

## **Supporting Information**

### **Influence of the chemical structure on odor qualities and odor thresholds of halogenated guaiacol-derived odorants**

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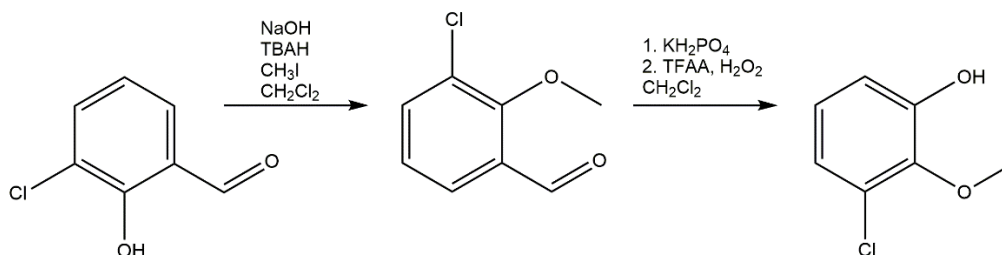
## Synthesis

### 3-Chloro-2-methoxybenzaldehyde, Figure 1 (Steen et al., 2009)

NaOH pellets (763 mg, 19 mmol, 3.5eq) were dissolved in H<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL). Tetrabutylammonium hydroxide solution (TBAH, 24 mL, ~1.5 M or ~40% in H<sub>2</sub>O, ~36 mmol, ~ 6 eq.), CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (40 mL), and 3-chlorosalicylaldehyde (887 mg, 5.66 mmol, 1eq) were added. Iodomethane (1.8 mL, 4.1 g, 28.9 mmol, 5 eq.) was added dropwise, and the reaction mixture was stirred for 22 h at room temperature afterwards. The aqueous and organic layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted three times with 50 mL CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The combined organic layers were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography (Silica gel; n-hexane/ethyl acetate = 5:1).

### 3-Chloroguaiacol (3-chloro-2-methoxyphenol, entry 1), Figure 1 (Steen et al., 2009)

Trifluoroacetic anhydride (3 mL, 4.5 g, 21.58 mmol, 8 eq.) was added dropwise to an ice-cold solution of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> solution (493 mg, 30 wt.% in H<sub>2</sub>O, 4.35 mmol, 1.6 eq.) and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 mL), and stirred for 1 h at 0 °C. 3-Chloro-2-methoxybenzaldehyde (480 mg, 3.03 mmol, 1 eq.) and potassium dihydrogenphosphate (8 g, 58.78 mmol, 22 eq.) were dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (20 mL) and cooled to 0 °C. The peroxide-solution was slowly added dropwise to the prepared 3-chloro-methoxybenzaldehyde solution. The reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h at 0°C. To stop the reaction, 10 mL brine and 10 mL 20% sodium bisulfite solution were added. After separation, the aqueous layer was extracted three times with 30 mL CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The combined organic layers were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was taken up in 15 mL MeOH, one drop HCl conc. was added, and the mixture left standing for 15 h at room temperature. After removal of the solvent, the crude product was purified by column chromatography (Silica gel; n-hexane/ethyl acetate = 4:1).



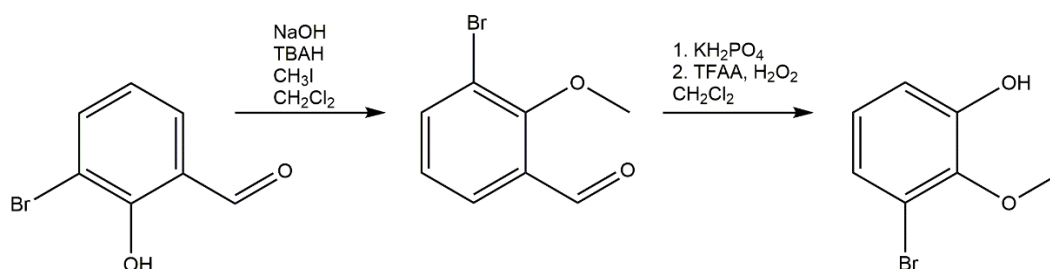
**Figure S1:** General synthetic route leading to 3-chloroguaiacol (entry 1)

### 3-Bromo-2-methoxybenzaldehyde, Figure 2 (Erickson et al., 2012)

NaOH pellets (595 mg, 14.88 mmol, 3.5 eq.) were dissolved in H<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL). Tetrabutylammonium hydroxide solution (18 mL, ~1.5 M or ~40% in H<sub>2</sub>O, ~27 mmol, ~ 6 eq.), CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (40 mL), and 3-bromosalicylaldehyde (888 mg, 4.42 mmol, 1 eq.) were added. Iodomethane (1.14 mL, 3.19 g, 22.49 mmol, 5 eq.) was added dropwise, and the reaction mixture was stirred for 18 h at room temperature afterwards. The aqueous and organic layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted three times with 50 mL CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The combined organic layers were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography (Silica gel; n-hexane/ethyl acetate = 5:1).

### 3-Bromoguaiacol (3-bromo-2-methoxyphenol, entry 7), Figure 2 (Erickson et al., 2012)

Trifluoroacetic anhydride (3.8 mL, 5.74 g, 27.33 mmol, 8 eq.) was added dropwise to an ice-cold solution of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> solution (606 mg, 30 wt% in H<sub>2</sub>O, 5.35 mmol, 1.6 eq.) and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (5 mL), and stirred for 1 h at 0 °C. 3-Bromo-2-methoxybenzaldehyde (721 mg, 3.35 mmol, 1 eq.) and potassium dihydrogenphosphate (10 g, 73.48 mmol, 22 eq.) were dissolved in 40 mL CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and cooled to 0 °C. The peroxide-solution was slowly added dropwise to the prepared 3-bromo-methoxybenzaldehyde solution. The reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h at 0°C. To stop the reaction, 10 mL brine and 10 mL 20% sodium bisulfite solution were added. After separation, the aqueous layer was extracted three times with 30 mL CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The combined organic layers were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was taken up in 20 mL MeOH, one drop HCl conc. was added, and the mixture stirred for 15 h at room temperature. After removal of the solvent, the crude product was purified by column chromatography (Silica gel; n-hexane/ethyl acetate = 4:1).



