

COMPOSITIONS COMPRISING C5 AND C6 OLIGOSACCHARIDES

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims the benefit of:

U.S. Application No. 61/581,890 filed December 30, 2011;
U.S. Application No. 61/581,878 filed December 30, 2011;
U.S. Application No. 61/581,907 filed December 30, 2011;
U.S. Application No. 61/581,922 filed December 30, 2011;
U.S. Application No. 13/649,343 filed October 11, 2012;
U.S. Application No. 13/649,294 filed October 11, 2012;
U.S. Application No. 13/649,395 filed October 11, 2012; and
U.S. Application No. 13/649,437 filed October 11, 2012;

the entire disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention generally relates to compositions comprising C5 and C6 saccharides of varying degrees of polymerization and/or containing maximum levels of undesirable impurities, such as compounds containing sulfur, nitrogen, or metals, especially those processed from lignocellulosic biomass using supercritical, subcritical, and/or near critical fluid extraction.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] There are a number of processes for converting lignocellulosic biomass into liquid streams of various fermentable sugars. Certain preferred processes are based on supercritical water (SCW) or hot compressed water (HCW) technology, which offer several advantages including high throughputs, use of mixed feedstocks, separation of sugars, and avoidance of concentrated acids, microbial cultures, and enzymes. Processes using hot compressed water may have two distinct operations: pre-treatment and cellulose hydrolysis. The pre-treatment process hydrolyzes the hemicellulose component of the lignocellulosic biomass and cellulose hydrolysis

(CH) process, as its name infers, hydrolyzes the cellulose fibers. The resultant five carbon (C5) and six carbon (C6) sugar streams are recovered separately. The remaining solids, which consist mostly of lignin, are preferably recovered, such as through filtration, and may be used as a fuel to provide thermal energy to the process itself or for other processes.

[0004] Among their many uses, the sugar streams may be converted to ethanol through fermentation using yeast or bacteria that feed on the sugars. As the sugars are consumed, ethanol and carbon dioxide are produced.

[0005] The invention is directed to these compositions, as well as and other important ends.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] In one embodiment, the invention is directed to compositions, comprising:

- at least one water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate, especially those hydrolysates processed from lignocellulosic biomass using supercritical or near critical fluid extraction;
- optionally, at least one water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate; and
- less than about 5250 ppm in total by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of elements;

wherein said elements are Al, As, B, Ba, Be, Ca, Cd, Co, Cr, Cu, Fe, K, Li, Mg, Mn, Mo, Na, Ni, P, Pb, S, Sb, Se, Si, Sn, Sr, Ti, Tl, V, and Zn.

[0007] In another embodiment, the invention is directed to compositions, comprising:

- at least one water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate, especially those hydrolysates processed from lignocellulosic biomass using supercritical or near critical fluid extraction;
- optionally, at least one water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate; and

less than about 10 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of aluminum;

less than about 3000 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of calcium;

less than about 350 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of iron; and

less than about 1000 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of sulfur.

[0008] In other embodiments, the invention is directed to compositions, comprising:

at least one water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate, especially those hydrolysates processed from lignocellulosic biomass using supercritical or near critical fluid extraction;

optionally, at least one water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate; and

less than about 10 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of aluminum.

[0009] In a further embodiment, the invention is directed to compositions, comprising:

at least one water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate, especially those hydrolysates processed from lignocellulosic biomass using supercritical or near critical fluid extraction;

optionally, at least one water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate; and

less than about 3000 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of calcium.

[0010] In yet other embodiments, the invention is directed to compositions, comprising:

at least one water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate, especially those hydrolysates processed from lignocellulosic biomass using supercritical or near critical fluid extraction;

optionally, at least one water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate; and

less than about 350 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of iron.

[0011] In another embodiment, the invention is directed to compositions, comprising:

at least one water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate, especially those hydrolysates processed from lignocellulosic biomass using supercritical or near critical fluid extraction;

optionally, at least one water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate; and

less than about 1000 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of sulfur.

[0012] In yet another embodiment, the invention is directed to compositions, comprising:

about 10% by weight to about 25% by weight, based on total weight of C6 saccharides present in said composition, of C6 disaccharides;

about 10% by weight to about 25% by weight, based on total weight of C6 saccharides present in said composition, of C6 trisaccharides;

about 10% by weight to about 25% by weight, based on total weight of C6 saccharides present in said composition, of C6 tetrasaccharides;

about 10% by weight to about 25% by weight, based on total weight of C6 saccharides present in said composition, of C6 pentasaccharides; and

about 10% by weight to about 50% by weight, based on total weight of C6 saccharides present in said composition, of C6 saccharides having at a degree of polymerization of at least about 6.

[0013] In further embodiments, the invention is directed to compositions, comprising:

about 80% by weight to about 95% by weight, based on total weight of C6 saccharides present in said composition, of water-soluble C6 oligosaccharides;

wherein said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharides have a degree of polymerization of about 2 to about 15.

[0014] In other embodiments, the invention is directed to compositions, comprising:

at least one water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate, especially those hydrolysates processed from lignocellulosic biomass using supercritical or near critical fluid extraction;

optionally, at least one water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate; and

less than about 3700 ppm in total by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of elements;

wherein said elements are Al, As, B, Ba, Be, Ca, Cd, Co, Cr, Cu, Fe, K, Li, Mg, Mn, Mo, Na, Ni, P, Pb, S, Sb, Se, Si, Sn, Sr, Ti, Tl, V, and Zn.

[0015] In one embodiment, the invention is directed to compositions, comprising:

at least one water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate, especially those hydrolysates processed from lignocellulosic biomass using supercritical or near critical fluid extraction;

optionally, at least one water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate; and

less than about 10 ppm by weight, based on the total weight of C5 saccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of aluminum;

less than about 2300 ppm by weight, based on the total weight of C5 saccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of calcium;

less than about 50 ppm by weight, based on the total weight of C5 saccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of iron; and

less than about 150 ppm by weight, based on the total weight of C5 saccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of sulfur.

[0016] In further embodiments, the invention is directed to compositions, comprising:

at least one water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate, especially those hydrolysates processed from lignocellulosic biomass using supercritical or near critical fluid extraction;

optionally, at least one water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate; and
less than about 10 ppm, based on total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of aluminum.

[0017] In yet further embodiments, the invention is directed to compositions, comprising:

at least one water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate, especially those hydrolysates processed from lignocellulosic biomass using supercritical or near critical fluid extraction;

optionally, at least one water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate; and
less than about 2300 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of calcium.

[0018] In another embodiment, the invention is directed to compositions, comprising:

at least one water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate, especially those hydrolysates processed from lignocellulosic biomass using supercritical or near critical fluid extraction;

optionally, at least one water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate; and
less than about 50 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of iron.

