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Supplementary Information

2 **Chemical derivatization of citrullinated peptides using methylglyoxal** 3 **and sodium 3-mercaptopropanesulfonate (MG/MPS)**

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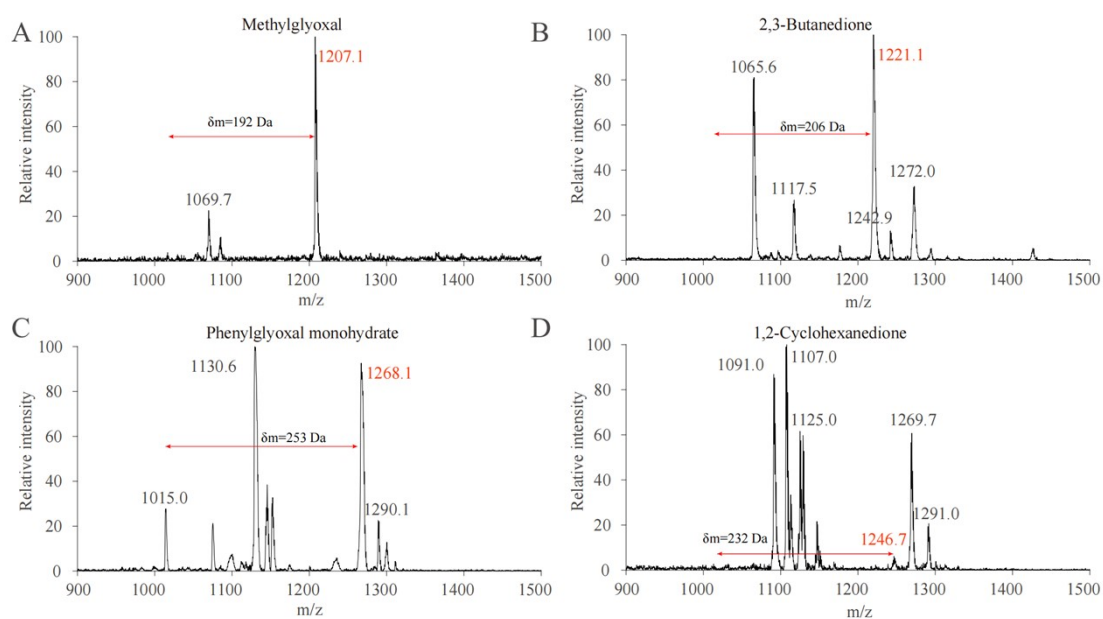
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16 ¹ These authors contributed equally to this work.

