

## Supplementary information

### The 'C<sup>α</sup>NN' motif: an intrinsic lover of sulfate and phosphate ions

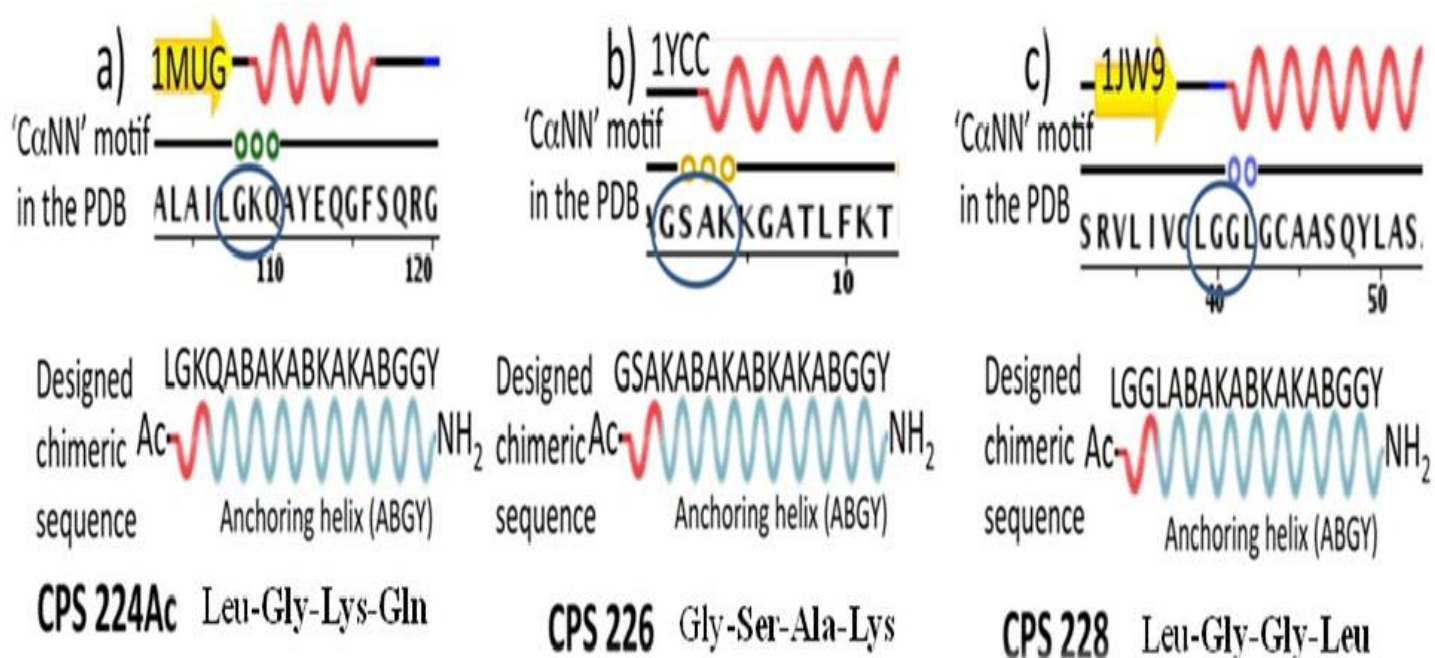
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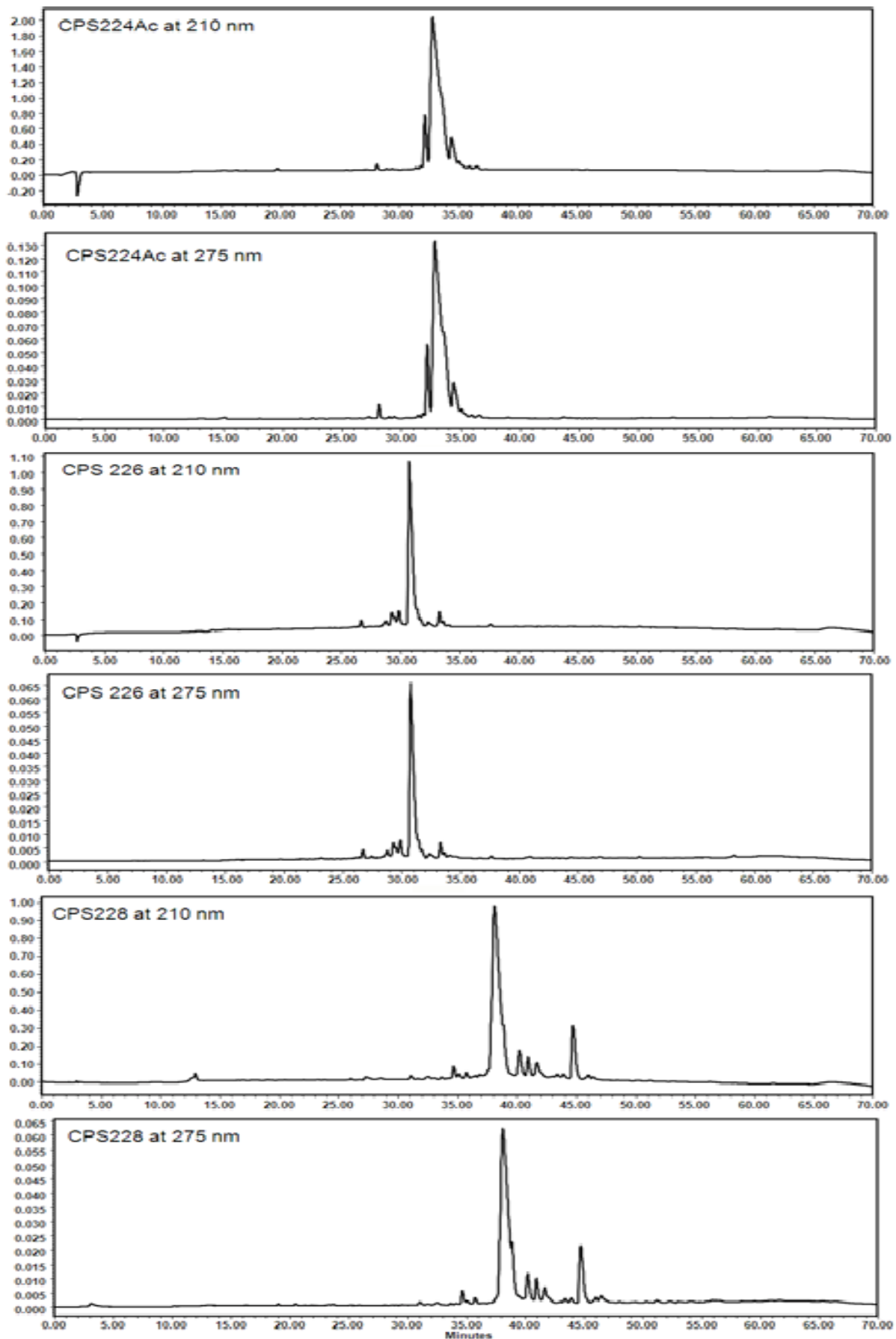
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**Short title:** Anion-recognition peptide motif

