

Table S1. Distribution of Cu⁺-MeCN complexes at various concentrations of acetonitrile, based on stability constants reported by Kamau and Jordan.¹

	10 mM	25 mM	500 mM	1000 mM
	% of Total Copper			
Cu ^I	16	4	0	0
Cu ^I (MeCN)	68	43	2	1
Cu ^I (MeCN) ₂	16	51	56	40
Cu ^I (MeCN) ₃	0	2	42	59
Average CN [‡]	1.0	1.5	2.4	2.6

[‡]CN = coordination number

Table S2. Average best fits of the experimental ITC data for BCA/ Cu⁺ titrations in 25 mM Tris pH 8.0 and 25 mM MeCN to a one-site model.

[NaCl] (mM)	[NaNO ₃] (mM)	n	ΔH (kJ mol ⁻¹)	K (x 10 ⁶)
100	0	2.02 ± 0.01	-27.0 ± 0.2	2.0 ± 0.3
75	25	1.91 ± 0.04	-27.9 ± 0.7	4.9 ± 0.9
50	50	2.14 ± 0.06	-27.4 ± 0.5	3.6 ± 0.3
25	75	1.91 ± 0.04	-27.9 ± 0.7	4.9 ± 0.9
0 [‡]	100	1.98 ± 0.03	-28.0 ± 0.4	3 ± 1

[‡]Although care was taken to eliminate all chloride sources, residual chloride (equimolar to Cu⁺ ≈ 100 μM, but diluted during the titration) is present from the CuCl₂ salt used in the comproportionation reaction.

Table S3. Sequential and overall thermodynamic parameters for ligands binding to Cu⁺ in 25 mM MeCN, 100 mM NaCl and 25 mM Tris at pH 8.0 and 25 °C. Values are in kJ mol⁻¹.

	Site 1 Cu ^I + L ⇌ Cu ^I L			Site 2 Cu ^I L + L ⇌ Cu ^I L ₂			Overall Cu ^I + 2L ⇌ Cu ^I L ₂		
	ΔG	ΔH	-TΔS	ΔG	ΔH	-TΔS	ΔG	ΔH	-TΔS
BCA	-36.0 ± 0.2	-27.0 ± 0.2	-9.0 ± 0.3	-36.0 ± 0.2	-27.0 ± 0.2	-2.19 ± 0.04	-71.9 ± 0.4	-54.0 ± 0.3	-17.9 ± 0.4
BCS	-47 ± 1	-33 ± 1	-14 ± 1	-43.39 ± 0.06	-42 ± 2	-1 ± 2	-90 ± 1	-75 ± 1	-15 ± 2
GSH*	-34.90 ± 0.01	-79.9 ± 0.7 [‡]	45.0 ± 0.7		-	-	-	-	-

*GSH data in Tris at pH 8.0 showed no evidence of a 2nd binding event.

[‡]The heat of Tris protonation is subtracted from the enthalpy term.