17 **Figures**

18 **Figure S1.**



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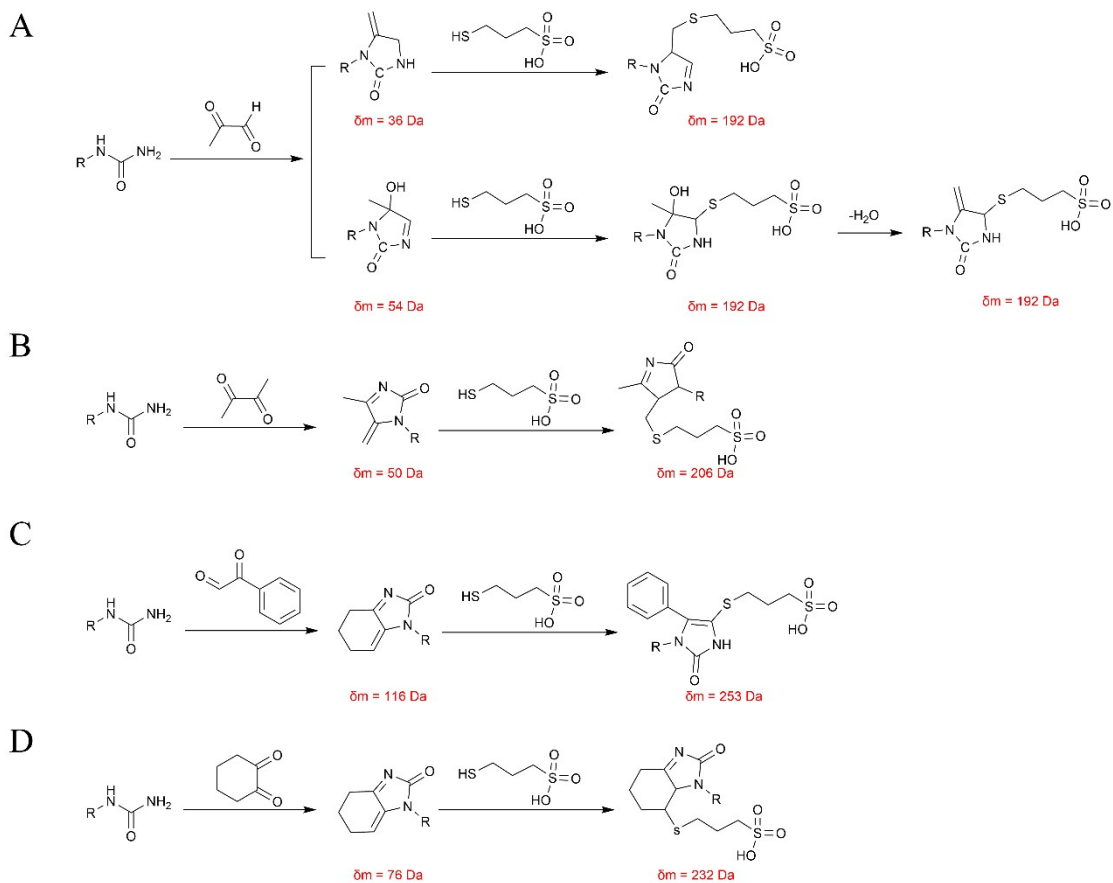
20 Figure S1. MALDI-TOF MS spectrum of the standard citrullinated peptide PL-Cit-

21 AASPF_R after derivatization with different dicarbonyl compounds and sodium 3-

22 mercaptopropanesulfonate. (A) methylglyoxal, (B) 2,3-butanedione, (C) phenylglyoxal

23 monohydrate, (D) 1,2-cyclohexanedione.

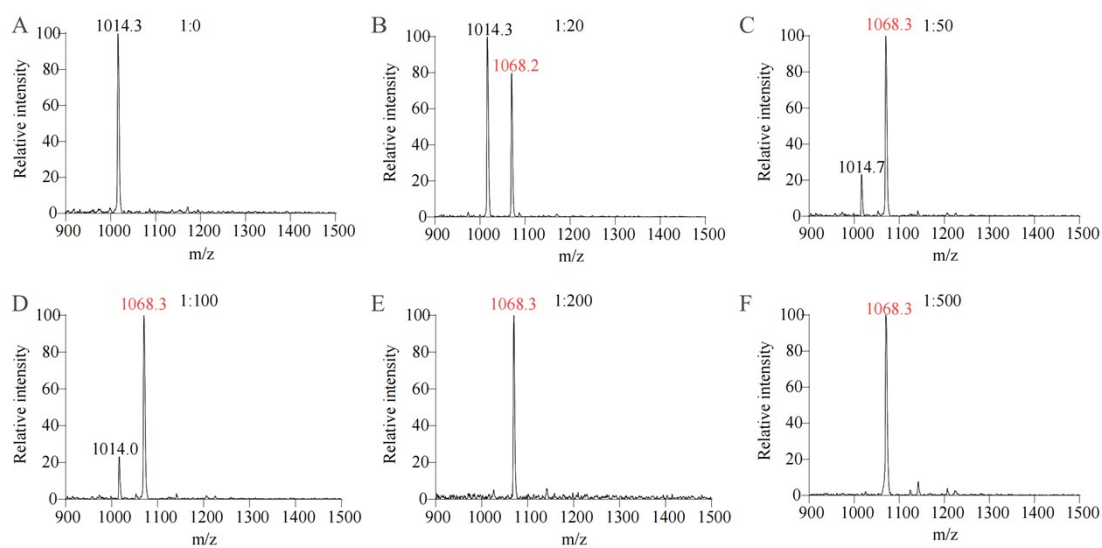
24 Figure S2.