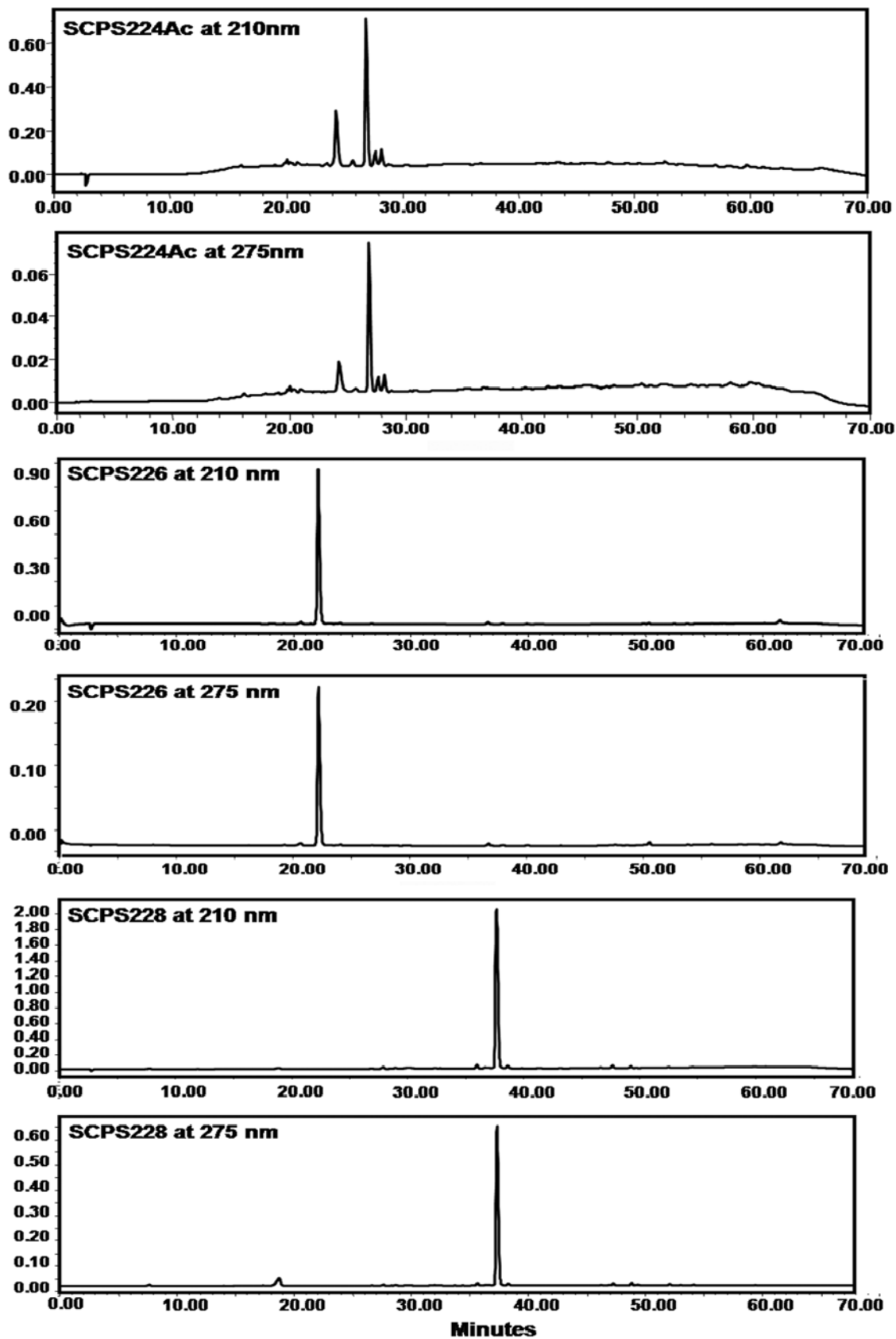
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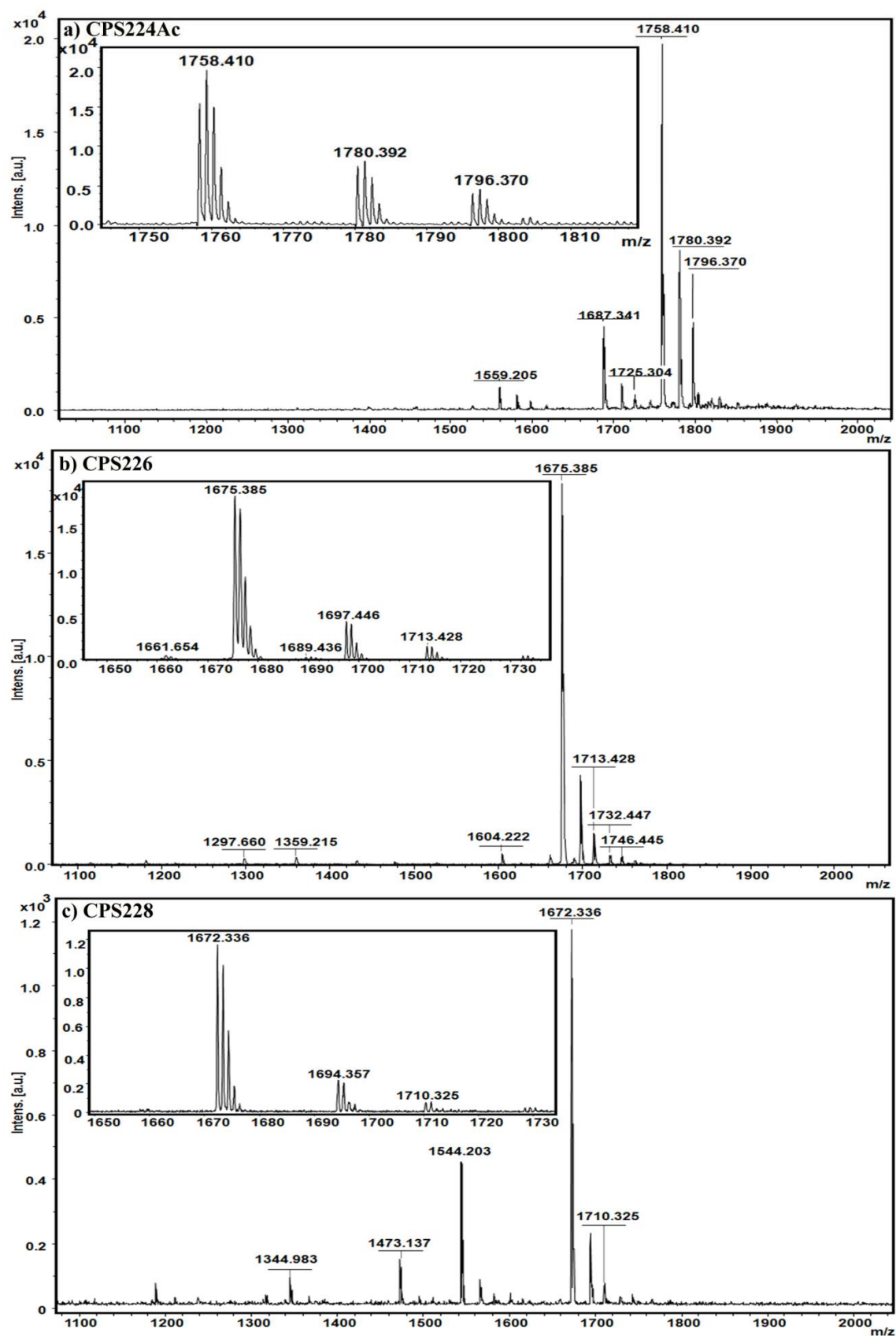
**Figure S1:** Design of peptides a) CPS224Ac, b) CPS226 and c) CPS228 by appending the 'C $\alpha$ NN' sequences from the respective PDB (1MUG for CPS224Ac; 1YCC for CPS226 and 1JW9 for CPS228)



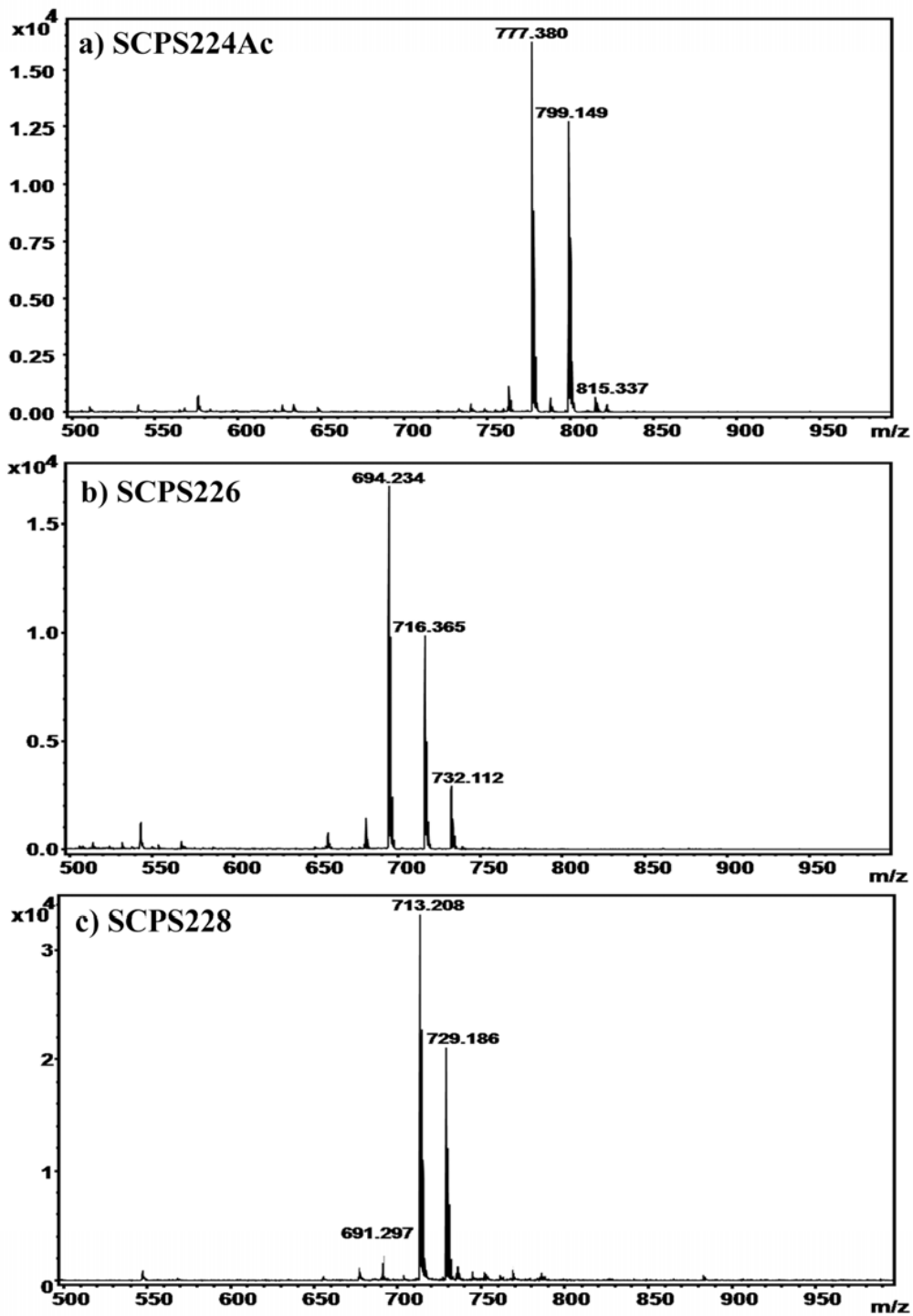
**Figure S2:** HPLC traces of the 18-residue peptides (CPS224Ac, CPS226 and CPS228) containing the naturally occurring 'C<sup>α</sup>NN' motif sequences using gradient of 0-60% acetonitrile in water with 0.1% TFA in dual  $\lambda$  absorbance detector (at 210 and 275 nm).