[0019] In yet another embodiment, the invention is directed to compositions, comprising:

at least one water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate, especially those hydrolysates processed from lignocellulosic biomass using supercritical or near critical fluid extraction;

optionally, at least one water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate; and

less than about 150 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of sulfur.

[0020] In certain embodiments, the invention is directed to methods of reducing the level of enzyme required for enzymatically hydrolyzing first water-soluble C6 saccharides having an average degree of polymerization to about 2 to about 15, preferably about 2 to about 10, and more preferably about 2 to about 6, to second water-soluble C6 saccharides having a lower average degree of polymerization than said average degree of polymerization of said first water-soluble C6 saccharides, comprising:

providing a hydrolysate comprising said first water-soluble C6 saccharides and less than about 5250 ppm in total, based on total weight of water-soluble C6 saccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of elements;

wherein said elements are Al, As, B, Ba, Be, Ca, Cd, Co, Cr, Cu, Fe, K, Li, Mg, Mn, Mo, Na, Ni, P, Pb, S, Sb, Se, Si, Sn, Sr, Ti, Tl, V, and Zn.

[0021] In certain embodiments, the invention is directed to methods of reducing the level of enzyme required for enzymatically hydrolyzing first water-soluble C5 saccharides having an average degree of polymerization to about 2 to about 28, preferably about 2 to about 15, more preferably about 2 to about 13, even more preferably about 2 to about 6, to second water-soluble C5 saccharides having a lower average degree of polymerization than said average degree of polymerization of said first water-soluble C5 saccharides, comprising:

providing a hydrolysate comprising said first water-soluble C5 saccharides and less than about 3700 ppm in total, based on total weight of water-soluble C5 saccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of elements;

wherein said elements are Al, As, B, Ba, Be, Ca, Cd, Co, Cr, Cu, Fe, K, Li, Mg, Mn, Mo, Na, Ni, P, Pb, S, Sb, Se, Si, Sn, Sr, Ti, Tl, V, and Zn.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0022] The accompanying drawings, which are included to provide a further understanding of the invention and are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification, illustrate embodiments of the invention and together with the description serve to explain the principles of the invention. In the drawings:

[0023] FIGURE 1A is a scan from a DIONEX high pressure liquid chromatography device with an electrochemical detector of a C6 oligosaccharide composition of one embodiment of the invention.

[0024] FIGURE 1B is a scan from a DIONEX high pressure liquid chromatography device with an electrochemical detector of a C6 oligosaccharide composition of one embodiment of the invention.

[0025] FIGURE 2A is a scan from a DIONEX high pressure liquid chromatography device with an electrochemical detector of a C5 oligosaccharide composition of one embodiment of the invention.

[0026] FIGURE 2B is a scan from a DIONEX high pressure liquid chromatography device with an electrochemical detector of a C5 oligosaccharide composition of one embodiment of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0027] As employed above and throughout the disclosure, the following terms, unless otherwise indicated, shall be understood to have the following meanings.

[0028] As used herein, the singular forms "a," "an," and "the" include the plural reference unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

[0029] While the present invention is capable of being embodied in various forms, the description below of several embodiments is made with the understanding that the present disclosure is to be considered as an exemplification of the invention, and

is not intended to limit the invention to the specific embodiments illustrated. Headings are provided for convenience only and are not to be construed to limit the invention in any manner. Embodiments illustrated under any heading may be combined with embodiments illustrated under any other heading.

[0030] The use of numerical values in the various quantitative values specified in this application, unless expressly indicated otherwise, are stated as approximations as though the minimum and maximum values within the stated ranges were both preceded by the word "about." In this manner, slight variations from a stated value can be used to achieve substantially the same results as the stated value. Also, the disclosure of ranges is intended as a continuous range including every value between the minimum and maximum values recited as well as any ranges that can be formed by such values. Also disclosed herein are any and all ratios (and ranges of any such ratios) that can be formed by dividing a recited numeric value into any other recited numeric value. Accordingly, the skilled person will appreciate that many such ratios, ranges, and ranges of ratios can be unambiguously derived from the numerical values presented herein and in all instances such ratios, ranges, and ranges of ratios represent various embodiments of the present invention.

[0031] As used herein, the phrase "substantially free" means have no more than about 1%, preferably less than about 0.5%, more preferably, less than about 0.1%, by weight of a component, based on the total weight of any composition containing the component.

[0032] A supercritical fluid is a fluid at a temperature above its critical temperature and at a pressure above its critical pressure. A supercritical fluid exists at or above its "critical point," the point of highest temperature and pressure at which the liquid and vapor (gas) phases can exist in equilibrium with one another. Above critical pressure and critical temperature, the distinction between liquid and gas phases disappears. A supercritical fluid possesses approximately the penetration properties of a gas simultaneously with the solvent properties of a liquid. Accordingly, supercritical fluid extraction has the benefit of high penetrability and good solvation.

[0033] Reported critical temperatures and pressures include: for pure water, a critical temperature of about 374.2°C, and a critical pressure of about 221 bar; for carbon dioxide, a critical temperature of about 31°C and a critical pressure of about 72.9 atmospheres (about 1072 psig). Near critical water has a temperature at or above about 300°C and below the critical temperature of water (374.2°C), and a pressure high enough to ensure that all fluid is in the liquid phase. Sub-critical water has a temperature of less than about 300°C and a pressure high enough to ensure that all fluid is in the liquid phase. Sub-critical water temperature may be greater than about 250°C and less than about 300°C, and in many instances sub-critical water has a temperature between about 250°C and about 280°C. The term “hot compressed water” is used interchangeably herein for water that is at or above its critical state, or defined herein as near-critical or sub-critical, or any other temperature above about 50°C (preferably, at least about 100°C) but less than subcritical and at pressures such that water is in a liquid state.

[0034] As used herein, a fluid which is “supercritical” (e.g. supercritical water, supercritical CO₂, etc.) indicates a fluid which would be supercritical if present in pure form under a given set of temperature and pressure conditions. For example, “supercritical water” indicates water present at a temperature of at least about 374.2°C and a pressure of at least about 221 bar, whether the water is pure water, or present as a mixture (e.g. water and ethanol, water and CO₂, etc). Thus, for example, “a mixture of sub-critical water and supercritical carbon dioxide” indicates a mixture of water and carbon dioxide at a temperature and pressure above that of the critical point for carbon dioxide but below the critical point for water, regardless of whether the supercritical phase contains water and regardless of whether the water phase contains any carbon dioxide. For example, a mixture of sub-critical water and supercritical CO₂ may have a temperature of about 250°C to about 280°C and a pressure of at least about 225 bar.

