

**Electronic Supplementary Information for**

**Binding behaviors and structural characteristics of ternary complexes of  $\beta$ -lactoglobulin, curcumin, and fatty acids**

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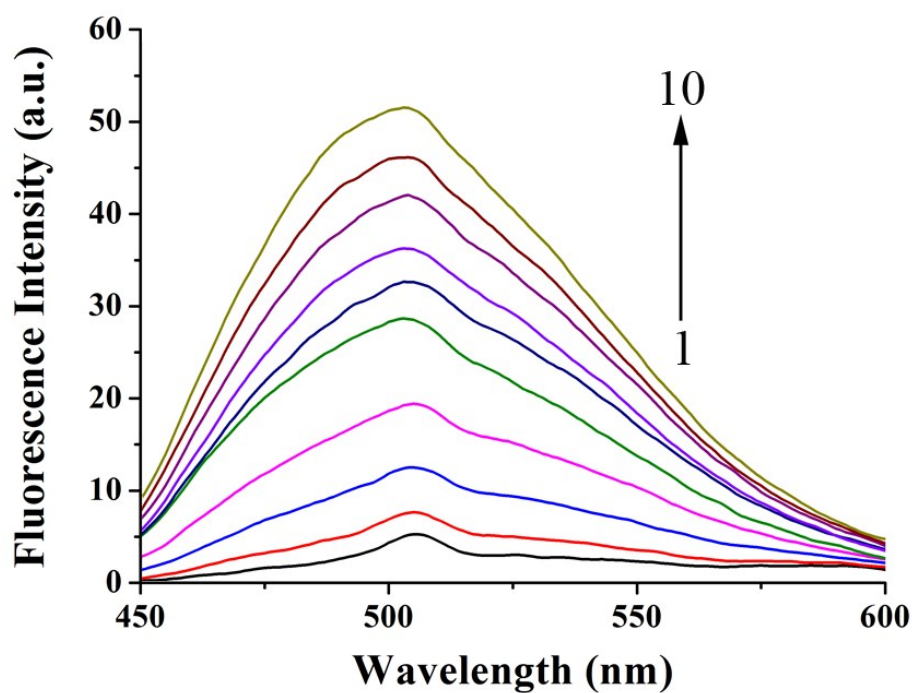
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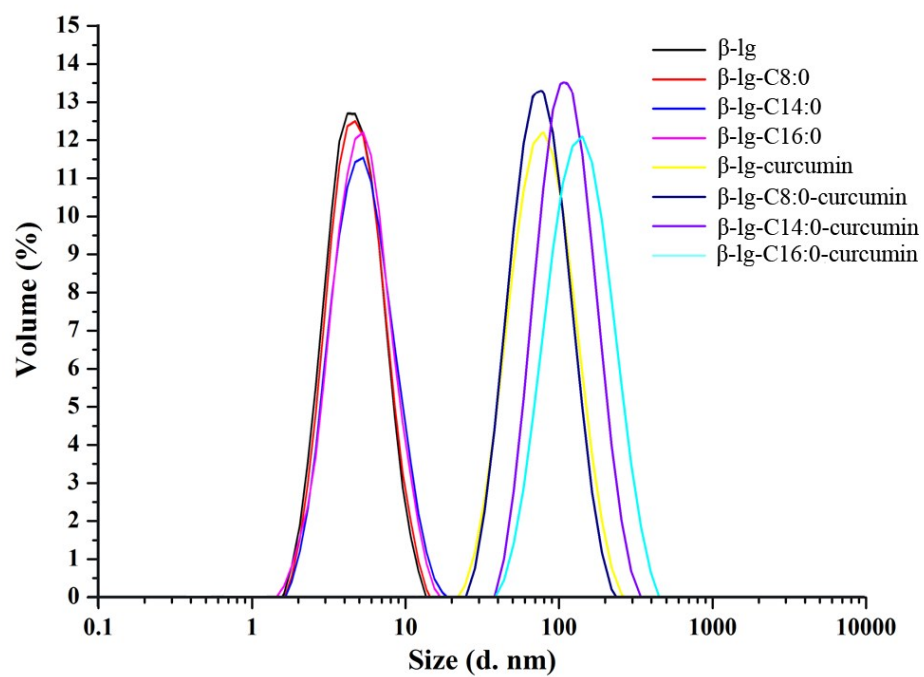
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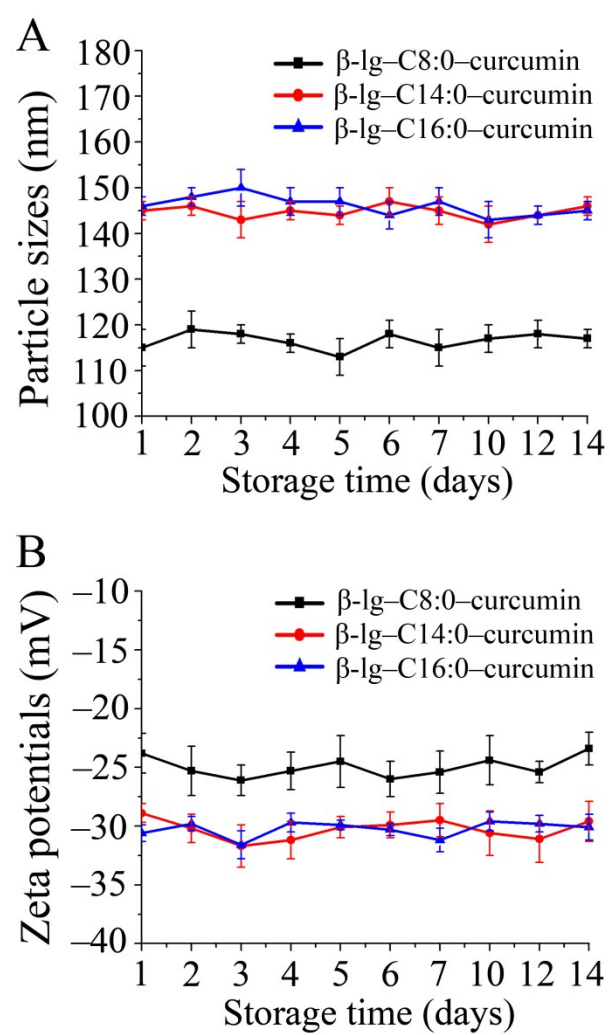