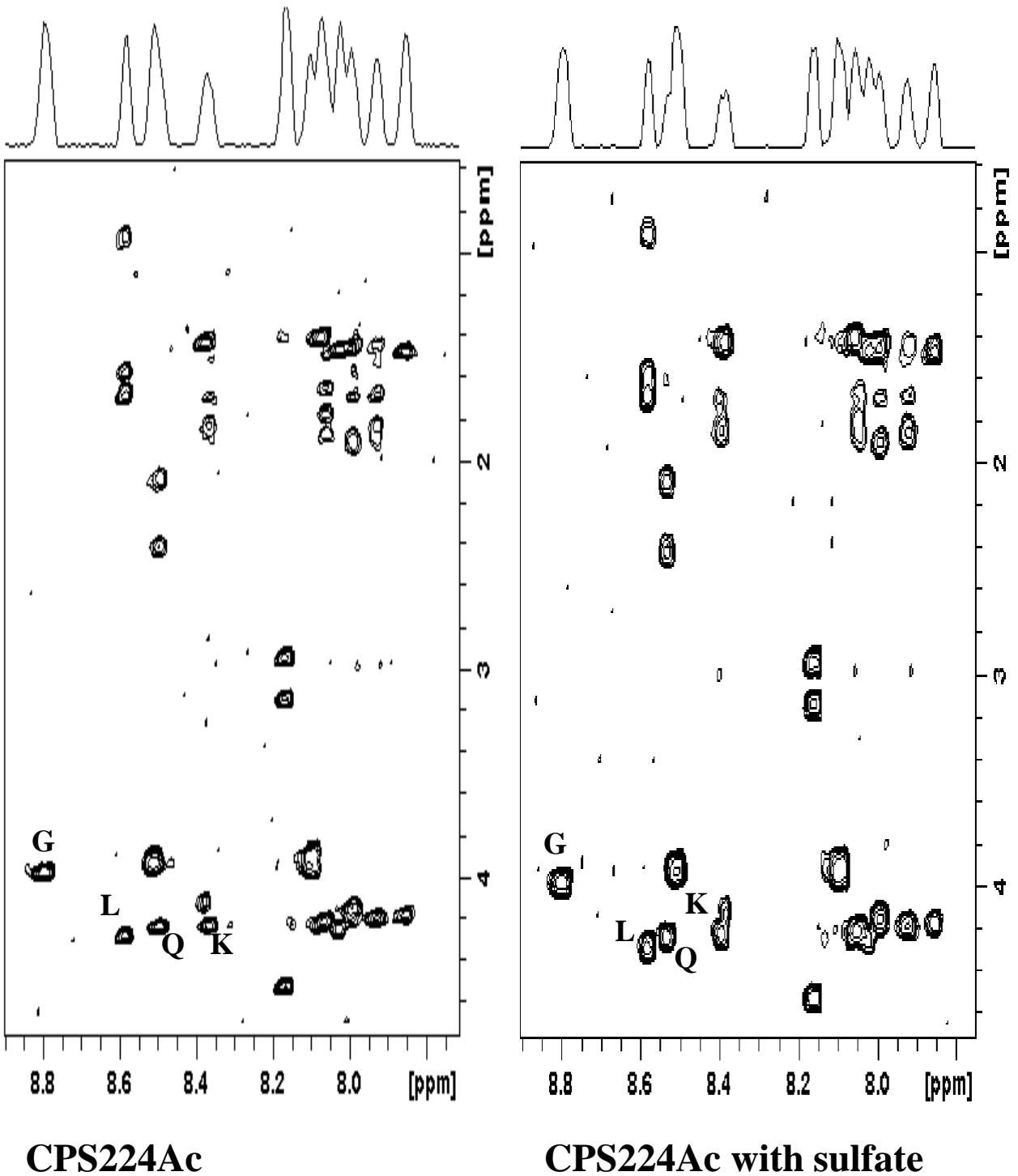
**Figure S3:** HPLC traces of the short 7-residue peptides (SCPS224Ac, SCPS226 and SCPS228) containing the naturally occurring 'C<sup>α</sup>NN' motif sequences using gradient of 0-60% acetonitrile in water with 0.1% TFA in dual  $\lambda$  absorbance detector (at 210 and 275 nm).



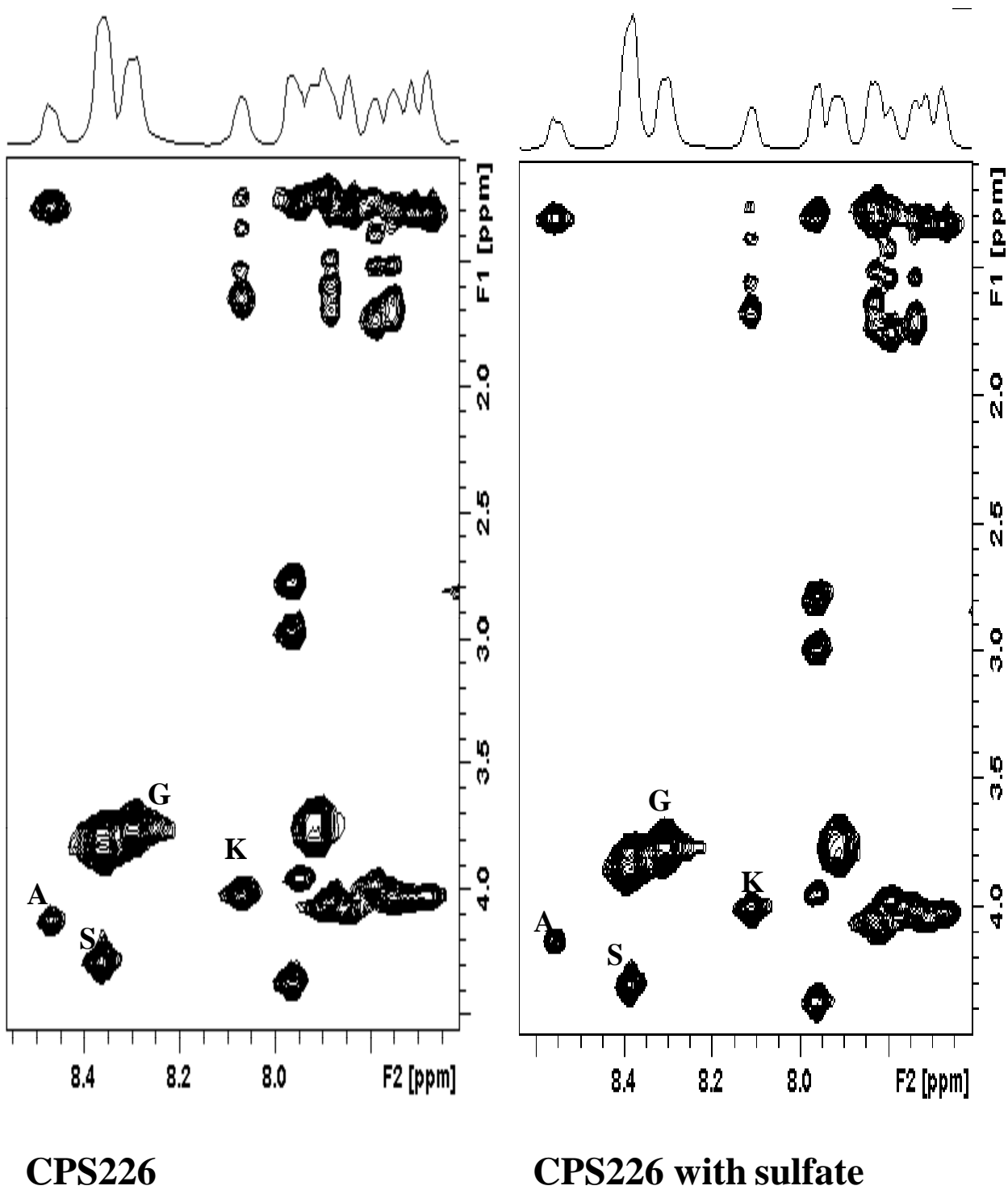
**Figure S4:** MALDI-MS (in the positive mode) traces of the 18-residue peptides [CPS224Ac (MW: 1757), CPS226 (MW: 1674) and CPS228 (MW: 1671)] containing the naturally occurring ‘C<sup>α</sup>NN’ motif sequences showing the m/z peaks (z=1) corresponding to respective M+H<sup>+</sup>; M+Na<sup>+</sup> and M+K<sup>+</sup> ions



