### **Electronic Supporting Information**

A two-enzyme cascade reaction consisting of two reaction pathways. Studies in bulk solution for understanding the performance of a flow-through device with immobilised enzymes.

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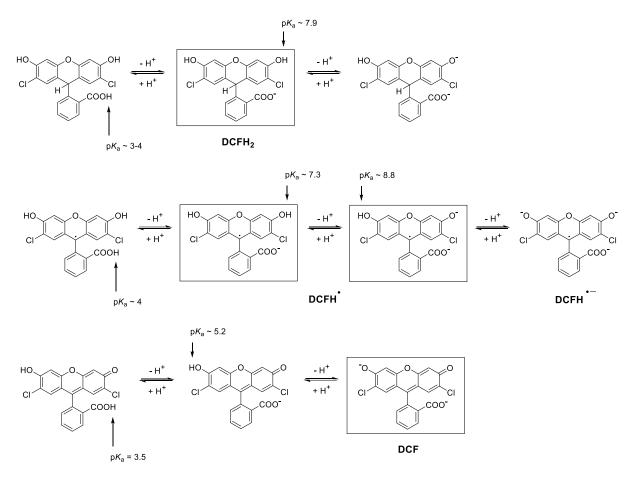
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<sup>±</sup> Equal contributions

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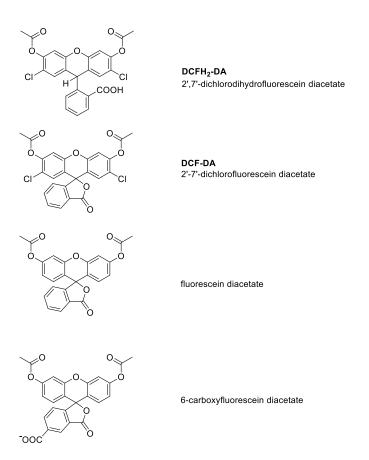
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#### 1. Acid-base equilibria of DCFH<sub>2</sub>, DCFH<sup>•</sup>, and DCF



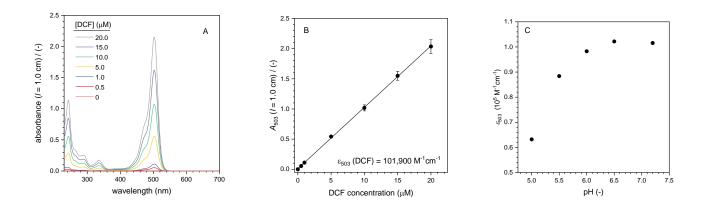
**Figure S-1.** Some of the relevant acid-base equilibria for DCFH<sub>2</sub>, DCFH<sup>•</sup>, and DCF. For pH = 7.2 conditions, the most abundant species are marked with a frame. Relevant  $pK_a$  values are indicated, as determined by (Wrona and Warman, 2006).<sup>S1</sup>

#### 2. Chemical structures of different fluorescein derivatives



**Figure S-2.** Comparison of the chemical structures of DCFH<sub>2</sub>-DA (2',7'-dichlorodihydrofluorescein diacetate), 2'-7'-dichlorofluorescein diacetate, fluorescein diacetate, and 6-carboxyfluorescein diacetate.

#### 3. Absorption spectra of DCF



**Figure S-3.** Concentration dependence of the absorption spectrum of DCF dissolved in PB (10 mM sodium phosphate buffer solution, pH = 7.2). **(A)** Spectra for [DCF] = 0, 0.5, 1.0, 5.0, 10.0, 15.0, and 20.0  $\mu$ M, path length *l* = 1.0 cm, *T* = 25 °C. **(B)**  $A_{503}$  vs. [DCF], plotted as mean values ± standard deviations (*n* = 3, separately prepared solutions from three different DCF stock solutions). The molar absorption coefficient for  $\lambda$  = 503 nm was determined,  $\varepsilon_{503}$  (DCF) = 1.02·10<sup>5</sup> M<sup>-1</sup>cm<sup>-1</sup>. **(C)** Dependence of the molar absorption coefficient at  $\lambda$  = 503 nm,  $\varepsilon_{503}$  (DCF), on pH.

#### 4. Details about the preparation of *de*-PG2<sub>1000</sub>-BAH-enzyme conjugates

4.1. Conjugates *de*-PG2<sub>1000</sub>-BAH<sub>152</sub>-BCA<sub>101</sub> and *de*-PG2<sub>1000</sub>-BAH<sub>207</sub>-BCA<sub>152</sub>

The denpol-enzyme conjugates *de*-PG2<sub>1000</sub>-BAH<sub>152</sub>-BCA<sub>101</sub> and *de*-PG2<sub>1000</sub>-BAH<sub>207</sub>-BCA<sub>152</sub> were obtained in a similar way as described before for the preparation of *de*-PG2<sub>1000</sub>-BAH<sub>175</sub>-BCA<sub>115</sub>, see (Yoshimoto et al., 2018).<sup>52</sup> Besides, there were small experimental variations (slightly higher amounts of BAH formed during the conjugation reaction as compared to the amounts of added 4FB; [4FB] being determined by spectral fitting). All materials used were the same as before,<sup>52</sup> except *de*-PG<sub>1000</sub>; it was the same as the one used in the work of (Hou et al., 2019).<sup>53</sup> For the spectral changes during conjugate formation, see **Figure S-4**. For comparison, some of the characteristic data for the

de-PG2<sub>1000</sub>-BAH<sub>175</sub>-BCA<sub>115</sub> (Yoshimoto et al., 2018): <sup>S2</sup>

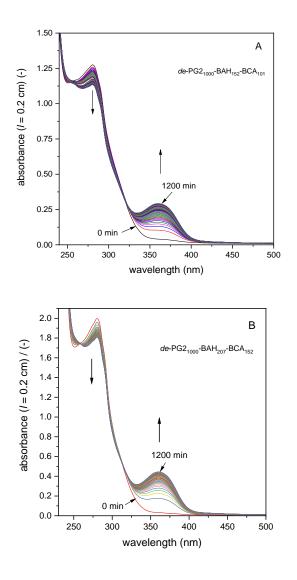
- MSR (4FB/BCA) = 1.02
- *de*-PG2<sub>1000</sub>-HyNic<sub>440</sub>
- used for conjugation reaction: [4FB] = 67  $\mu$ M, [HyNic] = 120  $\mu$ M, pH = 7.2
- observed in conjugation reaction: [BAH] = 48 μM
- [BCA]/[BAH] in conjugate = 0.66 (66 %)

*de*-PG2<sub>1000</sub>-BAH<sub>152</sub>-BCA<sub>101</sub> (this work, used for measurement with *p*-NA in a BCA loaded glass fiber filter only):

- MSR (4FB/BCA) = 0.99
- *de*-PG2<sub>1000</sub>-HyNic<sub>436</sub>
- used for conjugation reaction: [4FB] = 37  $\mu$ M, [HyNic] = 120  $\mu$ M, pH = 7.2
- observed in conjugation reaction: [BAH] = 42  $\mu$ M
- [BCA]/[BAH] in conjugate = 0.66 (66 %)

*de*-PG2<sub>1000</sub>-BAH<sub>207</sub>-BCA<sub>152</sub> (this work, used for the cascade reaction in the glass fiber filter flow-through device):

- MSR (4FB/BCA) = 0.84
- *de*-PG2<sub>1000</sub>-HyNic<sub>362</sub>
- used for conjugation reaction: [4FB] = 60  $\mu$ M, [HyNic] = 120  $\mu$ M, pH = 7.2
- observed in conjugation reaction: [BAH] = 68 μM
- [BCA]/[BAH] in conjugate = 0.73 (73 %)



**Figure S-4.** Conjugation reaction between **(A)** *de*-PG2<sub>1000</sub>-HyNic<sub>436</sub> and BCA-4FB (MSR(4FB/BCA) = 0.99), and **(B)** *de*-PG2<sub>1000</sub>-HyNic<sub>362</sub> and BCA-4FB (MSR(4FB/BCA) = 0.84). The absorption spectrum was recorded every 30 min during a total reaction time of 20 h (reaction between HyNic and 4FB to form stable BAH (bis-aryl hydrazone) bonds between the denpol and BCA). The absorption band of the BAH bond formation (centered around  $\lambda$  = 354 nm) as well as a decrease in band intensity around  $\lambda$  = 280 nm (HyNic and 4FB) are visible and indicate the ongoing conjugation reaction.

From  $A_{354}(20 \text{ h}) - A_{354}(0 \text{ h})$ , the concentration of BAH formed could be calculated. With the known amounts of added denpol r.u. and BCA (as well the free, unbound BCA recovered from the reaction mixture during purification), the ratio of BAH to BCA in the conjugate could be estimated to *de*-PG2<sub>1000</sub>-BAH<sub>152</sub>-BCA<sub>101</sub> (A) and *de*-PG2<sub>1000</sub>-BAH<sub>207</sub>-BCA<sub>152</sub> (B).