25

26 Figure S2. Reaction mechanism diagram of the standard peptide with different
27 dicarbonyl compounds and sodium 3-mercaptopropanesulfonate. (A) methylglyoxal,
28 (B) 2,3-butanedione, (C) phenylglyoxal monohydrate, (D) 1,2-cyclohexanedione.

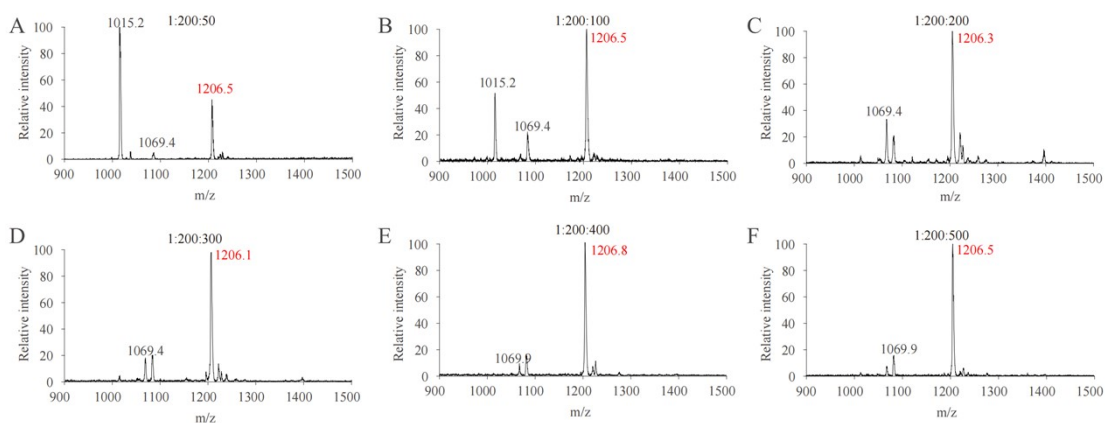
29 Figure S3.



30

31 Figure S3. MALDI-TOF MS spectrum of the standard citrullinated peptide PL-Cit-
32 AASPF_R after derivatization with different ratios of methylglyoxal. (A) 1:0, (B) 1:20,
33 (C) 1:50, (D) 1:100, (E) 1:200, (F) 1:500.

34 Figure S4.



35

36 Figure S4. MALDI-TOF MS spectrum of the standard citrullinated peptide PL-Cit-

37 AASPFR after derivatization with methylglyoxal and different ratios of sodium 3-

38 mercaptopropanesulfonate. (A) 1:200:50, (B) 1:200:100, (C) 1:200:200, (D) 1:200:300,

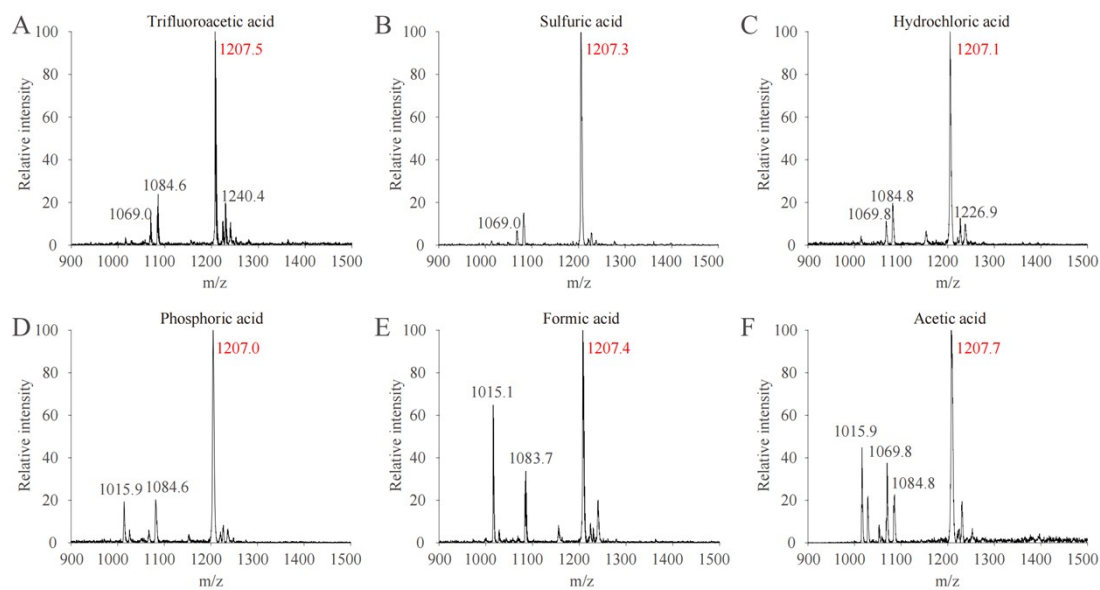
39 (E)

1:200:400,

(F)

1:200:500.