**Figure S5:** MALDI-MS (in the positive mode) traces of the short 7-residue peptides [SCPS224Ac (MW: 776), SCPS226 (MW: 693) and SCPS228 (MW:690)] containing the naturally occurring 'C<sup>α</sup>NN' motif sequences showing the m/z peaks (z=1) corresponding to respective M+H<sup>+</sup>; M+Na<sup>+</sup> and M+K<sup>+</sup> ions

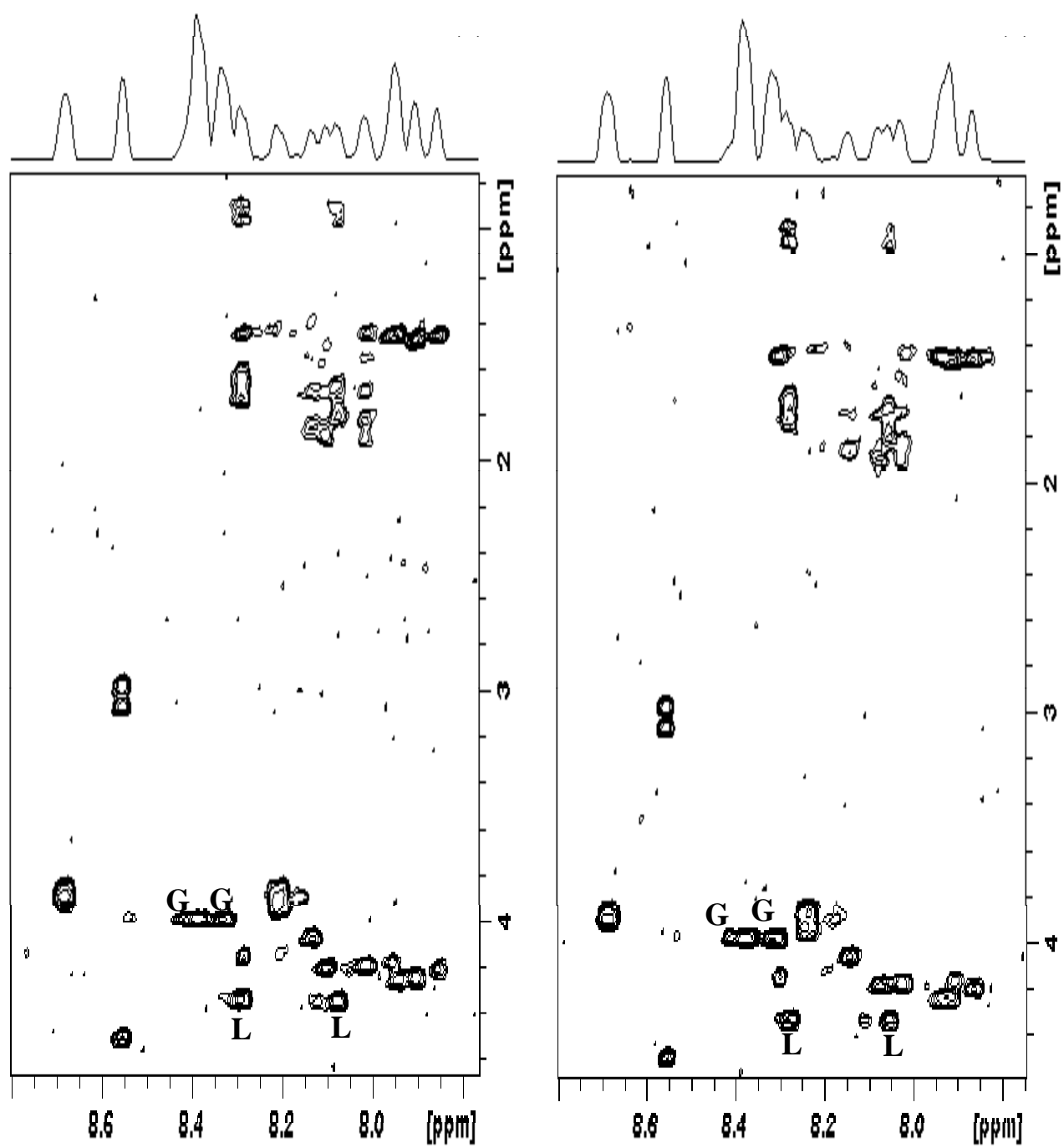


**Figure S6:** TOCSY experiments of CPS224Ac and sulfate added species of CPS224Ac (1:3 M peptide : anion). The 'C<sup>α</sup>NN' motif sequence (-Leu-Gly-Lys-Gln-) present at N-terminus is labeled.



**Figure S7:** TOCSY experiments of CPS226 and sulfate added species of CPS226 (1:3 M peptide : anion). The ‘C<sup>α</sup>NN’ motif sequence (–Gly-Ser-Ala-Lys–) present at the N-terminus is labeled.