**Figure S2:** General synthetic route leading to 3-bromoguaiacol (entry 7)

### 3-Iodosalicylaldehyde, Figure 3 (Brady et al., 2012)

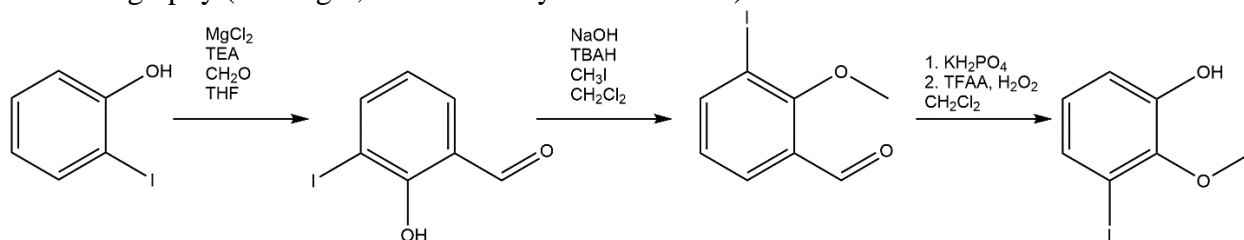
Under inert gas atmosphere, MgCl<sub>2</sub> (1.73 g, 18 mmol, 2 eq.), trimethylamine (TEA) (2.6 mL, 1.9 g, 19 mmol, 2 eq.), p-formaldehyde (810 mg, 27 mmol, 3 eq.) and 2-iodophenol (2 g, 9 mmol, 1 eq.) were dissolved in 60 mL dry THF. The reaction mixture was stirred under reflux for 16 h. After diluting with 100 mL Et<sub>2</sub>O, the solution was washed three times with 50 mL HCl (2 N), once with 50 mL H<sub>2</sub>O, and 50 mL brine. The organic layer was separated and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. After removal of the solvent under reduced pressure, the residue was twice recrystallized in EtOAc/n-hexane (1/1).

### 3-Iodo-2-methoxybenzaldehyde, Figure 3, according to (Erickson et al., 2012)

NaOH pellets (465 mg, 11.63 mmol, 3.5 eq.) were dissolved in H<sub>2</sub>O (15 mL). Tetrabutylammonium hydroxide solution (15 mL, ~1.5 M or ~40% in H<sub>2</sub>O, ~23 mmol, ~ 6 eq.), CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (30 mL), and 3-iodosalicylaldehyde (855 mg, 3.45 mmol, 1 eq.) were added. Iodomethane (1.1 mL, 2.5 g, 17.67 mmol, 5 eq.) was added dropwise, and the reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at room temperature afterwards. The aqueous and organic layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted three times with 50 mL CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The combined organic layers were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography (Silica gel; n-hexane/ethyl acetate = 5:1).

**3-Iodoguaiacol (3-iodo-2-methoxyphenol, entry 11), Figure 3, according to (Erickson et al., 2012)**

Trifluoroacetic anhydride (2.28 mL, 3.45 g, 16.4 mmol, 8 eq.) was added dropwise to an ice-cold solution of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> solution (364 mg, 30 wt% in H<sub>2</sub>O, 3.21 mmol, 1.6 eq.) and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (5 mL), and stirred for 1 h at 0 °C. 3-Iodo-2-methoxybenzaldehyde (558 mg, 2.13 mmol, 1 eq.) and potassium dihydrogenphosphate (6 g, 44.1 mmol, 22 eq.) were dissolved in 25 mL CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and cooled to 0 °C. The peroxide-solution was slowly added dropwise to the prepared 3-bromo-methoxybenzaldehyde solution. The reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h at 0°C. To stop the reaction, 10 mL brine and 10 mL 20% sodium bisulfite solution were added. After separation, the aqueous layer was extracted three times with 30 mL CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The combined organic layers were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was taken up in 15 mL MeOH, one drop HCl conc. was added, and the mixture stirred for 15 h at room temperature. After removal of the solvent, the crude product was purified by column chromatography (Silica gel; n-hexane/ethyl acetate = 4:1).



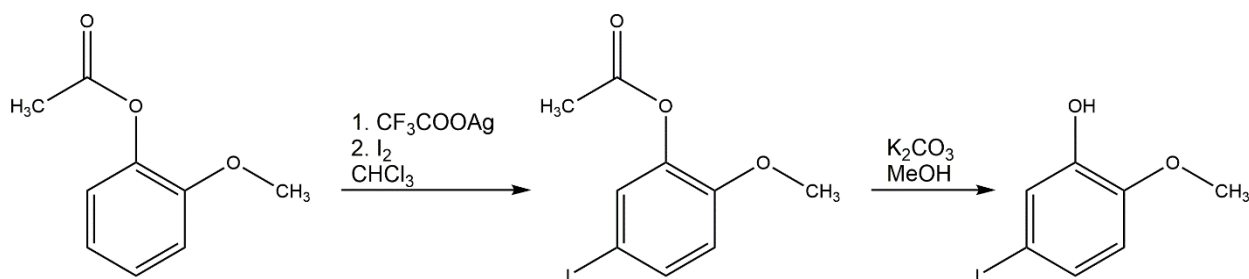
**Figure S3:** General synthetic route leading to 3-iodoguaiacol (entry 11)

**5-Iodo-2-methoxyphenylacetate, Figure 4 (Banwell et al., 2006)**

In a three necked flask equipped with a dropping funnel, 2-methoxyphenyl acetate (1.67 g, 10.05 mmol, 1 eq.) in chloroform (25 mL) maintained at 0 °C under inert gas atmosphere was treated, in one portion, with silver trifluoroacetate (2.89 g, 13.08 mmol, 1.3 eq.). To this mixture a solution of molecular iodine (2.56 g, 10.09 mmol, 1 eq.) in chloroform (62.5 mL) was added dropwise over 1 hour. The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature during 1 h, stirred for another 4 h, washed with sodium thiosulfate (100 mL of a 20% w/v aqueous solution), and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>.