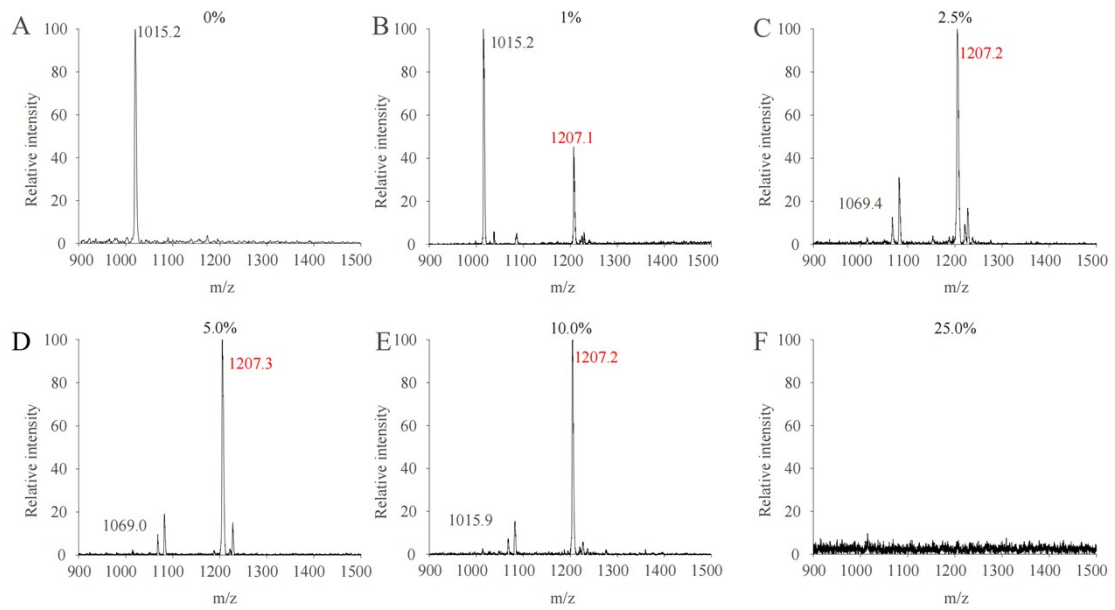
40 Figure S5



41

42 Figure S5. MALDI-TOF MS spectrum of the standard citrullinated peptide PL-Cit-
43 AASPFR after derivatization with methylglyoxal, sodium 3-
44 mercaptopropanesulfonate, and different types of acids. (A) 10% trifluoroacetic acid,
45 (B) 10% sulfuric acid, (C) 10% hydrochloric acid, (D) 10% phosphoric acid, (E) 10%
46 formic acid, (F) 10% acetic acid.