[0035] As used herein, “lignocellulosic biomass or a component part thereof” refers to plant biomass containing cellulose, hemicellulose, and lignin from a variety of sources, including, without limitation (1) agricultural residues (including corn stover and sugarcane bagasse), (2) dedicated energy crops, (3) wood residues (including hardwoods, softwoods, sawmill and paper mill discards), and (4) municipal waste,

and their constituent parts including without limitation, lignocellulose biomass itself, lignin, C₆ saccharides (including cellulose, cellobiose, C₆ oligosaccharides, C₆ monosaccharides, C₅ saccharides (including hemicellulose, C₅ oligosaccharides, and C₅ monosaccharides), and mixtures thereof.

[0036] As used herein, "ash" refers to the non-aqueous residue that remains after a sample is burned, and consists mostly of metal oxides. Ash content may be measured in accordance with ASTM Standard Method No. E1755-01 "Standard Method for the Determination of Ash in Biomass." This test method covers the determination of ash, expressed as the percentage of residue remaining after dry oxidation at 550 to 600°C. All results are reported relative to the 105°C oven dry weight of the sample." See also: <http://www.nrel.gov/biomass/pdfs/42622.pdf> and <http://www.astm.org/Standards/E1755.htm>, which are both incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

[0037] As used herein, "degree of polymerization" refers to the number of monomeric units in a macromolecule or polymer or oligomer molecule, including those monomeric units that are not identical (such as in a oligomer with different monomeric residues). The degree of polymerization (DP) of the various saccharides in the compositions of the invention may be measured using gel permeation chromatography (GPC), high pressure liquid chromatography (HPLC), such as DIONEX with an electrochemical detector, matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight (MALDI-TOF) mass spectrometry, or other conventional molecular weight determination methods.

C6 Saccharides

[0038] Accordingly, in one embodiment, the invention is directed to compositions, comprising C₆ saccharides. In particular embodiments, the compositions comprise:

- at least one water-soluble C₆ oligosaccharide hydrolysate;
- optionally, at least one water-soluble C₆ monosaccharide hydrolysate; and
- less than about 5250 ppm in total by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C₆ oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C₆ monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of elements;

wherein said elements are Al, As, B, Ba, Be, Ca, Cd, Co, Cr, Cu, Fe, K, Li, Mg, Mn, Mo, Na, Ni, P, Pb, S, Sb, Se, Si, Sn, Sr, Ti, Tl, V, and Zn.

In certain embodiments, the elements are present at a level of less than about 5100 ppm in total by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition.

[0039] In another embodiment, the invention is directed to compositions, comprising:

- at least one water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate;
- optionally, at least one water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate; and
- less than about 10 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of aluminum;

- less than about 3000 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of calcium;

- less than about 350 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of iron; and

- less than about 1000 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of sulfur.

In certain preferred embodiments, such compositions further comprise:

- less than about 5250 ppm in total by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of elements;

- wherein said elements are Al, As, B, Ba, Be, Ca, Cd, Co, Cr, Cu, Fe, K, Li, Mg, Mn, Mo, Na, Ni, P, Pb, S, Sb, Se, Si, Sn, Sr, Ti, Tl, V, and Zn.

[0040] In other embodiments, the invention is directed to compositions, comprising:

- at least one water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate;
- optionally, at least one water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate; and

less than about 10 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of aluminum.

In certain preferred embodiments, such compositions further comprise:

less than about 5250 ppm in total by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of elements;

wherein said elements are Al, As, B, Ba, Be, Ca, Cd, Co, Cr, Cu, Fe, K, Li, Mg, Mn, Mo, Na, Ni, P, Pb, S, Sb, Se, Si, Sn, Sr, Ti, Tl, V, and Zn.

[0041] In a further embodiment, the invention is directed to compositions, comprising:

at least one water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate;

optionally, at least one water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate; and

less than about 3000 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of calcium.

In certain preferred embodiments, such compositions further comprise:

less than about 5250 ppm in total by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of elements;

wherein said elements are Al, As, B, Ba, Be, Ca, Cd, Co, Cr, Cu, Fe, K, Li, Mg, Mn, Mo, Na, Ni, P, Pb, S, Sb, Se, Si, Sn, Sr, Ti, Tl, V, and Zn.

[0042] In yet other embodiments, the invention is directed to compositions, comprising:

at least one water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate;

optionally, at least one water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate; and

less than about 350 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of iron.

In certain preferred embodiments, such compositions further comprise:

less than about 5250 ppm in total by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of elements;

wherein said elements are Al, As, B, Ba, Be, Ca, Cd, Co, Cr, Cu, Fe, K, Li, Mg, Mn, Mo, Na, Ni, P, Pb, S, Sb, Se, Si, Sn, Sr, Ti, Tl, V, and Zn.

[0043] In another embodiment, the invention is directed to compositions, comprising:

at least one water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate;

optionally, at least one water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate; and

less than about 1000 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of sulfur.

In certain preferred embodiments, such compositions further comprise:

less than about 5250 ppm in total by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of elements;

wherein said elements are Al, As, B, Ba, Be, Ca, Cd, Co, Cr, Cu, Fe, K, Li, Mg, Mn, Mo, Na, Ni, P, Pb, S, Sb, Se, Si, Sn, Sr, Ti, Tl, V, and Zn.

[0044] In certain embodiments, the water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate has a degree of polymerization of about 2 to about 15. In other embodiments, water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate has a degree of polymerization of about 2 to about 13. In other embodiments, water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate has a degree of polymerization of about 2 to about 10. In other embodiments, water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate has a degree of polymerization of about 2 to about 6.

[0045] In certain embodiments, the compositions further comprise at least one water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate.

[0046] In certain embodiments, the water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate is glucose, galactose, mannose, fructose, or a mixture thereof.

[0047] In certain embodiments, the compositions further comprise less than about 10 ppm, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of aluminum, preferably less than about 5 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of aluminum.

[0048] In certain embodiments, the compositions further comprise less than about 3000 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of calcium, preferably less than about 2950 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of calcium.

[0049] In certain embodiments, the compositions further comprise less than about 350 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of iron, preferably less than about 325 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of iron.

[0050] In certain embodiments, the compositions further comprise less than about 1000 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of sulfur, preferably less than about 975 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of sulfur.

[0051] In certain embodiments, wherein the ratio of the total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate to said elements is greater than about 45:1, preferably greater than about 47:1.

[0052] In certain embodiments, the level of said elements are measured by inductively coupled plasma emission spectroscopy.

[0053] In other embodiments, the compositions less than about 1500 mg of nitrogen per kg of total weight of water-soluble C6 saccharides, preferably less than about 1450 mg of nitrogen per kg of total weight of water-soluble C6 saccharides. Nitrogen may be measured by thermal conductivity detection after combustion and reduction.

[0054] In yet other embodiments of the compositions, the weight ratio of the collective mass of hydrogen and nitrogen to mass of carbon present in said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate is less than about 0.14. Carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen levels may be measured by thermal conductivity detection after combustion and reduction.