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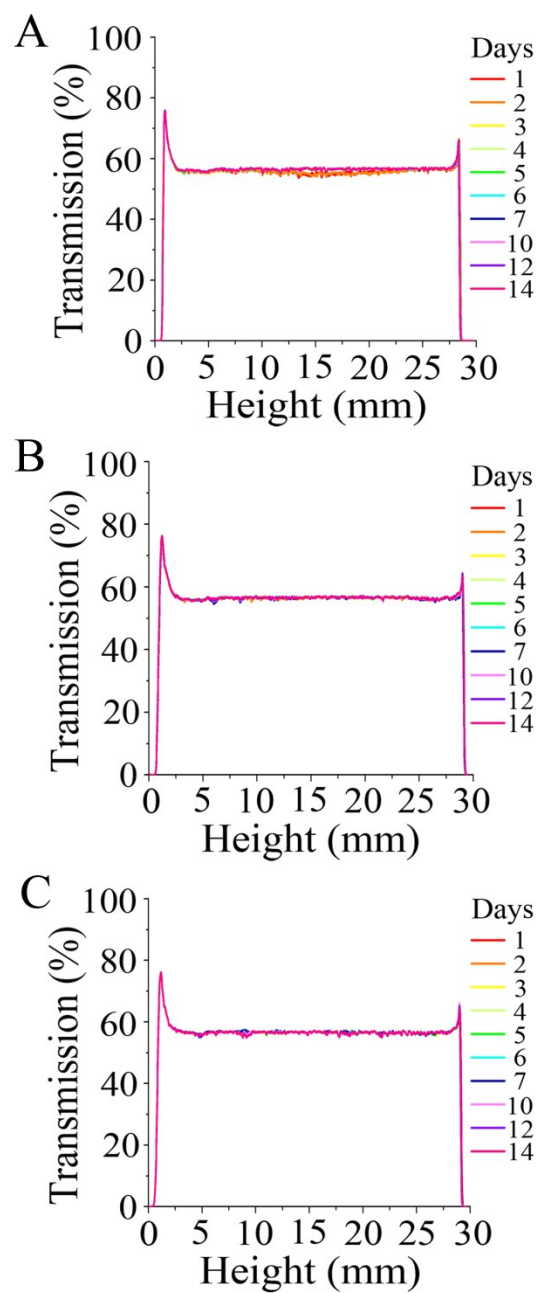
**Fig. S1** Fluorescence emission spectra of curcumin (2 μM) in buffer solution in the presence of β-Ig at different concentrations.  $C_{\beta\text{-Ig}} = 0, 3, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30$  μM (labeled as 1 to 10). The emission spectra were recorded from 450 nm to 600 nm with an excitation wavelength of 425 nm.



