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## **Supplementary Information**

## Photoactivation of the Ni-SI<sub>r</sub> state to Ni-SI<sub>a</sub> state in [NiFe] hydrogenase: FT-IR study on the light reactivity of the ready Ni-SI<sub>r</sub> state and as-isolated enzyme revisited

Hulin Tai,<sup>a,b</sup> Liyang Xu,<sup>a</sup> Seiya Inoue,<sup>c</sup> Koji Nishikawa,<sup>c</sup> Yoshiki Higuchi,<sup>b,c</sup> and Shun Hirota<sup>a,b,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Graduate School of Materials Science, Nara Institute of Science and Technology, 8916-5 Takayama-cho, Ikoma-shi, Nara 630-0192, Japan, <sup>b</sup>CREST, Japan Science and Technology Agency, 4-1-8 Honcho, Kawaguchi, Saitama 332-0012, Japan, and <sup>c</sup>Graduate School of Life Science, University of Hyogo, 3-2-1 Koto kamigori-cho, Ako-gun, Hyogo 678-1297, Japan

\*E-mail: hirota@ms.naist.jp; Fax: +81-743-72-6119; Phone: +81-743-72-6110

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**Fig. S1** FT-IR spectra of (a) H<sub>2</sub>-activated and (b) phenosafranin-oxidized DvMF [NiFe] hydrogenase under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere at pH 7.4 and 298 K. Phenosafranin-oxidized [NiFe] hydrogenase was obtained by partial oxidation of the H<sub>2</sub>-activated enzyme with an anaerobic addition of 5 equivalents of phenosafranin under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. The pH value was measured at 298 K. The v<sub>co</sub> frequency of the Ni-SI<sub>r</sub> state at 298 K was shifted to a lower frequency for about 1 cm<sup>-1</sup> compared to that obtained at 178–238 K, although the frequency shift was smaller than the resolution (2 cm<sup>-1</sup>).



**Fig. S2** FT-IR spectra of phenosafranin-oxidized DvMF [NiFe] hydrogenase (a) before light irradiation at 218 K and (b–e) light-minus-before difference spectra between the spectra during and before light irradiation at 158–218 K under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere at pH 9.6. Phenosafranin-oxidized [NiFe] hydrogenase was obtained by partial oxidation of the H<sub>2</sub>-activated enzyme with an anaerobic addition of 5 equivalents of phenosafranin under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. The laser power was adjusted to 2.5 W/cm<sup>2</sup> at the sample point. The pH value was measured at 274 K.



Fig. S3 FT-IR spectra of phenosafranin-oxidized DvMF [NiFe] hydrogenase before light irradiation and their light-minus-before and after-minus-before difference spectra at different temperatures (178, 198, 218, and 238 K) under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere at pH 8.0. (A) FT-IR spectra before light irradiation and (B) light-minus-before difference spectra between the spectra during and before light irradiation (black), and after-minus-before difference spectra between after and before light irradiation (magenta and cyan) are shown. The "after" spectra were measured 5–22 min (magenta) and 30–47 min (cyan) after light irradiation was stopped. Phenosafranin-oxidized [NiFe] hydrogenase was obtained by partial oxidation of the H<sub>2</sub>-activated enzyme with an anaerobic addition of 5 equivalents of phenosafranin under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. The laser power was adjusted to 2.5 W/cm<sup>2</sup> at the sample point. The pH value was measured at 274 K.



**Fig. S4** FT-IR spectra of phenosafranin-oxidized DvMF [NiFe] hydrogenase before light irradiation and their light-minus-before difference spectra under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere at 103 K with different irradiation time and light intensity at (A) pH 7.0 and (B,C) pH 8.0. (a) FT-IR spectra before light irradiation and (b-h) light-minus-before difference spectra between the spectra during and before light irradiation are shown. The laser power was adjusted to (A,C) 3.3 and (B) 1.3 W/cm<sup>2</sup> at the sample point. The light-irradiation spectra were measured (b) 3–20, (c) 30–47, (d) 60–57, (e) 90–107, (f) 120–137, (g) 150–167, and (h) 180–197 min after light irradiation was started. Phenosafranin-oxidized [NiFe] hydrogenase was obtained by partial oxidation of the H<sub>2</sub>-activated enzyme with an anaerobic addition of 5 equivalents of phenosafranin under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. The pH value was measured at 274 K.



**Fig. S5** FT-IR spectra of as-isolated *Dv*MF [NiFe] hydrogenase before light irradiation and their light-minus-after difference spectra at different temperatures (103, 123, 158, and 198 K) under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere at pH 8.0. (A) FT-IR spectra before light irradiation and (B) light-minus-after difference spectra between the spectra during and after light irradiation. The "after" spectra were measured 5–22 min after light irradiation was stopped. The laser power was adjusted to 2.5 W/cm<sup>2</sup> at the sample point. The pH value was measured at 274 K.



**Fig. S6** FT-IR spectra of DvMF [NiFe] hydrogenase under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere at different pH values (pH 6.0, 7.4, 8.0, and 9.0) at 298 K: (A) Phenosafranin-oxidized and (B) as-isolated [NiFe] hydrogenase. Phenosafranin-oxidized [NiFe] hydrogenase was obtained by partial oxidation of the H<sub>2</sub>-activated enzyme with an anaerobic addition of 5 equivalents of phenosafranin under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. The pH value was measured at 298 K.



**Fig. S7** FT-IR spectra of H<sub>2</sub>-activated DvMF [NiFe] hydrogenase before and after weak light irradiation and difference spectrum between the spectra during strong light irradiation and after weak light irradiation under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere at pH 8.0 and 103 K: (a) Before light irradiation, (b) after weak light irradiation, and (c) difference spectra between the spectra during strong light irradiation and after weak light irradiation. The weak and strong laser powers were adjusted to 0.5 and 2.5 W/cm<sup>2</sup>, respectively, at the sample point. The "after" spectrum with weak light irradiation was measured 5–22 min after light irradiation was stopped. The pH value was measured at 274 K. No light-induced conversion of the Ni-SX state to Ni-SL state was observed in the difference spectrum.



**Fig. S8** FT-IR spectra of DvMF [NiFe] hydrogenase (A) before light irradiation and (B) their lightminus-after difference spectra between the spectra during and after light irradiation under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere at pH 8.0 and 103 K: (a) as-isolated and (b) 30 min, (c) 60 min, and (d) 120 min H<sub>2</sub>treated [NiFe] hydrogenase. To obtain the 30 min, 60 min, and 120 min H<sub>2</sub>-treated [NiFe] hydrogenase, the as-isolated enzyme solution was degassed with a vacuum line, purged with 1 bar of H<sub>2</sub>, and incubated at 310 K for (b) 30, (c) 60, and (d) 120 min, respectively. The "after" spectra were measured 30–47 min after light irradiation was stopped. The laser power was adjusted to 2.5 W/cm<sup>2</sup> at the sample point. The pH value was measured at 274 K.



**Fig. S9** H<sub>2</sub> activation kinetics of the Ni-SX state at 310 K. Intensities of the Ni-SX v<sub>CO</sub> band were calculated from Figures S7 and S8. The intensity of the v<sub>CO</sub> band decreased exponentially with a time constant of  $\sim$ 50 min.