Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)

Biometal Binding-Site Mimicry with Modular, Hetero-Bifunctionally Modified Architecture Encompassing a Trp/His Motif: Insights into Spatiotemporal Noncovalent Interactions from a Comparative Spectroscopic Study

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Contents

- 1. Fluorescence titration spectra at pH 7.10-----page 2-6
- 2. Fluorescence titration spectra at pH 4.60-----page 6-10
- 3. Reduction potentials of the metallo-scaffolds and cyclic voltammograms -----page 10-11

Steady-state fluorescence titration spectra (λ_{ex} / λ_{em} 278/355 nm)

Aqueous solutions of EWH and DWH, respectively, each at a constant concentration (100 μ M), were titrated with Li⁺, Na⁺, K⁺, Ca²⁺, Mg²⁺, Ba²⁺, Cu²⁺, Zn²⁺, Cd²⁺, Mn²⁺, Fe²⁺, Co²⁺ and Ni²⁺, at buffered **pH 7.10**±0.05 and **pH 4.60**±0.03, respectively.

The amounts of metal ions added: $[M^{n+}] = 0$, 10 μ M, 20 μ M, 30 μ M, 40 μ M, 50 μ M, 60 μ M, 70 μ M, 80 μ M, 90 μ M, 100 μ M, 200 μ M, 300 μ M, 400 μ M and 500 μ M.

Color specifications: Molar ratios of $[DWH] : [M^{n+}] = 10 : 0$ (solid —), 10 : 1 (dash ----), 10 : 2 (dot …), 10 : 3 (dash dot ----), 10 : 4 (dash dot dot ----), 10 : 5 (dash ----), 10 : 6 (dot ----), 10 : 7 (dash dot ----), 10 : 8 (solid —), 10 : 9 (dash ----) 1 : 1 (dot …), 1 : 2 (dash dot ----), 1 : 3 (dash dot dot ----), 1 : 4 (dash ----), 1 : 5 (dot ----).

1. at pH 7.10

- (1) For the titration with M^+ (Li⁺, Na⁺, K⁺), 200 mM Tris-HCl buffer was used.
- (2) For the titration with M^{2+} (Ca²⁺, Mg²⁺, Ba²⁺, Cu²⁺, Zn²⁺, Cd²⁺, Mn²⁺, Fe²⁺, Co²⁺ and Ni²⁺), 12.5 mM KH₂PO₄ / Na₂HPO₄ buffer was used.









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2. at pH 4.60

- (1) For the titration with Mⁿ⁺ (Li⁺, K⁺, Ca²⁺, Mg²⁺, Ba²⁺, Cu²⁺, Zn²⁺, Cd²⁺, Mn²⁺, Fe²⁺, Co²⁺ and Ni²⁺), 100 mM NaOAc / HOAc buffer was used.
 (2) For the titration with Na⁺ 200 mM NH OAc / HOAc buffer was used.
- (2) For the titration with Na⁺, 200 mM NH₄OAc / HOAc buffer was used.











3. (1) Reduction potentials of the metallo-scaffolds. Inset: a typical cyclic voltammogram.



The effects of metal ions on the redox potential of the Trp(W) residue in the molecules, for example, metal-bound EWH, and DWH,

upon a change of pH from 7.0 to 4.6, $\Delta\Delta\epsilon \; (EWH)_{Ca(II)} = 932-893 = 39 \text{ mV}$ $\Delta\Delta\epsilon \; (DWH)_{Ca(II)} = 971-1003 = -32 \text{ mV}$

 $\Delta\Delta\epsilon (EWH)_{Mn(II)} = 945-944 = 1 \text{ mV}$ $\Delta\Delta\epsilon (DWH)_{Mn(II)} = 980-986 = -6 \text{ mV}$

At pH 7.0, $\Delta \epsilon (EWH)_{Ca(II)} - \Delta \epsilon (DWH)_{Ca(II)} = 893-1003 = -110 \text{ mV}$ $\Delta \epsilon (EWH)_{Mn(II)} - \Delta \epsilon (DWH)_{Mn(II)} = 944-986 = -42 \text{ mV}$ At pH 4.6, $\Delta \epsilon (EWH)_{Ca(II)} - \Delta \epsilon (DWH)_{Ca(II)} = 932-971 = -39 \text{ mV}$ $\Delta \epsilon (EWH)_{Mn(II)} - \Delta \epsilon (DWH)_{Mn(II)} = 945-980 = -35 \text{ mV}$

free W, EWH, DWH, upon a change of pH from 7.0 to 4.6, $\Delta\Delta\epsilon \ (EWH) = 1022-882 = 140 \text{ mV}$ $\Delta\Delta\epsilon \ (DWH) = 988-974 = 14 \text{ mV}$ $\Delta\Delta\epsilon \ (W) = 1105-1015 = 90 \text{ mV}$

(2) Cyclic Voltammograms recorded for EWH, DWH, and their metal complexes

The complexes (1 mM) were prepared in aqueous solutions containing KC1 (0.2 M) and buffer (5 mM) and purged thoroughly with N_2 . Glassy carbon working electrode was used in conjunction with a Pt counter electrode and the reference was SCE.



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