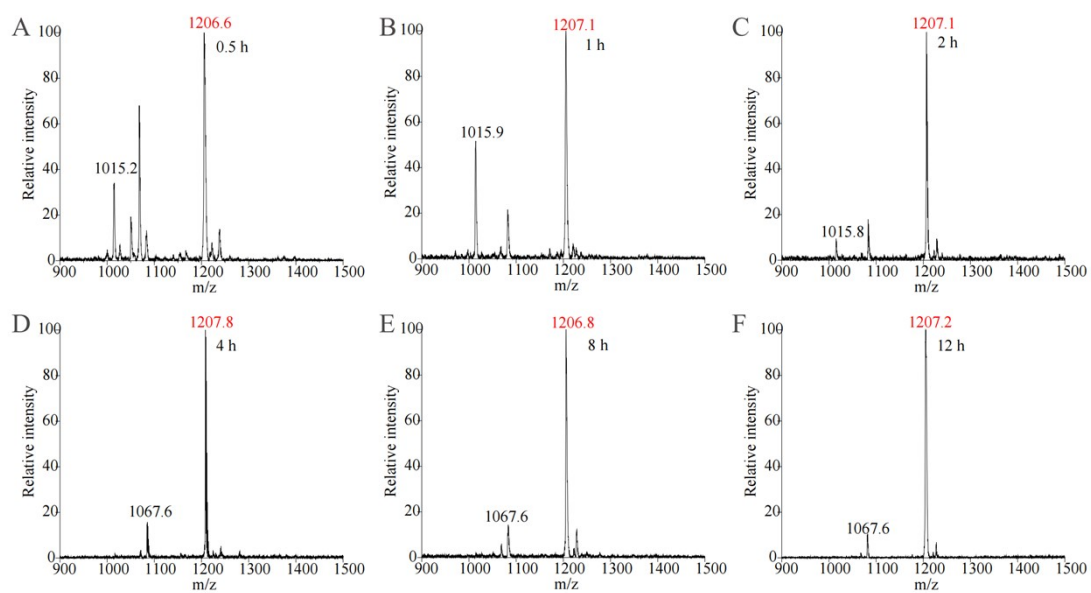
47 Figure S6.



48

49 Figure S6. MALDI-TOF MS spectrum of the standard peptide PL-Cit-AASPFR after
50 derivatization with methylglyoxal, sodium 3-mercaptopropanesulfonate, and different
51 concentrations of sulfuric acid. (A) 0%, (B) 1%, (C) 2.5%, (D) 5.0%, (E) 10.0%, (F)
52 25.0%.

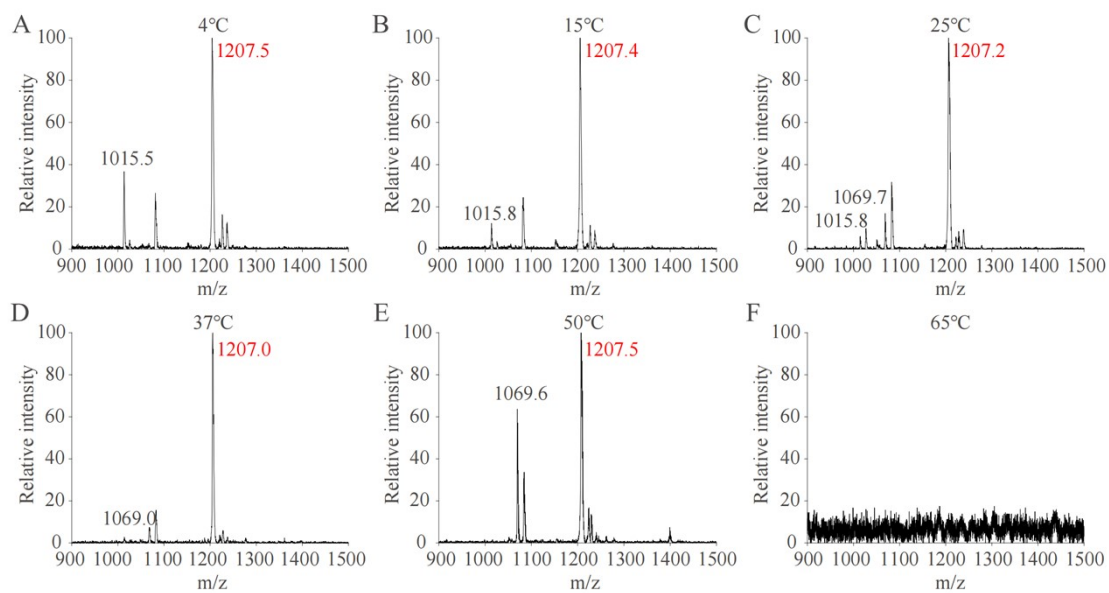
53 Figure S7.



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55 Figure S7. MALDI-TOF MS spectrum of the standard peptide PL-Cit-AASPFR after
56 derivatization with methylglyoxal and sodium 3-mercaptopropanesulfonate at different
57 reaction times. (A) 0.5 h, (B) 1 h, (C) 2 h, (D) 4 h, (E) 8 h, (F) 10 h.