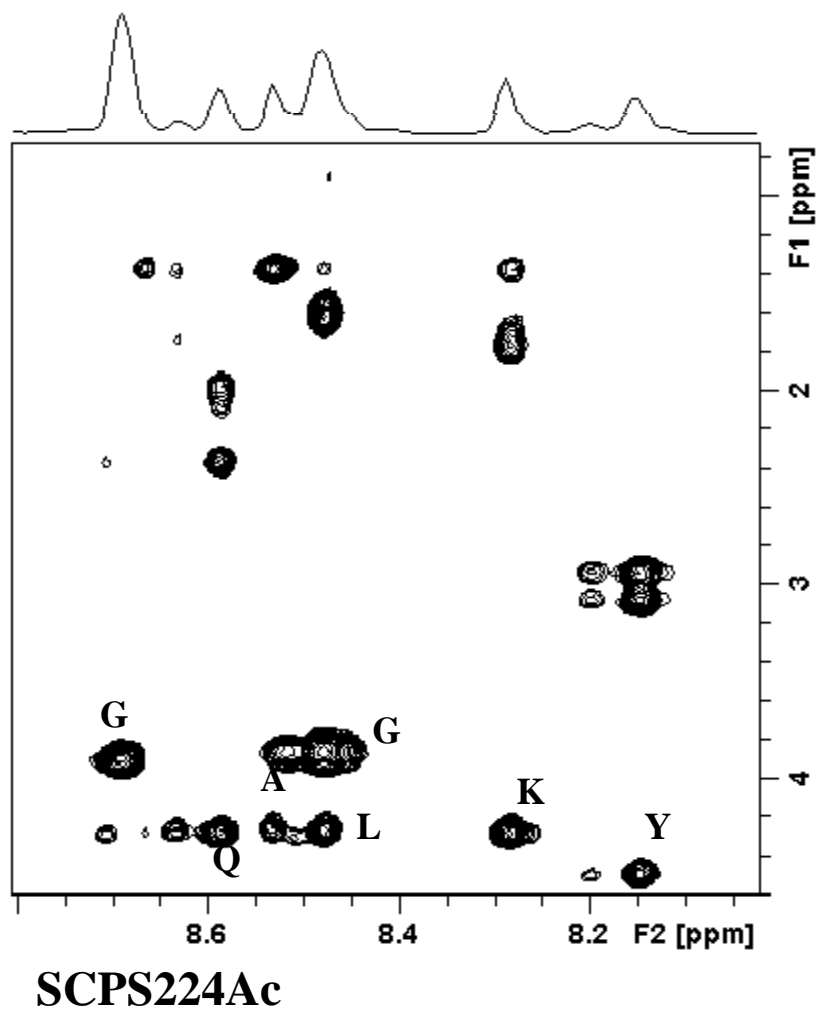




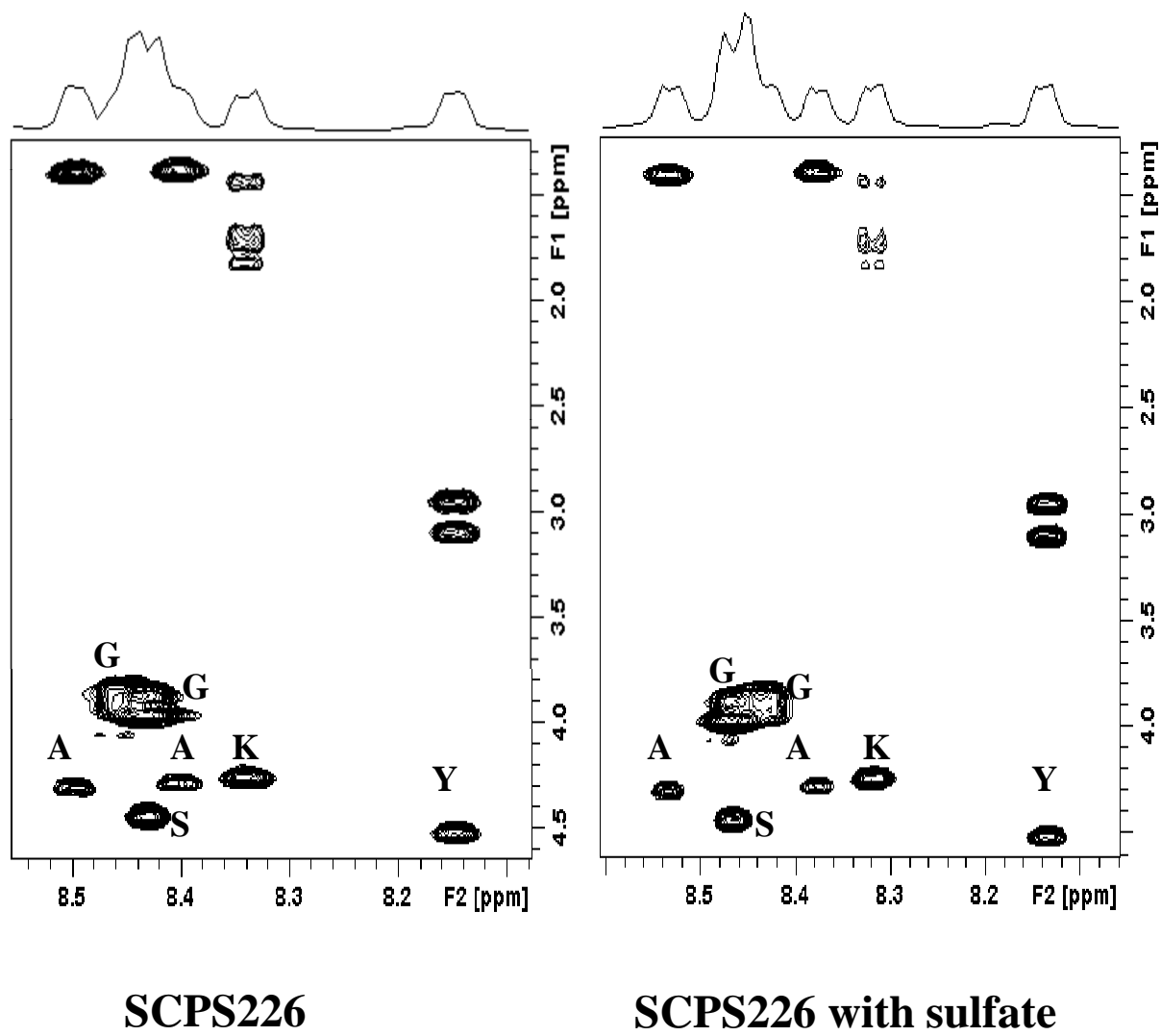
**CPS228**

**CPS228 with sulfate**

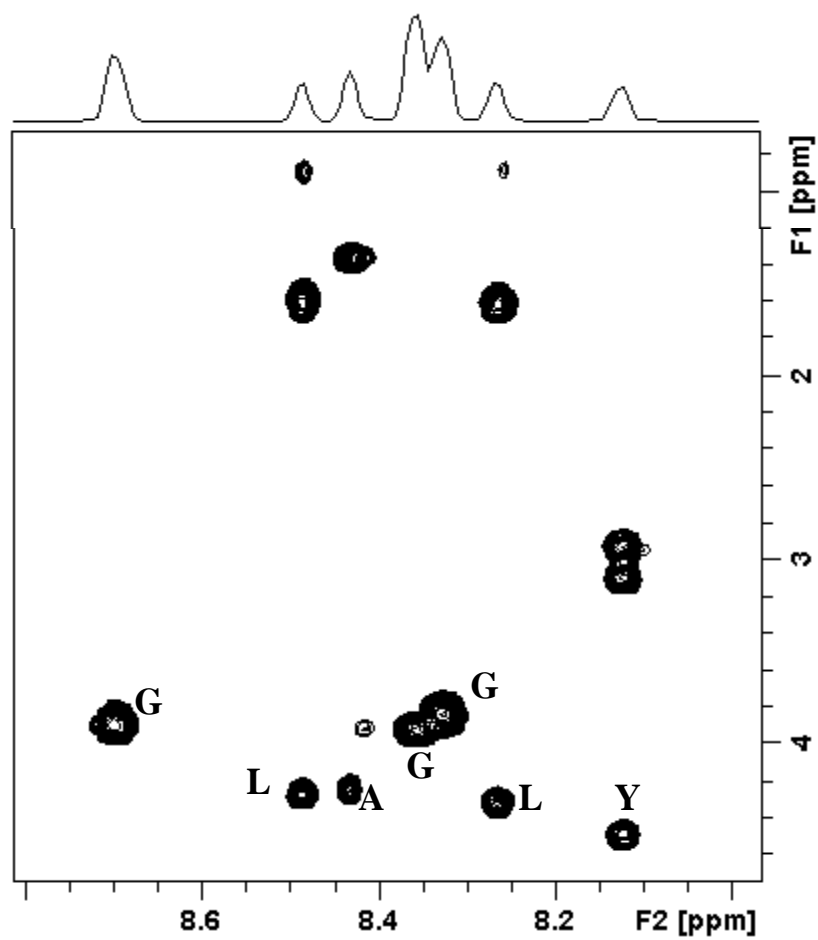
**Figure S8:** TOCSY experiments of CPS228 and sulfate ion added species of CPS228 (1:3 M peptide : anion). The ‘C<sup>α</sup>NN’ motif sequence (-Leu-Gly-Gly-Leu-) present at N-terminus is labeled.



**Figure S9:** TOCSY experiments of SCPS224Ac. The residues of the sequence (-Leu-Gly-Lys-Gln-Ala-Gly-Tyr) are labeled with one letter symbol.

