Supporting Information for

Site-Specific Covalent Labeling of His-tag Fused Proteins with a Reactive Ni(II)-NTA Probe

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Syntheses of the reactive probes



tert-Butyl 2,2'-(1-*tert*-butoxy-6-(3-(chlorosulfonyl)benzamido)-1-oxohexan-2-ylazanediyl) diacetate (10)

To an ice-cooled solution of **8** (107 µL, 0.67 mmol) in dry $CH_2Cl_2(2 \text{ mL})$ was added drowise a solution of **7** (144 mg, 0.33 mmol) and DIEA (150 µL, 0.84 mmol) in dry $CH_2Cl_2(1 \text{ mL})$. The reaction mixture was stirred for 0.5 h at 0 °C and further stirred for 1h at rt. After removal of the solvent by evaporation, the residue was purified by column chlomatography on SiO₂ (hexane : ethyl acetate = 2 : 1) to give **10** (189 mg, 89%) as a brown oil. ¹H-NMR(400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.59 (s, 1H), 8.34 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.10 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.58-3.54 (m, 2H), 3.48 (d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 2H), 3.42(d, *J* = 17.2 Hz, 2H), 3.31 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 1.82-1.78 (m, 2H), 1.72-1.58 (m, 4H), 1.47 (s, 9H), 1.36 (s, 18H). FAB-MS *m/e* = 633 [M+H]⁺.

tert-Butyl 2,2'-(1-*tert*-butoxy-6-(3-(2-(2-(7-(diethylamino)-2-oxo-2*H*-chromene-3-carboxamido) ethoxy)ethoxysulfonyl)benzamido)-1-oxohexan-2-ylazanediyl)diacetate (13)

To a stirred solution of 10^{S1} (37 mg, 0.11 mmol) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (3 mL) was added 12 (100 mg, 0.16 mmol), DMAP (4 mg, 0.036 mmol), and DIEA (52 µL, 0.32 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 5 h at rt. After removal of the solvent by evaporation, the residue was purified by column chromatography on SiO₂ (CHCl₃ : MeOH = 100 : 1 \rightarrow 70 : 1) to give 13 (26 mg, 27%) as a yellow amorphous powder. ¹H-NMR(400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.67 (s, 1H), 8.42(s, 1H), 8.20 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 8.02 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.49 (s, 1H), 4.22 (t, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 2H), 3.68 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H),

3.58-3.54 (m, 2H), 3.51-3.39 (m, 8H), 3.30 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 1.75-1.72 (m, 2H), 1.68-1.58 (m, 4H), 1.43 (s, 9H), 1.39 (s, 18H), 1.24 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 6H). FAB-MS *m/e* = 946 [M+H]⁺.

2,2'-(1-Carboxy-5-(3-(2-(2-(7-(diethylamino)-2-oxo-2*H*-chromene-3-carboxamido)ethoxy) ethoxysulfonyl)benzamido)pentylazanediyl)diacetic acid (15)

To a solution of compound **13** (26 mg, 0.028 mmol) in dry CH_2Cl_2 (2 mL) was added TFA (1.5 ml), and the reaction mixture was stirred for 6 h at rt under N₂ atmosphere. After removal of the solvent in vacuo, the residue was treated with *i*-Pr₂O to give a precipitate, which was collected by filtration to give compound **15** (18 mg, 84%) as a yellow solid. ¹H-NMR(400 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 8.60 (s, 1H), 8.12 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.07 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.58 (s, 1H), 4.27 (t, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 2H), 3.74-3.62 (m, 6H), 3.56-3.47 (m, 9H), 3.38 (t, J = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 1.88-1.81 (m, 2H), 1.70-1.45 (m, 4H), 1.24 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H). FAB-HRMS calcd for C₃₅H₄₅N₄O₁₄S [M+H]⁺ *m/e* = 777.2653, found 777.2644.

tert-Butyl 2,2'-(1-*tert*-butoxy-6-(2-chloro-5-(chlorosulfonyl)-4-fluorobenzamido)-1-oxohexan-2-ylazanediyl)diacetate (11)

