important diagnostic product ions observed in the positive  
304 ion mode HCD MS/MS spectra of oxidised PS and PE. PLPS and PLPE were chosen as an  
305 example.

	PLPS- (OH) ( <i>m/z</i> 776)	PLPS- (OOH) ( <i>m/z</i> 792)	PLPS- (OH) <sub>2</sub> ( <i>m/z</i> 792)	PLPS- (OH)(OOH) ( <i>m/z</i> 808)	PLPS- (OH) <sub>3</sub> ( <i>m/z</i> 808)
NL polar head group (-185 Da)	<i>m/z</i> 591	<i>m/z</i> 607	<i>m/z</i> 607	<i>m/z</i> 623	<i>m/z</i> 623
NL H <sub>2</sub> O (-18 Da)	<i>m/z</i> 758	<i>m/z</i> 774	<i>m/z</i> 774	<i>m/z</i> 790	<i>m/z</i> 790
NL H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> (-34 Da)		<i>m/z</i> 758		<i>m/z</i> 774	
NL <i>n</i> H <sub>2</sub> O ( <i>n</i> =2-3, -36 Da, -54 Da)			<i>m/z</i> 756		<i>m/z</i> 772
NL H <sub>2</sub> O + H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> (-52 Da)				<i>m/z</i> 756	
NL (polar head group + H <sub>2</sub> O) (-203 Da)	<i>m/z</i> 573	<i>m/z</i> 589	<i>m/z</i> 589	<i>m/z</i> 605	<i>m/z</i> 605
NL (polar head group + H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> ) (-219 Da)				<i>m/z</i> 589	
NL polar head group + Cleavage C9-C10	<i>m/z</i> 467 (C9-OH)	<i>m/z</i> 467 (C9-OOH)	<i>m/z</i> 467 (C9-OH)	<i>m/z</i> 467 (C9-OH or C9-OOH)	<i>m/z</i> 467 (C9-OH)
Cleavage C12-C13			<i>m/z</i> 674.4 (C12-OH)		
NL polar head group + Cleavage C12-C13	<i>m/z</i> 491 (C13-OH)	<i>m/z</i> 491 (C13-OOH)	<i>m/z</i> 507 (C12-OH)	<i>m/z</i> 523 (C12-OH or C12-OOH)	<i>m/z</i> 523 (C12-OH)



NL (polar head group + H <sub>2</sub> O) + Cleavage C12-C13				<i>m/z</i> 505 (C12-OH or C12-OOH)	<i>m/z</i> 505 (C12-OH)
NL polar head group + Cleavage C13-C14					
	<b>PLPE-(OH) (<i>m/z</i> 732)</b>	<b>PLPE-(OOH) (<i>m/z</i> 748)</b>	<b>PLPE-(OH)<sub>2</sub> (<i>m/z</i> 748)</b>	<b>PLPE-(OH)(OOH) (<i>m/z</i> 764)</b>	<b>PLPE-(OH)<sub>3</sub> (<i>m/z</i> 764)</b>
NL polar head group (-141 Da)	<i>m/z</i> 591	<i>m/z</i> 607	<i>m/z</i> 607	<i>m/z</i> 623	<i>m/z</i> 623
NL H <sub>2</sub> O (-18 Da)	<i>m/z</i> 714	<i>m/z</i> 730	<i>m/z</i> 730	<i>m/z</i> 746	<i>m/z</i> 746
NL H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> (-34 Da)		<i>m/z</i> 714		<i>m/z</i> 730	
NL <i>n</i> H <sub>2</sub> O ( <i>n</i> =2-3, -36 Da, -54 Da)			<i>m/z</i> 712		<i>m/z</i> 728, <i>m/z</i> 710
NL H <sub>2</sub> O + NL H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> (-52 Da)				<i>m/z</i> 712	
NL polar head group + NL H <sub>2</sub> O (-159 Da)	<i>m/z</i> 573	<i>m/z</i> 589	<i>m/z</i> 589	<i>m/z</i> 605	<i>m/z</i> 605
NL polar head group + NL H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> (-175 Da)		<i>m/z</i> 573		<i>m/z</i> 589	
NL polar head group + Cleavage C9-C10	<i>m/z</i> 467 (C9-OH)	<i>m/z</i> 467 (C9-OOH)	<i>m/z</i> 467 (C9-OH)	<i>m/z</i> 467 (C9-OH or C9-OOH)	<i>m/z</i> 467 (C9-OH)
Cleavage C12-C13		<i>m/z</i> 630.4	<i>m/z</i> 630.4		
NL polar head group + Cleavage C12-C13	<i>m/z</i> 491 (C13-OH)	<i>m/z</i> 507 (C12-OOH)	<i>m/z</i> 507 (C12-OH)	<i>m/z</i> 523 (C12-OH or C12-OOH)	<i>m/z</i> 523 (C12-OH)
NL (polar head group + H <sub>2</sub> O) + Cleavage C12-C13				<i>m/z</i> 505 (C12-OH or C12-OOH)	<i>m/z</i> 505 (C12-OH)
NL polar head group + Cleavage C13-C14		<i>m/z</i> 521 (C13-OOH)			

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### *Separation of glycoxidised derivatives of PLPE, PLPS, POPE and POPS by C30 RP-LC*

