## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

## Kinetics and mechanism of oxidation of super-reduced cobalamin and cobinamide species by thiosulfate, sulfite and dithionite

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Fig. S1. UV-Vis spectral changes collected during the oxidation of Cbi(I) by thiosulfate. [Cbi] =  $7 \times 10^{-5}$  M;  $[S_2O_3^{2-}] = 1 \times 10^{-3}$  M; pH 9.4; 25°C.



Fig. S2. Example of kinetic curve of the oxidation of Cbi(I)  $(6 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M})$  by thiosulfate  $(2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ M})$  at pH 9.4; 25°C.



Fig. S3. Dependence of  $k_{obs(1)}$  on  $[S_2O_3^{2^-}]$  for the reaction between Cbi(I) (6×10<sup>-5</sup> M) and thiosulfate at pH 9.08; 25°C.



Fig. S4. Plot of  $k_{obs(1)}$  vs. [S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>] for the oxidation of Cbl(I) (5×10<sup>-5</sup> M) by thiosulfate at pH 5.9; 25°C.



Fig. S5. UV-Vis spectra recorded after the addition of malachite green  $(8.8 \times 10^{-6} \text{ M})$  to the mixture immediately after the reaction Cbl(I) + S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup> (1) and to the mixture Cbl(II) + S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup> (control experiment) (2). [Cbl] =  $6 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$ ; [S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>] =  $6 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}$ ; pH 7.2; 25°C.



Fig. S6. UV spectra of 0.1 M Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> containing dissolved volatile components of reaction mixture (solid line) and  $7 \times 10^{-5}$  M HS<sup>-</sup> (dashed line). Reaction mixture (3 ml.) in the first case contained  $1 \times 10^{-4}$  M Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and  $5 \times 10^{-4}$  M Cbl(I) at pH 7. After the completion of the reaction the mixture was acidified by H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> to pH 3, then slow argon stream was bubbled for two hours subsequently through reaction mixture and deoxygenated Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (3 ml.).



Fig. S7. UV-Vis spectral changes recorded in the course of the oxidation of Cbi(I) by sulfite.  $[Cbi] = 8 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}; [SO_3^{2-}] = 1 \times 10^{-2} \text{ M}; \text{ pH } 9.4; 25^{\circ}\text{C}.$ 



Fig. S8. Typical kinetic curve of the oxidation of Cbi(I)  $(8 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M})$  by sulfite  $(2 \times 10^{-2} \text{ M})$  at pH 9.8; 25°C.



Fig. S9. Plot of  $k_{obs(2)}$  vs. [S(IV)] for the reaction between Cbi(I) (5×10<sup>-5</sup> M) and sulfite at pH 9.7; 25°C.



Fig. S10. Plot of  $\ln(k_{obs(2)})$  vs.  $\ln([S(IV)])$  for the reaction between Cbi(I) (5×10<sup>-5</sup> M) and sulfite at pH 9.7; 25°C.



Fig. S11. Plot of  $k_{obs(2)}$  vs. [S(IV)] for the reaction of Cbl(I) (5×10<sup>-5</sup> M) with sulfite at pH 6.4; 25°C.



Fig. S12. Plot of  $\ln(k_{obs(2)})$  vs.  $\ln([S(IV)])$  for the reaction between Cbl(I) (5×10<sup>-5</sup> M) and excess sulfite at pH 6.4; 25°C.



Fig. S13. Plot of  $k_{obs(3)}$  vs. [S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>] for the oxidation of Cbi(I) (7×10<sup>-5</sup> M) by dithionite at pH 10; 25°C.

## Kinetics of cob(II)inamide reduction by sulfoxylate in aqueous solutions

*Experimental.* Cobinamide was prepared and purified according to reported procedure [S1]. Hydroxocobalamin hyrochloride (HOCbl,  $\geq$ 98 %), thiourea dioxide (TDO), ascorbic acid (AA), sodium dithionite (85 %) were purchased in Sigma-Aldrich and used as received. Other chemical were of a reagent grade. Triple distilled water was used to the preparation of solutions. Oxygen-free argon was used to deoxygenate solutions.

Kinetic measurements were performed on a thermostated ( $\pm 0.1^{\circ}$ C) Cary 50 spectrophotometer in anoxic conditions in sealed quartz cells. The constant values of pH were maintained by NaOH, H<sub>3</sub>BO<sub>3</sub>, Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> solutions.

Sulfoxylate solutions  $SO_2H^-$  ( $SO_2^{2^-}$ ) were prepared during "aging" TDO in anaerobic 0.1 M NaOH for 4 hours [S2]. Urea formed during the decomposition of TDO does not influence on the rate of reactions [S3].

Kinetics of the formation of Co(I) cobinamide was monitored at 387 nm (the maximum of absorbance of Cbi(I)). In the presence of dithionite kinetics was studied at 460 nm.

*Results.* The discussion of reported below data is similar to that in [S4]. UV-Vis spectra of initial complexes and products are in Fig. S14. Further, is considered. Reactions orders for the step of the formation of Cbi(I) in both cobinamide and sulfoxylate were found to be the first. The rate constant of the reduction of Cbi(II)–SO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> by sulfoxylate is  $2.18 \pm 0.07 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  (Fig. S15). The rate constant of the reduction of Cbi(II) (preliminarily produced from Cbi(III) by AA use) by sulfoxylate is  $3.30 \pm 0.11 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ . The dependence of observed rate constant of the Cbi(II)–SO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> reduction by sulfoxylate on pH exhibits a profile corresponding to S-shaped curve (Fig. S15). Its fitting to sigmoidal curve equation gives  $pK_a = 13.47 \pm 0.07$ .



Fig. S14. UV-Vis spectra of Cbi species: 1 - Cbi(II) obtained using AA; 2 - Cbi(II)–SO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>; 3 – Cbi(I). [Cbi] = 2×10<sup>-5</sup> M; [AA] = 4×10<sup>-4</sup> M; [SO<sub>2</sub><sup>2-</sup>] = 1×10<sup>-3</sup> M; pH 13; 25 °C.



Fig. S15. Plot of  $k_{obs.}$  vs.  $[SO_2^{2^-}]$  for reactions of Cbi(I) accumulation during the reduction of Cbi(II)(SO\_2^-) (1), Cbi(II) (2) and Cbi(II)(SO\_2^-) in the presence of 3.3 mM S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> (3) by sulfoxylate. [Cbi] = 2×10<sup>-5</sup> M; pH 13; 25 °C.



Fig. S16. Plot of observed rate constant of Cbi(I) formation vs. pH. [Cbi] =  $2 \times 10^{-5}$  M; [SO<sub>2</sub><sup>2-</sup>] =  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  M; 25 °C.

## References

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