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# **Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)**

# Solubilisation of a 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl radical in water by $\beta$ -cyclodextrin to evaluate the radical-scavenging activity of antioxidants in aqueous media

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### **Experimental details**

### Materials

Commercially available reagents, such as 2,2-diphenyl-1-picryhlhydrazyl radical (DPPH<sup>•</sup>), 2,2-di(4-*tert*-octylphenyl)-1-picrylhydrazyl radical (DOPPH<sup>•</sup>),  $\beta$ -cyclodextrin ( $\beta$ -CD), ascorbic acid (AscH<sub>2</sub>), Trolox, buffer salts and organic solvents, were the best available purity and used without further purification unless otherwise noted. Water used in this study was freshly prepared with a Milli-Q system (Millipore Direct-Q UV 3). The solubilisation of DPPH<sup>•</sup> to water using  $\beta$ -CD was carried out by the procedure described in the text.

## Spectral and kinetic measurements

UV-vis spectra were recorded on an Agilent 8453 photodiode array spectrophotometer. The rates of the scavenging reaction of the  $\beta$ -CD-solubilised DPPH<sup>•</sup> (DPPH<sup>•</sup>/ $\beta$ -CD) in a phosphate buffer (0.1 M, pH 7.4) by water soluble antioxidants (AscH<sub>2</sub> and Trolox) were determined by monitoring the absorbance change at 527 nm due to DPPH<sup>•</sup>/ $\beta$ -CD ( $\varepsilon = 1.1 \times 10^4 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) using a stopped-flow technique on a UNISOKU RSP-1000-02NM spectrophotometer. The pseudo-first-order rate constants ( $k_{obs}$ ) were determined by a least-squares curve fit using an Apple MacBook Pro personal computer. The first-order plots of  $\ln(A - A_{\infty})$  vs. time (A and  $A_{\infty}$  are denoted as the absorbance at the reaction time and the final absorbance, respectively) were linear until three or more half-lives with the correlation coefficient  $\rho > 0.999$ .

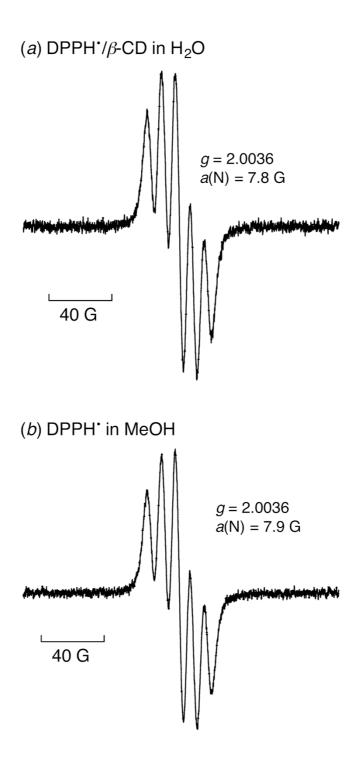
#### **Theoretical calculations**

Density functional theory (DFT) calculations of  $\beta$ -CD, DPPH<sup>•</sup>, DOPPH<sup>•</sup>, and their inclusion complexes (DPPH<sup>•</sup>/ $\beta$ -CD and DOPPH<sup>•</sup>/ $\beta$ -CD) were performed with Gaussian 09 (Revision A.02, Gaussian, Inc.).<sup>S1</sup> The calculations were performed on a 32-processor QuantumCube<sup>TM</sup> at the UB3LYP/3-21G level of theory for DPPH<sup>•</sup>, DOPPH<sup>•</sup> and their complexes and the RB3LYP/3-21G for  $\beta$ -CD.<sup>S2</sup> The polarizable continuum model (C–PCM), parameterized for water as a solvent, was applied during the geometry optimisation step. Graphical outputs of the computational results were generated with the *GaussView* software program (ver. 3.09) developed by Semichem, Inc.<sup>S3</sup>

#### **EPR** measurements

EPR spectra of DPPH<sup>•</sup> and the inclusion complex (DPPH<sup>•</sup>/ $\beta$ -CD) were recorded on a JEOL X-band spectrometer (JES-RE1XE) with an attached variable temperature apparatus. The EPR spectra were measured at 77 (Fig. S1) and 298 K (Fig. 4). The magnitude of modulation was chosen to optimise the resolution and the signal-to-noise (S/N) ratio of the observed spectra under non-saturating microwave conditions. The *g* values and the hyperfine coupling constants were calibrated with a Mn<sup>2+</sup> marker. **References** 

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**Fig. S1** EPR spectra of (a) DPPH<sup>•</sup>/ $\beta$ -CD (1.0 × 10<sup>-5</sup> M) in distilled water at room temperature and (b) DPPH<sup>•</sup> (1.0 × 10<sup>-5</sup> M) in MeOH at room temperature.