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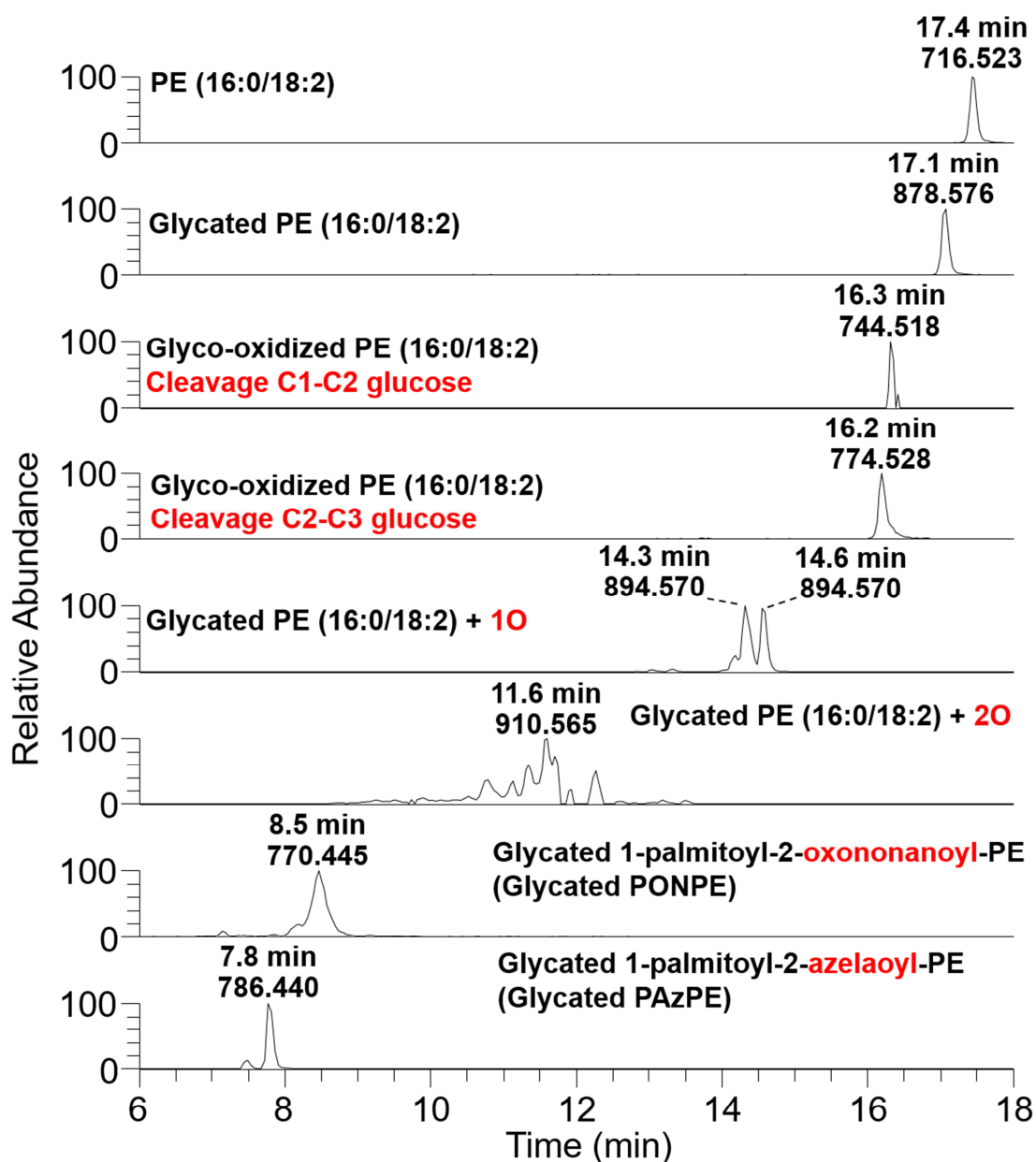
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The XIC of the glycoxidised derivatives of PLPE acquired in positive ion mode were plotted in Figure 6. All the glycoxidation products were found to elute earlier than non-modified PLPE, indicating that glycoxidation always led to an increased polarity of the modified APL. Glycated PLPE (*m/z* 878.576), along with the two glycoxidation products bearing an oxidatively cleaved glucose moiety on the polar head (*m/z* 744.518 and *m/z* 774.528) eluted 0.3 min, 1.1 min and 1.2 min earlier than the non-modified PLPE, respectively. Glycoxidised PLPE products with oxidation on the fatty acyl chains and an intact glucose moiety (*m/z* 894.570, *m/z* 910.565, *m/z* 770.445 and *m/z* 768.440) eluted up to 10 min earlier than the non-modified PLPE. The glycoxidised derivatives of PLPS, POPE and POPS, showed this same trend of RT (Table 1).





317

318 **Figure 6.** XIC chromatograms ( $\pm 5$  ppm) of PLPE and its main glycooxidation products  
 319 acquired in positive ion mode.