#### 4.2. Conjugate de-PG21000-BAH86-HRP90

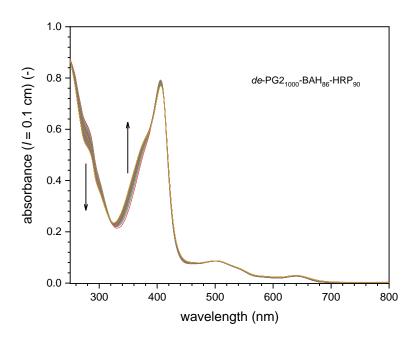
The denpol-enzyme conjugate de-PG21000-BAH86-HRP90 was obtained in a similar way as described before for the preparation of *de*-PG2<sub>1000</sub>-BAH-HRP<sub>71</sub>, see (Hou et al., 2019).<sup>S3</sup> This time, the pH value of the conjugation reaction buffer used was a bit lower: pH = 4.4 instead of 4.7, noted as "MesB1" in (Hou et al., 2019).<sup>53</sup> This deviation did not lead to significant changes in the conjugation reaction. The filtrates obtained during purification of the conjugate solution by ultrafiltration were quantified for HRP content by measuring the heme group absorption at  $A_{403}$ . Assuming that non-conjugated HRP could pass the ultrafiltration membrane quantitatively (100 kDa MWCO), the total amount of HRP in the ultrafiltrate was determined and subtracted from the total amount of HRP used for the conjugation reaction. In this way, the amount of conjugated HRP was determined and compared with the amount of BAH bonds formed (subscripts of HRP and BAH, respectively). With this, the previously made assumption that for each BAH bond formed about one HRP molecule is conjugated, see (Hou et al., 2019),<sup>53</sup> could be confirmed (86 BAH and 90 HRP per 1000 r.u.). The higher amount of conjugated HRP (and BAH bonds) per 1000 r.u. – around 90 per average denpol chain in this work, around 70 previously<sup>S3</sup> – can be explained by the higher content of HyNic in the denpol used in this work (*de*-PG2<sub>1000</sub>-HyNic<sub>310</sub>) as compared to the one in our previous work (*de*-PG2<sub>1000</sub>-HyNic<sub>240</sub>).<sup>S3</sup> In both denpol-HRP conjugate reactions, the same concentrations of HyNic and 4FB were used, leading to similar extent of BAH bond formation, while the concentration of r.u. during the conjugation reaction was lower in the work presented, as compared to the previous preparation. All materials used were the same as in (Hou et al., 2019).<sup>53</sup> For the spectral changes during conjugate formation, see Figure S-5. For comparison, some of the characteristic data for the conjugate formation are provided:

de-PG2<sub>1000</sub>-BAH-HRP<sub>71</sub> (Hou et al., 2019):<sup>S3</sup>

- MSR (4FB/HRP) = 0.73
- *de*-PG2<sub>1000</sub>-HyNic<sub>240</sub>
- used for conjugation reaction:  $[4FB] = 50 \mu M$ ,  $[HyNic] = 100 \mu M$ , pH = 4.7
- observed in conjugation reaction: [BAH] = 29.5  $\mu$ M
- [HRP]/[BAH] in conjugate assumed to be 1:1 as MSR(4FB/HRP) < 1.

*de*-PG2<sub>1000</sub>-BAH<sub>86</sub>-HRP<sub>90</sub> (this work):

- MSR (4FB/HRP) = 0.62
- *de*-PG2<sub>1000</sub>-HyNic<sub>310</sub>
- used for conjugation reaction: [4FB] = 50 μM, [HyNic] = 100 μM, pH = 4.4
- observed in conjugation reaction: [BAH] = 27.9  $\mu$ M
- [HRP]/[BAH] in conjugate = 1.05 (105 %) (slight excess, experimentally determined)



**Figure S-5.** Conjugation reaction between *de*-PG2<sub>1000</sub>-HyNic<sub>310</sub> and HRP-4FB (MSR(4FB/HRP) = 0.62). The absorption spectrum was recorded every 30 min during a total reaction time of 20 h (reaction between HyNic and 4FB to form stable BAH (bis-aryl hydrazone) bonds between the denpol and HRP). The absorption band of the BAH bond formation (centered around  $\lambda$  = 354 nm) as well as a decrease in band intensity around  $\lambda$  = 280 nm (HyNic and 4FB) are visible and indicate the ongoing conjugation reaction. The strong band at  $\lambda$  = 403 nm is due to the heme group of HRP.

From  $A_{354}(20 \text{ h}) - A_{354}(0 \text{ h})$ , the concentration of BAH formed could be calculated. With the known amounts of added denpol r.u. and HRP (as well the free, unbound HRP recovered from the reaction mixture during purification), the ratio of BAH to HRP in the conjugate could be estimated to *de*-PG2<sub>1000</sub>-BAH<sub>86</sub>-HRP<sub>90</sub>.

#### 5. Details about deviations from the general procedure applied for the immobilisation of denpolenzyme conjugates in glass fiber filters

Compared to the general procedure described in section 2.5. for the immobilisation of denpolenzyme conjugates in glass fiber filters, there were a few variations, as indicated below.

Deviations in experiment (1) (see Figure 11): One of the two independent experiments using sequentially- and co-immobilized denpol-BCA and denpol-HRP loaded filters for activity measurements with DCFH<sub>2</sub>-DA and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (see Figure 12, triangles, "exp. 1"). Instead of keeping the incubation buffer fixed for sequential and co-immobilization (as used for "exp. 2", 80% PB, 20% of 10mM phosphate, pH 7.0, 0.15 M NaCl, see 2.5.2 and 2.5.3), for the sequential immobilization each denpol-enzyme was incubated with the same buffer as for the individual incubations of one filter per holder (no NaCl in the BCA-denpol incubation buffer, see 2.5.1). In case of the co-immobilisation, a buffer ratio was used as close to PB as the denpol-HRP stock solution (in other buffer) allowed (finally 88.5% PB, 11.5% of 10mM phosphate, pH 7.0, 0.15 M NaCl). By that slight variation within "exp. 1" and "exp. 2" it could be checked if the NaCl contained in the buffer used for immobilization of BCA-conjugate in this work (in contrast to the NaCl-less incubation buffer, as introduced in (Yoshimoto et al. 2018))<sup>\$2</sup> had any influence on the cascade experiment. From the results obtained (Figure 12 and Figure 5-21, comparison of Figure 13 and Figure S-22), no significant change upon buffer modification was visible.

Deviations in experiment (2) (see Figure 11): single denpol-BCA loaded filter for activity measurements with *p*-NA (see Figure 9). The BCA-conjugate stock solution used was *de*-PG2<sub>1000</sub>-BAH<sub>152</sub>-BCA<sub>101</sub> (instead of *de*-PG2<sub>1000</sub>-BAH<sub>207</sub>-BCA<sub>152</sub>) and was diluted to [BAH] = 3.3  $\mu$ M and [BCA] = 2.2  $\mu$ M (instead of [BAH] = 12  $\mu$ M and [BCA] = 8.8  $\mu$ M) for the incubation. For the washing step, the filter containing the conjugate was immersed three times in 1.5 mL fresh PB for 15 min (instead of washing by pumping PB through the filter placed in the filter holder).

10

Deviations in experiment (3) (see Figure 11): single denpol-HRP loaded filters for activity measurements with  $ABTS^2/H_2O_2$  (see Figure 10). The filters were loaded with 50 or 250 µL of the conjugate solution. In the case of loading with 50 µL, after incubation for 1 h, the filter was washed for 5 h (instead of 3 h). For the loading with 250 µL, after incubation for 1 h, the filter was first washed by 8 times immersion in 1.5 mL fresh phosphate buffer solution (100 mM sodium phosphate, 1.15 M NaCl, pH = 7.2) and storage for 15 min. Afterwards, the filter was placed in the filter holder and washed by pumping the phosphate buffer solution though the filter for 3 h.

#### 6. Details about the visualisation of the denpol-BAH-enzyme conjugates prepared

In an attempt to visualise the space occupied by enzymes bound onto the surface of the polymer (de-PG2), we represent the situation using a solid cylinder for a fraction carrying 100 r.u. of *de*-PG2, and identical, non-overlapping spheres for the proteins a variable distance ( $\Delta$ ) between 0 and 1 nm away from the polymer surface (see Figure 1, right). The conformation of 100 r.u. of PG2 can be considered cylindrical, as the contour length of its backbone does not exceed the persistence length of PG2,  $\lambda^* \approx 25$  nm,<sup>54</sup> and because the radial density profile of the polymer is known to exhibit a plateau at small distances before it decays beyond approximately 1.5 nm, see Figure 9 in (Bertran et al., 2013).<sup>55</sup> The corresponding effective PG2 radius is in rough agreement with an estimate of 2.5 nm.<sup>54</sup> We use this radius for the visualisation, assuming the deprotection of PG2 (thus *de*-PG2, without the Boc protection group from PG2) did not significantly change it. The volume of the spheres we choose to match the volume of the protein (BCA or HRP) using the empirical expression from Fischer et al., 2004)<sup>S6</sup> for the effective mass density  $\rho_p$  of proteins,  $\rho_p \approx [1.41 + 0.145 \exp(-M_p)]$ /13)] g/cm<sup>3</sup>, where  $M_p$  is the molecular mass of a protein in units of kDa. Using  $M_p$  = 29 for BCA (RCSB PDB: 1V9E) and  $M_p$  = 44 for HRP (RCSB PDB: 1HCH) the resulting sphere radii are  $R_p$  =2.0 nm (BCA) and  $R_{p}$  =2.3 nm (HRP). The distance  $\Delta$  takes into account the linkers located between polymer and enzyme. Each BAH linker is modelled as a flexible trimer with two bonds of fixed length 0.5 nm, where the first bond is taken normal to the *de*-PG2 surface, and the second bond chosen randomly. The mean amount of bound enzymes per 100 r.u. is provided by our experimental values for 1000 r.u. de-PG2. The centers of the spheres are determined using a random number generator, that specifies a location on the surface of a cylinder with radius 2.5 nm +  $\Delta$  +  $R_p$  and length  $\lambda^*$ . Attempted locations that lead to overlap between existing spheres are rejected, while non-overlapping spheres are accepted. Every visualised configuration is thus different (if repeated with same input values), but each of them is a representant of the ensemble.