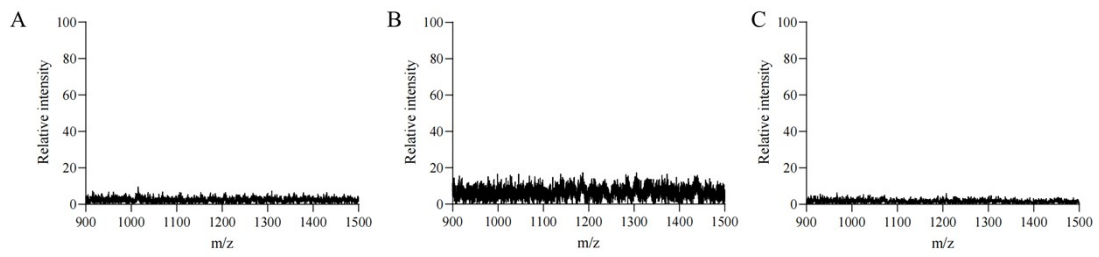
58 Figure S8.



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60 Figure S8. MALDI-TOF MS spectrum of the standard peptide PL-Cit-AASPFR after
61 derivatization with methylglyoxal and sodium 3-mercaptopropanesulfonate at different
62 reaction temperatures. (A) 4°C, (B) 15°C, (C) 25°C, (D) 37°C, (E) 50°C, (F) 65°C.

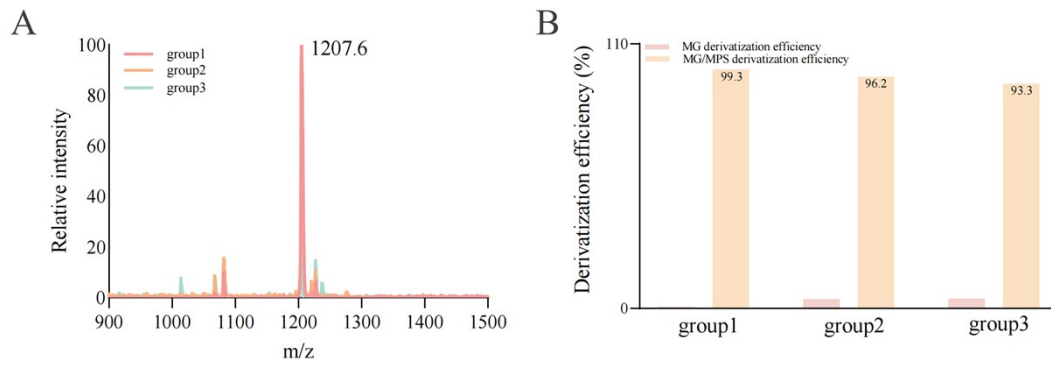
63 Figure S9.



64

65 Figure S9. MALDI-TOF MS spectrum of three independent replicate experiments for
66 the standard peptide PL-Cit-AASPFYR after derivatization with methylglyoxal and
67 sodium 3-mercaptopropanesulfonate at 65°C. (A, B, C) Results of three independent
68 replicate experiments, respectively.

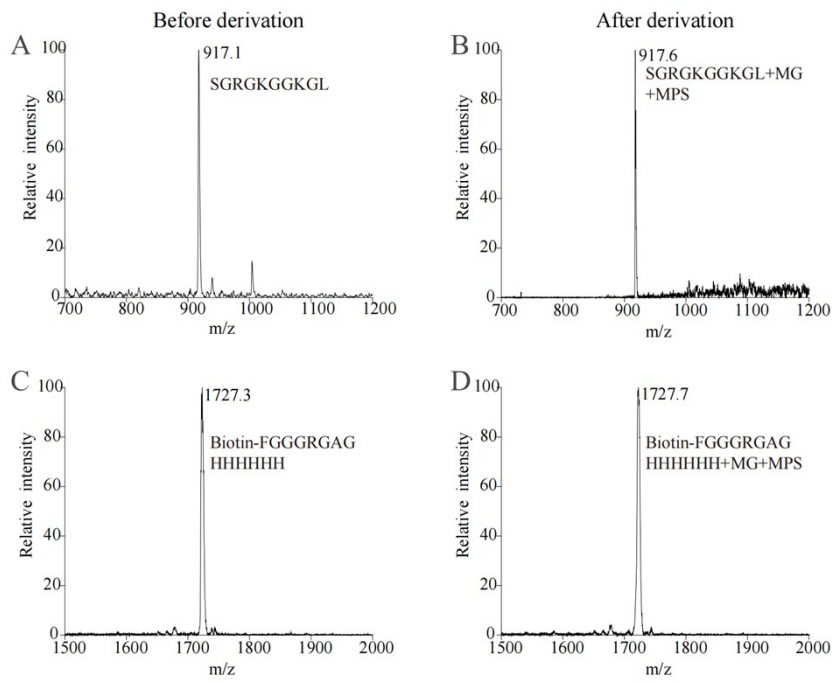
69 Figure S10.