**5-Iodoguaiacol (5-iodo-2-methoxyphenol, entry 13), Figure 4 (Banwell et al., 2006)**

A solution of 5-iodo-2-methoxyphenyl acetate (2.47 g, 8.46 mmol, 1 eq.) in methanol (70 mL) under inert gas atmosphere was treated in one portion with potassium carbonate (5.85 g, 42.33 mmol, 5 eq.). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 16 h, and filtered through a sintered-glass funnel (once pore 4 and once pore 5). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by column chromatography (Silica gel; n-hexane/ethyl acetate = 3:1).



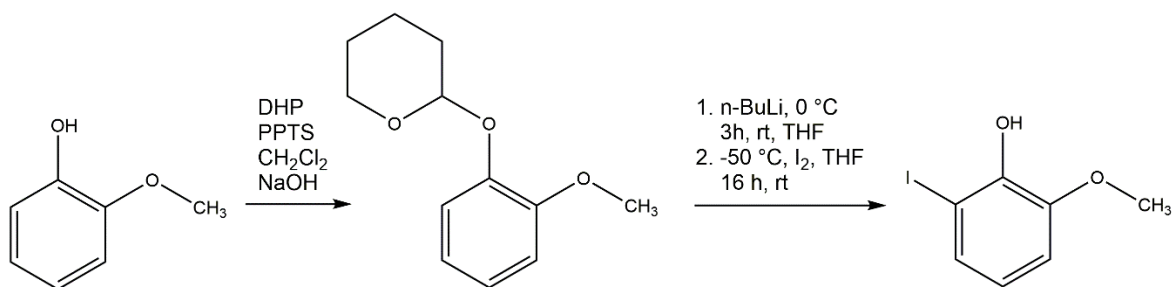
**Figure S4:** General synthetic route leading to 5-iodoguaiacol (entry 13)

**2-(2-methoxyphenoxy)oxane, Figure 5, according to (Weinstabl et al., 2013)**

To a solution of 2 g guaiacol (16.11 mmol, 1 eq.) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (14 mL) 3,4-dihydro-2H-pyran (DHP, 14.6 mL, 161.1 mmol, 10 eq.) and pyridinium *p*-toluenesulfonate (PPTS, 40 mg, 1.61 mmol, 0.1 eq.) were added. The reaction was stirred for 4 h at room temperature. The reaction progress was monitored by TLC. Another 29.2 mL DHP and 80 mg PPTS were added, and the reaction mixture was stirred for another 72 h. Saturated  $\text{NaOH}$  (12 mL) was added to stop the reaction. The mixture was extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  and the combined organic layers were dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ . The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by column chromatography (Silica gel; n-hexane/ethyl acetate = 20:1).

**6-Iodoguaiacol (2-iodo-6-methoxyphenol, entry 14), Figure 5 (Weinstabl et al., 2013)**

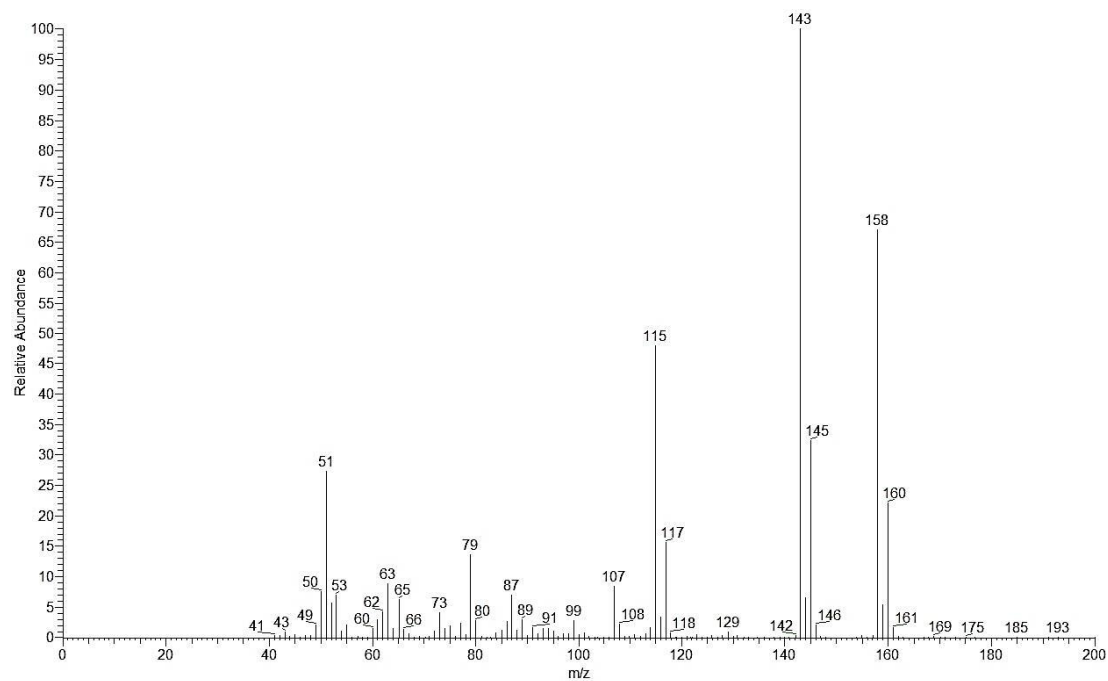
Under inert gas atmosphere, to a solution of 2-(2-methoxyphenoxy)oxane (1.03 g, 4.95 mmol, 1.0 eq.) in THF (10 mL) *n*-BuLi (2.88 mL, 2.5 M in n-hexane, 7.2 mmol, 1.5 eq) was added slowly at 0 °C. The reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred under nitrogen atmosphere for 3 h. Subsequently, the mixture was cooled to -50 °C (methanol/liquid nitrogen bath) and iodine (2.44 g, 9.61 mmol, 2.0 eq.) dissolved in THF (15 mL) was added dropwise. After warming to room temperature overnight (16 h stirring) the reaction mixture was concentrated in vacuo and the residue was suspended in water and extracted three times with 30 mL  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . The combined organic layers were washed with 50 mL saturated  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_3$  solution and 50 mL  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . After drying over  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and removal of the solvent under reduced pressure, the residue was adsorbed on silica, and purified by column chromatography (Silica gel; n-hexane/ethyl acetate = 3:1).