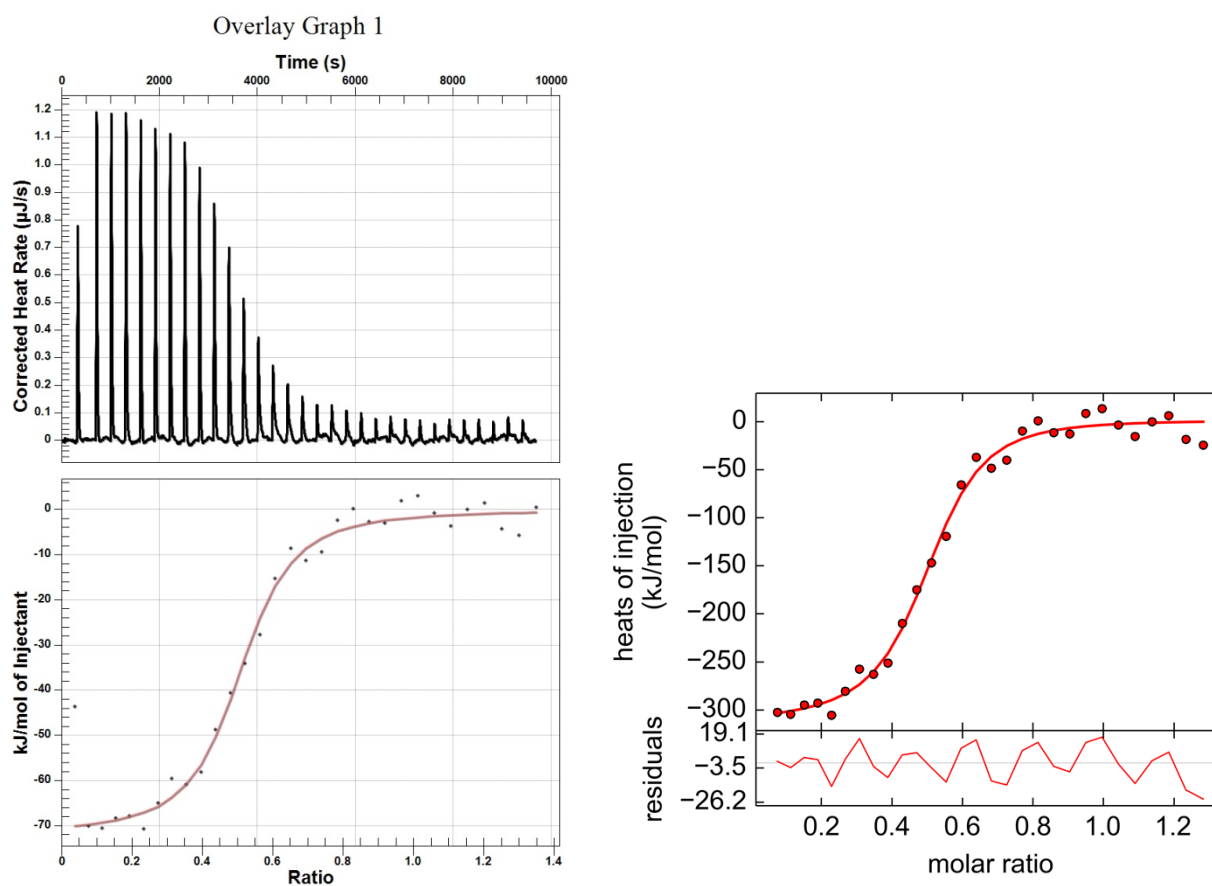


Figure S1. Representative ITC titration of 250 μM Cu^+ into 60 μM BCA in 25 mM HEPES, 100 mM NaCl and 25 mM MeCN at pH 7.0 and 25 $^\circ\text{C}$ on a TA Instruments Nano ITC. The red line indicates the best fit using a one-site binding model ($n = 0.51 \pm 0.01$, $K = 1.5 \pm 0.4 \times 10^6$, $\Delta H = -72 \pm 2 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$). The right panel shows the data fit using the 2 symmetric sites model ($\text{A} + \text{B} + \text{B} \rightleftharpoons \text{AB} + \text{B} \rightleftharpoons \text{ABB}$) in SEDPHAT² with the direction set to A into B. $K_1 = 1.45 \times 10^6$, $\Delta H_1 = -35.3 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$, $K_2 = 6.08 \times 10^5$, $\Delta H_2 = -35.8 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$.

Sample Equilibrium Calculation: $\text{BCS} \rightarrow \text{Cu}^+(\text{Me}_6\text{Trien})^+$

Relevant Conditions:

$$\text{pH } 7.4 \quad [\text{H}^+] = 3.98 \times 10^{-8} \text{ M}$$

$$[\text{Me}_6\text{Trien}]_{\text{total}} = 5 \text{ mM} = 0.005 \text{ M}$$

$$\text{pKa}_1 = 9.19 \quad K_1 = 10^{9.19} = 1.55 \times 10^9 \quad (K_1 = \text{acid Association, not dissociation } \text{H} + \text{L} \rightleftharpoons \text{HL})$$

$$\text{pKa}_2 = 8.38 \quad K_2 = 10^{8.38} = 2.40 \times 10^8 \quad (K_2 = \text{acid Association, not dissociation } \text{H} + \text{HL} \rightleftharpoons \text{H}_2\text{L})$$

$$\beta_2 = K_1 K_2 = 3.715 \times 10^{17} \quad (2\text{H} + \text{L} \rightleftharpoons \text{H}_2\text{L})$$

$$K'_{\text{ITC}} = 1.53 \times 10^5 \quad (\text{From data in Figure 7A}) - \text{this is for each binding event. } K_{\text{ITC}} \text{ for the overall process} = K'_{\text{ITC}}{}^2 \quad K_{\text{ITC}} = (1.53 \times 10^5)^2 = 2.89 \times 10^{10}$$

$$K_{\text{Cu-BCA}} = 3.16 \times 10^{17} \quad (\text{Literature Value}^3)$$

Calculating proton competition (α):

$$\alpha = \sum_{n=0}^i (\beta_n [\text{X}]^n)$$

$$\alpha = 1 + 1.55 \times 10^9 [3.98 \times 10^{-8}] + 3.715 \times 10^{17} [3.98 \times 10^{-8}]^2$$

$$\alpha = 1 + 61.66 + 588.84 = 651.5$$

Calculating $[\text{Me}_6\text{Trien}]$ (this is the fully deprotonated form that binds to Cu^+) – this approach can be used for any ligand (e.g. the pH-dependent calculation for GSH)

$$[\text{Me}_6\text{Trien}]_{\text{total}} = [\text{Me}_6\text{Trien}] + [\text{H}_1\text{Me}_6\text{Trien}] + [\text{H}_2\text{Me}_6\text{Trien}]$$

$$[\text{Me}_6\text{Trien}]_{\text{total}} = [\text{Me}_6\text{Trien}] (1 + K_1 [\text{H}^+] + \beta_2 [\text{H}^+]^2) = [\text{Me}_6\text{Trien}] \times \alpha$$