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71 Figure S10. Validation of derivatization efficiency and reproducibility of the MG/MPS
72 derivatization strategy using the citrullinated peptide PL-Cit-AASPFR. Derivatization
73 was performed as described in the workflow section (see materials and methods for
74 details). (A) Overlaid MALDI-TOF MS spectra of the derivatized citrullinated peptide
75 from three parallel experiments. (B) Bar graph showing the derivatization efficiency of
76 the MG/MPS strategy across three independent experiments.

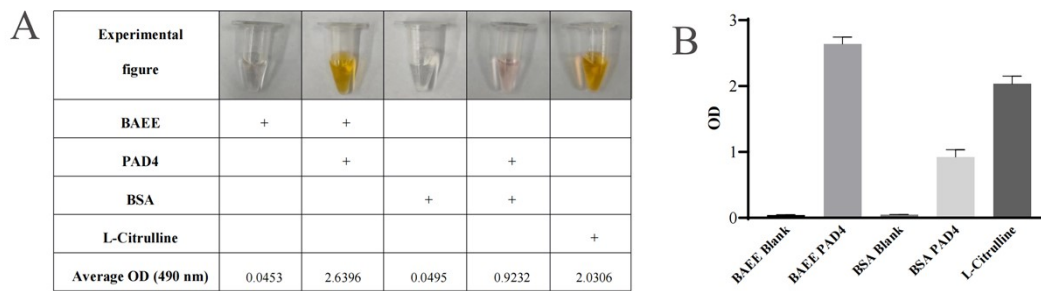
77 Figure S11.



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79 Figure S11. MALDI-TOF MS spectrum of two arginine-containing peptides
80 SGRGKGGKGL and Biotin-FGGGRGAGHHHHHH before (A, C) and after (B, D)
81 methylglyoxal and sodium 3-mercaptopropanesulfonate derivatization.

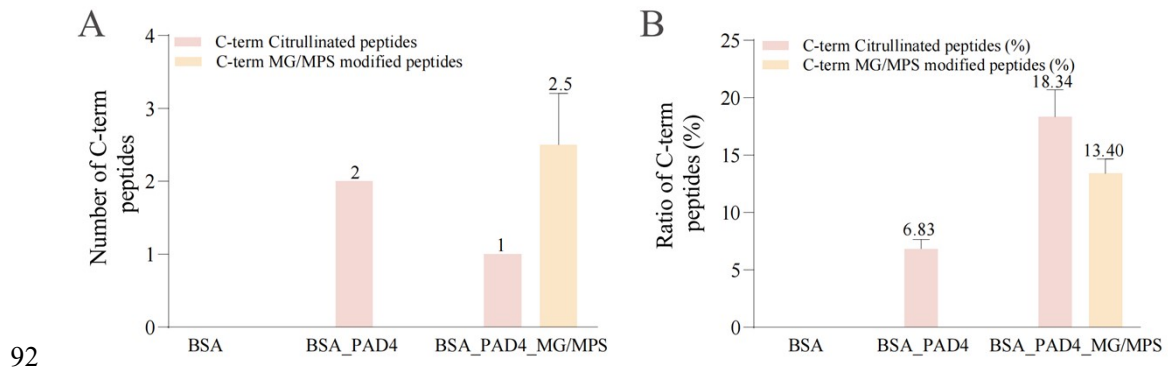
82 Figure S12.