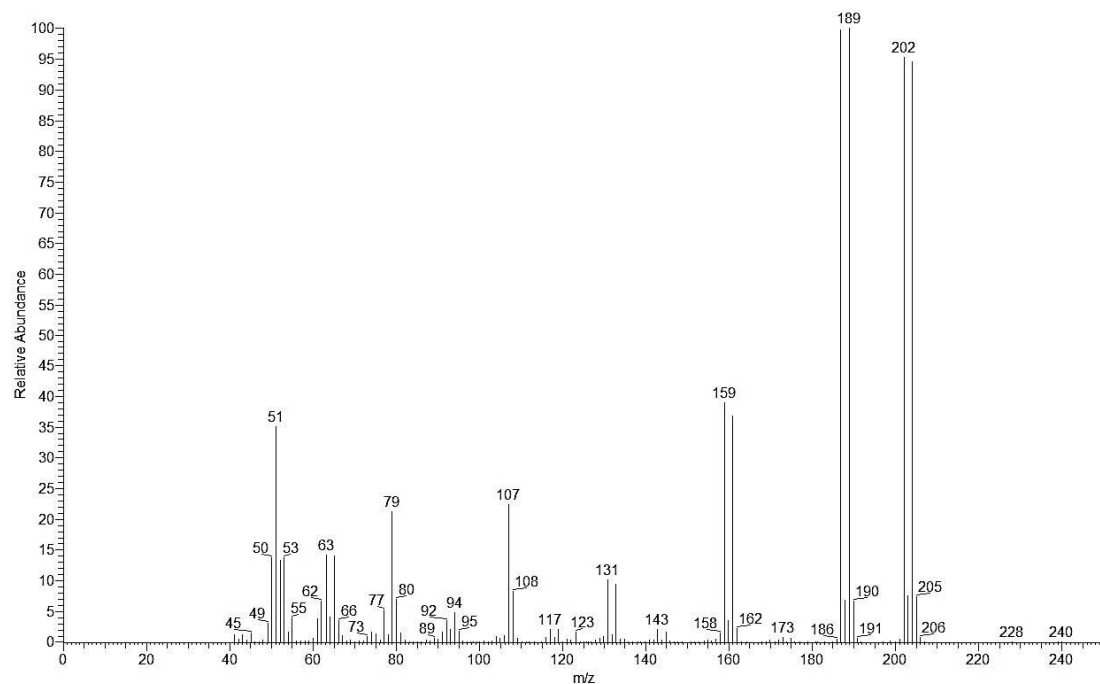
**Figure S5:** General synthetic route leading to 6-iodoguaiacol (entry 14).

# Mass spectra

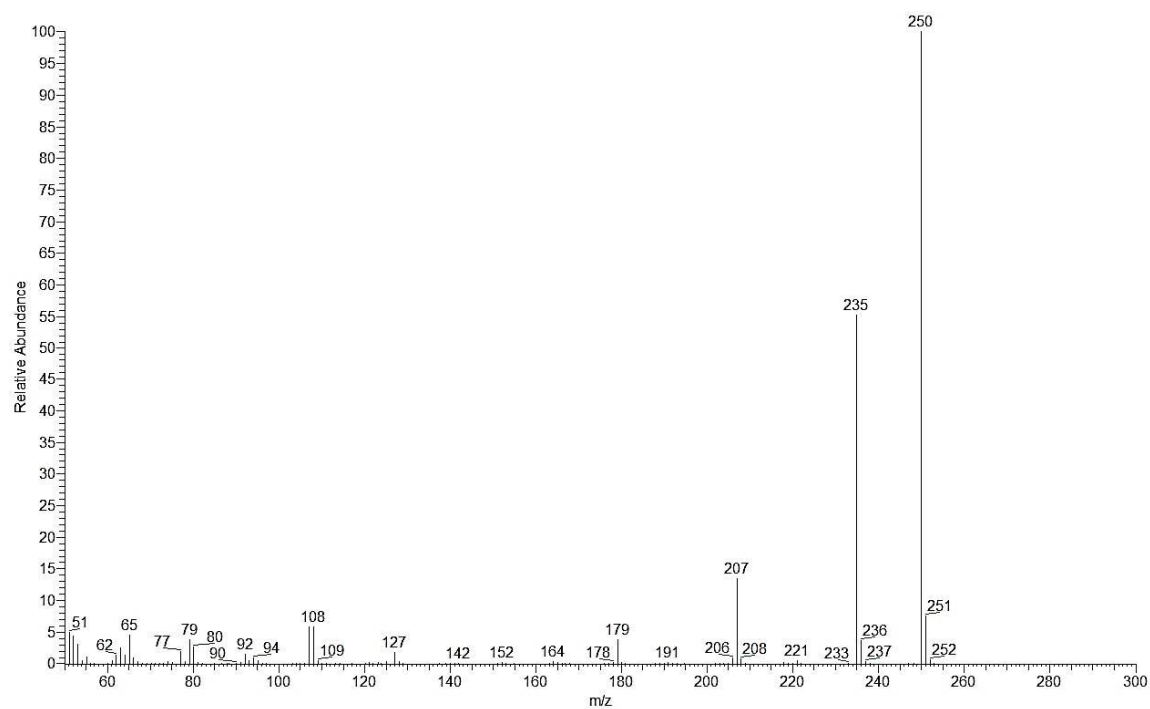
## 3-Chloroguaiacol (entry 1)