320

321 *Identification and structural characterization of glycooxidised APL with oxidation in the*  
 322 *polar head.*

323

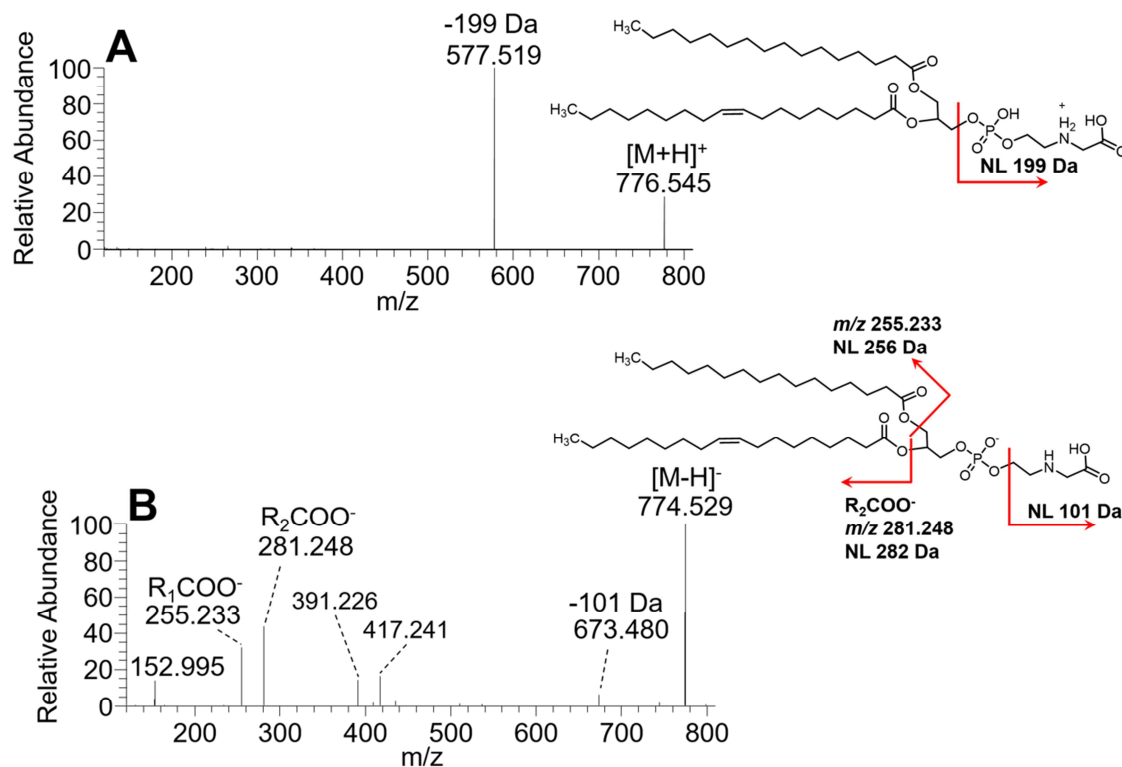
324 Several glycooxidised derivatives of APL with oxidation in the polar head were identified, as  
 summarised in Table 1. These glycooxidation products can be formed by the oxidative cleavage of

325 the glucose moiety adducted to the amino groups of APL, or by the reaction of the products derived  
326 from glucose oxidation (e.g. glyoxal or methylglyoxal) with the free polar head group of APL. In  
327 this last case, the glycoxidised derivatives are referred to as glucose-derived oxidation products.  
328 Regardless of the mechanisms involved, these final oxidation products cannot be discriminated by  
329 MS [20].

330 As described previously, it was not possible to identify glycoxidation occurring in the polar  
331 head for PLPS [37]. For PLPE, glycoxidised products modified in the polar head were only  
332 identified after 48 h of oxidation. Finally, glycoxidized polar head products were identifiable for  
333 POPE and POPS after 24 h Fenton oxidation (Table 1).

334 The MS/MS spectra acquired in positive and negative ion mode of carboxymethyl-POPE,  
335 formed by the oxidative cleavage between C-2 and C-3 of glucose, are shown in Figure 7, as an  
336 example of the fragmentation pattern of these glycoxidised APL. The only product ion observed in  
337 positive ion mode MS/MS spectrum (Figure 7A) was formed by the NL of the  
338 phosphoethanolamine polar head adducted to the carboxymethyl moiety (199 Da). The MS/MS  
339 spectrum in negative ion mode showed a NL of vinylglycine (101 Da) (Figure 7B); the carboxylate  
340 anions of the non-modified fatty acyl chains could be observed ( $R_1COO^-$  and  $R_2COO^-$ ). The  
341 combined NL of vinylglycine with  $R_1COOH$  and  $R_2COOH$  was also observed at  $m/z$  417.241 and  
342  $m/z$  391.226, respectively (Figure 7B) (Table 3).

343



344

345 **Figure 7.** HCD MS/MS spectra and proposed fragmentation pathways of the glycoxidation  
 346 product of POPE formed by the oxidative cleavage between C2 and C3 of glucose (carboxymethyl-  
 347 POPE) that eluted at 17.2 min:  $[M+H]^+$ ,  $m/z$  776.544 (A); and  $[M-H]^-$ ,  $m/z$  774.529 (B).