#### 7. UV/vis absorption spectra of BCA, HRP, DCFH2-DA, DCFH2-MA, DCFH2, DCF-MA, DCF, and DCFox

**Table S-1.** Molar absorption coefficients  $\varepsilon_{\lambda}$  (M<sup>-1</sup>cm<sup>-1</sup>) for BCA (measured),<sup>a</sup> HRP (measured),<sup>b</sup> H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (measured), DCFH<sub>2</sub>-DA (measured), DCFH<sub>2</sub>-MA (fitted), DCFH<sub>2</sub> (measured), DCF-MA (fitted), DCF (measured), and DCF<sub>ox</sub> (measured). PB (10 mM sodium phosphate, pH = 7.2), *T* = 25 °C. Wavelength range:  $\lambda$  = 240 - 600 nm.

#### <sup>a</sup>: $\varepsilon_{280}$ (BCA) set to 5.6·10<sup>4</sup> (M<sup>-1</sup>cm<sup>-1</sup>);<sup>S7</sup> and <sup>b</sup>: $\varepsilon_{403}$ (HRP) set to 1.02·10<sup>5</sup> (M<sup>-1</sup>cm<sup>-1</sup>).<sup>S8</sup>

Please note that negative values for absorption coefficients given in the table have no physical meaning. They are mainly the result from measurement background/noise or spectral fitting where they reflect the background/noise of the actual measurements from which the spectra were fitted. The data in the table are the ones used for the actual quantitative analysis of the reaction mixtures (including the negligible, small negative values).

Wavelength (nm)	BCA (stock solution)	HRP (stock solution)	H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> (stock solution)	DCFH2-DA (stock solution)	DCFH2- MA (fitted)	DCFH₂ (prepared in situ)	DCF-MA (fitted)	DCF (stock solution)	DCF-fully oxidized (prepared <i>in situ</i> )
600	476	2340	0	-16	-17	-19	-96	-176	-81
599	463	2350	0	-17	-18	-17	-88	-173	-84
598	451	2330	0	-19	-16	-17	-110	-159	-85
597	460	2340	0	-17	-13	-13	-76	-145	-65
596	474	2390	0	-18	-36	-18	-56	-137	-75
595	472	2410	0	-16	-21	-14	-61	-142	-65
594	473	2410	0	-16	-23	-14	-74	-154	-53
593	465	2440	0	-19	-17	-15	-115	-155	-57
592	477	2460	0	-21	-19	-19	-115	-155	-48
591	490	2490	0	-18	-23	-15	-133	-157	-52
590	477	2530	0	-15	-22	-13	-140	-165	-47
589	462	2500	0	-15	-22	-13	-107	-163	-31
588	462	2530	0	-14	-24	-16	-107	-166	-37
587	458	2530	0	-14	-10	-14	-85	-174	-26
586	476	2560	0	-16	-8	-12	-54	-150	-16
585	473	2600	0	-15	-14	-13	-63	-148	-28
584	461	2640	0	-15	-13	-13	-80	-166	-16
583	474	2670	0	-16	-9	-12	-73	-150	-10
582	478	2690	0	-19	-23	-13	-98	-153	11
581	471	2720	0	-17	-14	-14	-103	-158	9
580	453	2740	0	-15	-23	-17	-110	-152	12
579	469	2790	0	-16	-24	-13	-110	-160	34
578	467	2830	0	-13	-21	-8	-87	-163	55
577	478	2880	0	-14	-23	-10	-41	-150	63
576	467	2870	0	-16	-18	-11	-27	-147	67
575	484	2960	0	-16	-18	-11	-48	-134	77
574	496	3020	0	-16	-22	-9	-52	-139	96
573	477	3070	0	-15	-19	-11	-81	-147	100
572	477	3120	0	-13	-11	-13	-75	-135	117
571	472	3190	0	-14	-16	-12	-75	-144	140
570	483	3270	0	-16	-22	-12	-83	-133	166
569	490	3320	0	-15	-14	-10	-101	-125	199
568	496	3430	0	-12	-13	-11	-87	-119	206
567	481	3500	0	-13	-21	-11	-60	-114	219
566	498	3660	0	-15	-10	-9	-59	-123	242
565	490	3710	0	-15	-3	-8	-72	-137	278
564	455	3810	0	-13	-11	-11	-93	-139	293
563	475	3920	0	-14	-15	-12	-92	-140	323
562	488	4090	0	-16	-29	-12	-73	-136	348

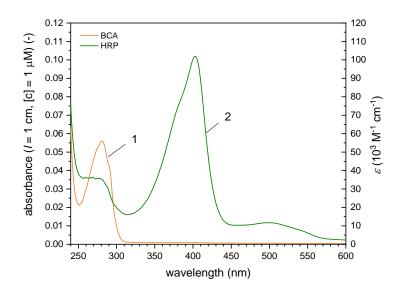
561	477	4210	0	-18	-19	-11	-49	-109	398
560	458	4310	0	-19	-17	-11	-59	-117	434
559	472	4510	0	-13	-21	-9	-55	-108	480
558	510	4740	0	-11	-7	-8	-60	-96	527
557	503	4860	0	-9	-7	-4	-58	-102	589
556	496	5070	0	-12	-14	-6	-55	-94	637
555	470	5210	0	-10	-18	-5	-66	-90	694
554	471	5390	0	-9	-18	-3	-91	-90	759
553	523	5650	0	-18	-17	-11	-82	-76	823
552	505	5730	0	-15	-28	-13	-67	-47	919
551						-10			1010
	493	5910	0	-12	-12		-62	-35	
550	476	6090	0	-15	-24	-8	-65	-22	1110
549	508	6300	0	-14	-13	-6	-75	2	1200
548	516	6480	0	-12	-4	-5	-42	28	1310
547	509	6620	0	-11	-13	-5	-37	70	1460
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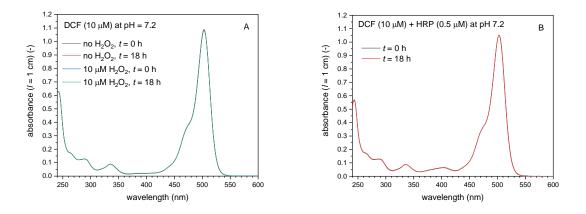
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251	21310	37390	24	9600	8810	8100	17810	28520	18180
250	21500	38220	26	9300	9050	8610	18630	31930	18910
249	22170	39470	27	9020	9340	9180	19720	35880	19650
248	23250	40940	29	8760	9720	9810	20830	40120	20440
247	24660	42610	30	8550	10120	10490	22360	44320	21220
246	26710	44900	32	8420	10620	11260	24130	48060	21960
245	29610	47700	34	8350	11200	12100	26370	50890	22680
244	33460	51290	35	8370	11840	13010	29250	52510	23290
243	38550	55920	37	8490	12540	14030	32110	52920	23860
242	45110	61450	39	8740	13390	15170	34850	52240	24360
241	53450	67980	41	9120	14440	16400	37060	50840	24770
240	63850	75670	44	9630	15560	17690	38830	48960	25080

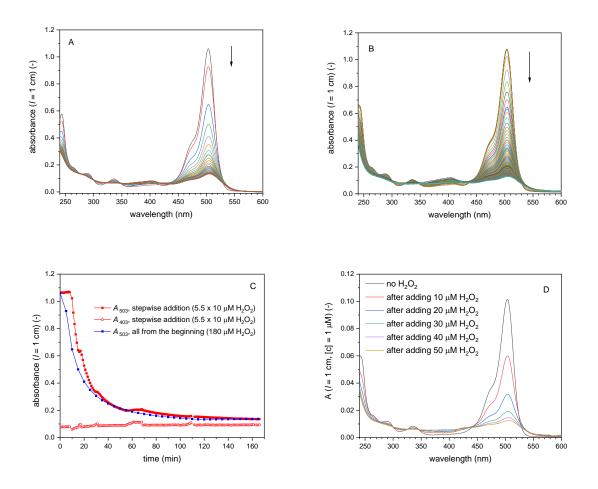


**Figure S-6.** UV/vis absorption spectra of BCA (1, orange) and HRP (2, green). The measured spectra were adjusted to  $\varepsilon_{280}$  (BCA) = 5.6·10<sup>4</sup> M<sup>-1</sup>cm<sup>-1</sup> and  $\varepsilon_{403}$  (HRP) = 1.02·10<sup>5</sup> M<sup>-1</sup>cm<sup>-1</sup>, respectively (see section 2.1.).