[0055] In certain other embodiments, the compositions comprising the C6 saccharides further comprise less than a maximum of any of the elements, individually or in combination, in the table listed below:

Element	Level less than about (ppm or mg of element/kg of C6 saccharides)
As	0.5
B	0.7
Ba	2.6
Be	0.05
Cd	0.10
Co	0.05
Cr	0.17
Cu	1.2
K	130
Li	0.05
Mg	180
Mn	15.0
Mo	0.7
Na	375
Ni	0.9
P	12.0
Pb	0.3
Sb	0.3

Element	Level less than about (ppm or mg of element/kg of C6 saccharides)
Se	0.6
Si	85.0
Sn	0.25
Sr	5.0
Ti	0.05
Tl	0.7
V	0.05
Zn	65

[0056] In another embodiment, the compositions comprise:

about 80% by weight to about 95% by weight, based on total weight of C6 saccharides present in said composition, of water-soluble C6 oligosaccharides;

wherein said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharides have a degree of polymerization of about 2 to about 15.

In certain embodiments, said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharides are present at a level of about 80% by weight to about 92.5% by weight, based on total weight of C6 saccharides present in said composition. In certain embodiments of the composition, said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharides have a degree of polymerization of about 2 to about 13, preferably, about 2 to about 10, and more preferably about 2 to about 6. In certain embodiments, the compositions further comprise about 5% by weight to about 20% by weight, based on total weight of C6 saccharides present in said composition, of C6 monosaccharides.

[0057] In certain embodiments of the compositions described herein, said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate comprises:

about 10% by weight to about 25% by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of C6 disaccharides;

about 10% by weight to about 25% by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of C6 trisaccharides;

about 10% by weight to about 25% by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of C6 tetrasaccharides;

about 10% by weight to about 25% by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of C6 pentasaccharides; and

about 10% by weight to about 50% by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of C6 saccharides having at a degree of polymerization of at least about 6.

In certain embodiments, the compositions further comprise:

about 5% by weight to about 20% by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of C6 monosaccharides.

In certain embodiments, the compositions further comprise:

about 7.5% by weight to about 20% by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of C6 monosaccharides.

[0058] In other embodiments, the compositions comprise:

about 10% by weight to about 25% by weight, based on total weight of C6 saccharides present in said composition, of C6 disaccharides;

about 10% by weight to about 25% by weight, based on total weight of C6 saccharides present in said composition, of C6 trisaccharides;

about 10% by weight to about 25% by weight, based on total weight of C6 saccharides present in said composition, of C6 tetrasaccharides;

about 10% by weight to about 25% by weight, based on total weight of C6 saccharides present in said composition, of C6 pentasaccharides; and

about 10% by weight to about 50% by weight, based on total weight of C6 saccharides present in said composition, of C6 saccharides having at a degree of polymerization of at least about 6.

[0059] In other embodiments of the compositions, said C6 disaccharides are present at a level of about 10% by weight to about 20% by weight, based on total weight of C6 saccharides present in said composition.

[0060] In other embodiments of the compositions, said C6 trisaccharides are present at a level of about 10% by weight to about 20% by weight, based on total weight of C6 saccharides present in said composition.

[0061] In other embodiments of the compositions, said C6 tetrasaccharides are present at a level of about 10% by weight to about 20% by weight, based on total weight of C6 saccharides present in said composition.

[0062] In other embodiments of the compositions, said C6 pentasaccharides are present at a level of about 10% by weight to about 20% by weight, based on total weight of C6 saccharides present in said composition.

[0063] In other embodiments of the compositions, said C6 saccharides having at a degree of polymerization of at least about 6 are present at a level of about 10% by weight to about 20% by weight, based on total weight of C6 saccharides present in said composition.

[0064] In other embodiments, the compositions further comprise:

about 5% by weight to about 20% by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of C6 monosaccharides.

In certain embodiments, the compositions further comprise about 7.5% by weight to about 20% by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of C6 monosaccharides.

[0065] In other embodiments, the compositions further comprise water.

[0066] In certain embodiments, the water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and the water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate are processed from lignocellulosic biomass using supercritical, subcritical, or near critical fluid extraction, or a combination thereof.

C5 Saccharides

[0067] Accordingly, in one embodiment, the invention is directed to compositions, comprising C5 oligosaccharides. In particular, the compositions comprise:

- at least one water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate;
- optionally, at least one water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate; and
- less than about 3700 ppm in total by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of elements;

wherein said elements are Al, As, B, Ba, Be, Ca, Cd, Co, Cr, Cu, Fe, K, Li, Mg, Mn, Mo, Na, Ni, P, Pb, S, Sb, Se, Si, Sn, Sr, Ti, Tl, V, and Zn.

[0068] In one embodiment, the invention is directed to compositions, comprising:

- at least one water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate;
- optionally, at least one water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate; and
- less than about 10 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of aluminum;

- less than about 2300 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of calcium;

- less than about 50 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of iron; and

- less than about 150 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of sulfur.

In certain embodiments, the elements are present at a level of less than about 3610 ppm in total by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition.

[0069] In further embodiments, the invention is directed to compositions, comprising:

at least one water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate;
optionally, at least one water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate; and
less than about 10 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of aluminum.

[0070] In yet further embodiments, the invention is directed to compositions, comprising:

at least one water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate;
optionally, at least one water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate; and
less than about 2300 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of calcium.

[0071] In another embodiment, the invention is directed to compositions, comprising:

at least one water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate;
optionally, at least one water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate; and
less than about 50 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of iron.

[0072] In yet another embodiment, the invention is directed to compositions, comprising:

at least one water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate;
optionally, at least one water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate; and
less than about 150 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of sulfur.

[0073] In certain embodiments, the compositions described herein further comprise:

less than about 3700 ppm by weight in total, based on total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of elements;

wherein said elements are Al, As, B, Ba, Be, Ca, Cd, Co, Cr, Cu, Fe, K, Li, Mg, Mn, Mo, Na, Ni, P, Pb, S, Sb, Se, Si, Sn, Sr, Ti, Tl, V, and Zn.

[0074] In certain embodiments, the water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate has a degree of polymerization of at least about 2 to about 28. In other embodiments, water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate has a degree of polymerization of at least about 2 to about 15. In other embodiments, water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate has a degree of polymerization of at least about 2 to about 10. In other embodiments, water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate has a degree of polymerization of at least about 2 to about 6.

[0075] In certain embodiments, the compositions further comprise:

at least one water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate.

[0076] In certain embodiments, the water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate is xylose, arabinose, lyxose, ribose, or a mixture thereof.

[0077] In certain embodiments, the compositions further comprise less than about 10 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of aluminum, preferably less than about 5 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of aluminum.

[0078] In certain embodiments, the compositions further comprise less than about 2300 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of calcium, preferably less than about 2250 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of calcium.

[0079] In certain embodiments, the compositions further comprise less than about 50 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of iron, preferably less than about 30 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of iron.

[0080] In certain embodiments, the compositions further comprise less than about 150 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of sulfur, preferably less than about 140 ppm by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of sulfur.