348

349 *Identification and structural characterisation of glycoxidised APL with oxidised fatty acyl*  
 350 *chains.*

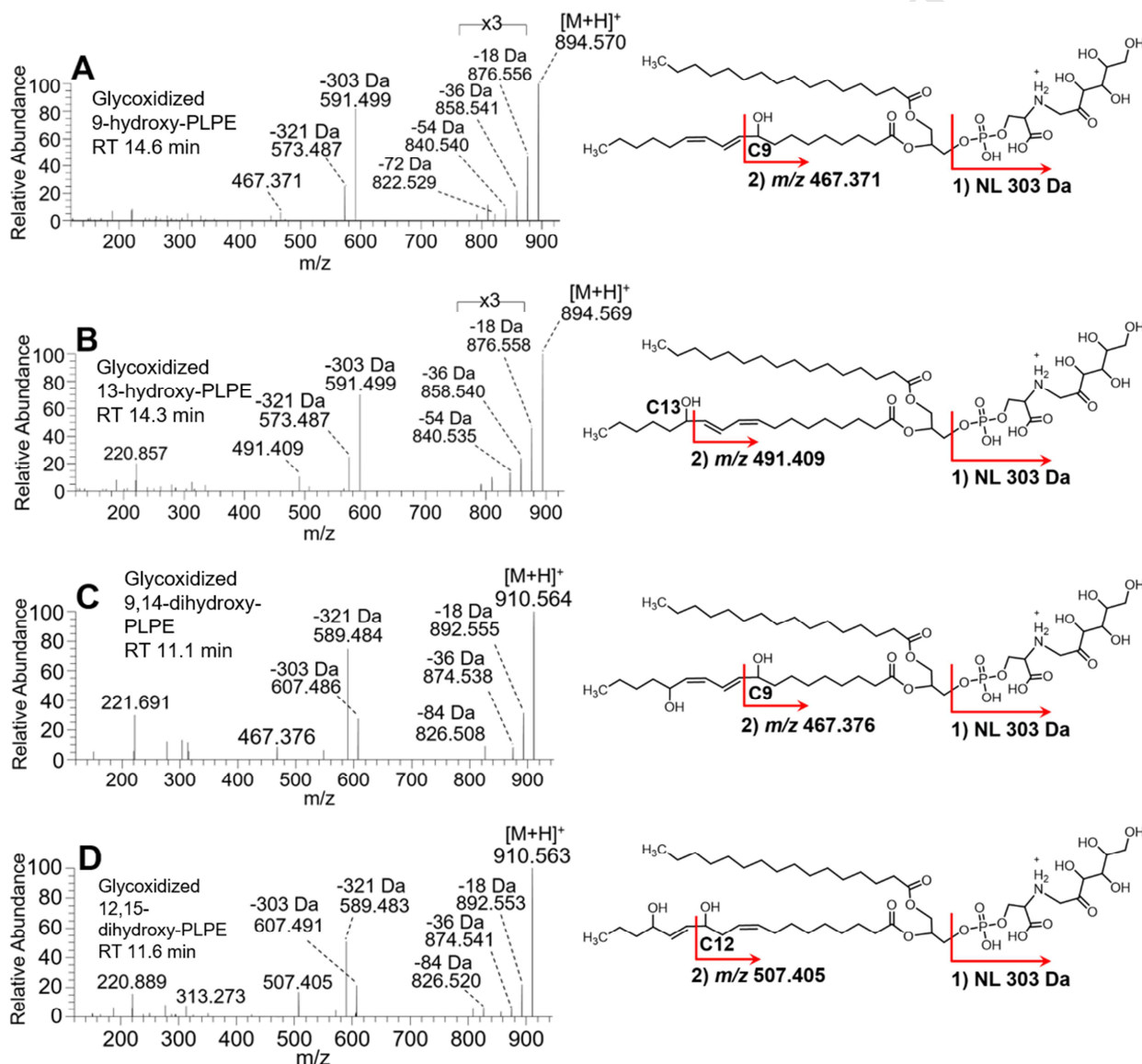
351 Glycoxidized APL bearing the oxidative modification in the fatty acyl chains, but not in the  
 352 polar head groups, were identified in glycated POPE, PLPE and PLPS. The glycoxidised products  
 353 of POPE esterified with oxygenated fatty acyl chains could be identified only after 48 h Fenton  
 354 oxidation. On the other hand, these derivatives were extensively formed during the glycoxidation of  
 355 PLPE. Glycoxidized derivatives of POPS were not observed, while glycoxidation of PLPS  
 356 exclusively led to the formation of glycated PAzPS (Table 1). The positive ion mode MS/MS  
 357 spectrum of glycated PAzPS, acquired at RT 6.2 min, showed the NL of glycated

358 phosphoethanolamine polar head (303 Da) and NL of water. In negative ion mode, the MS/MS  
359 spectra showed the carboxylate anions arising from palmitic acid ( $R_1COO^-$ ) and azelaic acid  
360 ( $R_2'COO^-$ ), along with products ions arising from the NL of glucose (162 Da), and the NL of  
361  $C_4H_8O_4$  (120 Da) (Table 3) [46,47].