To a solution of 2-chloro-4-chlorosulfonyl-3-fluoro benzoic acid (200 mg, 0.73 mmol) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (3 mL) were added thionyl chloride (132 μ L, 1.83 mmol) and dry DMF (2 dropos), and the solution was refluxed for 7 h under N₂ atmosphere, in which time formation of **9** was monitored by TLC (CHCl₃ : MeOH = 20 : 1). After removal of the solvent in vacuo, the crude of **9** was dissolved in dry CH₂Cl₂ (1 mL) and cooled in an ice-bath. A solution of **7** (210 mg, 0.23 mmol) and DIEA (213 μ L, 1.22 mmol) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (2 mL) was added dropwise to the solution of **9**. The reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min at 0 °C and further stirred for 1h at rt. After removal of the solvent in vacuo, the residue was purified by column chromatography on SiO₂ (CHCl₃ \rightarrow CHCl₃ : MeOH = 100 : 1) to give **11** (143 mg, 43%) as a brown oil. ¹H-NMR(400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.21 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 3.62-3.56 (m, 2H), 3.43-3.35 (m, 4H), 3.30 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 1.88-1.74 (m, 2H), 1.71-1.60 (m, 4H), 1.46 (s, 9H), 1.36 (s, 18H). FAB-MS *m/e* = 685 [M+H]⁺.

tert-Butyl 2,2'-(1-*tert*-butoxy-6-(2-chloro-5-(2-(2-(7-(diethylamino)-2-oxo-2*H*-chromene-3carboxamido)ethoxy)ethoxysulfonyl)-4-fluorobenzamido)-1-oxohexan-2-ylazanediyl)diacetate (14)

Compound 11 (143 mg, 0.21 mmol) was used as a starting material. By the same

procedure described for the synthesis of **13**, **14** (15 mg, 15%) was obtained as yellow amorphous powder. ¹H-NMR(400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.82 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 8.66 (s, 1H), 8.11 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 6.48 (s, 1H), 4.34 (t, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 2H), 3.71 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 3.58-3.42 (m, 10H), 3.30 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 1.75-1.63 (m, 6H), 1.45 (s, 9H), 1.39 (s, 18H), 1.25 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H). FAB-MS *m/e* = 997 [M+H]⁺.

2,2'-(1-Carboxy-5-(2-chloro-5-(2-(2-(7-(diethylamino)-2-oxo-2*H*-chromene-3-carboxamido)ethoxy)ethoxysulfonyl)-4-fluorobenzamido)pentylazanediyl)diacetic acid (16)

Compound **14** (15.2 mg, 0.015 mmol) was used as a starting material. By the same procedure described for the synthesis of **15**, **16** (10.8 mg, 86%) was obtained as a yellow solid. ¹H-NMR(400 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 8.63 (s, 1H), 8.00 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.59 (s, 1H), 4.37 (t, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 2H), 3.76-3.64 (m, 6H), 3.59-3.48 (m, 9H), 3.38 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.92-1.81 (m, 2H), 1.79-1.55 (m, 4H), 1.25 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H). FAB-HRMS calcd for C₃₅H₄₂CIFN₄O₁₄S [M]⁺ *m/e* = 828.2091, found 828.2098.

Scheme S2



tert-Butyl 2,2'-(1*-tert*-butoxy-6-(2-chloro-4-fluoro-5-(pent-4-ynyloxysulfonyl)benzamido)-1oxohexan-2-ylazanediyl)diacetate (17)

To a solution of **11** (161 mg 0.24 mmol) in dry CH_2Cl_2 (4 mL) was added 4-pentyl-1-ol (14.5 μ L, 0.16 mmol), Et₃N (43 μ L, 0.31 mmol) and Me₃N•HCl (3 mg, 0.031 mmol), and the reaction mixture was stirred for 7 h at rt. After dilution with Et₂O, organic layer was washed with water and brine followed by drying over Na₂SO₄. After removal of the solvent by evaporation, the residue was purified by column chromatography on SiO₂ (hexane : ethyl acetate = 3 : 1) to give **17**

(65 mg, 57%) as a colorless oil. ¹H-NMR(400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.13 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 4.30 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.58-3.53 (m, 2H), 3.41 (d, *J* = 19.2 Hz, 2H), 3.35 (d, *J* = 21.2 Hz, 2H), 2.33-2.29 (m, 2H), 1.95-1.88 (m, 2H), 1.75-1.54 (m, 6H), 1.46 (s, 9H), 1.37 (s, 18H). FAB-MS *m/e* = 733 [M+H]⁺.