[0081] In certain embodiments, the ratio of total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition to said elements is greater than about 75:1, preferably greater than about 80:1.

[0082] In certain embodiments, the water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate is processed from lignocellulosic biomass using supercritical, subcritical, or near critical fluid extraction, or a combination thereof.

[0083] In certain embodiments, the level of said elements are measured by inductively coupled plasma emission spectroscopy.

[0084] In other embodiments, the compositions comprise less than about 350 ppm of nitrogen per kg of total weight of water-soluble C5 saccharides, preferably less than about 325 ppm of nitrogen per kg of total weight of water-soluble C6 saccharides. Nitrogen may be measured by thermal conductivity detection after combustion and reduction.

[0085] In yet other embodiments of the compositions, the weight ratio of the collective mass of hydrogen and nitrogen to mass of carbon present in said water-

soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate is less than about 0.14. Carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen levels may be measured by thermal conductivity detection after combustion and reduction.

[0086] In certain other embodiments, the compositions comprising the C5 saccharides further comprise less than a maximum of any of the elements, individually or in combination, in the table listed below:

Element	Level less than about (ppm or mg of element/kg of C5 saccharides)
As	0.7
B	2.5
Ba	4.2
Be	0.02
Cd	0.2
Co	0.1
Cr	0.2
Cu	0.70
K	350
Li	0.05
Mg	550
Mn	130
Mo	0.5
Na	50
Ni	0.75
P	95
Pb	0.5
Sb	0.5
Se	0.75
Si	25
Sn	0.5
Sr	15
Ti	0.02
Tl	0.75
V	0.02
Zn	20

[0087] In another embodiment, the compositions comprise:

about 75% by weight to about 90% by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5

monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of water-soluble C5 oligosaccharides;

wherein said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharides have a degree of polymerization of about 2 to about 28.

In certain embodiments, said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharides are present at a level of about 80% by weight to about 90% by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition. In certain embodiments of the composition, said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharides have a degree of polymerization of about 2 to about 16, preferably, about 2 to about 10, and more preferably, about 2 to about 5. In certain embodiments, the compositions further comprise about 10% by weight, to about 25% by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of C5 monosaccharides.

[0088] In certain embodiments of the compositions described herein, said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate comprises:

about 15% by weight, to about 30% by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of C5 disaccharides;

about 10% by weight, to about 20% by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of C5 trisaccharides;

about 5% by weight, to about 20% by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of C5 tetrasaccharides;

about 2% by weight, to about 20% by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of C5 pentasaccharides; and

about 10% by weight, to about 35% by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of C5 saccharides having at a degree of polymerization of at least about 6.

In certain embodiments of the composition, said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharides have a degree of polymerization of about 2 to about 16, preferably, about 2 to about 10, and more preferably, about 2 to about 5. In certain embodiments, the compositions further comprise about 10% by weight, to about 25% by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of C5 monosaccharides. In certain embodiments, the compositions further comprise about 12.5% by weight, to about 20% by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of C5 monosaccharides.

[0089] In certain embodiments of the compositions described herein, said C5 disaccharides are present at a level of about 17.5% by weight to about 25% by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition.

[0090] In certain embodiments of the compositions described herein, said C5 trisaccharides are present at a level of about 12.5% by weight to about 17.5% by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition.

[0091] In certain embodiments of the compositions described herein, said C5 tetrasaccharides are present at a level of about 10% by weight to about 20% by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition.

[0092] In certain embodiments of the compositions described herein, said C5 pentasaccharides are present at a level of about 2.5% by weight to about 15% by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition.

[0093] In certain embodiments of the compositions described herein, said C5 saccharides having at a degree of polymerization of at least about 6 are present at a level of about 12.5% by weight to about 30% by weight, based on total weight of said

water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition.

[0094] In certain embodiments, the compositions described herein further comprise about 10% by weight, to about 25% by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C5 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C5 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of C5 monosaccharides.

[0095] In certain embodiments, the compositions described herein further comprise water.

[0096] In certain embodiments, the water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and the water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate are processed from lignocellulosic biomass using supercritical, subcritical, or near critical fluid extraction, or a combination thereof.

Further embodiments

[0097] In certain embodiments, the invention is directed to methods of reducing the level of enzyme required for enzymatically hydrolyzing first water-soluble C6 saccharides having an average degree of polymerization to about 2 to about 15, preferably about 2 to about 10, and more preferably about 2 to about 6, to second water-soluble C6 saccharides having a lower average degree of polymerization than said average degree of polymerization of said first water-soluble C6 saccharides, comprising:

providing a hydrolysate comprising said first water-soluble C6 saccharides and less than about 5250 ppm in total, based on total weight of water-soluble C6 saccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of elements;

wherein said elements are Al, As, B, Ba, Be, Ca, Cd, Co, Cr, Cu, Fe, K, Li, Mg, Mn, Mo, Na, Ni, P, Pb, S, Sb, Se, Si, Sn, Sr, Ti, Tl, V, and Zn.

In certain embodiments, the C6 saccharides are extracted from lignocellulosic biomass. In other embodiments, the C6 saccharides are processed from lignocellulosic biomass using supercritical, subcritical, or near critical fluid extraction, or a combination thereof.

[0098] In certain embodiments, the invention is directed to methods of reducing the level of enzyme required for enzymatically hydrolyzing first water-soluble C5 saccharides having an average degree of polymerization to about 2 to about 28, preferably about 2 to about 15, more preferably about 2 to about 13, even more preferably about 2 to about 6, to second water-soluble C5 saccharides having a lower average degree of polymerization than said average degree of polymerization of said first water-soluble C5 saccharides, comprising:

providing a hydrolysate comprising said first water-soluble C5 saccharides and less than about 3700 ppm in total, based on total weight of water-soluble C5 saccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of elements;

wherein said elements are Al, As, B, Ba, Be, Ca, Cd, Co, Cr, Cu, Fe, K, Li, Mg, Mn, Mo, Na, Ni, P, Pb, S, Sb, Se, Si, Sn, Sr, Ti, Tl, V, and Zn.

[0099] In further embodiments, the compositions further comprise less than about 0.5% by weight, based on the total weight of said C5 saccharides or C6 saccharides, of organic solvent, such as alcohols, including water miscible lower aliphatic C₁-C₄ alcohols (e.g., methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, *t*-butanol). In preferred embodiments, the compositions contain less than about 0.1% by weight, based on the total weight of said of said C5 saccharides or C6 saccharides of organic solvent. In more preferred embodiments, the compositions contain substantially no organic solvent.