362 Glycoxidised PLPE with one hydroxy group on linoleic acid ( $[M+H]^+$ ,  $m/z$  894.571) eluted  
363 in two peaks at RT 14.3 and 14.6 min (Figure 6). The MS/MS spectrum of the derivative at 14.6  
364 min (Figure 8A) showed four NL of water molecules. Three of these NL were due to the  
365 fragmentation of the non-modified glucose moiety [46,47], and the other NL of water was therefore  
366 due to the presence of the hydroxy moiety on the fatty acyl chain. The NL of glycosylated  
367 phosphoethanolamine (303 Da), and glycosylated phosphoethanolamine plus  $H_2O$  (321 Da) were also  
368 observed. The product ions at  $m/z$  467.371 located the hydroxy group at C-9 of the linoleoyl chain,  
369 as reported for hydroxy-PLPE. The MS/MS spectrum of the glycoxidised PLPE derivative at 14.3  
370 min (Figure 8B) showed the same product ions described above for the other isomer, but the  
371 presence of the ion at  $m/z$  491.409 located the hydroxy group at C-13 (Table 3).

372 A glycoxidised derivative with di-oxygenated fatty acyl chain was identified exclusively for  
373 PLPE, glycoxidised PLPE+2O ( $[M+H]^+$ ,  $m/z$  910.566), which eluted in several peaks between RT  
374 10 and 12.5 min (Figure 6). The MS/MS spectrum at 11.1 min (Figure 8C) showed two NL of water  
375 (18 Da, 36 Da), one combined NL of  $H_2CO$  and water (84 Da) and a NL of the glycosylated polar head  
376 (303 Da). The product ion formed by the combined loss of the glycosylated polar head and water (321  
377 Da) was the base peak. Altogether, the fragmentation pattern of glycoxidised PLPE+2O was very  
378 similar to the one reported above for PLPE+2O (Supplementary Figures 5 and 6). The presence of  
379 the consecutive NL of water suggested the formation of a glycoxidised PLPE with two hydroxy  
380 groups on the linoleic acid chain. The absence of a NL of  $H_2O_2$  (34 Da) excluded the presence of a  
381 hydroperoxy group. The product ions at  $m/z$  467.374 located the first hydroxy group at C9,  
382 indicating the formation of the 9,14-dihydroxy-isomer. The MS/MS spectrum of glycoxidised

383 PLPE+2O at 11.6 minutes showed essentially the same product ions as described earlier. However,  
 384 the presence of the product ions at  $m/z$  507.405 suggested the formation of the 12,15-dihydroxy-  
 385 isomer (Figure 8D). The same isomers (9,14-dihydroxy and 12,15-dihydroxy) were observed for di-  
 386 hydroxy-PLPE (Supplementary Figure 6) and di-hydroxy-PLPS (Figure 4) (Table 3).



387

388 **Figure 8.** HCD MS/MS spectra and proposed fragmentation pathways of glycosidised  
 389 PLPE + 1O isomers ( $[M+H]^+$ ,  $m/z$  894.570) that eluted at 14.6 min (A) and 14.3 min (B) and of the  
 390 glycosidised PLPE + 2O isomers ( $[M+H]^+$ ,  $m/z$  910.565) that eluted at 11.1 min (C) and 11.6 min  
 391 (D).

392 **Table 3.** Summary of the most important diagnostic product ions observed in the positive  
 393 ion mode HCD MS/MS spectra of glycoxidised PLPE.

	Glycated PLPE	Formyl-PLPE (Glucose cleavage C1-C2)	Carboxymethyl-PLPE (Glucose cleavage C2-C3)	Glycated PLPE-(OH)	Glycated PLPE-(OH-OH)
NL modified polar head group	<i>m/z</i> 575	<i>m/z</i> 575	<i>m/z</i> 575	<i>m/z</i> 591	<i>m/z</i> 607
NL H <sub>2</sub> O (-18 Da)	<i>m/z</i> 860			<i>m/z</i> 876	<i>m/z</i> 892
NL <i>n</i> H <sub>2</sub> O ( <i>n</i> =2-3, -36 Da, -54 Da)				<i>m/z</i> 858, <i>m/z</i> 840	<i>m/z</i> 874, <i>m/z</i> 858
(1) NL modified polar head group (2) NL H <sub>2</sub> O				<i>m/z</i> 573	<i>m/z</i> 589
(1) NL modified polar head group (2) Cleavage C9-C10				<i>m/z</i> 467 (C9-OH)	<i>m/z</i> 467 (C9-OH)
(1) NL modified polar head group (2) Cleavage C12-C13				<i>m/z</i> 491 (C13-OH)	<i>m/z</i> 507 (C12-OH)

394

### 395 Discussion

396 In the present work, C30 RP-LC-MS and HCD MS/MS were used for the first time to  
 397 separate and identify the structural and functional group isomers of oxidised and glycoxidised APL.  
 398 The structural identification was based on the exact mass measurements, RT, and specific fragment  
 399 ions formed under HCD MS/MS. The retention of modified lipids on the C30 column changed  
 400 clearly with the type of modification, and in some cases with the location of the modifications along  
 401 the fatty acyl chain. Long chain oxidation products of APL eluted earlier than non-modified APL,  
 402 and short chain oxidation products eluted even earlier than long chain products. These observations  
 403 were in accordance with previous studies on RP-LC of oxidised PE [32] and PS [37]. As expected,  
 404 the insertion of more than one oxygen progressively weakened the interaction of the oxidation  
 405 product with the C30 column. Several oxygenated derivatives (APL+ *n*O, *n*= 1-3), were also