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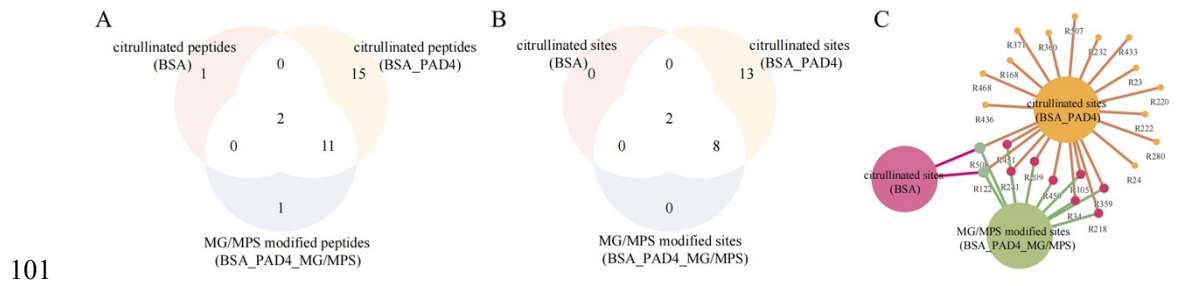
84 Figure S12. Qualitative and quantitative analysis of PAD4-catalyzed citrullination via
85 COLDER assay. (A) Experimental grouping and tabulation of average optical density
86 (OD) values at 490 nm, paired with visual colorimetric reaction results for each sample.
87 BAEE was used as a small-molecule substrate for PAD4, BSA as the protein substrate,
88 and L-citrulline as a positive control for the color-developing reagent. (B) Quantitative
89 bar graph of OD values at 490 nm for all samples, confirming PAD4 enzymatic activity
90 toward both BAEE and BSA.

91 Figure S13.



92
93 Figure S13. Analysis of C-terminal citrullinated and MG/MPS-modified peptides in
94 three experimental groups. (A) Bar chart showing the number of C-terminal
95 citrullinated peptides and C-terminal MG/MPS modified peptides across three
96 experimental groups (BSA, BSA_PAD4, BSA_PAD4_MG/MPS). (B) Bar chart
97 displaying the percentage ratio of C-terminal citrullinated peptides and C-terminal
98 MG/MPS modified peptides relative to total identified peptides across three
99 experimental groups (BSA, BSA_PAD4, BSA_PAD4_MG/MPS).

100 Figure S14.



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102 Figure S14. Overlap analysis of citrullinated peptides and modification sites in BSA

103 samples. (A) Venn diagram showing the overlap of modified peptides identified across

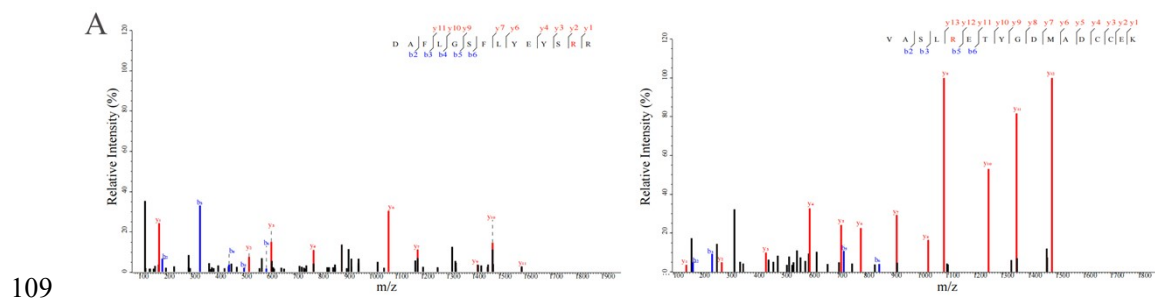
104 the three experimental groups. (B) Venn diagram illustrating the overlap of

105 citrullination modification sites identified across the three experimental groups. (C)

106 Network visualization of citrullinated modification sites identified in BSA samples

107 across the three experimental groups.

108 Figure S15.



110 Figure S15. Representative MS/MS spectra of identified MG/MPS-modified
111 citrullinated peptides.