[0100] The compositions of the invention are preferably prepared from biomass by processes employing supercritical, subcritical, and/or near critical water, preferably without the addition of acid. The processes may include pretreatment step or steps using supercritical or near critical water to separate the C5 sugars (monomers and/or oligomers) from cellulose and lignin. In the pretreatment step, suitable temperatures are about 130°C to about 250°C, suitable pressures are about 4 bars to about 100 bars, and suitable residence times are about 0.5 minutes to about 5 hours. The processes may also include a cellulose hydrolysis step or steps using supercritical or near critical water to separate the cellulose (which may processed to form C6 monomeric and/or oligomeric sugars) from the lignin. In the hydrolysis step(s), suitable temperatures are about 250°C to about 450°C, suitable pressures are about 40 bars to about 260 bars, and suitable residence times are about 0.1 seconds to

about 3 minutes. The compositions may be prepared in any suitable reactor, including, but not limited to, a tubular reactor, a digester (vertical, horizontal, or inclined), or the like. Suitable digesters include the digester system described in US-B-8,057,639, which include a digester and a steam explosion unit, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated by reference.

[0101] The compositions of the invention comprising C5 saccharides or C6 saccharides may be utilized in a wide variety of applications, where C5 and C6 sugars are conventionally utilized, including, but not limited to, the production of various chemicals and fuels using fermentative, enzymatic, catalytic, and non-catalytic (e.g., thermal decomposition) processes. Such processes are useful for preparing feedstocks for the preparation of the following non-exhaustive list:

- fuels (such as gasoline, jet fuel, butanol, and the like);

- chemicals (such as acetic acid, acetic anhydride, acetone, acrylic acid, adipic acid, benzene, ethanol, ethylene, ethylene glycol, ethylene oxide, methanol, polypropylene, terephthalic acid, toluene, xylene, 1,3-propanediol, 1,4-butanediol, and the like);

- pharmaceuticals and foods (such as acetoin, alanine, arabitol, ascorbic acid, aspartic acid, citric acid, coumaric acid, fumaric acid, glycerol, glycine, kojic acid, lactic acid, lysine, malonic acid, proline, propionic acid, serine, sorbitol, succinic acid, threonine, xylitol, sugar acids (glucaric acid, gluconic acid, xylonic acids), and the like);

- specialty chemicals (such as acontic acid, glutamic acid, malic acid, oxalic acid, and the like);

- textile applications (such as formic acid and the like); and

- industrial intermediates (acetaldehyde, 3-hydroxypropionic acid, 2,5-furan dicarboxylic acid, furfural, glutaric acid, itaconic acid, levulinic acid, and the like).

[0102] The present invention is further defined in the following Examples, in which all parts and percentages are by weight, unless otherwise stated. It should be understood that these examples, while indicating preferred embodiments of the invention, are given by way of illustration only and are not to be construed as limiting in any manner. From the above discussion and these examples, one skilled in the art can ascertain the essential characteristics of this invention, and without departing

from the spirit and scope thereof, can make various changes and modifications of the invention to adapt it to various usages and conditions.

EXAMPLES

Example 1: Preparation of oligosaccharide compositions

[0103] The C5 oligosaccharide and C6 oligosaccharide compositions of the invention were prepared using supercritical, subcritical, and near critical water extraction in a two stage process. Particulate lignocellulosic biomass consisting of mixed hardwood chips of 140 mesh or less was mixed with water to form a slurry (about 20% by weight solids). The slurry was heated to a temperature of about 170-245°C and then feed into a pretreatment reactor for about 1-120 minutes under sufficient pressure to keep the water in the liquid phase. The pretreated slurry was then cooled to a temperature less than about 100°C under little (less than about 10 bar) or no pressure. The pretreated solids were then separated from the liquid stream using a filter press. Alternatively, the solids may be separated using a centrifugal filter pressor. The pretreated solids were then mixed with water to form a slurry and the slurry was heated to a temperature of about 150-250°C. The slurry was then subjected to supercritical water at about 374-600°C in a hydrolysis reactor for about 0.05-10 seconds under a pressure of about 230-300 bar. After exiting the hydrolysis reactor, the hydrolyzed slurry was quenched with water and then flashed to about ambient temperature and pressure to remove water. The lignin solids were then separated from the liquid stream using a centrifugal decanter and air dried.

[0104] The C5 oligosaccharides and the C6 oligosaccharides streams were first concentrated to about 200 g/L, adjusted to about pH 3-4 and filtered using 0.45 micron filter.

Example 2: Analysis of oligosaccharide compositions using inductively coupled plasma

[0105] The dried compositions containing the C5 and C6 oligosaccharides of Example 1 were analyzed using inductively coupled plasma emission spectroscopy. The results are shown in the table below:

Species	Oligomer (C6) g/liter or ppm	Oligomer (C5) g/liter or ppm
Al	4.63	4.05
As	0.39	0.54
B	0.61	2.31
Ba	2.49	3.94
Be	0.00	0.01
Ca	2945.00	2245.00
Cd	0.05	0.11
Co	0.04	0.08
Cr	0.14	0.12
Cu	0.97	0.70
Fe	309.00	22.94
K	127.35	329.00
Li	0.03	0.02
Mg	178.00	545.50
Mn	14.40	126.40
Mo	0.58	0.32
Na	368.50	44.80
Ni	0.78	0.69
P	10.99	90.20
Pb	0.21	0.32
S	946.00	132.45
Sb	0.21	0.30
Se	0.45	0.66
Si	80.65	22.10
Sn	0.18	0.39
Sr	3.51	13.66
Ti	0.00	0.00
Tl	0.45	0.67
V	0.02	0.01
Zn	61.35	17.48

Example 3: Analysis of oligosaccharide compositions using gel permeation chromatography

[0106] The C5 oligosaccharide and C6 oligosaccharide compositions of the invention were prepared using supercritical, subcritical, and near critical water extraction in a two stage process as described in Example 1. The samples were then diluted ten times. The degree of polymerization was qualitatively determined, *i.e.*, not quantifying the amount of each oligomer, using gel permeation chromatography.

[0107] As can be seen in **FIGURES 1A** and **1B**, a degree of polymerization (DP) were detected up to at least a DP of 13, with small peaks visible above DP of 13 for the C6 oligosaccharide compositions. As can be seen in **FIGURES 2A** and **2B**, a degree of polymerization (DP) were detected up to at least a DP of 28, with small peaks visible above DP of 28 for the C5 oligosaccharide compositions.

Example 4: Analysis of C6 saccharide compositions using gel permeation chromatography

[0108] The C6 saccharide compositions of the invention were prepared using supercritical, subcritical, and near critical water extraction in a two stage process as described in Example 1. Representative samples bracketing the extremes/possibilities of feed material source (tubular reactor), reactor temperature (348.2-383.4°C), reactor residence time (0.19-1.48 seconds), and feed aqueous slurry concentration (6.4-14.77%) were selected.