406 identified for APL including the APL bearing linoleic acid. It is known that oleic acid is much less  
407 prone to radical oxidation than linoleic acid and other polyunsaturated fatty acids because it lacks  
408 bis-allylic carbons. However, oleic acid has two allylic positions that can react with radicals such as  
409  $\bullet\text{OH}$ , and oxidation products of oleic acid esterified in PC [48], PE [45] and PS [20] were identified  
410 previously. In the case of linoleic acid esterified to phospholipids, the presence of both bis-allylic  
411 and allylic positions allows the abstraction of hydrogens from more than one carbon, and thus the  
412 oxidation in different positions in the same fatty acyl chain. Poly-oxygenated APL esterified to  
413 linoleic acid were already reported *in vitro* [32] and in apoptotic cells [9].

414 The separation of functional isomers was achieved in this work, with hydroxy derivatives  
415 eluting earlier than hydroperoxy APL. Previously, Domingues et al. [32] attained the separation of  
416 hydroperoxy-PLPE and di-hydroxy-PLPE on C5 LC-MS/MS. Later, C5 RP-LC was again proposed  
417 for the chromatographic separation of two isobaric short chain oxidation products of PS, namely a  
418 gamma-hydroperoxy aldehyde and a gamma-hydroxy carboxylic acid [37]. Also, the present C30  
419 LC method attained the separation of positional isomers of several oxidised APL, for example, 9-  
420 hydroxy-PLPS and 13-hydroxy-PLPS, or 9,14-dihydroxy-PLPE and 12,15-dihydroxy-PLPE. A  
421 similar result has never been achieved during the analysis of oxidised APL with C5 columns, but  
422 one study reported the separation of six positional isomers of hydroxy-SAPE using a C18 column  
423 [49].

424 For glycoxidised APL, the oxidative cleavages occurring in the glycated polar head slightly  
425 increased the polarity of the derivatives, which eluted approximately 1 minute earlier than the  
426 correspondent non-modified APL. When the oxidation affected the fatty acyl chain, the  
427 glycoxidised derivatives eluted up to 10 minutes earlier than the non-modified APL. Glycoxidised  
428 APL with a truncated fatty acyl chain were the most polar derivatives, eluting with the lowest RT.  
429 Other studies with C5 LC-MS analysis of both glycoxidised PE [33] and PS [37] observed a similar  
430 trend. In these studies, all the derivatives modified in the fatty acyl chains eluted at lowest RT when



431 compared with the derivatives modified at the glucose moiety or in the polar head. However,  
432 neither of these studies succeeded to resolve positional isomers. Notably, the C30 column achieved  
433 the separation of positional isomers of glycoxidised PLPE bearing oxidative modifications at  
434 distinct positions of the fatty acyl chain.

435 In this work, specific HCD-MS/MS fragmentation patterns were identified for modified  
436 APL, as summarised in Figure 9, that illustrated all the fragmentation pathways observed for  
437 oxidised and glycoxidised PE and PS. The NL of water and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> discriminated functional isomers  
438 as poly-hydroxy-APL and hydroperoxy-APL, as already reported in other studies carried out using  
439 CID as fragmentation method [32,45,48]. Fragments arising from the NL of water and polar heads  
440 (159 Da and 203 Da for PE and PS, respectively) were MS/MS signatures characterising all  
441 hydroxy derivatives. For these molecules, the NL of the polar head (141 Da and 185 Da for PE and  
442 PS, respectively) originated the most abundant fragment ions, as already observed in previous  
443 reports that used CID [5,44]. However, in the case of di-hydroxy and hydroperoxy derivatives, the  
444 base peak in the MS/MS spectra arose from the combined NL of water and polar heads (159 Da and  
445 203 Da for PE and PS, respectively), which appear to be intense MS/MS signatures of all di-  
446 oxygenated derivatives of APL. Finally, the combined NL of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and polar head (175 Da and 219  
447 Da for PE and PS, respectively) were the most abundant MS/MS fragments in all hydroxy-  
448 hydroperoxy APL. The assignment of the position of the oxygenated moieties defining positional  
449 isomers was always achieved using the information from the positive ion mode fragmentation  
450 between the oxygenated carbon and the carbon involved in the double bond in a vinylic position  
451 [23,32].