2,2'-(1-Carboxy-5-(2-chloro-4-fluoro-5-(pent-4-ynyloxysulfonyl)benzamido)pentylazanediyl)diacetic acid (18)

Compound **17** (30 mg, 0.041 mmol) was used as a starting material. By the same procedure described for the synthesis of **15**, **18** (18 mg, 79%) was obtained as a colorless solid. ¹H-NMR(400 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 7.98 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.30 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 3.74 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 2H), 3.78 (d, *J* = 24.8, 2H), 3.54 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.38 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.30-2.26 (m, 2H), 2.21 (t, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 1.70-1.57 (m, 6H). FAB-MS *m/e* = 565.1039 [M]⁺. FAB-HRMS calcd for C₂₂H₂₇CIFN₂O₁₀S [M+H]⁺ *m/e* = 565.1059 found 565.1039.

Scheme S3



tert-Butyl 2,2'-(6-(5-(2-(2-(2-azidoethoxy)ethoxy)ethoxysulfonyl)-2-chloro-4-fluorobenzamido)-1-*tert*-butoxy-1-oxohexan-2-ylazanediyl)diacetate (19)

Compound **11** (357 mg, 0.52 mmol) was used as a starting material. By the same procedure described for the synthesis of **13**, **19** (175 mg, 63%) was obtained as a colorless oil. ¹H-NMR(400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.11 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (m, 1H), 4.32 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 3.74 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 3.65 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 3.62-3.58 (m, 4H), 3.54-3.52 (m, 2H), 3.46-3.36 (m, 6H), 3.29 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 1.68-1.55 (m, 6H), 1.45 (s, 9H), 1.36 (s, 18H). FAB-MS $m/e = 824 \text{ [M+H]}^+$.

A suspension of **19** (78 mg, 0.094 mmol) and 10% Pd-C (8 mg) in dry AcOEt (3 mL) was vigorously stirred for 3h at rt under H₂ atmosphere. After filtration, the filtrate was concentrated in vacuo to give a crude product. To a solution of the crude product in dry DMF (2 mL) and added Biotin-OSu (16 mg, 0.047 mmol), and the mixture was stirred for 30 min at room temperature. After removal o the solvent in vacuo, the residue was purified by column chromatography on SiO₂ (CHCl₃ : MeOH = 7 : 1) to give **20** (20 mg). This material contained impurities, however was used for the next reaction without further purification. FAB-MS m/e = 1024 [M+H]⁺.

Compound **20** (20 mg, containing impurities) was used as a starting material. Deprotection by the same procedure described for the synthesis of **15** and the following HPLC purification to give **24** (1.2 mg, 2% from **19**) was obtained as a white solid. FAB-HRMS calcd for $C_{33}H_{48}ClFN_5O_{14}S$ [M+H]⁺ m/e = 856.2312, found 856.2233.

Preparation of the reactive Ni(II)-complex probe (1, 2, 3, 5)

A corresponding ligand solution (2 \sim 7mM of **15**, **16**, **18**, or **21** in DMSO) was mixed with 1.1 equiv of NiCl₂ (2 mM in 50 mM HEPES, pH 7.2, 100 mM NaCl), and the solution was stand for 20 min at rt. This material was directly used for the labeling reaction.

Syntheses of His6 and His10 peptide

His6 (Ac-WAHHHHHH-NH₂) and His10 (Ac-WAHHHHHHHHHHHHH) peptides were manually synthesized by solid-phase peptide synthesis using the standard Fmoc-based coupling chemistry. The coupling reaction was performed with Rink Amide Resin (Novabiochem, 0.3 3 of acid, 3 mmol) using equiv amino equiv of O-Benzotriazole-N, N, N', N'-tetramethyl-uronium-hexafluoro-phosphate (HBTU), 3 equiv of 1-hydroxybenzotriazole (HOBt), and 6 equiv of DIEA. The completion of the coupling reaction (typically within 30 min) was confirmed by Kaiser test in each step. After acetylation of the N-terminus with Ac₂O in CH₂Cl₂, the peptide cleavage and side-chain deprotection were carried out by treatment with 5 mL of TFA containing triisopropylsilane (0.125 mL), and H₂O (0.125 mL) for Crude peptide was precipitated in *tert*-butyl methyl ether and then purified by 1.5 h at rt. reverse-phase HPLC (column; YMC-pack ODS-A, 250 x 10 mm, mobile phase; CH₃CN (containing 0.1% TFA) / H₂O (containing 0.1% TFA) = 5 / 95 \rightarrow 40 / 60 (linear gradient over 40 min), flow rate; 3 mL/min, detection; UV (220 nm). Molecular weight of the peptide was confirmed by MALDI-TOF mass spectroscopy:

His6 peptide; Ac-WAHHHHHH-NH₂ calcd for $C_{52}H_{63}N_{22}O_9 [M + H]^+$, m/e = 1139, found 1139. His10 peptide; Ac-WAHHHHHHHHHH-NH₂ calcd for $C_{76}H_{91}N_{34}O_{13} [M + H]^+$, m/e = 1687, found 1687.

Covalent labeling of His tag peptide

A solution of His6 or His10 peptide (5 μ M), and reactive probe (**1** or **2**, 10 μ M) in 50 mM HEPES, pH 7.2, 100 mM NaCl was incubated in a plastic tube at 37 °C for 7 hr, during which time the solution was sampled at the appropriate time (1, 2, 3, 5, 7 hr). The sampling solution were desalted with a Zip-Tip (C18 type, Millipore) and then subjected for MALDI-TOF mass analysis (Bruker, Autoflex III) using α -cyano-4-hydroxycinnamic acid as a matrix. The labeling yield (%) of the peptides was calculated based on the peak intensities (PI) of the labeled and unlabeled peptide, and defined as the following equation;

(Sum of PIs of the labeled peptides) / [(Sum of PIs of the labeled peptides) + (Sum of PIs of the unlabeled peptide)]

Preparation of His10-EGFP and control EGFP lacking His10 tag

pET28a-His10-EGFP plasmid was transformed into E. coli BL21(DE3)pLysS. The cells were grown in 1 L of Terrific Broth (TB) at 37 °C until an optical density (OD) at 600 nm increased to $0.5 \sim 0.6$, and further grown at 16 °C for 24 h with IPTG induction (0.3 mM). The cells were spun down for 40 min at 4000 rpm. The cells were re-suspended in 40 mL of Lysis buffer (50 mM HEPES, 100 mM NaCl, 10% glycerol) and lysed by sonication (10 shots x 20 sec, Branson Insoluble materials were removed by centrifugation for 10 min at 12,000 rpm (x2) Sonifier 450). to collect the soluble fraction, containing His10-EGFP. The EGFP purification was performed with TALON resin (Clontech). The soluble fraction (40 mL) was adsorbed on 1 mL of TALON resin pre-filled with washing buffer (50 mM HEPES, 100 mM NaCl, 30~50 mM imidazole, pH 7.2) in a plastic column. The resin was washed with washing buffer and then the resin-bound protein was eluted from the column with elution buffer (50mM HEPES, 100 mM NaCl, pH 7.2, 150 mM The fractions containing the purified EGFP was collected and dialysed twice with imidazole). HEPES buffer (50 mM HEPES, 100 mM NaCl, pH 7.2) to remove the excess imidazole. The concentration of His10-EGFP was determined by UV absorbance at 488 nm based on the reported extinction coefficient of EGFP ($\epsilon = 55,000 \text{ M}^{-1} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1}$).^{S2} The solution of the EGFP was stored at 4 °C.

Control EGFP lacking His10 tag used in Figure 3 was prepared from the purified His10-EGFP by the treatment with thrombin (1unit per 10mg of His10-EGFP in 50 mM HEPES, 100 mM NaCl, pH 7.2, 22°C, 16 hr) to cleave the His10 site. The solution of the protein was suspended with Benzamidine Sepahrose 6B and incubated for 5 min at rt to remove thrombine. Dialysis with HEPES buffer (50 mM HEPES, 100 mM NaCl, pH 7.2) twice gave control EGFP, purity of which was confirmed by SDS-PAGE analysis.

Control EGFP lucking His10 tag used in Figure 4 was expressed in *E. coli* BL21(DE3)pLysS from pET28a-EGFP plasmid lucking His10 site DNA fragment.