[0109] The representative samples were analyzed using gel permeation chromatography. The area under each peak (indicating an individual mer unit in the saccharide) was measured to calculate weight % of each mer unit, based on the total weight of C6 saccharides present in the sample. The results are shown in the following table:

Sample	C6 monosaccharides (weight%)	C6 disaccharides (weight%)	C6 trisaccharides (weight%)	C6 tetrasaccharides (weight%)	C6 pentasaccharides (weight%)	C6 hexasaccharides + (weight%)
1-1033	15.3	19.8	15.4	15.2	12.1	22.2
2-1448	19.3	19.1	18.9	15.6	14.7	12.4
3-1252	8.9	11.3	13.3	12.4	16.8	37.5
4-2125	16.8	17.1	17.1	15.4	15.9	17.8
5-2344	13.689	16.444	15.454	14.945	12.652	26.816
6-1600	7.914	10.087	11.397	13.024	12.71	44.867

Example 5: Analysis of C5 saccharide compositions using gel permeation chromatography

[0110] The C5 saccharide compositions of the invention were prepared using supercritical, subcritical, and near critical water extraction in the first stage of the two stage process as described in Example 1. Representative samples bracketing the extremes/possibilities of reactor feed concentration (10.66-13.78 weight %, reactor temperature (249-261°C), and reactor residence time (2-3 minutes) were selected.

[0111] The representative samples were analyzed using gel permeation chromatography (details below).

GPC Agilent HPLC System Configuration

Auto Sampler	1260 ASL
Pump	1260 isocratic pump Agilent
Heater	1260 TCC
Degasser	1260 degasser
Mobile Phase	DI water
Column	Ultrahydrogel-120, 250, 500 from Waters (injection vol 25 µl, Size 7.8 X 300mm) temp 30°C
Flow Rate	0.5 ml/min; run time of 80 minutes
Detector	1260-RID set at 50°C Agilent and DAD (signal 214 and 270 nm)

[0112] The area under each peak (indicating an individual mer unit in the saccharide) was measured to calculate weight % of each mer unit, based on the total weight of C5 saccharides present in the sample. The results are shown in the following table:

Sample	C5 monosaccharides (weight%)	C5 disaccharides (weight%)	C5 trisaccharides (weight%)	C5 tetrasaccharides (weight%)	C5 pentasaccharides (weight%)	C5 ≥hexasaccharides (weight%)
7-0458	18.2	24.4	16.3	14.1	11.8	15.3
8-0550	17.0	21.8	16.2	11.6	13.0	20.3
9-0647	16.1	23.5	18.1	10.7	4.5	27.1
10- 2144	17.2	23.6	17.6	10.4	9.4	21.9
11- 2242	13.3	20.4	13.9	17.4	9.3	25.4
12- 2348	13.4	19.3	14.7	13.0	9.5	30.1

Example 6: Analysis of C5 and C6 saccharide compositions using HPLC with an electrochemical detector

[0113] The C5 and C6 saccharide compositions of the invention were prepared using supercritical, subcritical, and near critical water extraction in the two stage process as described in Example 1. Representative samples were selected.

[0114] The representative samples were analyzed using DIONEX HPLC (details below).

Dionex System Thermo Scientific Configuration

Auto Sampler	AS-AP
Pump	ICS-5000 DP (dual pulse)
Mobile Phase	100 mM NaOH (sodium hydroxide) + deionized water
	100 mM NaOH (sodium hydroxide) + 1M NaOAc
	(sodium acetate)
Column/Heater	CarboPac PA 200 3 X 250 mm temp 30°C with guard column CarboPac PA 200 3 X 250 mm (injection vol 10 µl) and compartment temperature 30°C
Flow Rate	0.5 ml/min; run time of 70 minutes
Detector	ICS-5000 DC Electro chemical detector

[0115] The results are averaged and shown in the tables below:

DIONEX averaged results (varying residence time in hemihydrolysis reactor; varying slurry loading)													
Residence time	Slurry loading	C5 monomer (xylose)		C5 dimer		C5 trimer		C5 tetramer		C5 pentamer		C5 hexamer	
minutes	%	g/L	wt%	g/L	wt%	g/L	wt%	g/L	wt%	g/L	wt%	g/L	wt%
2	11.39	0.28835	6.9	1.7517	42.0	1.4432	34.6	0.0981	2.4	0.1817	4.4	0.4695	9.8
3	10.95	0.91497	19.8	1.6926	36.7	1.248	27.0	0.35397	7.7	0.2271	4.9	0.18023	3.9

DIONEX averaged results (varying slurry loading)													
Residence time	Slurry loading	C5 monomer (xylose)		C5 dimer		C5 trimer		C5 tetramer		C5 pentamer		C5 hexamer	
minutes	%	g/L	wt%	g/L	wt%	g/L	wt%	g/L	wt%	g/L	wt%	g/L	wt%
2	11.39	0.28835	6.9	1.7517	42.0	1.4432	34.6	0.0981	2.4	0.1817	4.4	0.4695	9.8
2	12.24	0.3272	8.5	2.1768	43.0	0.7087	14.0	1.3541	26.8	0.223	4.4	0.2685	5.3

DIONEX averaged results (varying hemihydrolysis reactor total time)													
Residence time	Slurry loading	C5 monomer		C5 dimer		C5 trimer		C5 tetramer		C5 pentamer		C5 hexamer	
hours	%	g/L	wt%	g/L	wt%	g/L	wt%	g/L	wt%	g/L	wt%	g/L	wt%
1	10.95	1.7316	19.99	0.4674	5.4	3.1371	36.1	0.5831	6.7	0.0618	0.7	0.0139	0.2
2	10.95	0.489	13.5	2.2848	62.9	0.3536	9.7	0.2033	5.6	0.0679	1.9	0.2323	6.4
3	10.95	0.5243	12.4	2.3256	55.0	0.2533	6.0	0.2755	6.5	0.5516	13.1	0.2345	7.0

DIONEX averaged results (with and without quench post cellulose hydrolysis)														
	Rx T	Total Flow Rate	C6 monomer (glucose)		C6 dimer		C6 trimer		C6 tetramer		C6 pentamer		C6 hexamer	
	°C		g/L	wt%	g/L	wt%	g/L	wt%	g/L	wt%	g/L	wt%	g/L	wt%
With quench	374.2	1049.9	2.9	24.2	1.8	14.9	1.7	14.3	1.7	13.8	2.2	18.4	1.7	14.3
Without quench	367.7	774.8	1.95	18.6	1.77	16.9	1.51	14.5	1.45	13.9	1.94	18.6	1.82	17.4

DIONEX averaged results (with and without quench post cellulose hydrolysis; quench at 200°C)														
	Rx T	Total Flow Rate	C6 monomer (glucose)		C6 dimer		C6 trimer		C6 tetramer		C6 pentamer		C6 hexamer	
	°C		g/L	wt%	g/L	wt%	g/L	wt%	g/L	wt%	g/L	wt%	g/L	wt%
With quench	383.4	768.6	0.9	25.5	0.6	15.5	0.6	18.9	0.5	13.7	0.5	14.9	0.5	13.5
Without quench	379.0	796.3	1.59	15.5	0.23	2.2	2.24	21.8	1.95	19.0	2.13	20.7	2.13	20.8

DIONEX averaged results (residence time in reactor)														
	Rx T	Total Flow Rate	C6 monomer (glucose)		C6 dimer		C6 trimer		C6 tetramer		C6 pentamer		C6 hexamer	
	°C		g/L	wt%	g/L	wt%	g/L	wt%	g/L	wt%	g/L	wt%	g/L	wt%
0.19 seconds	373.0	775.6	0.66	13.1	0.66	13.1	0.84	16.6	0.85	16.8	0.94	18.5	1.1059	21.9
1.22 seconds	374.2	1049.9	2.94	24.2	1.81	14.9	1.73	14.3	1.67	13.8	2.24	18.4	1.74	14.3

[0116] When ranges are used herein for physical properties, such as molecular weight, or chemical properties, such as chemical formulae, all combinations, and subcombinations of ranges specific embodiments therein are intended to be included.