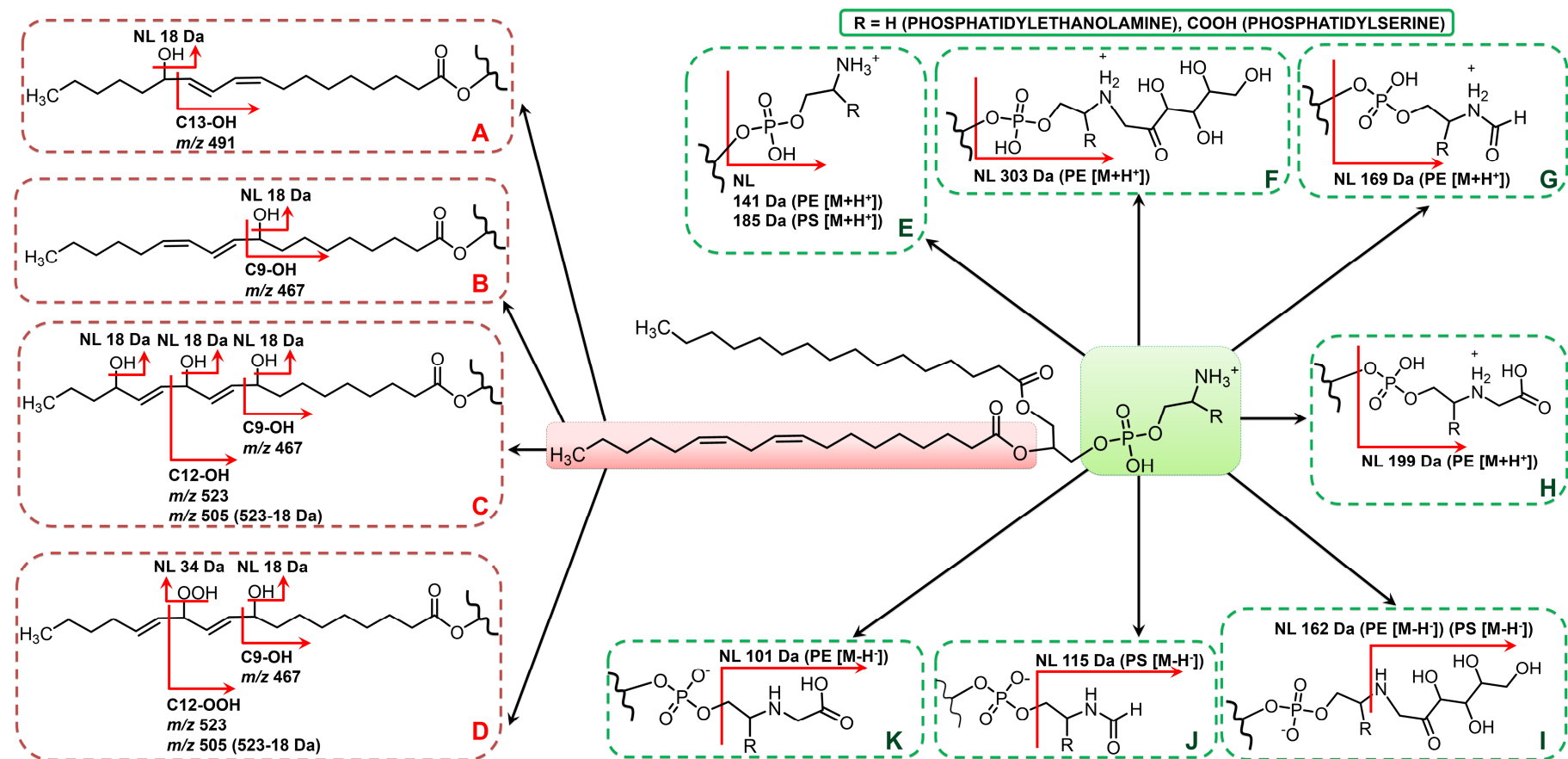
452 Glycoxidized APL with an oxidatively cleaved glucose moiety showed specific positive ion  
453 mode HCD MS/MS fragment ions, formed by the NL of the modified polar head [33,35]. Glycated  
454 PE and glycoxidised PE modified only at the fatty acyl chains showed positive ion mode MS/MS  
455 characteristic fragment ions arising from the NL of glycated phosphoethanolamine (303 Da), along



456 with several NL of water [21,33]. The fragmentation patterns that allowed the assignment of the  
457 position of the functional group along the fatty acyl chain were the same in oxidised and  
458 glycoxidised APL (Tables 2 and 3).

459

ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT



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**Figure 9.** A comprehensive overview of all the fragmentation pathways observed and described in the present work for oxidised and glycoxidised PE and PS. The fragmentation pathways of the oxidative modifications occurring on the unsaturated sn-2 fatty acyl chain (shaded red box) are summarised into dashed red boxes (A-D). The fragmentation pathways of the glycoxidative modifications occurring on the polar head (shaded green box) are summarised into dashed green boxes (E-K). A, NL of H<sub>2</sub>O and fragmentation of the C12-C13 bond (occurs in positive ion

465 mode for 13-hydroxy-PLPE and PLPS after the NL of the polar head). B, NL of H<sub>2</sub>O and fragmentation of the C9-C10 bond (occurs in positive ion  
466 mode for 9-hydroxy-PLPE and PLPS after the NL of the polar head). C, multiple NL of H<sub>2</sub>O and fragmentation of the C9-C10 and C12-C13 bonds  
467 (occurs in positive ion mode for 9,12,15-trihydroxy-PLPE and PLPS after the NL of the polar head). D, NL of H<sub>2</sub>O and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and fragmentation of  
468 the C9-C10 and C12-C13 bonds (occurs in positive ion mode for 9-hydroxy-12-hydroperoxy PLPE and PLPS, and 12-hydroxy-9-hydroperoxy-  
469 PLPE and PLPS, after the NL of the polar head). E, NL of the phosphoethanolamine and phosphoserine polar heads (occurs in positive ion mode for  
470 PE and PS species, respectively). F, NL of the glycated polar head (occurs in positive ion mode for glycated PE species and glycoxidised PE species  
471 with oxidative modifications on the fatty acyl chains). G, NL of modified polar head (occurs in positive ion mode for glycoxidised PE after the  
472 oxidative cleavage of the glucose moiety) (C1-C2). H, NL of modified polar head (occurs in positive ion mode for glycoxidised PE after oxidative  
473 cleavage of the glucose moiety) (C2-C3). I, NL of glucose (occurs in negative ion mode for glycated PE and PS and glycoxidised PE and PS species  
474 with oxidative modifications on the fatty acyl chains). J, NL of 2-formamidoacrylic acid (occurs in negative ion mode for glycoxidised PS after the  
475 oxidative cleavage of the glucose moiety) (C1-C2). K, NL of vinylglycine (occurs in negative ion mode for glycoxidised PE after the cleavage of  
476 the glucose moiety) (C2-C3).