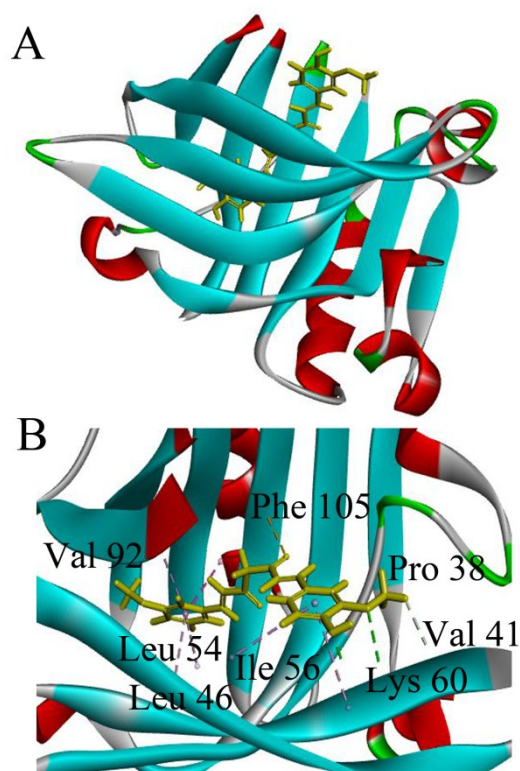
**Fig. S2** Particle size distribution curves for the samples determined based on dynamic light scattering data.



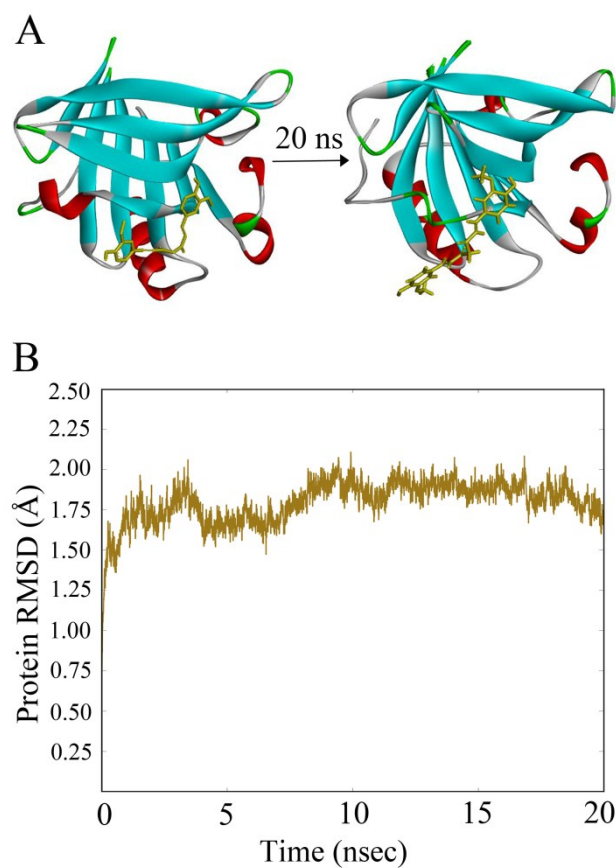
**Fig. S3** The mean sizes (A) and zeta potentials (B) of the samples at 4°C during 14 days storage.



**Fig. S4** Transmission profiles of the samples at 4°C during 14 days storage using Turbiscan analysis. (A), (B) and (C) show the profiles of  $\beta$ -lg-C8:0-curcumin,  $\beta$ -lg-C14:0-curcumin, and  $\beta$ -lg-C16:0-curcumin ternary complexes, respectively.



**Fig. S5** Docked structure corresponding to the minimum energy conformation for the  $\beta$ -lg-curcumin complex. (A) Overview of binding behaviors of  $\beta$ -lg with curcumin. (B) Detailed illustration of the amino acids near curcumin. In the complex, the yellow ligand represents curcumin.



**Fig. S6** The conformation changes (A) and the root mean square deviation (RMSD) values (B) of complex during molecular dynamics simulation. In the complex, the yellow ligand represents curcumin.