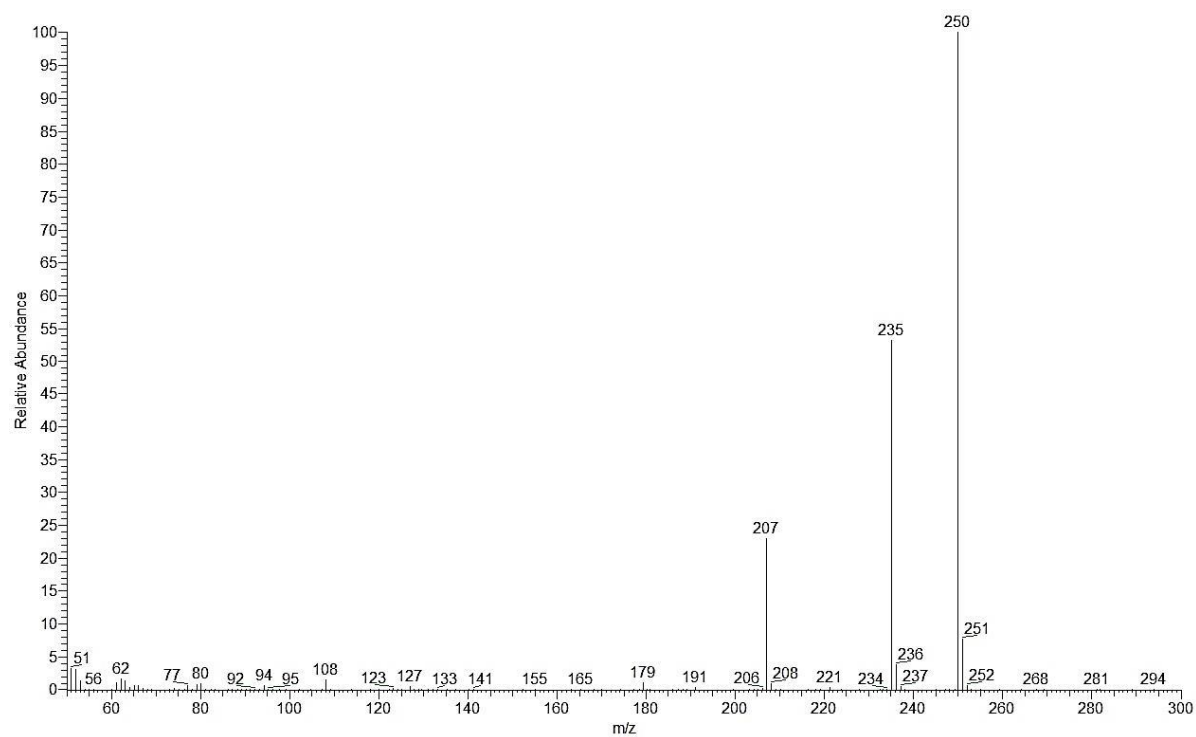
## 3-Bromoguaiacol (entry 7)



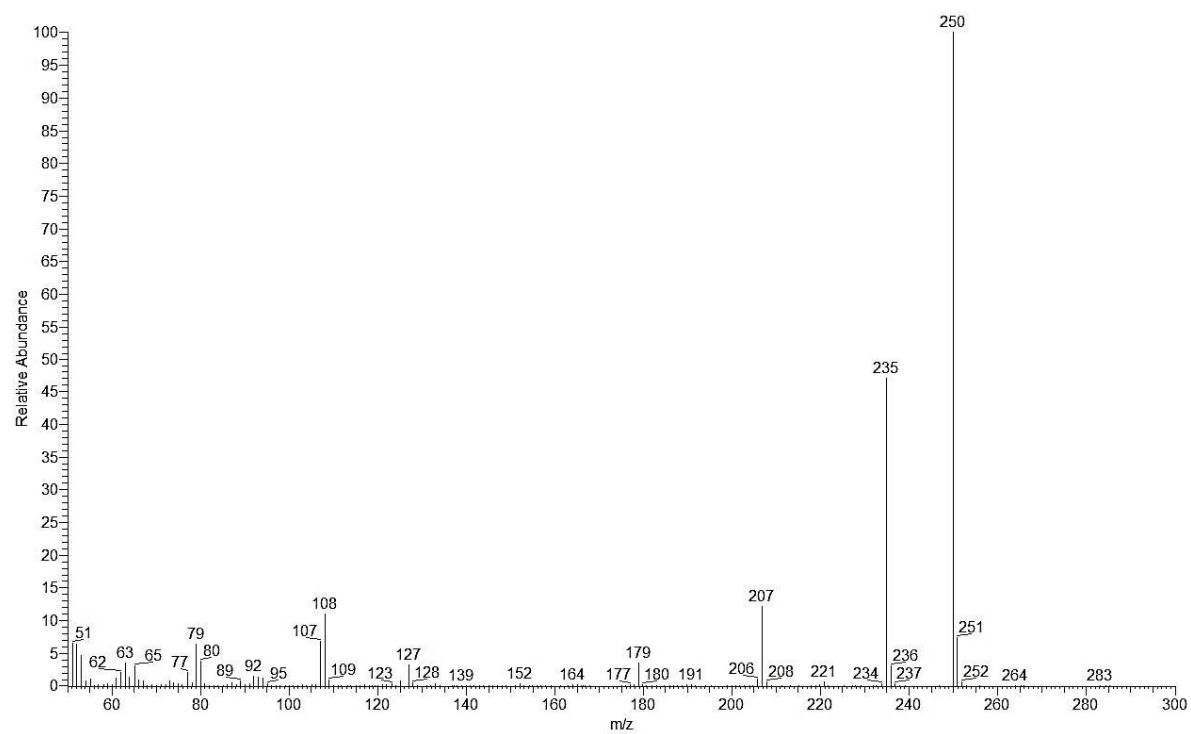
### 3-Iodoguaiacol (entry 11)