Covalent modification of His10-EGFP with 2

A solution of His10-EGFP or control EGFP (5 μ M), and 2 (15 μ M) in 50 mM HEPES, pH 7.2, 100 mM NaCl was incubated in a plastic tube at 37 °C for 12 hr, during which time the solution was sampled at the appropriate time (1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 12 hr), mixed with loading buffer (containing 1.14 M of 2-mercaptoethanol) to quench the reaction. The collected samples were denatured by heating with loading buffer (95 °C, 3 min), and ran on SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis by the standard method. The in-gel fluorescence analysis was performed with LAS-4000 (FUJIFILM, 365 nm excitation and L41 band pass filter). The labeling yield (%) is defined as the labeled coumarine unit per total amount of protein, and calculated based on the fluorescent band intensity of the labeled protein, in which the authentic samples of human carbonic anhydrase quantitatively labeled with 3-caroxyl-7-diethylaminocoumarine was used as a fluorescence standard.

Introduction of an alkyne unit into His10-EGFP by the reaction with 3 and 4

A solution of His10-EGFP or control EGFP (5 μ M), and **3** (20 μ M) in 50 mM HEPES, pH 7.2, 100 mM NaCl was incubated in a plastic tube at 37 °C for 7 hr. The subsequent Huisgen reaction was conducted at rt for 30 min with coumarin azide **4**^{S3} (500 μ M, final conc.), CuCl₂, ascorbic acid, and triazole ligand **11**^{S4} (500 μ M of each in final concentration), and incubated for 30 min at 20 °C. The mixtures were denatured by heating with loading buffer (95 °C, 3 min), and ran on SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis by the standard method. The in-gel fluorescence analysis was performed with LAS-4000 (FUJIFILM, 365 nm excitation and L41 band pass filter).

Introduction of a biotin unit into His10-EGFP by the reaction with 5

A solution of His10-EGFP or control EGFP (0.5 μ M), and **5** (0.5 μ M) in 50 mM HEPES, pH 7.2, 100 mM NaCl was incubated in a plastic tube at 25 °C for 30 min. The samples were ran on SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis and then transferred to a PVDF membrane. After treatment with 5% skim milk in TBS-T for 1hr at rt, the membrane was incubated with streptavidine-HRP conjugate (1/5000) for 1hr at rt, and then subjected for chemical luminescence analysis with LAS-4000 (FUJIFILM).

Selective Labeling of the His10- EGFP in the crude lysate of E. Coli cells

The cell lysate containing soluble protein mixture was obtained form *E. coli* BL21(DE3)pLysS expressing His10-EGFP or EGFP lacking His10 tag, total protein concentration of which was determined to be 3.0 or 1.2 mg/mL, respectively, using Protein Quantification

Kit-Rapid (Dojindo). The protein mixtures were incubated with 2 (15 μ M) for 7 hr at 25 °C. The mixture was denatured by heating with loading buffer (95 °C, 3 min), and ran on SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis by the standard method. The in-gel fluorescence analysis was performed with LAS-4000 (FUJIFILM, 365 nm excitation and L41 band pass filter).

One-pot orthogonal labeling of the tag fused proteins

The protein mixture wad prepared by mixing the purified His10-EGFP protein with the crude cell lysate of *E. coli* JM109 expressing MBP-CA6D4 protein, in which the concentration of His10-EGFP and MBP-CA6D4 was determined to be 5 μ M and 13 μ M, respectively. Probe **2** (15 μ M) and **6**^{s3} (20 μ M) was added to this protein mixture, and the reaction mixture was incubated in a plastic tube at 4 °C for 2 hr. After addition of sodium pyrophosphate (3 mM in final concentration), the mixture was further incubated at 25 °C for 4 hr. The sample was ran on SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis. The in-gel fluorescence analysis was performed with ChemiDoc XRS (BIO-RAD, 365 nm excitation, and 480BP70 (coumarine) and 630BP30 (rhodamine) band pass filters).



Figure S1. In-gel fluorescence analysis of the cleaved EGFP unit. His10-EGFP (43 μ g) was labeled with **2** and then treated with thrombin (2.15 unit in 50 mM HEPES, 100 mM NaCl, 22 °C, 16 hr) to cleave the His10-tag fragment.



Figure S2. MALDI-TOF mass analysis of the His10 tag fragment. His10-EGFP (43 μ g) was labeled with **2** and then treated with thrombin (2.15 unit in 50 mM HEPES, 100 mM NaCl, 22 °C, 16 hr) to cleave the His10-tag fragment. The sequence of the cleaved His10-tag is as follows: GSSHHHHHHHHHHHSSGLVPR (2316 Da).

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