#### 8. Oxidation of DCF in the presence of HRP and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>



**Figure S-7.** Stability of DCF (10  $\mu$ M) in PB (10 mM sodium phosphate buffer solution, pH = 7.2) at *T* = 25 °C, (**A**) without added H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> or HRP (18 h), in the presence of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (9  $\mu$ M, 72 h) without HRP; and (**B**) in the presence of HRP (0.5  $\mu$ M, 18 h) without H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. For each stability test, the absorption spectrum was measured every 5 min against PB by keeping the solutions in the spectrophotometer (path length *l* = 1 cm). Under the condition used, DCF was stable as no significant change in the absorption spectrum could be detected.



**Figure S-8.** Oxidation of DCF in PB (10 mM sodium phosphate buffer solution, pH = 7.2) at T = 25 °C with HRP and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>.

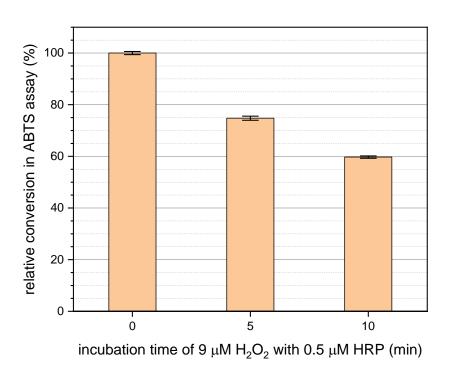
(A)  $[DCF]_0 = 10 \ \mu\text{M}$ ,  $[HRP] = 0.5 \ \mu\text{M}$ ,  $[H_2O_2]_0 = 180 \ \mu\text{M}$  added at once. The spectrum was recorded every 5 min for 180 min.  $A_{503}$  decreased with time. Addition of more  $H_2O_2$  did not lead to a further decrease in  $A_{503}$ .

**(B)**  $[DCF]_0 = 10 \ \mu\text{M}$ ,  $[HRP] = 0.5 \ \mu\text{M}$ , with *stepwise addition* of  $H_2O_2$  (10  $\mu\text{M}$ ) up to 55  $\mu\text{M}$ . The spectrum was recorded every 10 min. After each  $H_2O_2$  addition, the spectrum was recorded until it did not change anymore. Then the next portion of  $H_2O_2$  was added, up to a total of 5.5 equivalents with respect to  $[DCF]_0$ . After addition of 5 equivalents  $H_2O_2$  (50  $\mu$ M), the spectrum did not change anymore.

(C) Comparison of the two DCF oxidation experiments shown in (A) and (B). Changes in  $A_{503}$  and  $A_{403}$ . The data for  $A_{403}$  reflect transient changes in the oxidation state of the heme group in HRP.<sup>S9, S10</sup>

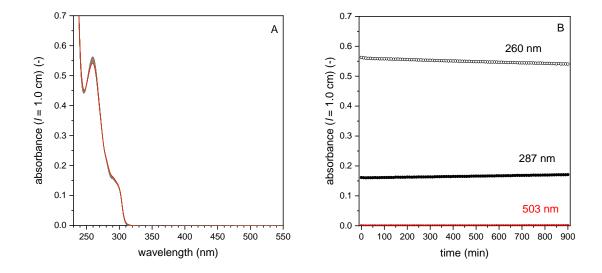
(D) Stable absorption spectra after stepwise addition of  $H_2O_2$ , from top to bottom: DCF only (10  $\mu$ M, no  $H_2O_2$ ), after addition of 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 or 55  $\mu$ M  $H_2O_2$  (and waiting until equilibrium was reached). From the recorded spectra, the spectrum of HRP (0.5  $\mu$ M, see **Figure S-6**) was subtracted and they were normalized to 1  $\mu$ M with respect to the concentration and volume of the initial DCF solution. The last two spectra were identical and taken as the spectrum of DCF<sub>ox</sub>. Oxidation of DCF is indicated by the increase in absorbance at  $\lambda$  = 530-550 nm, see Rota et al. (1999).<sup>S11</sup>

### 9. Catalase-like activity of HRP under similar conditions as used for reactions with DCF derivatives in bulk solution



**Figure S-9.** Decreasing H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> concentrations observed with the ABTS assay. HRP (0.5  $\mu$ M) and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (9  $\mu$ M) were mixed in PB (10 mM phosphate buffer solution, pH 7.2). Either at the same time or after 5 or 10 min incubation time in light-shielded polypropylene tubes, ABTS<sup>2-</sup> (1 mM) was added to the solutions that were placed in a 1 cm quartz cell. After mixing by pipette, UV/vis spectra were recorded until A<sub>414</sub> became stable (A<sub>414</sub> indicated formation of ABTS<sup>\*-</sup>, the reaction was finished within the first 10 seconds). After subtracting A<sub>414</sub> contributions from HRP and the ABTS<sup>2-</sup> substrate solution in PB, the obtained  $\Delta A_{414}$  was attributed relatively to the amount of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> present at the time of ABTS<sup>2-</sup> addition (that was converted to ABTS<sup>•-</sup> proportionally). It was clearly shown that under the conditions used (HRP 0.5  $\mu$ M in PB), the concentration of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> ("catalaytic" activity of HRP).<sup>S12</sup>

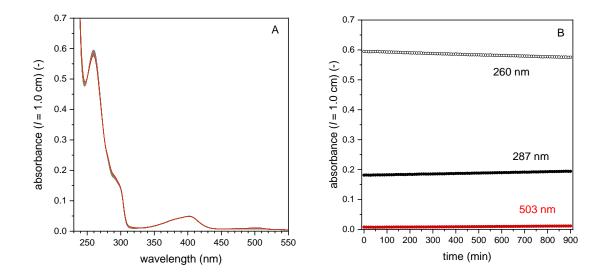
#### 10. Hydrolysis of DCFH<sub>2</sub>-DA catalysed by BCA



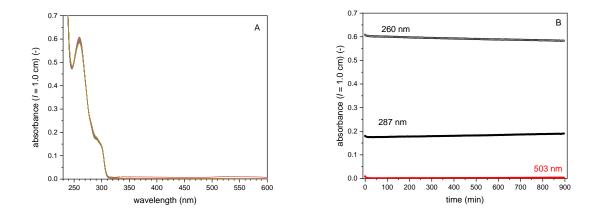
Control measurements 1

**Figure S-10.** Stability of DCFH<sub>2</sub>-DA (50  $\mu$ M, 1 vol% DMSO) in PB (10 mM sodium phosphate buffer solution, pH = 7.2) at 25 °C, determined by recording the UV/vis spectrum as a function of time. **(A)** Change in the spectrum, as recorded every 10 min for 15 h. **(B)** Changes of  $A_{260}$ ,  $A_{287}$ , and  $A_{503}$ .

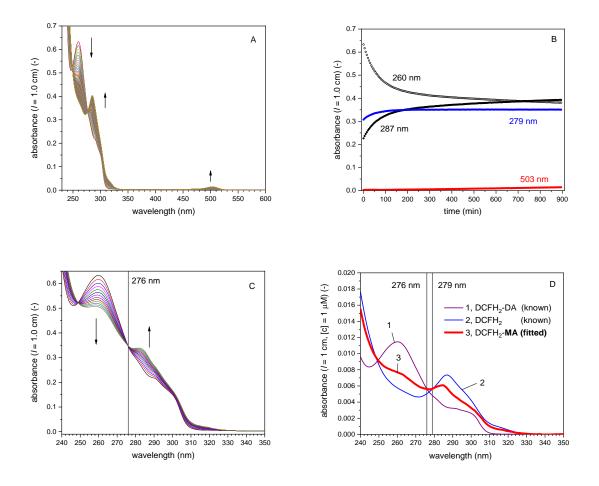
Control measurements 2



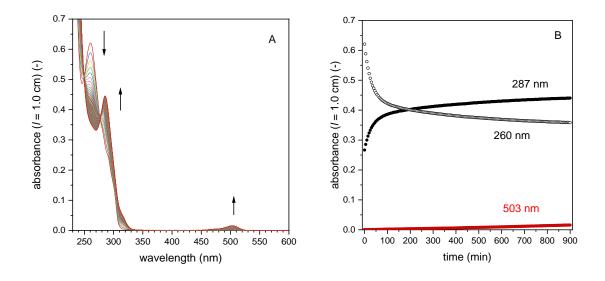
**Figure S-11.** Stability of DCFH<sub>2</sub>-DA (50  $\mu$ M, 1 vol% DMSO) in PB (10 mM sodium phosphate buffer solution, pH = 7.2) at 25 °C in the presence of HRP (0.5  $\mu$ M). **(A)** Change in the UV/vis absorption spectrum, recorded every 10 min for 15 h. **(B)** Changes of  $A_{260}$ ,  $A_{287}$ , and  $A_{503}$ . The absorption band with maximal absorption at 403 nm originated from the heme group of HRP.<sup>S8, S13</sup>



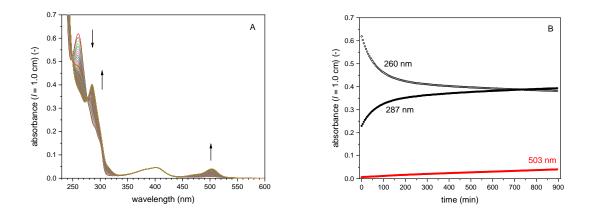
**Figure S-12.** Stability of DCFH<sub>2</sub>-DA (50  $\mu$ M, 1 vol% DMSO) in PB (10 mM sodium phosphate buffer solution, pH = 7.2) at 25 °C in the presence of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (9  $\mu$ M). **(A)** Change in the UV/vis absorption spectrum, recorded every 5 min for 15 h. **(B)** Changes of A<sub>260</sub>, A<sub>287</sub>, and A<sub>503</sub>.