### 5-Iodoguaiacol (entry 13)



## 6-Iodoguaiacol (entry 14)





**Table S1.** Removal and degradation approaches of chlorinated guaiacol derivatives reported in literature

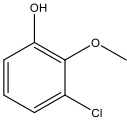
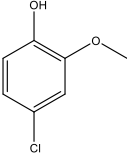
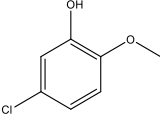
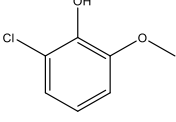
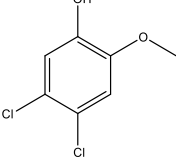
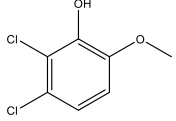
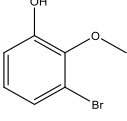
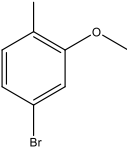
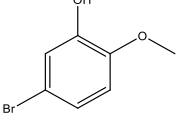
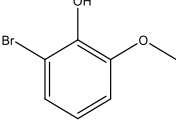
Compound/s	Removed or degraded by
4-Chloroguaiacol (19.7 %)	Poly-aluminum chloride as coagulant <sup>a</sup>
4,5-dichloroguaiacol (13.5 %)	
4-Chloroguaiacol	Partly oxidized by UV irradiation and hydroxyl radicals
4-Chloroguaiacol	High surface area palm oil shell-activated carbon activated with NaOH <sup>c</sup>
4,5-Dichloroguaiacol	Peroxidase conjugate of cellulose nanocrystals
4,5-Dichloroguaiacol	Soil microorganisms
4-Chloroguaiacol	Metabolized by <i>Acinetobacter junii</i> strain <sup>f</sup>
5-Chloroguaiacol	
6-Chloroguaiacol	
4,5-Dichloroguaiacol	
5-Chloroguaiacol (100 %)	Fungal treatment of extraction-stage effluent from chlorine bleaching kraft pulp with <i>Rhizopus oryzae</i> <sup>g</sup>
4,5-Dichloroguaiacol (55 %)	
4-Chloroguaiacol (completely)	Metabolization by <i>Rhodococcus ruber</i> CA16 (soil bacterium) <sup>h</sup>
5-Chloroguaiacol (completely)	
6-Chloroguaiacol (completely)	
4,5-Dichloroguaiacol (partly)	
<sup>a</sup>	(Choudhary et al., 2015)
<sup>b</sup>	(Benitez et al., 2001)
<sup>c</sup>	(Hamad et al., 2010)
<sup>d</sup>	(Yang et al., 2008)
<sup>e</sup>	(González et al., 1995)
<sup>f</sup>	(González et al., 1993)
<sup>g</sup>	(Nagarathnamma and Bajpai, 1999)
<sup>h</sup>	(Acevedo et al., 1995)

**Table S2.** Odor qualities of all investigated halogenated guaiacol derivatives as reported by all 5 panelists

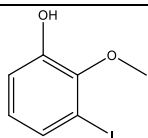
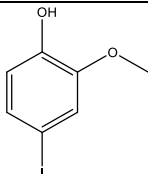
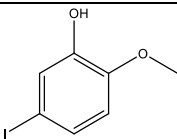
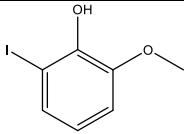
Entry	Odorant	P 1	P 2	P 3	P 4	P 5
1	3-Chloroguaiacol	smoky	musty, smoky	medical	smoky, medical	plastic-, vanilla-like
2	4-Chloroguaiacol	sweet, vanilla-like	whiskey-like, sweet	vanilla-like, sweet, smoky	sweet, vanilla-, marshmallow-like	sweet, vanilla-like
3	5-Chloroguaiacol	ham-like, smoked	sweet, smoky	smoky, clove-like	smoked, medical	smoked, ham-like
4	6-Chloroguaiacol	smoky, sweet	smoky, sweet, vanilla-like	vanilla-like, smoky, sweet, clove-like	smoky, ham-, pool-, plaster-like, medicinal	artificial, plastic-, ham-like, pungent
5	4,5-Dichloroguaiacol	smoky, sweet	sweet, smoky	smoky, clove-, vanilla-like	sweet, vanilla-like	clove-, vanilla-like
6	5,6-Dichloroguaiacol	smoky	vanilla-, plaster-like	smoky	medical, plaster-like	medical, plastic-like
7	3-Bromoguaiacol	medical	musty, old	musty	old	plastic-like, sweet
8	4-Bromoguaiacol	smoky, sweet	sweet, smoky, fruity	sweet, vanilla-like, musty	vanilla-like	vanilla-like
9	5-Bromoguaiacol	smoked	sweet, smoky, plaster-like	smoky, clove-like	sweet, smoky, medical	smoky, vanilla-like, sweet
10	6-Bromoguaiacol	musty, smoky	smoky, plaster-like	plaster-, plastic-like, burnt	medical, plaster-like	medical, plastic-like
11	3-Iodoguaiacol	smoky, burnt	musty, moldy	musty	musty	musty, moldy
12	4-Iodoguaiacol	smoky	smoky, vanilla-like	vanilla-, clove-like, smoky	sweet, vanilla-like	vanilla-like, sweet
13	5-Iodoguaiacol	smoked, sweet	sweet, vanilla-like	clove-like, sweet	smoked, sweet	sweet, chewing gum-like, smoked
14	6-Iodoguaiacol	smoked	smoky	n.p.	medical, plaster-like	medical, plastic-like

n.p.: Panelist was unable to perceive the odorant.