[0117] The disclosures of each patent, patent application, and publication cited or described in this document are hereby incorporated herein by reference, in their entirety.

[0118] Those skilled in the art will appreciate that numerous changes and modifications can be made to the preferred embodiments of the invention and that such changes and modifications can be made without departing from the spirit of the invention. It is, therefore, intended that the appended claims cover all such equivalent variations as fall within the true spirit and scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A composition, comprising:
 - at least one water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate;
 - optionally, at least one water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate; and
 - about 10% by weight to about 25% by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate, if present, in said composition, of C6 disaccharides;
 - about 10% by weight to about 25% by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate, if present, in said composition, of C6 tetrasaccharides;
 - and
 - about 10% by weight to about 25% by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate, if present, in said composition, of C6 pentasaccharides,
 - wherein said hydrolysates are processed from biomass.
2. A composition of claim 1,
 - wherein said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate comprises a C6 oligosaccharide having a degree of polymerization of 2 to about 15.
3. A composition of claim 1,
 - wherein said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate comprises a C6 oligosaccharide having a degree of polymerization of 2 to about 13.
4. A composition of claim 1,
 - wherein said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate comprises a C6 oligosaccharide having a degree of polymerization of 2 to about 10.
5. A composition of claim 1,
 - wherein said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate comprises a C6 oligosaccharide having a degree of polymerization of 2 to about 6.
6. A composition of claim 1, further comprising:

at least one water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate.

7. A composition of claim 6,
wherein said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate is glucose, galactose, mannose, fructose, or a mixture thereof.
8. A composition of claim 1,
wherein said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate is present; and
wherein the ratio of the total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate to said elements is greater than about 45:1.
9. A composition of claim 1,
wherein said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate is processed from lignocellulosic biomass using supercritical, subcritical, or near critical fluid extraction, or a combination thereof.
10. A composition of claim 1,
wherein the weight ratio of collective mass of hydrogen and nitrogen to mass of carbon present in said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate, if present, is less than about 0.14.
11. A composition, comprising:
at least one water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate;
at least one water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate;
about 5% by weight to about 20% by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of C6 monosaccharides; and
about 10% by weight to about 25% by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of C6 pentasaccharides,
wherein said hydrolysates are processed from biomass.

12. A composition of claim 1,
wherein said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate further comprises:
about 10% by weight to about 25% by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate, if present, in said composition, of C6 trisaccharides;
about 10% by weight to about 50% by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate, if present, in said composition, of C6 saccharides having at a degree of polymerization of at least about 6.
13. A composition of claim 12, wherein said C6 monosaccharides are present at a level of about 7.5% by weight to about 20% by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition.
14. A composition, comprising:
about 10% by weight to about 25% by weight, based on total weight of C6 saccharides present in said composition, of C6 disaccharides;
about 10% by weight to about 25% by weight, based on total weight of C6 saccharides present in said composition, of C6 trisaccharides;
about 10% by weight to about 25% by weight, based on total weight of C6 saccharides present in said composition, of C6 tetrasaccharides;
about 10% by weight to about 25% by weight, based on total weight of C6 saccharides present in said composition, of C6 pentasaccharides;
about 10% by weight to about 50% by weight, based on total weight of C6 saccharides present in said composition, of C6 saccharides having at a degree of polymerization of at least about 6; and
about 5% by weight to about 20% by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of C6 monosaccharides,
wherein said hydrolysates are processed from biomass.
15. A composition of claim 14,

wherein said C6 disaccharides are present at a level of about 10% by weight to about 20% by weight, based on total weight of C6 saccharides present in said composition.

16. A composition of claim 14,

wherein said C6 trisaccharides are present at a level of about 10% by weight to about 20% by weight, based on total weight of C6 saccharides present in said composition.

17. A composition of claim 14,

wherein said C6 tetrasaccharides are present at a level of about 10% by weight to about 20% by weight, based on total weight of C6 saccharides present in said composition.

18. A composition of claim 14,

wherein said C6 pentasaccharides are present at a level of about 10% by weight to about 20% by weight, based on total weight of C6 saccharides present in said composition.

19. A composition of claim 14,

wherein said C6 saccharides having a degree of polymerization of at least about 6 are present at a level of about 10% by weight to about 20% by weight, based on total weight of C6 saccharides present in said composition.

20. A composition of claim 14, further comprising water.

21. A composition, comprising:

about 80% by weight to about 95% by weight, based on total weight of C6 saccharides present in said composition, of water-soluble C6 oligosaccharides;

wherein said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharides have a degree of polymerization of 2 to about 15;

about 5% by weight to about 20% by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of C6 monosaccharides;

about 10% by weight to about 25% by weight, based on total weight of C6 saccharides present in said composition, of C6 tetrasaccharides; and

about 10% by weight to about 25% by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of C6 pentasaccharides,

wherein said hydrolysates are processed from biomass.

22. A composition of claim 21,

wherein said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharides are present at a level of about 80% by weight to about 92.5% by weight, based on total weight of C6 saccharides present in said composition.

23. A composition of claim 21,

wherein said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharides have a degree of polymerization of 2 to about 6.

24. A composition of claim 21, further comprising:

about 7.5% by weight to about 20% by weight, based on total weight of C6 saccharides present in said composition, of C6 monosaccharides.

25. A composition of claim 21, further comprising water.

26. A composition of claim 11,

wherein said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate further comprises:

about 10% by weight to about 25% by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of C6 disaccharides;

about 10% by weight to about 25% by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of C6 trisaccharides; and

about 10% by weight to about 25% by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate in said composition, of C6 tetrasaccharides.

27. A composition of claim 1,

wherein said C6 monosaccharides are present at a level of about 5% by weight to about 20% by weight, based on total weight of said water-soluble C6 oligosaccharide hydrolysate and said water-soluble C6 monosaccharide hydrolysate, is present, in said composition.