$$[\text{Me}_6\text{Trien}] = \frac{[\text{Me}_6\text{Trien}]_{\text{total}}}{\alpha} = \frac{0.005}{651.5} = 7.67 \times 10^{-6} \text{ M}$$

$$K_{\text{Cu-BCA}} = K_{\text{ITC}} \left(1 + \frac{[\text{Me}_6\text{Trien}]_{\text{total}}}{\alpha} K_{\text{CuMe}_6\text{Trien}} \right)$$

$$3.16 \times 10^{17} = 2.89 \times 10^{10} \left(1 + \frac{0.005}{651.5} K_{CuMe_6Trien} \right)$$

$$1.09 \times 10^7 = 1 + \frac{0.005}{651.5} K_{CuMe_6Trien}$$

$$K_{CuMe_6Trien} = 1.43 \times 10^{12}$$

The condition-dependent K can be calculated from this:

$$K_{pH\ 7.4} = \frac{K_{CuMe_6Trien}}{\alpha_{pH\ 7.4}} = \frac{1.43 \times 10^{12}}{651.5} = 2.19 \times 10^9$$

When Considering the MeCN/Cl⁻ competition determined in this study (Q = 65000), the apparent K_{ITC} for Cu⁺ → Me₆Trien in 25 mM MeCN and 100 mM Cl⁻ would be:

$$K_{expected} = \frac{K_{pH\ 7.4}}{Q_{MeCN/Cl}} = \frac{2.19 \times 10^9}{65000} = 3.4 \times 10^4$$

This value is at the very bottom of the measurable window for ITC (and well below the recommended range).⁴ This is consistent with our observation of no clear evidence for binding in the Cu → Me₆Trien titration data.

$$c = nK[Macromolecule] = 1 \times 3.4 \times 10^4 \times 5 \times 10^{-5} = 1.6$$

Calculating ΔH for Cu^I(MeCN)_x → Me₆Trien from Cu^IMe₆Trien → BCA

Thermodynamic Cycle:

	Reaction (contribution to measured heat)	n	ΔH (kJ mol ⁻¹)	nΔH (kJ mol ⁻¹)
1	Cu^IMe₆Trien + xMeCN ⇌ Cu^I(MeCN)_x + Me₆Trien	1	X	X
2	Me ₆ Trien + H ⁺ ⇌ Me ₆ Trien-H (pKa 9.19)	0.984	-28.03	-27.584
3	Me ₆ Trien-H + H ⁺ ⇌ Me ₆ Trien-2H (pKa 8.38)	0.805	-30.125	-27.2629
4	HEPES-H ⇌ HEPES + H ⁺	1.889	21.422	+40.467
5	Cu ^I (MeCN) _x + 2 BCA ⇌ Cu(BCA) ₂ + xMeCN	2	-27	-54
Net	Net Reaction (ΔH_{ITC} from Table 4)	1.92	-30	-57.6

$$X = -57.6 - (-54 + 40.467 - 27.263 - 27.584) = 10.78$$

$$\Delta H_{Cu^I Me_6Trien} = -X = -10.78 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$$

From BCS data – only line 5 and Net change:

	Reaction (contribution to measured heat)	n	ΔH (kJ mol ⁻¹)	n ΔH (kJ mol ⁻¹)
1	$\text{Cu}^I\text{Me}_6\text{Trien} + x\text{MeCN} \rightleftharpoons \text{Cu}^I(\text{MeCN})_x + \text{Me}_6\text{Trien}$	1	X	X
2	$\text{Me}_6\text{Trien} + \text{H}^+ \rightleftharpoons \text{Me}_6\text{Trien-H}$ (pKa 9.19)	0.984	-28.03	-27.584
3	$\text{Me}_6\text{Trien-H} + \text{H}^+ \rightleftharpoons \text{Me}_6\text{Trien-2H}$ (pKa 8.38)	0.805	-30.125	-27.2629
4	$\text{HEPES-H} \rightleftharpoons \text{HEPES} + \text{H}^+$	1.889	21.422	+40.467
5	$\text{Cu}^I(\text{MeCN})_x + 2 \text{BCS} \rightleftharpoons \text{Cu}(\text{BCS})_2 + x\text{MeCN}$	2	-37	-74
Net	Net Reaction (ΔH_{ITC} from Table 4)	2.12	-31	-65.72

$$X = -65.72 - (-74 + 40.467 - 27.263 - 27.584) = 22.66$$

$$\Delta H_{\text{Cu}^I\text{Me}_6\text{Trien}} = -X = -22.66 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$$

- (1) Kamau, P.; Jordan, R. B. *Inorganic Chemistry* **2001**, *40*, 3879.
- (2) Zhao, H.; Piszczek, G.; Schuck, P. *Methods* **2015**, *76*, 137.
- (3) Bagchi, P.; Morgan, M. T.; Bacsa, J.; Fahrni, C. J. *Journal of the American Chemical Society* **2013**, *135*, 18549.
- (4) Hansen, L. D.; Fellingham, G. W.; Russell, D. J. *Analytical Biochemistry* **2011**, *409*, 220.