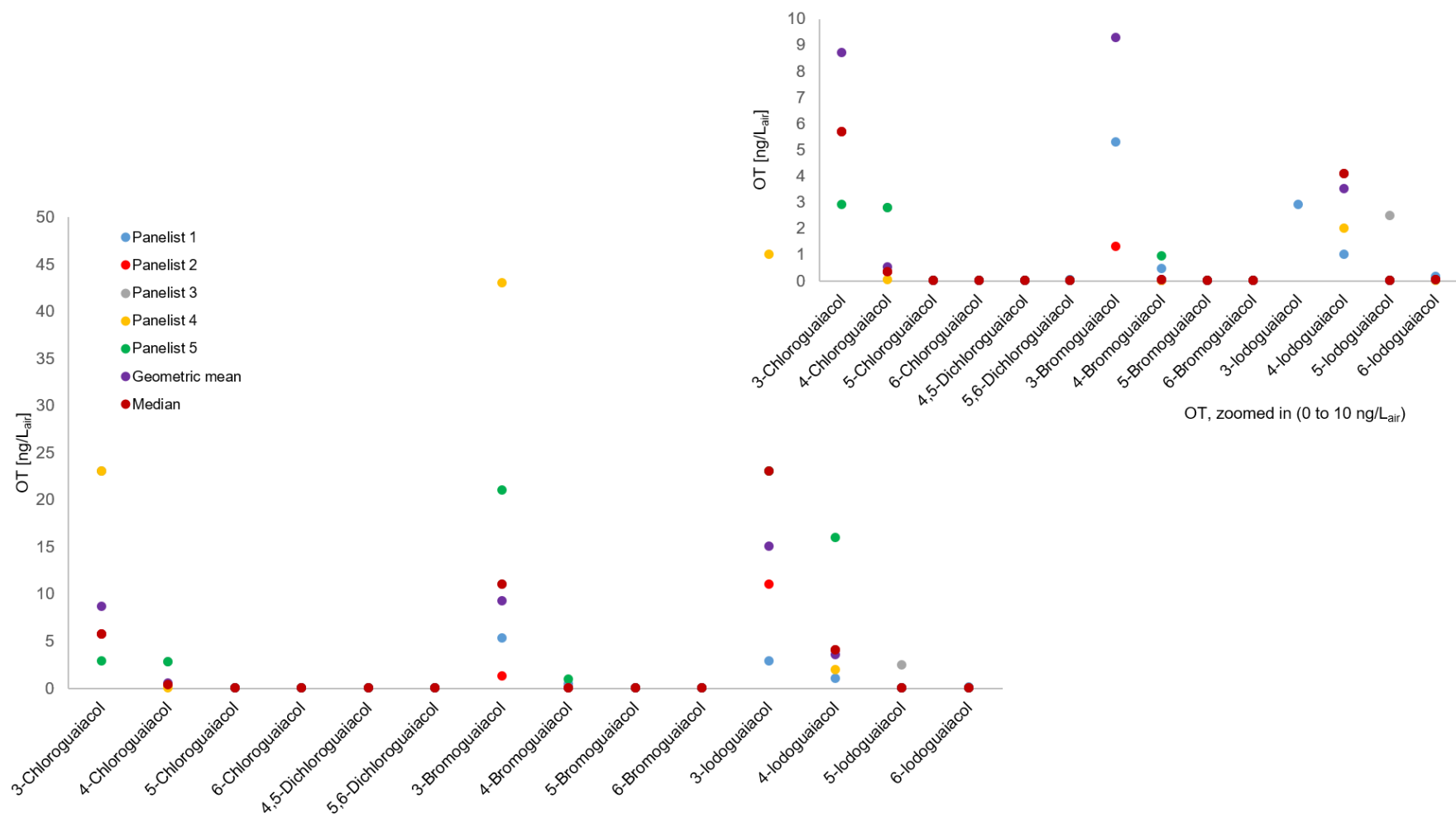
**Table S3:** Entry numbers, trivial and IUPAC names, structures and concentrations of FD1 solutions and IST (internal standard) in µg/mL.

Entry	Trivial name	IUPAC name	Structure	FD1 Conc. [µg/mL]	IST Conc. [µg/mL]
1	3-Chloroguaiacol	3-chloro-2-methoxyphenol		11.80	11.17
2	4-Chloroguaiacol	4-chloro-2-methoxyphenol		11.51	11.17
3	5-Chloroguaiacol	5-chloro-2-methoxyphenol		12.22	11.17
4	6-Chloroguaiacol	2-chloro-6-methoxyphenol		4.96	10.44
5	4,5-Dichloroguaiacol	4,5-dichloro-2-methoxyphenol		10.56	11.17
6	5,6-Dichloroguaiacol	2,3-dichloro-6-methoxyphenol		14.48	11.17
7	3-Bromoguaiacol	3-bromo-2-methoxyphenol		11.04	11.17
8	4-Bromoguaiacol	4-bromo-2-methoxyphenol		15.52	11.17
9	5-Bromoguaiacol	5-bromo-2-methoxyphenol		9.64	11.17
10	6-Bromoguaiacol	2-bromo-6-methoxyphenol		9.77	11.17

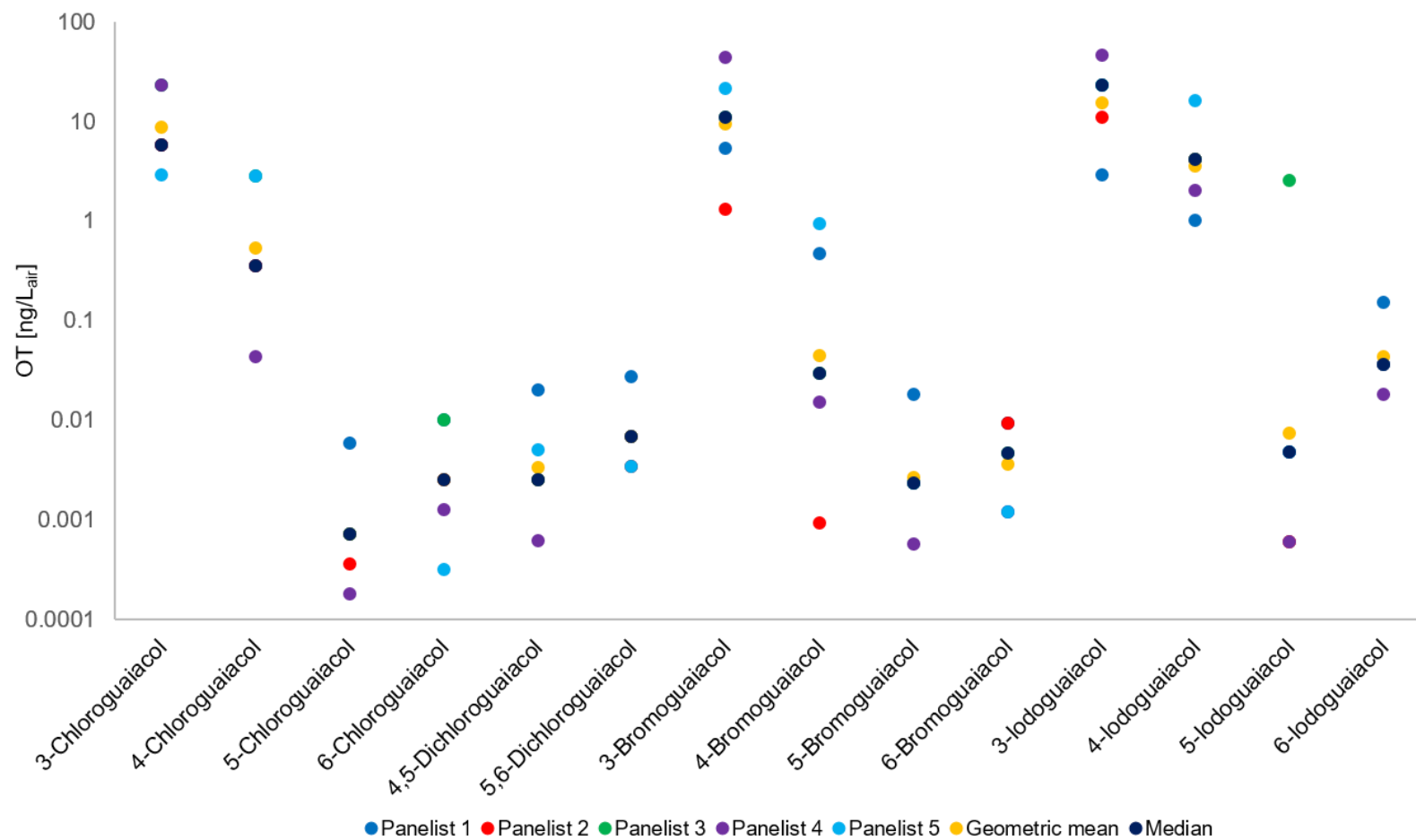
**Table S3:** Entry numbers, trivial and IUPAC names, structures and concentrations of FD1 solutions and IST (internal standard) in  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ , continued.