477

478 The potential of C30 LC-MS and MS/MS for the separation and identification of isomers  
479 of modified APL can be further explored to screen for these low abundant lipids in complex  
480 biological samples. Some of the oxidation products identified herein were already detected *in*  
481 *vivo* and reported to have many specific biological roles. Different positional isomers of  
482 oxidized PE (5-hydroxy, 12-hydroxy and 15-hydroxy) formed by lipoxygenase (LOX) were  
483 detected by LC-MS/MS in activated monocytes/macrophages [14–16,50,51], neutrophils [50–  
484 52] and platelets [15,50,51,53,54] and were correlated with blood coagulation [54], modulation  
485 of inflammation [14], and ferroptosis [7], suggesting a structure-activity relationship. Radical-  
486 driven oxidation of APL was also reported to occur in the retina from rats [31], lung from mice  
487 exposed to  $\gamma$  radiation [43], and brain from humans with Alzheimer's disease [17]. Also, radical  
488 oxidised PE and PS were associated with apoptotic cell death [9,55] and with several functions  
489 resulting in a multifaceted modulation of the immune system [11–13,56,57].

### 490 **Conclusions.**

491 Oxidised and glycoxidised PE and PS represent a group of molecules which biological  
492 relevance has been increasingly reported over the last years. However, their analysis still faces  
493 several difficulties, such as the large structural complexity of isomers of modified APL, and  
494 their low relative abundance *in vivo*. In this work, an LC-MS/MS analytical platform comprised  
495 of C30 RP-LC, high-resolution MS, and HCD MS/MS, suitable for lipidomic studies, was  
496 applied for the analysis of oxidised and glycoxidised APL. This LC platform accomplished the  
497 separation of non-modified APL from oxidised and glycoxidised APL, along with with the  
498 separation of functional isomers, and the discrimination of positional isomers of modified APL,  
499 solving the issue of co-eluting species that affected many other previously tested RP-LC  
500 protocols. Fragmentations involving the NL of water and  $H_2O_2$  were MS/MS signatures that  
501 confirmed functional group isomers of oxidised and glycoxidised APL. Specific fragmentations  
502 occurring along the oxidised fatty acyl chains were indicators of the position of the functional

503 group. Overall, the results gathered herein are important in the lipidomic analyses of biological  
504 samples and in the development of new targeted LC-MS/MS methods that can perform highly  
505 accurate, selective and sensitive analysis of oxidised and glycoxidised APL in biological and  
506 clinical samples.

507

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### 521 **Declarations of interest.**

522 None.

### 523 **List of abbreviations.**

524  $\cdot\text{OH}$  Hydroxyl radical

525 APL Aminophospholipid

526	AU	Arbitrary units
527		
528	H <sub>2</sub> O	Water
529	H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	Hydrogen peroxide
530	HCD	Higher-energy C-trap dissociation
531	LC-MS/MS	Liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry
532	NL	Neutral loss
533	PAzPE	1-palmitoyl-2-azelaoyl-PE
534	PAzPS	1-palmitoyl-2-azelaoyl-PS
535	PC	Phosphatidylcholine
536	PE	Phosphatidylethanolamine
537	PLPE	1-palmitoyl-2-linoleoyl-sn-3-glycerophosphoethanolamine
538	PLPS	1-palmitoyl-2-linoleoyl-sn-3-glycerophosphoserine
539	PONPE	1-palmitoyl-2-oxononanoyl-PE
540	PONPS	1-palmitoyl-2-oxononanoyl-PS
541	POPE	1-palmitoyl-2-oleoyl-sn-3-glycerophosphoethanolamine
542	POPS	1-palmitoyl-2-oleoyl-sn-3-glycerophosphoserine
543	PS	Phosphatidylserine
544	ROS	Reactive oxygen species

545	RP	Reversed phase
546	RT	Retention time
547	SAPE	1-stearoyl-2-arachidonoyl-sn-3-glycerophosphoethanolamine
548	XIC	Extracted ion current

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**Analysis of oxidised and glycated aminophospholipids: complete structural characterisation by C30 liquid chromatography-high resolution tandem mass spectrometry**

Highlights

The new highlights are:

- C30 LC-MS allows long- and short-chain oxidation products of APL to be separated
- C30 LC-MS allows glycated APL, oxidised on fatty acids or glucose, to be separated
- C30 LC-MS resolved functional/positional isomers of oxidised and glycoxidised APL
- HCD-MS/MS fragmentation confirmed the identity of each isomer after LC separation