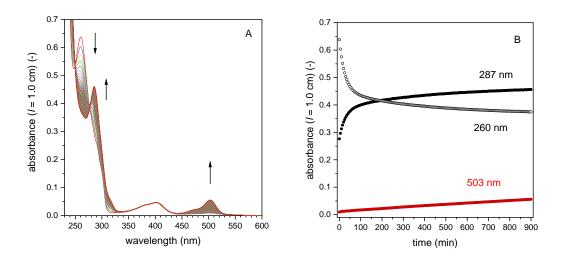
**Figure S-13**. BCA-catalysed hydrolysis of DCFH<sub>2</sub>-DA (50  $\mu$ M, 1 vol% DMSO) in PB (10 mM sodium phosphate buffer solution, pH = 7.2) at 25 °C. [BCA] = 1.0  $\mu$ M. (**A**) Change in the UV/vis absorption spectrum, recorded every 5 min for 15 h. (**B**) Changes of  $A_{260}$ ,  $A_{287}$ ,  $A_{279}$  and  $A_{503}$ . After *t* = 900 min,  $A_{503}$  was 0.014, corresponding to 0.14  $\mu$ M DCF ( $\varepsilon_{503}$  (DCF) = 1.02·10<sup>5</sup> M<sup>-1</sup>cm<sup>-1</sup>, see **Figure S-3**). At  $\lambda$  = 279 nm, the isosbestic point between DCFH<sub>2</sub> and DCFH<sub>2</sub>-MA becomes visible with stable absorption the latest after *t* = 300 min (no DCFH<sub>2</sub>-DA left). (**C**) Change in the UV/vis absorption spectrum, recorded every 5 min within the first 60 min of reaction. At  $\lambda$  = 276 nm, the isosbestic point between DCFH<sub>2</sub>-DA left). (**C**) Change in the UV/vis absorption can be neglected. (**D**) Absorption spectra of DCFH<sub>2</sub>-DA (1), DCFH<sub>2</sub> (2) (both known, see **Figure 2**) and DCFH<sub>2</sub>-MA (3) (fitted). With help of the two isosbestic points of DCFH<sub>2</sub>-MA (at 276 nm with DCFH<sub>2</sub>-DA and at 279 nm with DCFH<sub>2</sub>), the molar absorption spectrum could be fitted from the time evolution of the reaction between *t* = 300-900 min (see **B**). Thereby, DCFH<sub>2</sub>-MA hydrolysis was assigned to the differential spectrum (A<sub>900min</sub> – A<sub>300min</sub>) in such a concentration that the resulting molar fit for DCFH<sub>2</sub>-MA (adding the molar differential spectrum to the known spectrum of DCFH<sub>2</sub>) complied with both isosbestic points (both isosbestic points are from different reaction phases and thereby independent).



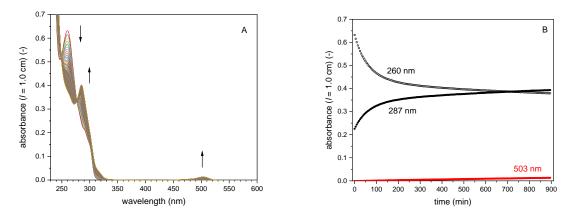
**Figure S-14.** BCA-catalysed hydrolysis of DCFH<sub>2</sub>-DA (50  $\mu$ M, 1 vol% DMSO) in PB (10 mM sodium phosphate buffer solution, pH = 7.2) at 25 °C. [BCA] = 2.0  $\mu$ M. (A) Change in the UV/vis absorption spectrum, recorded every 5 min for 15 h. (B): Changes of  $A_{260}$ ,  $A_{287}$ , and  $A_{503}$ . After t = 900 min,  $A_{503}$  was 0.016, corresponding to 0.16  $\mu$ M DCF ( $\varepsilon_{503}$  (DCF) = 1.02·10<sup>5</sup> M<sup>-1</sup>cm<sup>-1</sup>, see **Figure S-3**).



**Figure S-15.** BCA-catalysed hydrolysis of DCFH<sub>2</sub>-DA (50  $\mu$ M, 1 vol% DMSO) in PB (10 mM sodium phosphate buffer solution, pH = 7.2) at 25 °C in the presence of HRP (0.5  $\mu$ M). [BCA] = 1.0  $\mu$ M, no added H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. **(A)** Change in the UV/vis absorption spectrum, recorded every 5 min for 15 h. **(B)** Changes of A<sub>260</sub>, A<sub>287</sub>, and A<sub>503</sub>. After *t* = 900 min, A<sub>503</sub> was 0.04, corresponding to 0.4  $\mu$ M DCF ( $\varepsilon_{503}$  (DCF) = 1.02·10<sup>5</sup> M<sup>-1</sup>cm<sup>-1</sup>, see **Figure S-3**).

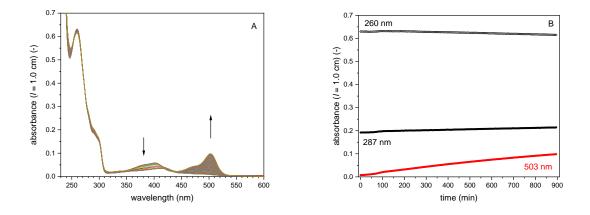


**Figure S-16.** BCA-catalysed hydrolysis of DCFH<sub>2</sub>-DA (50  $\mu$ M, 1 vol% DMSO) in PB (10 mM sodium phosphate buffer solution, pH = 7.2) at 25 °C in the presence of HRP (0.5  $\mu$ M). [BCA] = 2.0  $\mu$ M, no added H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. **(A)** Change in the UV/vis absorption spectrum, recorded every 5 min for 15 h. **(B)** Changes of A<sub>260</sub>, A<sub>287</sub>, and A<sub>503</sub>. After t = 900 min, A<sub>503</sub> was 0.056, corresponding to 0.55  $\mu$ M DCF ( $\varepsilon_{503}$  (DCF) = 1.02·10<sup>5</sup> M<sup>-1</sup>cm<sup>-1</sup>, see **Figure S-3**).



**Figure S-17.** BCA-catalysed hydrolysis of DCFH<sub>2</sub>-DA (50  $\mu$ M, 1 vol% DMSO) in PB (10 mM sodium phosphate buffer solution, pH = 7.2) at 25 °C in the presence of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (9  $\mu$ M) *without* HRP. [BCA] = 1.0  $\mu$ M. **(A)** Change in the UV/vis absorption spectrum, recorded every 5 min for 15 h. **(B)** Changes of  $A_{260}$ ,  $A_{287}$ , and  $A_{503}$ . After t = 900 min,  $A_{503}$  was 0.013, corresponding to 0.13  $\mu$ M DCF ( $\varepsilon_{503}$  (DCF) = 1.02·10<sup>5</sup> M<sup>-1</sup>cm<sup>-1</sup>, see **Figure S-3**).

Control measurements 7



**Figure S-18.** Non-enzymatic hydrolysis of DCFH<sub>2</sub>-DA (50  $\mu$ M, 1 vol% DMS) in PB (10 mM sodium phosphate buffer solution, pH = 7.2) at 25 °C in the presence of HRP (0.5  $\mu$ M) and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (9  $\mu$ M) without BCA. **(A)** Change in the UV/vis absorption spectrum, recorded every 5 min for 15 h. **(B)** Changes of A<sub>260</sub>, A<sub>287</sub>, and A<sub>503</sub>. After t = 900 min, A<sub>503</sub> was 0.1, corresponding to 0.98  $\mu$ M DCF ( $\varepsilon_{503}$  (DCF) = 1.02·10<sup>5</sup> M<sup>-1</sup>cm<sup>-1</sup>, see **Figure S-3**).

### 11. Specificity constants (*k*<sub>cat</sub>/*K*<sub>M</sub>) for the BCA-catalysed hydrolysis of DCFH<sub>2</sub>-DA, DCFH<sub>2</sub>-MA and DCF-MA in bulk solution

**Table S-2.** Specificity constants (or kinetic efficiencies),  $k_{cat}/K_M$  (Michaelis-Menten kinetics), for the hydrolysis of DCFH<sub>2</sub>-DA, DCFH<sub>2</sub>-MA and DCF-MA catalysed by BCA. The experimentally measured initial rates of hydrolysis were linearly dependent on the concentration of BCA used ([E]<sub>0</sub>) and on the current substrate concentration ([S]). Due to this linear dependency and BCA being rather inefficient in catalysing the hydrolysis of these substrates, Michaelis-Menten kinetics for [S]<<K<sub>M</sub> was assumed to apply. Under these conditions, the reaction rate is linearly dependent on [S] and [E]<sub>0</sub> and the rate constant is  $k_{cat}/K_M$ , such that: d[S]/dt = ( $k_{cat}/K_M$ )·[E]<sub>0</sub>·[S]. Thus, first order kinetics applies, such that [S]<sub>t</sub> = [S]<sub>0</sub>·e<sup>-kt</sup>, whereas  $k = (k_{cat}/K_M)·[E]_0$ . The experimentally determined decrease of [S]<sub>t</sub> with time was fitted as exponential decay with time and the obtained value for k was divided by [E]<sub>0</sub> to get  $k_{cat}/K_M$ . 10 mM sodium phosphate buffer solution, pH = 7.2, 25 °C.