Entry	Trivial name	IUPAC name	Structure	FD1 Conc. [ $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ]	IST Conc. [ $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ]
11	3-Iodoguaiacol	3-iodo-2-methoxyphenol		11.85	11.17
12	4-Iodoguaiacol	4-iodo-2-methoxyphenol		8.38	11.17
13	5-Iodoguaiacol	5-iodo-2-methoxyphenol		10.23	11.17
14	6-Iodoguaiacol	2-iodo-6-methoxyphenol		9.66	11.17

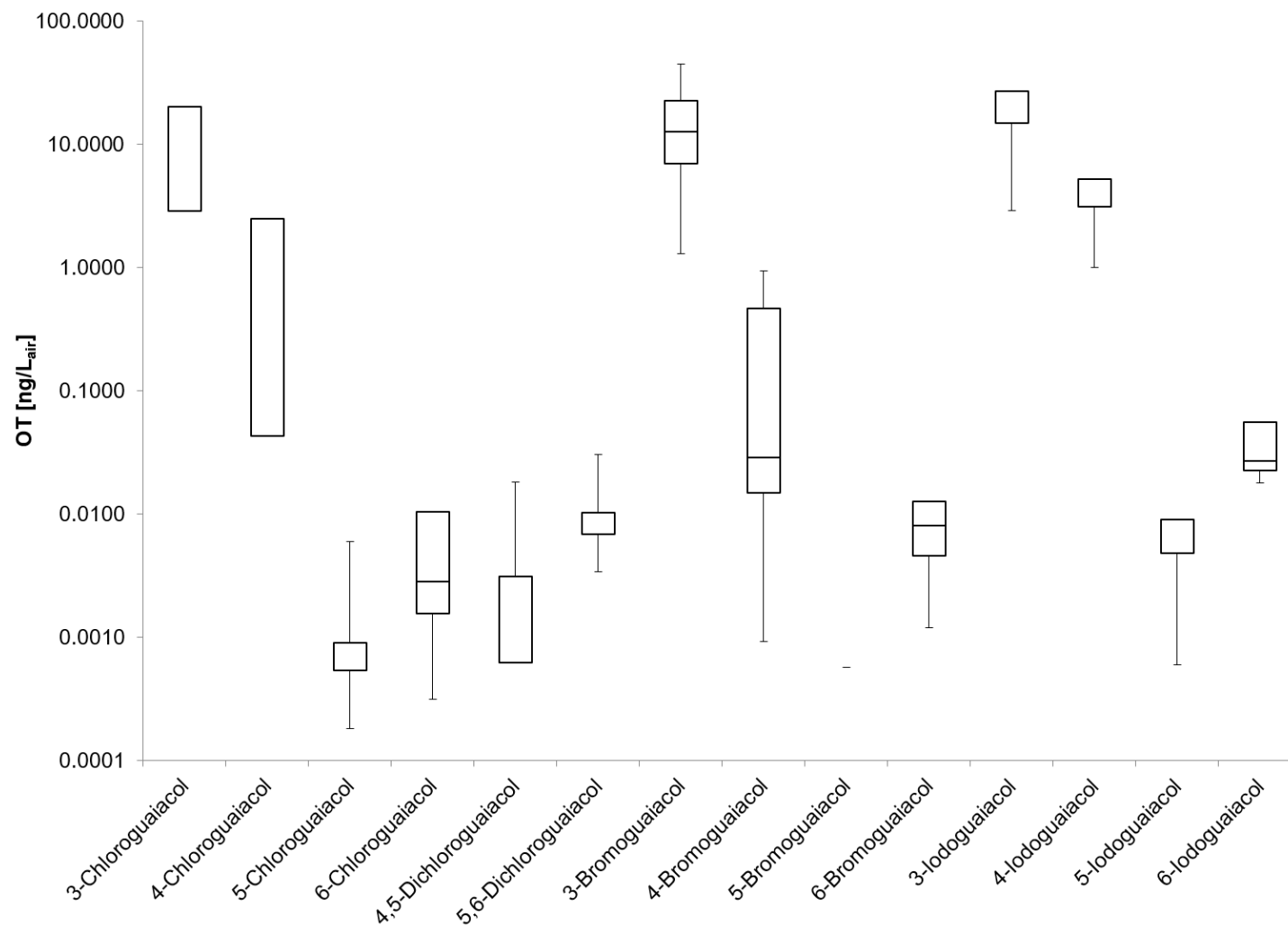
**Figure S6:** Determined odor thresholds for all investigated halogenated guaiacol derivatives, individual values of all panelists



**Figure S7:** Determined odor thresholds for all investigated halogenated guaiacol derivatives, individual values of all panelists, logarithmic scale



**Figure S8:** Boxplot of the odor thresholds for all investigated halogenated guaiacol derivatives (5 panelists, two males, three females), logarithmic scale. Mean value ( $\pm$  SD), markers at minimum and maximum OT, box perc. 25-75%.



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