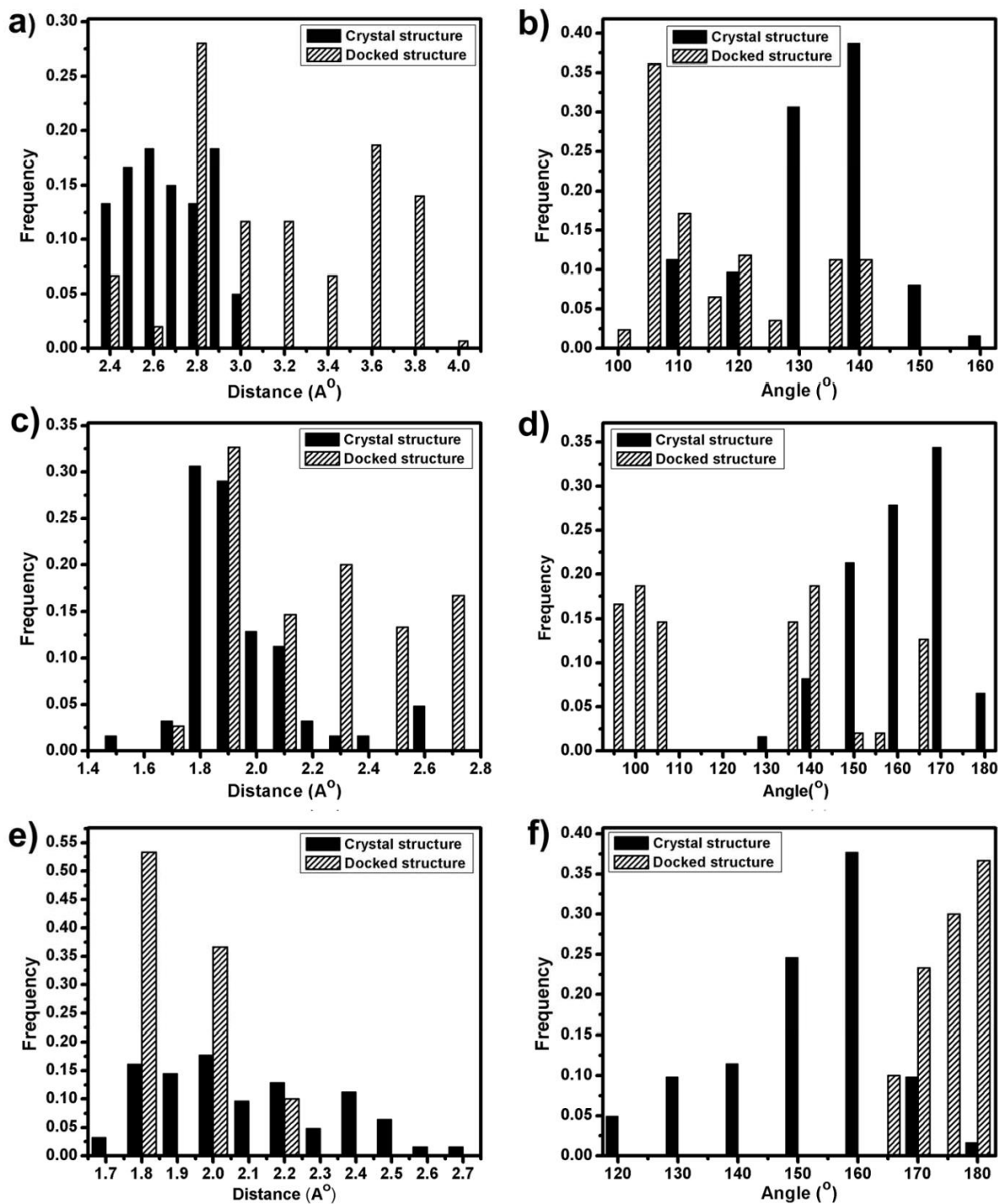


**Figure S10:** TOCSY experiments of SCPS226 and sulfate added species of SCPS226 (1:3 M peptide : anion). The residues of the sequence (-Gly-Ser-Ala-Lys-Ala-Gly-Tyr) are labeled with one letter symbol.

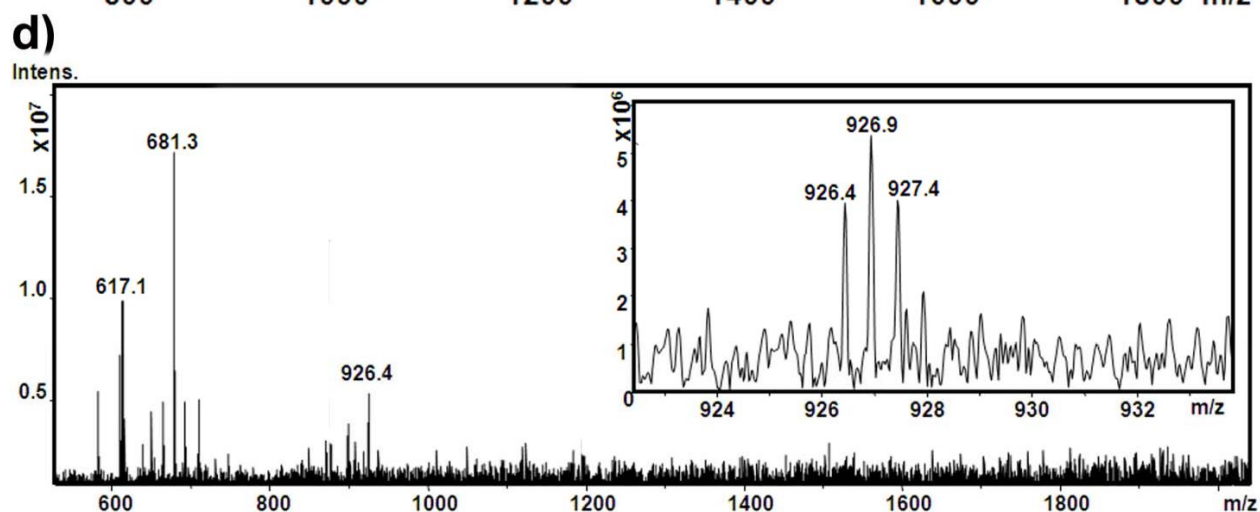
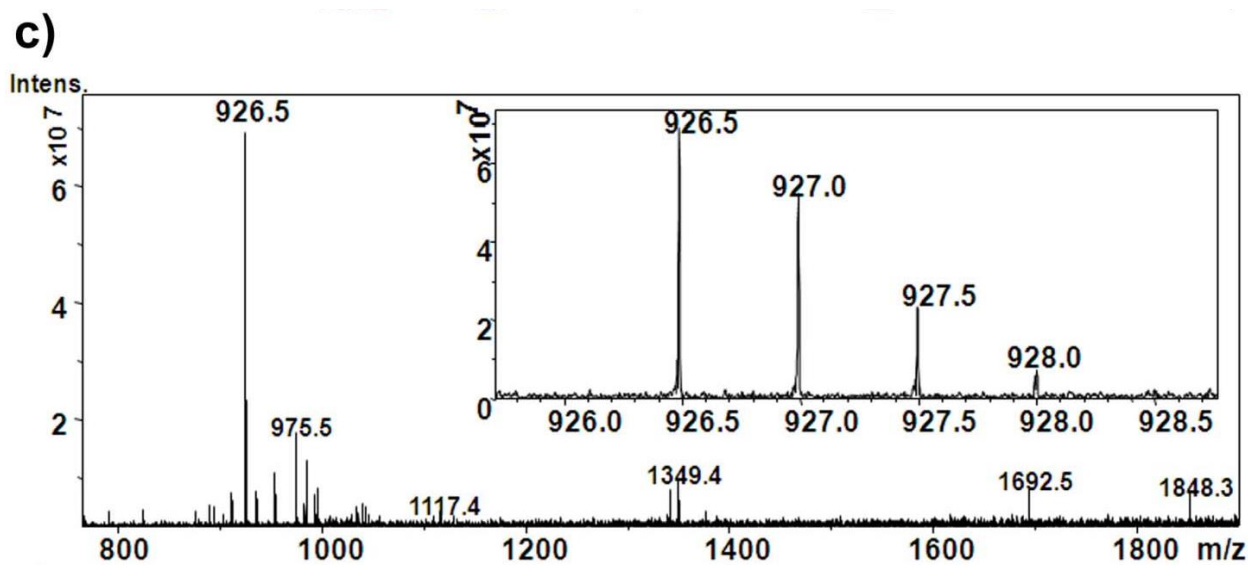


## SCPS228

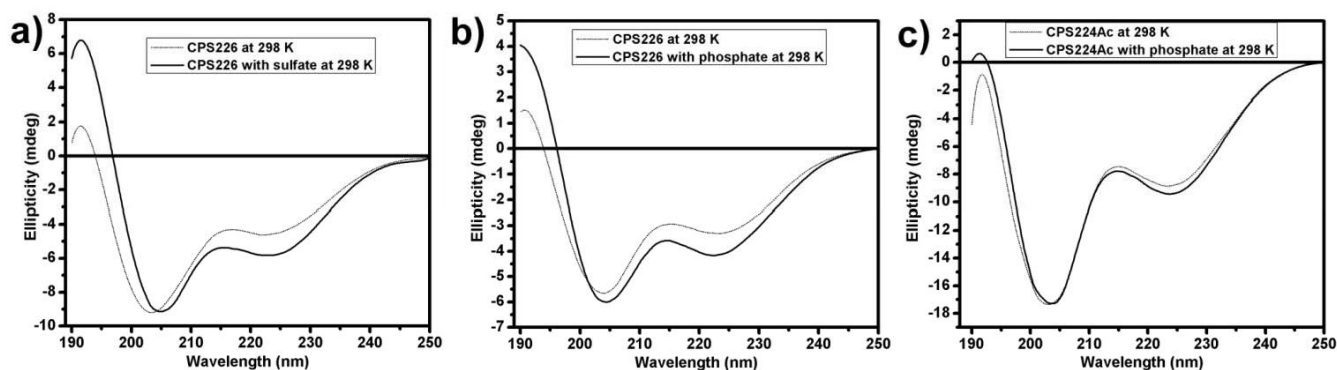
**Figure S11:** TOCSY experiments of SCPS228. The residues of the sequence (-Leu-Gly-Gly-Leu-Ala-Gly-Tyr-) are labeled with one letter symbol.



