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## Polyoxometalates as artificial nucleases: hydrolytic cleavage of DNA promoted by a highly negatively charged Zr<sup>IV</sup>-substituted Keggin polyanion

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## **Supporting Information**



**Fig. S1** <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectra of 2.0 mM of ZrK 2:2 in different concentrations (10.0 mM to 50.0 mM) of Tris-HCl buffer pH 7.0 after mixing (A) and after 3 days at 50 °C (B). (600 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, 293K, NS = 256, 25%  $H_3PO_4$ )



**Fig. S2** <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectra of 0.25 mM of ZrK 2:2 in 10 mM Tris-HCl buffer pH 7.0 - 9.0 after mixing. (600 MHz,  $D_2O$ , 293K, NS = 256, 25%  $H_3PO_4$ )



**Fig. S3** <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectra of 0.25 mM of ZrK 2:2 in 10 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.0 at different time intervals at 50 °C. (600 MHz,  $D_2O$ , 293K, NS = 256, 25%  $H_3PO_4$ )



**Fig. S4** <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectra of 0.25 mM of ZrK 2:2 in 10 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0 at different time intervals at 50 °C. (600 MHz,  $D_2O$ , 293K, NS = 256, 25%  $H_3PO_4$ )



**Fig. S5** <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectra of 0.25 mM of ZrK 2:2 in 10 mM Tris-HCl pH 9.0 at different time intervals at 50 °C. (600 MHz,  $D_2O$ , 293 K, NS = 256, 25%  $H_3PO_4$ )



**Fig. S6** <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectra of 0.25 - 1.6 mM of ZrK 2:2 in 10 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.0 after sample preparation (A) and 3 days (B) at 50 °C. <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectra of 2.0 mM of ZrK 2:2 in 10 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.0 was added for comparison. (600 MHz,  $D_2O$ , 293 K, NS = 256, 25%  $H_3PO_4$ )



**Fig. S7** <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectra of 0.25 mM of ZrK 2:2 in 10 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.0 at different time intervals at 37 °C (A) and 50 °C (B). (600 MHz,  $D_2O$ , 293 K, NS = 256, 25% H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>)



**Fig. S8** <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectra of 0.25 mM of ZrK 2:2 in the presence of different NaClO<sub>4</sub> concentrations in 10 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.0. <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectra of 2.0 mM of ZrK 1:2 in 10 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.0 was added for comparison. (600 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, 293 K, NS = 256, 25% H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>)



**Fig. S9** Electrophoresis gel of the hydrolysis of 20 ng/ $\mu$ L plasmid pUC19 DNA in the presence of 0.25 mM ZrK 2:2 in 10 mM Tris-HCl at pH 7.0 and 37 °C. Lane 1: 1 kb plus DNA ladder, lane 2: pUC19 alone after sample preparation and without heating, lane 3: linear pUC19 alone, lane 4: after mixing, lane 5-lane 15: after 24h, 48h, 72h, 97h, 121h, 145h, 167.5h, 192.5h, 216.5h and 240.5h incubation respectively.



**Fig. S10** Percentage of multimeric, relaxed, linear and supercoiled forms as a function of reaction time for the reaction between 20 ng/ $\mu$ L plasmid DNA pUC19 in the presence of 0.25 mM ZrK 2:2 in 10 mM Tris-HCl at pH 7.0 and 50 °C.



**Fig. S11** In[SC pUC19] as a function of time (linear fit with  $R^2 = 0.97$ ) for the reaction between 20 ng/ $\mu l$  plasmid DNA pUC19 in the presence of 0.25 mM ZrK 2:2 in 10 mM Tris-HCl at pH 7.0 and 50 °C.



**Fig. S12** A: Arrhenius plot of  $\ln(k_{obs})$  as a function of 1/T (Arrhenius equation:  $lnk_{obs} = lnA - \frac{E_{a1}}{RT}$ ) and B: Eyring plot of  $\ln(k_{obs}/T)$  as a function of 1/T (Eyring equation:  $ln\frac{k_{obs}}{T} = \frac{-\Delta H^{\ddagger}}{R}\frac{1}{T} + ln\frac{k_{b}}{h} + \frac{\Delta S^{\ddagger}}{R}$ ) for the hydrolysis of 20 ng/µLpUC19 in the presence of 0.25 mM ZrK 2:2 in 10 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.0.



**Fig. S13** CD spectra of 160  $\mu$ M ZrK 2:2 (black), 0.2  $\mu$ M ctDNA (red), 0.2  $\mu$ M ctDNA in the presence of 2.5  $\mu$ M ZrK 2:2 (green) and 0.2  $\mu$ M ctDNA in the presence of 5  $\mu$ M ZrK 2:2 (blue). All of the spectra were recorded in 10 mM Tris-HCl buffer pH 7.0 at room temperature.



**Fig. S14** <sup>31</sup>P spectra of (a) 3.0 mM ZrK 2:2 and (b) a mixture of 3.0 mM ZrK 2:2 and 0.32 mM ctDNA (b) in  $D_2O$  at pH 7.0 and 293K.

**Table S1.** The diffusion coefficient of 3.0 mM ZrK 2:2 in the absence and in the presence of0.32 mM ctDNA at 298K and 280K.

Sample	Species	Chemical shift (ppm)	Diffusion coefficient (m²/s)	
ZrK 2:2 (298K)	ZrK 2:2 ZrK 1:2	-13.49 -14.67 and -14.77	$2.82 \times 10^{-10}$ $1.74 \times 10^{-10}$ ] Difference: 1.08 × 10 <sup>-10</sup>	Difference: 1.04 × 10 <sup>-10</sup>
ZrK 2:2 + ctDNA (298K)	ZrK 2:2 ZrK 1:2	-13.49 -14.67 and -14.77	1.78 × 10 <sup>-10</sup> 1.66 × 10 <sup>-10</sup>	
ZrK 2:2 (280K)	ZrK 2:2 ZrK 1:2	-13.49 -14.67 and -14.77	$ \begin{array}{c} 1.06 \times 10^{-10} \\ 0.95 \times 10^{-10} \end{array} \right] \text{ Difference: } 0.11 \times 10^{-10} \end{array} $	Difference: 0.02 × 10 <sup>-10</sup>
ZrK 2:2 + ctDNA (280K)	ZrK 2:2 ZrK 1:2	-13.49 -14.67 and -14.77	1.04 × 10 <sup>-10</sup> 0.87 × 10 <sup>-10</sup>	



**Fig. S15** <sup>31</sup>P DOSY spectra of 3.0 mM ZrK 2:2 (black) and of a mixture of 3.0 mM ZrK 2:2 and 0.32 mM ctDNA in  $D_2O$  at pH 7.0 and 280K (red).