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**Supporting Information** 

## Oxygen K-shell spectroscopy of isolated progressively solvated peptide

Aleksandar R. Milosavljević,<sup>\*a</sup> Kari Jänkälä,<sup>b</sup> Miloš Lj. Ranković,<sup>c,d</sup> Francis Canon,<sup>e</sup> John Bozek,<sup>a</sup> Christophe Nicolas<sup>a</sup> and Alexandre Giuliani <sup>\*a,f</sup>

<sup>a</sup>SOLEIL, l'Orme des Merisiers, St Aubin, BP48, 91192 Gif sur Yvette Cedex, France.

<sup>b</sup>Nano and Molecular Systems Research Unit, University of Oulu, P.O. Box 3000, 90014 Oulu, Finland

<sup>c</sup>Institute of Physics Belgrade, University of Belgrade, Pregrevica 118, 11080 Belgrade, Serbia.

<sup>d</sup>Present address: Institute of Physical Chemistry J. Heyrovsky, CAS, Dolejškova 3, 18223 Prague 8, Czech Republic.

<sup>e</sup>INRA, UMR1324 Centre des Sciences du Goût et de l'Alimentation, F-21000 Dijon, France.

<sup>f</sup>INRA, UAR1008, CEPIA, Rue de la Géraudière, BP 71627, 44316 Nantes, France.

\* A.R.M. (*milosavljevic@synchrotron-soleil.fr*) and A.G. (*alexandre.giuliani@synchrotron-soleil.fr*)



*Fig.SI.1* a) Sequence of Substance P. Example structures from molecular dynamics of b) bare Substance P doubly protonated ion and c) Substance P doubly protonated ion with 11 water molecules.



*Fig.SI.2* Collision induced dissociation (CID) of substance P hydrated by 4 water molecules (top) and 11 water molecules (bottom panel).



Fig.SI.3 Top panel: tandem mass spectrum of the Substance with 11 water molecules irradiated at 532 eV for 500 ms, showing the backbone fragments. Bottom panel: mass spectrum of the same precursor ion stored in the same conditions but without photon irradiation. The two water loss peaks are spontaneous evaporation and not triggered by photon absorption.



**Fig.SI.4** Ion yields for the triply charged radical cations  $[SP+2H]^{3+}$  (brown, m/z 449.6),  $[SP+2H+4H_2O]^{3+}$  (green, m/z 473.2) and  $[SP+2H+11H_2O]^{3+}$  (blue, m/z 515.5), produced by ionization of the corresponding bare and hydrated doubly charged precursors.



*Fig.SI.5* Calculated radial distribution function for the water peptide distance (top panel), water-water (middle panel) for three molecular dynamic simulations (red, green and blue curves). Bottom panel compares both RDF in the 0-7 Å.