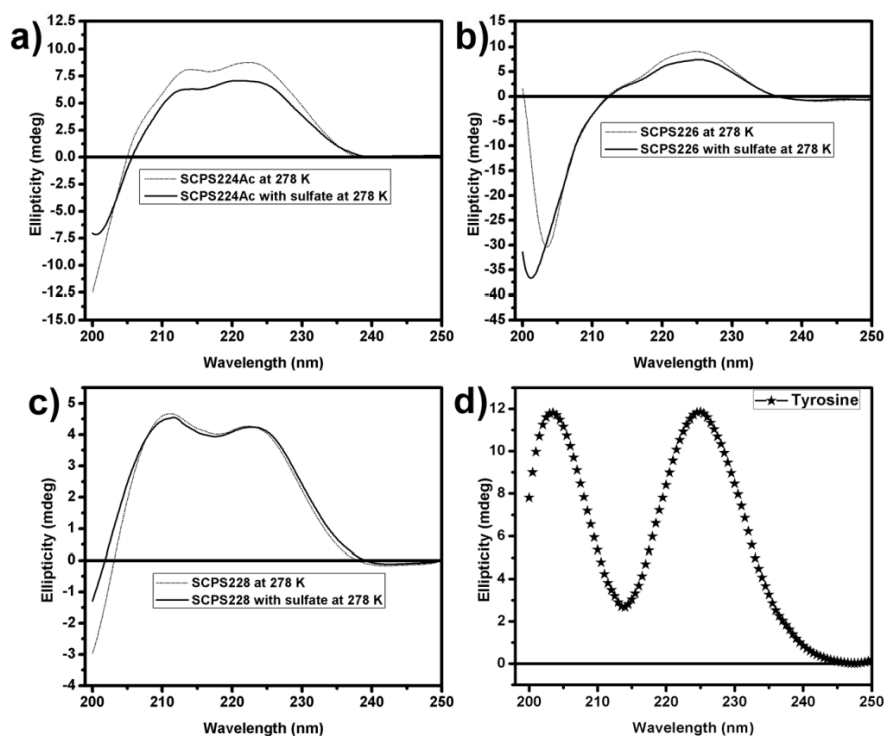
**Figure S12:** Comparison of X-H---O (where X=  $C^{\alpha}_{-1}/N_0/N_{+1}$ ) distance and angle constraints of the anion added 'C $^{\alpha}$ NN' sequences between the respective crystal structures (obtained from pdb) and the structures obtained from Molecular docking experiment for the designed chimeric peptide sequences (CPS224Ac, CPS226 and CPS228). a)  $C^{\alpha}_{-1}$ -H---O distance; b)  $C^{\alpha}_{-1}$ -H---O angle; c)  $N_0$ -H---O distance; d)  $N_0$ -H---O angle; e)  $N_{+1}$ -H---O distance, f)  $N_{+1}$ -H---O angle.



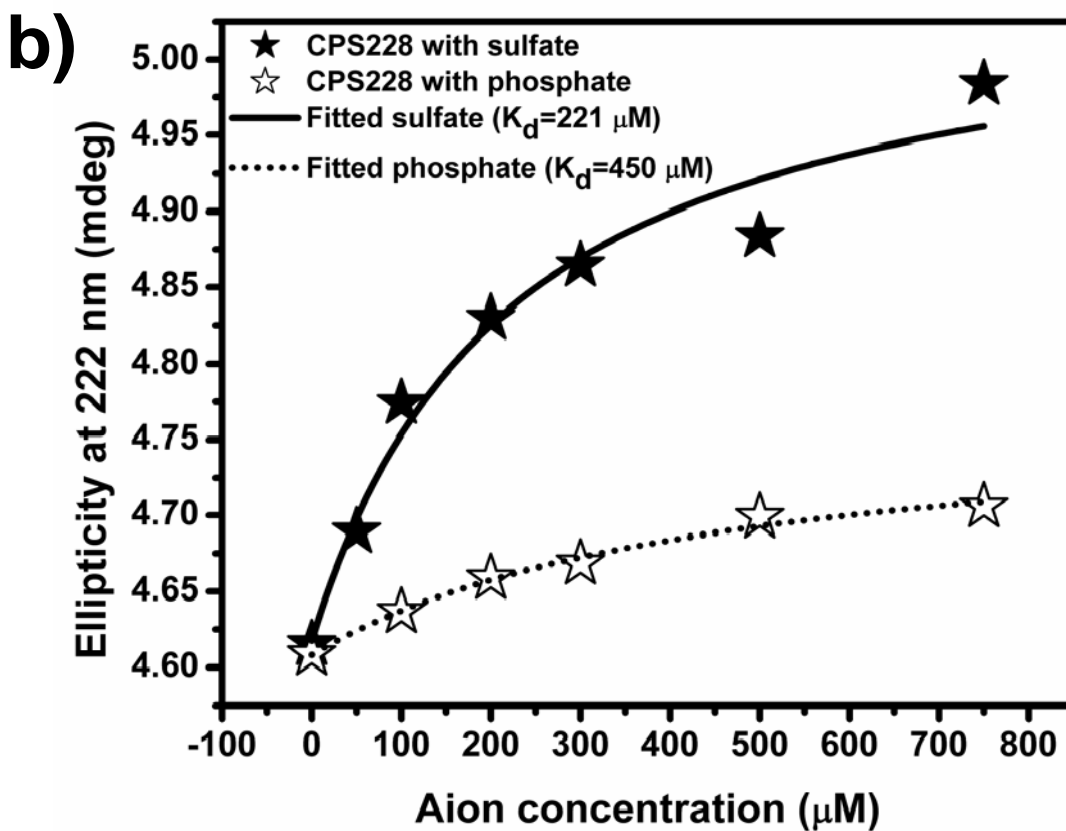
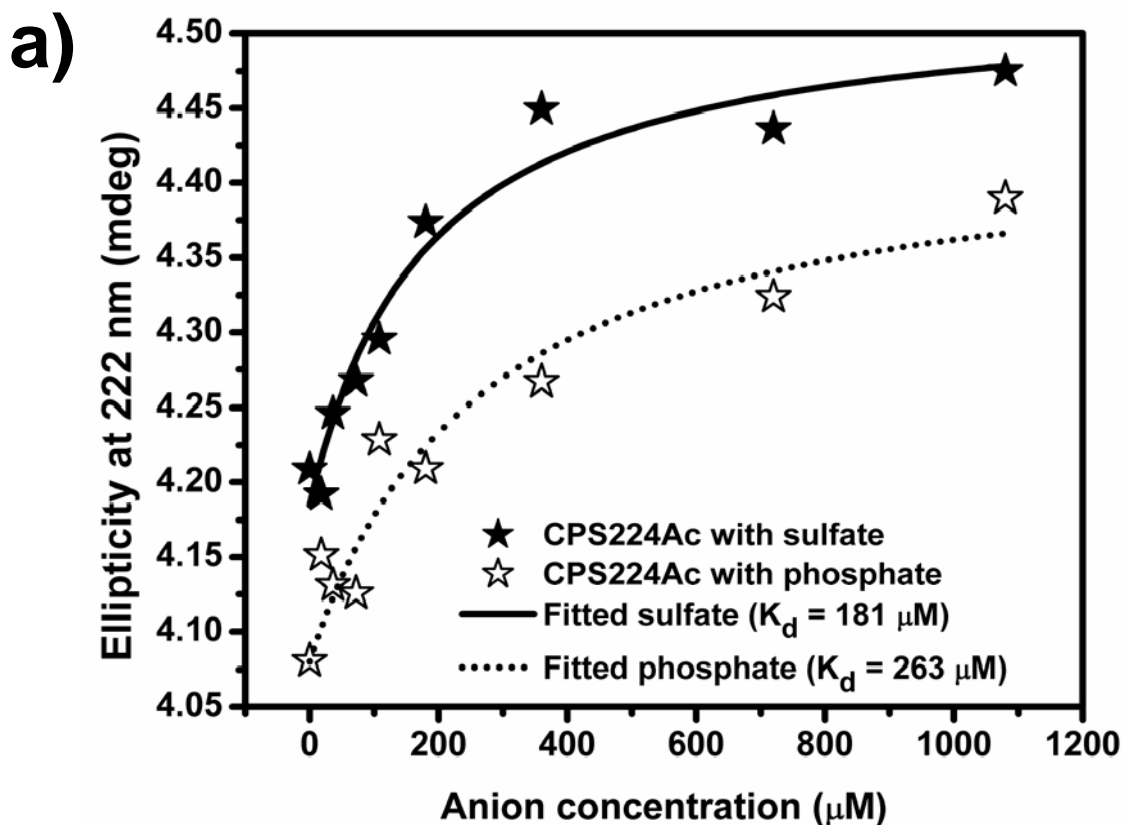
**Figure S13** c) ESI-MS result showing the binding of the sulfate ion with CPS224Ac (Inset: isotopic distribution of m/z 926.5 showing the difference of 0.5, indicating doubly charged species); d) ESI-MS result showing the binding of phosphate ion with CPS224Ac (Inset: isotopic distribution of m/z 926.4 showing the difference of 0.5, indicating doubly charged species) [Reproduced from Figure 1 of Plos One 8(3), (2013) e57366 by Tridip Sheet, Subhrangsh Supakar & **Raja Banerjee\*** (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23516403>) under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits, unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium]