Substrate	k <sub>cat</sub> /K <sub>M</sub>	Initial experimental	Fitting conditions
(Reaction Step in Scheme 2)	(µM⁻¹ min⁻¹)	conditions	(Respective figure with data)
	0.0187	50 μM DCFH <sub>2</sub> -DA	<i>t</i> = 0-300 min, R <sup>2</sup> =0.99891
DCFH <sub>2</sub> -DA <sup>a</sup>		1.0 μM BCA	(Figure 3A, purple data points)
(Hyd_1)	0.0209	50 μM DCFH <sub>2</sub> -DA	<i>t</i> = 0-200 min, R <sup>2</sup> =0.99912
		2.0 μM BCA	(Figure 3B, purple data points)
DCFH <sub>2</sub> -MA <sup>b</sup>	0.0012	50 μM DCFH <sub>2</sub> -DA	<i>t</i> = 200-900 min, R <sup>2</sup> =0.99948
(Hyd_2)		2.0 μM BCA	(Figure 3B, red data points)
DCF-MA <sup>b</sup>	0.0043	20 μM DCF-DA	<i>t</i> = 200-500 min, R <sup>2</sup> =0.99928
(Hyd_3)		1.0 μM BCA	(Figure S-19C, red data points)
	0.0050	50 μM DCFH <sub>2</sub> -DA	<i>t</i> = 50-350 min, R <sup>2</sup> =0.99992
DCF-MA within		2.0 μM BCA	(DCF-MA concentration
cascade reaction,		0.5 μM HRP	calculated from $A_{503}$ and $A_{460}$ in
thus coexisting		9 μM H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	Figure 5, blue data points)
DCFH <sub>2</sub> -DA and	0.0048	50 μM DCFH <sub>2</sub> -DA	<i>t</i> = 50-350 min, R <sup>2</sup> =0.99990
DCFH <sub>2</sub> -MA <sup>c</sup>		3.0 μM BCA	(DCF-MA concentration
(Hyd_3)		0.5 μM HRP	calculated from $A_{503}$ and $A_{460}$ in
		9 μM H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	Figure 5, red data points)

<sup>*a*</sup> The increasing amount of DCFH<sub>2</sub>-MA (resulting from the hydrolysis of DCFH<sub>2</sub>-DA) did not have a significant impact on d[DCFH<sub>2</sub>-DA]/dt. No product inhibition was observed, although the hydrolysis of DCFH<sub>2</sub>-MA was also catalysed by BCA. The reason could be a low ES-complex concentration which is usual for [S]<<K<sub>M</sub>, and thus not many BCA enzyme molecules were blocked by other substrates. <sup>*b*</sup> The DCFH<sub>2</sub>-MA and DCF-MA concentrations were taken into account after the concentrations of DCFH<sub>2</sub>-DA and DCF-DA, respectively, were approaching zero.

<sup>c</sup> The respective  $k_{cat}/K_M$  was found to be similar for different enzyme concentrations within the cascade reaction as well as for an "undisturbed" DCF-MA/DCF mixture (entry above), including higher DCF-species concentration (50 µM as opposed to 20 µM). Although [DCF-MA] within the time frame used for the fitting was smaller than coexisting [DCFH<sub>2</sub>-DA] + [DCFH<sub>2</sub>-MA], no significant impact on d[DCF-MA]/dt was found within the cascade reaction. No competitive inhibition by the reduced DCF-species was observed, although the hydrolysis of DCFH<sub>2</sub>-DA and DCFH<sub>2</sub>-MA was also catalysed by BCA at the same time. The reason could be a low ES-Complex concentration, which is usual for [S]<<K<sub>M</sub>, and thus not many BCA enzymes being blocked by other substrates.

#### 12. Hydrolysis of DCF-DA catalysed by BCA

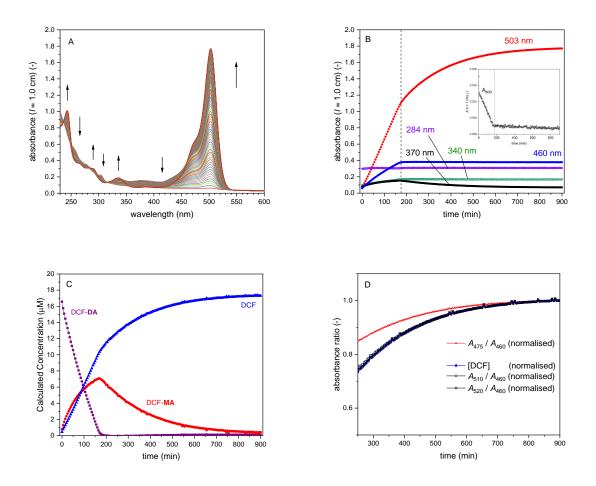


Figure S-19. BCA-catalysed hydrolysis of DCF-DA (20 µM, 1 vol% DMSO) in PB (10 mM sodium phosphate buffer solution, pH = 7.2) at 25 °C. [BCA] = 1.0  $\mu$ M. (A) Change in the UV/vis absorption spectrum, recorded every 5 min for 15 h. (B) Changes of  $A_{503}$ ,  $A_{460}$ ,  $A_{370}$ ,  $A_{340}$  and  $A_{284}$ .  $A_{503}$  can be mainly attributed to the formation of DCF, and A<sub>370</sub> to DCF-MA. After an initial reaction phase (up to the dashed vertical line at t = 175 min), isosbestic points were at  $\lambda$  = 284, 340 and 460 nm. After t = 175 min, all DCF-DA molecules were at least partially hydrolysed (presence of only DCF-MA and DCF). As the samples were turbid at the beginning of the reaction (see inset), no quantitative analysis was performed during the initial phase of the reaction (initial hydrolysis of DCF-DA). (C) Concentration determination during the reaction, using the known absorbance of DCF at  $\lambda$  = 520 nm ( $\varepsilon_{520}$  (DCF) = 2.7·10<sup>4</sup> M<sup>-1</sup>cm<sup>-1</sup>) and the isosbestic point between DCF-MA/DCF at  $\lambda$  = 460 nm ( $\varepsilon_{460}$  (DCF-MA/DCF) =  $1.98 \cdot 10^4 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-1}$ ). (D) Comparison of the time course of  $A_{520}$ ,  $A_{510}$  and  $A_{475}$  with the rising DCF concentration. All values were normalised to the value observed at t = 900 min. Whereas the ratio for  $A_{520}$  and  $A_{510}$  aligned well with the calculated concentration of DCF,  $A_{475}$  (as an arbitrary example at a wavelength at which DCF-MA absorbs light) did deviate. This shows that DCF-MA does not absorb at  $\lambda$  > 510 nm, which was used to fit the molar absorption spectrum of DCF-MA (see 3.1.3 and **Figure 2**). For the BCA-catalysed hydrolysis of DCF-MA, the specificity constant ( $k_{cat}/K_{M}$ ) was determined (see Table S-2).

#### 13. Oxidation of DCFH<sub>2</sub> catalysed by HRP with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> as oxidant