**Figure S14:** CD spectra of peptides in fully aqueous condition at 298 K in absence as well as in presence of anions. a) CPS226 with sulfate; b) CPS226 with phosphate and c) CPS224Ac with phosphate.

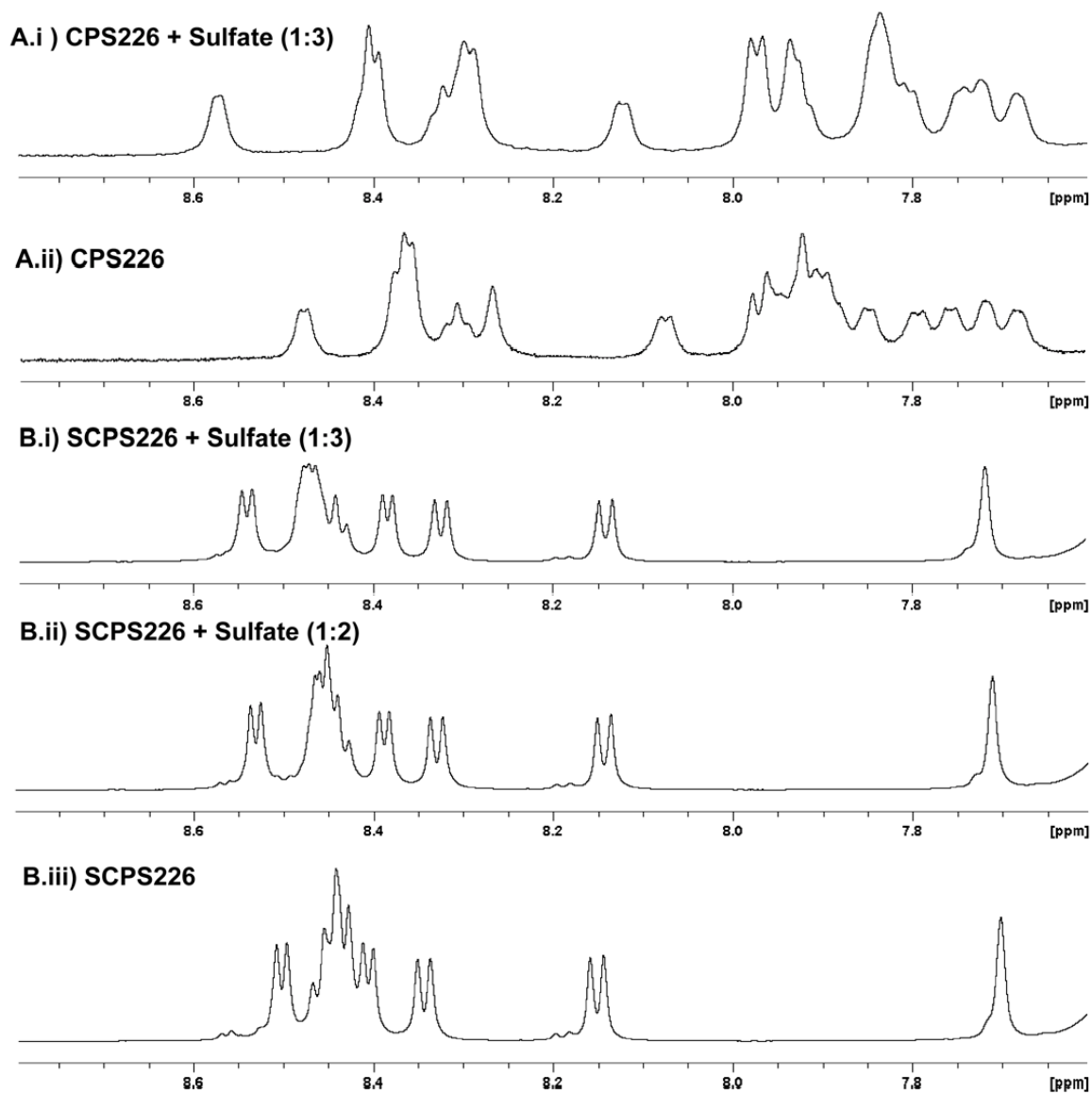


**Figure S15:** CD spectra of short peptides along with their sulfate added species and free tyrosine recorded at 278 K in fully aqueous condition; a) SCPS224Ac; b) SCPS226; c) SCPS228; d) tyrosine in aqueous solution.



**Figure S16:** Change of ellipticity at 222nm ( $\theta_{222}$ ) with respect to added anion (sulfate and phosphate) in CD measurement of peptides a) CPS224Ac and b) CPS228 along with their respective anion dependent  $K_d$





**Figure S17:** 1D spectra of main-chain HN region A)CPS226 and B) SCPS226 showing the effect of addition of sulfate ion to it in fully aqueous condition.

**Table-S1.** Comparison of sulfate ion bound 'G-S-A-K' motif structure obtained from NMR experiments of CPS226 with that of crystal structure in 1YCC deposited in pdb. Propagation of H-bonds in the crystal structure was calculated using DSSP Program (residue, secondary structure, propagation of H-bonds).

GSAK motif	Structures of the motif deposited in pdb**					Experimental study of the motif in solution			
	Distance (Å)		Dihedral angle		H-bond observed (DSSP) <sup>4</sup>	Expected NN noe in NMR	Observed NMR parameters		Proposed H-bond
	Residue	NH-NH (i,i+1)	Residue	φ	ψ		Residue	NH-NH noe (i,i+1)	
					CO→NH H (i→i+4) (i→i+3) a b c			CO→NH (i→i+3) & (i→i+4)	
**	G/S	3.86	G1	-131.8	-146.2	G	weak		
1YCC	(1/2)					G	(w)		
(SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> bound)	S/A	4.18	S2	-97.3	115.6	S	>	weak	
	(2/3)					A	H >	(w)	
	A/K	2.95	A3	-67.7	-35.0	K	H >	strong	
	(3/4)					K	H >	(s)	
	K/K	2.27	K4	-68.1	-47.8	G	H X	strong	
	(4/5)					A	H X	(s)	
			K5	-57.8	-39.9				
CPS226	G/S								
	(1/2)					G(1)	(1/2)	O <sub>1</sub> (SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> ) → A3	
	S/A						weak	O <sub>4</sub> (SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> ) → K4	
	(2/3)					S(2)	(2/3)	G1 → A5	
	A/K						weak	S2 → B6	
	(3/4)					A(3)	(3/4)		
	K/A						strong		
	(4/5)					K(4)	(4/5)		
							strong		