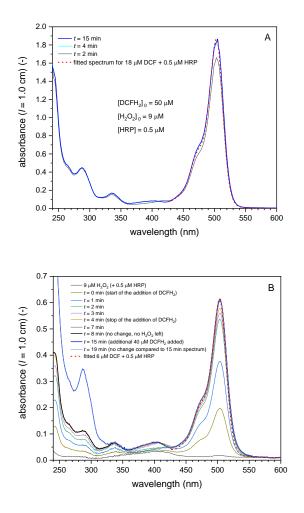


Figure S-20. HRP-catalysed oxidation of DCFH<sub>2</sub> (50  $\mu$ M) in PB (10 mM sodium phosphate buffer solution, pH = 7.2) at 25 °C, [HRP] = 0.5  $\mu$ M, [H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>]<sub>0</sub> = 9  $\mu$ M. (A) Solutions of DCFH<sub>2</sub>, HRP, and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> were mixed at the beginning, and the UV/vis spectrum of the reaction mixture was measured after t= 2, 4, and 15 min. The latter spectrum (blue curve) was identical with the spectrum of a 18  $\mu$ M solution of DCF (red line) between  $\lambda$  = 430 and 600 nm, as calculated from the reference spectrum of DCF given in **Figure 2B**. As a result, the two-electron reduction of  $H_2O_2$  yielded quantitative conversion of DCFH<sub>2</sub> to DCF according to Scheme 1: One-electron oxidations of two molecules of DCFH<sub>2</sub> to DCFH<sup>•</sup> (Oxi 1'a and Oxi 1'b), followed by one-electron oxidations of two molecules of DCFH<sup>•</sup> to two molecules of DCF with dissolved  $O_2$  (Oxi\_1"). (B) DCFH<sub>2</sub> was added in portions to the reaction mixture. 10 µM DCFH<sub>2</sub> were added slowly during the first 4 min. After the UV/vis spectrum did not change anymore with time (t = 8 min), the remaining 40  $\mu$ M DCFH<sub>2</sub> were added (t = 15 min). This final addition did not lead to a further change of the absorption spectrum above  $\lambda$  = 330 nm. Spectral changes below  $\lambda$  = 330 nm were due to DCFH<sub>2</sub>. This clearly indicates that H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (9  $\mu$ M initially added) reacted only with the initially added DCFH<sub>2</sub> (10  $\mu$ M), resulting in the formation of DCF and  $DCF_{ox}$ . Moreover, another part of the added  $H_2O_2$  was probably oxidized to  $O_2$  via the catalatic activity of HRP (see Figure S-9).<sup>S12, S14</sup> In any case, the final spectrum could not be fitted well with the spectrum of DCF only (red dashed line), see the deviations at  $\lambda$  = 425 - 450 nm and at  $\lambda$  = 525-550 nm. They are clear indications of DCF overoxidation. In any case, the amount of DCF obtained was much lower than in the case of the experiments in (A),  $A_{503} = 0.61$  (B) vs  $A_{503} = 1.83$  (A).

## 14. Quantitative analysis of different cascade reaction mixtures run in bulk solution with dissolved enzymes

**Table S-3.** Summary of the quantitative analyses of various bulk cascade reaction mixtures, prepared in PB (pH = 7.2) at [DCFH<sub>2</sub>-DA]<sub>0</sub> = 50  $\mu$ M and different concentrations of BCA, HRP, and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, kept for t = 15 h at room temperature. The concentrations given for the DCF derivatives in the final spectrum (t = 15 h) were determined by spectral fitting on the basis of isosbestic points ( $\lambda_{iso}$ , see **Table 1**) and characteristic absorptions (*e.g.*  $A_{503}$  for DCF or  $A_{550}$  for DCF<sub>ox</sub>), using the reference spectra given in **Figure 2** and **Table S-1**. For examples, see **Figure 4C** or **Figure 13**.

[DCF PB:	ting conditi H₂-DA]₀ = 50 10 mM sod ate buffer s pH = 7.2	D μM, ium		Determined concentrations in the reaction mixtures after a reaction time of 15 h								
[BCA] (μM)	[HRP] (μM)	[H₂O₂]₀ (μM)	[DCFH2-DA] (µM)	[DCFH₂-MA] (µM)	[DCFH₂] (µM)	[DCF-MA] (μM)	[DCF] (µM)	[DCF <sub>ox</sub> ] (µM)	Extent of hydrolysis (%) <sup>a</sup>	Extent of over- oxidation (%) <sup>b</sup>		
1	0.5	9	0	11.5	30.9	0	7.6 (42%) <sup>c</sup>	1.0	77	12		
2	0.5	9	0	5.0	36.0	0	9.3 (52%) <sup>c</sup>	0.6	90	6		
3	0.5	9	0	2.9	38.1	0	9.6 (52%) <sup>c</sup>	0.3	94	3		
1	0.5	4.5	0	15.3	31.7	0	4.9 (54%) <sup>c</sup>	0.5	71	9		
1	0.5	9	0	11.5	30.9	0	7.6 (42%) <sup>c</sup>	1.0	77	12		
1	0.5	18	0	9.0	27.3	0	12.4 (34%) <sup>c</sup>	2.0	82	14		
1	0.5	27	0	7.0	24.0	0	15.7 (29%) <sup>c</sup>	3.5	86	18		
1	0.5	180	0	n/a <sup>d</sup>	n/a <sup>d</sup>	n/a <sup>d</sup>	24.0 <sup><i>d</i></sup> (7%) <sup>c</sup>	26.0 <sup>d</sup>	n/a <sup>d</sup>	52 <sup>d</sup>		
1	0.0050	9	0	18.2	17.3	0.4	14.2 (80%) <sup>c</sup>	0	63	0		
1	0.0075	9	0	18.9	16.8	0.4	14.4 (80%) <sup>c</sup>	0	62	0		
1	0.5	9	0	11.5	30.9	0	7.6 (42%) <sup>c</sup>	1.0	77	12		
1	1	9	0	9.7	33.3	0	7.1 (39%) <sup>c</sup>	1.1	81	13		
1	1.5	9	0	10.4	33.6	0	6.7 (37%) <sup>c</sup>	1.1	80	14		
1	0	0	0	24.6	28.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	53	n/a		
2	0	0	0	6.2	43.8	n/a	n/a	n/a	88	n/a		

n/a: not applicable

Colour code: yellow, data to Figure 5; blue, data to Figure 6; red, data to Figure 7, green, data to Figure 3

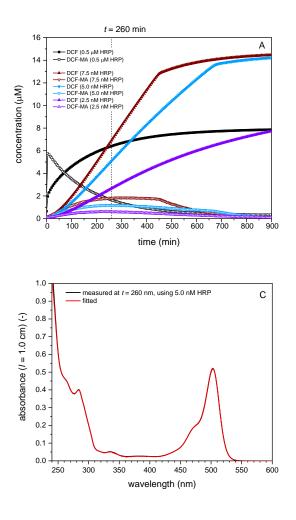
<sup>*a*</sup> The extent of hydrolysis was determined by subtracting the total concentration of the remaining mono-acetate species ( $[DCFH_2-MA]_{15 h} + [DCF-MA]_{15 h}$ ) from  $[DCFH_2-DA]_0$ .

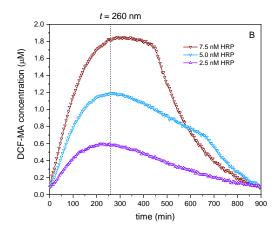
<sup>b</sup> Defined as ( $[DCF_{ox}]_{15 h} / ([DCF_{ox}]_{15 h} + [DCF]_{15 h})$ ) · 100 (%).

 $^{c}$  Yield compared to a maximal theoretic conversion/consumption of 1 H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> for yielding 2 DCF.

<sup>*d*</sup> The complete final spectrum of the reaction mixture initially containing a large excess of  $H_2O_2$  could not be fitted convincingly. However, from the spectral region between  $\lambda$  = 460 and 600 nm, the ratio between DCF and DCF<sub>ox</sub> was estimated.

15. Kinetic reaction pathway analysis for the cascade reaction run in bulk solution depending on the HRP concentration





**Figure S-21.** (A) Concentration of DCF and DCF-MA against time in cascade reactions using 50  $\mu$ M DCFH<sub>2</sub>-DA, 9  $\mu$ M H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, 1.0  $\mu$ M BCA as well as 0.5  $\mu$ M or 7.5 nM, 5.0 nM or 2.5 nM HRP (in 10 mM phosphate buffer solution, pH = 7.2, at 25 °C). The concentrations were calculated from  $A_{503}$  and  $A_{460}$ , as shown in **Figure 7**. (B) DCF-MA concentration for those reactions in (A) which were run with 7.5 nM, 5.0 nM, or 2.5 nM HRP. (C) Comparison of the spectrum measured after *t* = 260 min for the reaction shown in (A) using 5.0 nM HRP (black line) with the sum of the spectra obtained by fitting (red line). The concentrations of the individual species present in the reaction mixture after *t* = 260 min instead of 15 h). The following concentrations resulted from fitting: [BCA] = 1.0  $\mu$ M; [HRP] = 5.0 nM; [DCFH<sub>2</sub>-DA] = 0  $\mu$ M; [DCFH<sub>2</sub>-MA] = 40.1  $\mu$ M; [DCFH<sub>2</sub>] = 4.5  $\mu$ M; [DCF-MA] = 1.2  $\mu$ M; [DCF] = 5.0  $\mu$ M; [DCF<sub>0x</sub>] = 0  $\mu$ M.

Reaction pathway analysis for a "hydrolysis-limited" reaction ([HRP] = 0.5 μM in Figure S-21A):

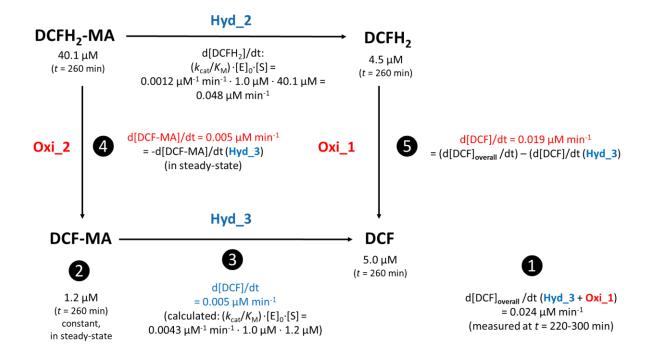
Most of the oxidation reactions were completed after t = 5 min where H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> was nearly used up (Figure S-21A). At that time, most of the oxidised species was still DCF-MA (1 µM DCF<sub>ox</sub> neglected). This indicates that the reaction proceeded predominantely along *pathway 2* (see Scheme 2). The concentration change after 5 min was solely caused by the hydrolysis of DCF-MA to DCF (also part of *pathway 2*). Since the hydrolysis reactions were rate limiting for DCF+DCF-MA formation, a substantial part of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> was finally not used for DCF formation. This could be attributed to some overoxidised DCF found (DCF<sub>ox</sub>) and "catalatic" activity of "excess" HRP (see section 3.1.4 and Figure S-9).

Reaction pathway analysis for **"oxidation-limited"** reactions ([HRP] = 2.5, 5.0 and 7.5 nM in **Figure S-21A**):

The oxidation reactions took much longer (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> was used up at *t* = 450 min for 7.5 nM HRP, *t* = 650 min for 5.0 nM HRP and not yet within the used experiment time for 2.5 nM HRP, **Figure S-21A**). The formation of DCF-MA (*via* oxidation of DCFH<sub>2</sub>-MA) and its hydrolysis occurred in parallel as long as H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> was still present (see **Scheme 2**). At the beginning of the reaction, similar DCF and DCF-MA concentrations indicate that *pathway 2* was predominant. With ongoing time, *pathway 1* was gaining more and more share in DCF formation. The oxidation became rate limiting for the formation of DCF + DCF-MA. With this the concentrations of DCFH<sub>2</sub>-MA and DCFH<sub>2</sub> increased (although H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> was still present). Since the oxidation was rate limiting, side reactions were largely suppressed (most of the initially added H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> was used for DCF formation and no DCF<sub>ox</sub> was found). At the beginning, mainly DCFH<sub>2</sub>-MA was abundant (favouring **Oxi\_2**, *pathway 2*). Over time a significant concentration of DCFH<sub>2</sub> was slowly building up (slowly, on expense of DCFH<sub>2</sub>-MA, see **Figure 3**), speeding up **Oxi\_1** of *pathway 1*. Thereby, **Oxi\_1** got more and more favoured over **Oxi\_2**, therefore favouring *pathway 1* with increasing DCFH<sub>2</sub> to DCFH<sub>2</sub>-MA ratio. For all three HRP concentrations, the DCF-MA

concentration remained similar at the beginning of the reacton for quite a while and then stayed almost constant for at least 20 min (at  $t \approx 260$  min, see **Figure S-21B**).

A comparison of **Oxi\_1** with **Oxi\_2** was made using steady-state kinetic data (see **Scheme S-1**). The DCF-MA concentration remained stable at t = 260 min (d[DCF-MA]/dt = 0). The comparison of **Oxi\_1** and **Oxi\_2** in **Scheme S-1** shows that *pathway 1* was predominant at t = 260. Oxidation *via* Oxi\_1 was determined as faster (about 4-times) than **Oxi\_2**, although [DCFH<sub>2</sub>] (= 4.5 µM) was about 9-times lower than [DCFH<sub>2</sub>-MA] (= 40.1 µM) at that time (see **Scheme S-1** and **Figure S-21C**). Consequently, in the following the slowly decreasing DCF-MA concentration and the stable DCF formation rate (see **Figure S-21A,B** for t > 260 min) showed that *pathway 1* kept being predominant for  $t \approx 260-650$  min (before finally all H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> was consumed and DCF-MA hydrolysis was the last remaining DCF formation process after  $t \approx 650$  min). In addition, since the DCF formation rate,  $dA_{460}/dt$  and [DCF-MA] in the steady-state (dDCF-MA/dt = 0) were all linearly dependent on [HRP] (see **Figure 7** and **Figure S-21A,B**), the same also applies for 2.5 and 7.5 nM HRP (just at altered time periods).



Scheme S-1. Comparison of reaction rates, as determined for the cascade reaction run with 50  $\mu$ M DCFH<sub>2</sub>-DA, 9  $\mu$ M H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, 1.0  $\mu$ M BCA and 5.0 nM HRP at *t* = 260 min (see Figure S-21). For these conditions, oxidation is rate limiting. The different hydrolysis and oxidation steps are the ones of Scheme 2.

The "overall" rate of formation of DCF, d[DCF]<sub>overall</sub>/dt (as a result of Hyd\_3 + Oxi\_1) was found to be proportional to [HRP] and was obtained from Figure S-21A, while the given compound concentrations (at t = 260 min) were determined by spectral fitting (Figure S-21C). The specificity constant,  $k_{cat}/K_{M}$ , for Hyd\_3 is taken from Table S-2. The other reaction rates were then calculated (red and blue).

1: The overall DCF formation rate was obtained from Figure S-21A.

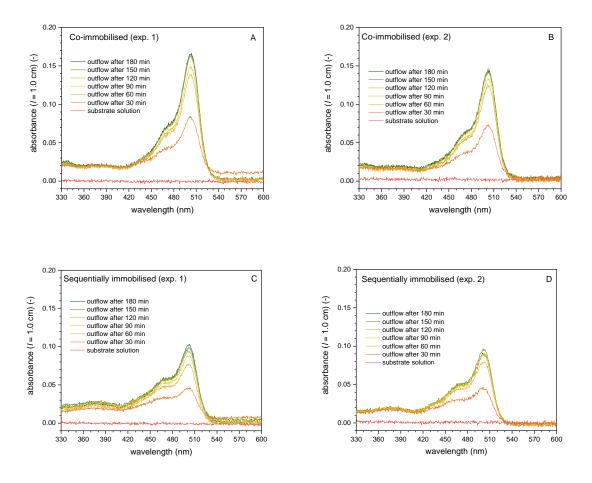
2: Steady-state concentration of DCF-MA was from Figure S-21C

**3**: The reaction rate for the hydrolysis of DCF-MA was calculated using [DCF-MA], [BCA] and  $k_{cat}/K_M$ . As evident from the last three entries of **Table S-2**,  $k_{cat}/K_M$  did not change significantly when DCFH<sub>2</sub> and DCFH<sub>2</sub>-MA were present, even if present at higher concentration than DCF-MA.

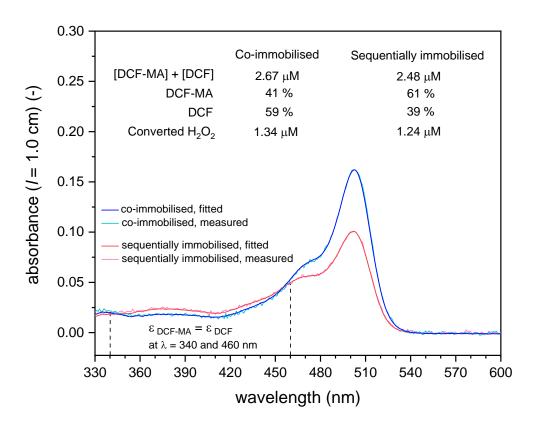
**4**: Since d[DCF-MA]/dt = 0 at t = 260 min, DCF-MA formation by Oxi\_2 had to be equal to DCF-MA hydrolysis by Hyd\_3 (0.005  $\mu$ M min<sup>-1</sup>). Also note that the steady-state concentration of DCF-MA was linearly dependent on the amount of HRP used (Figure S-21B).

**5**: DCF formation *via* **Oxi\_1** from DCFH<sub>2</sub> could be simply calculated by subtracting the formation *via* **Hyd\_3** from the "overall" formation of DCF at t = 260 min.

# 16. UV/vis absorption spectra and quantitative analysis of the outflow from the cascade reaction run in the glass fiber filter device with immobilised denpol-enzyme conjugates



**Figure S-22.** UV/vis absorption spectra between  $\lambda = 330$  and 600 nm of the outflow from a filter holder device consisting of two glass fiber filters with immobilised *de*-PG2<sub>1000</sub>-BAH<sub>207</sub>-BCA<sub>152</sub> and *de*-PG2<sub>1000</sub>-BAH<sub>86</sub>-HRP<sub>90</sub> (see ① in **Figure 11** and **Figure 12** ("exp.1" and "exp.2"). A substrate solution containing 50  $\mu$ M DCFH<sub>2</sub>-DA and 9  $\mu$ M H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> was pumped through the filters and the spectra were recorded in the collected outflow after *t* = 30, 60, 90, 120, 150, and 180 min (*t* = 30 min means that the outflow was collected until 30 min; *t* = 60 min means, collected outflow between 30 and 60 min; etc.). Between  $\lambda = 330$  and 600 nm, only oxidised species absorb (DCF, DCF-MA, and DCF<sub>ox</sub>, see **Figure 2**). (A) and (B): Spectra for co-immobilised conjugates (blue data points in **Figure 12**). (C) and (D): Spectra for the sequentially immobilised conjugates (red data points in **Figure 12**).



**Figure S-23.** UV/vis absorption spectra between  $\lambda$  = 330 and 600 nm of the outflow from the filter holder device for cascade reactions ① in **Figure 11** for co-immobilised (blue) and sequentially immobilsed conjugates (red), collected between *t* = 150 and 180 min ("exp.1", blue filled triangles and red empty triangles at *t* = 180 min in **Figure 12**). The measured and fitted spectra are shown with the total concentrations of DCF-MA and DCF and the relative amounts of DCF-MA and DCF present in the outflow. The fitting of the measured spectrum with the reference spectra of DCF-MA and DCF was carried out as described for the analysis of the reaction run in bulk solution (see caption of **Table S-3**).

#### 17. References

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