## **Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)**

## Metal specificity of N-terminal and G-domain Ni(II) and Zn(II) binding sites in *E.coli* HypB

## Aleksandra Hecel,<sup>a\*</sup> Arian Kola,<sup>b</sup> Daniela Valensin,<sup>b</sup> Henryk Kozlowski,<sup>a,c</sup> Magdalena Rowinska-Zyrek,<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a.</sup> Faculty of Chemistry, University of Wroclaw, F. Joliot-Curie 14, 50-383 Wroclaw, Poland

<sup>b.</sup> Department of Biotechnology, Chemistry and Pharmacy, University of Siena, Via A. Moro 2, 53100 Siena, Italy

<sup>c.</sup> Institute of Health Sciences, University of Opole, 68 Katowicka St., 45-060 Opole, Poland

\*aleksandra.hecel@chem.uni.wroc.pl

Table S1 Protonation constants of HypB(164-199) peptide in 40 mM SDS solution of 4 mM HClO<sub>4</sub> at I = 100 mM NaClO<sub>4</sub>. [L] = 0.5 mM, T = 298 K. The standard deviations are reported in parentheses as uncertainties on the last significant figure.

| species          | Ιοgβ     | рКа    |
|------------------|----------|--------|
| HL               | 9.85(2)  | 9.85 K |
| H <sub>2</sub> L | 17.86(4) | 8.01 C |
| H <sub>3</sub> L | 24.31(5) | 6.45 C |
| H <sub>4</sub> L | 30.15(5) | 5.84 H |
| H₅L              | 35.51(5) | 5.36 E |
| H <sub>6</sub> L | 40.38(7) | 4.87 D |
| H <sub>7</sub> L | 43.35(9) | 2.97 D |
| H <sub>8</sub> L | 46.03(8) | 2.68 D |



Figure S1. ESI-MS spectra of Ni(II)- HypB(164-199) system. Molar ratio for Ni(II) complexes 1:1. [L] = 0.5 mM. The complexes were prepared in a mixture of MeOH:H<sub>2</sub>O (1:1) at pH 7. For chosen ligand and complex a comparison of experimental and simulated signals were performed on ESI-MS spectra.



e S2. The absorption spectra (A) UV-Vis and (B) CD for the Ni(II)- HypB(164-199) system in 40 mM SDS solution of 4mM HClO<sub>4</sub> at I = 100 mM NaClO<sub>4</sub>. [L] = 0.5 mM, molar ratio M:L - 1:1.d-d bands in the UV-Vis spectra are enlarged. Optical path lengths of 1 cm.



Figure S3. ESI-MS spectra of Zn(II)- HypB(164-199) system. Molar ratio for Zn(II) complexes 1:1. [L] = 0.5 mM. The complexes were prepared in a mixture of MeOH:H<sub>2</sub>O (1:1) at pH 7. For chosen ligand and complex a comparison of experimental and simulated signals were performed on ESI-MS spectra.

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Figure S4. Comparison between amide regions of 1D <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of HypB(93-128) fragment in aqueous solutions in presence (black lines) and in absence of 40 mM SDS (red lines).  $C_M = 0.5 \text{ mM}$ , pH = 8.0, T = 298 K.



Figure S5. 2D NMR Spectra of <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H NOESY spectra of HypB(164-199) at pH 7.8, T 298 K in absence (top) and in presence (bottom) of 40 mM SDS.



Figure S6. Comparison between amide regions of 1D <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of HypB(164-199) fragment in aqueous solutions containing 40 mM SDS,  $C_M = 0.5$  mM, pH = 8.0, T = 298 K, in absence (black lines) and in presence of 1.0 Zn(II) eqs. (red lines).



Figure S7. ESI-MS spectra of Ni(II)- HypB(1-10) system. Molar ratio for Ni(II) complexes 1:1. [L] = 0.5 mM. The complexes were prepared in a mixture of MeOH:H<sub>2</sub>O (1:1) at pH 7. For chosen ligand and complex a comparison of experimental and simulated signals were performed on ESI-MS spectra.

| Table S2 Protonation constants of HypB(1-10)peptide in A) H $_2$ O and B) 40 mM SDS solution of 4 mM HClO $_4$ at I = 100 mM NaClO |
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| [L] = 0.5 mM, T = 298 K. The standard deviations are reported in parentheses as uncertainties on the last significant figure.      |

| species  | logβ     | рКа             |
|--|----------|-----------------|
| A) NH <sub>2</sub> -MCTTCGCGEG-NH <sub>2</sub> in H <sub>2</sub> O |          |                 |
| HL   | 9.22(2)  | 9.22 N-terminus |
| H <sub>2</sub> L   | 17.99(2) | 8.77 C          |
| H <sub>3</sub> L   | 25.94(3) | 7.95 C          |
| H <sub>4</sub> L   | 32.99(4) | 7.05 C          |
| H₅L  | 37.60(7) | 4.61 E          |
| B) NH <sub>2</sub> -MCTTCGCGEG-NH <sub>2</sub> in SDS              |          |                 |
| HL   | 9.04(2)  | 9.04 N-terminus |
| H <sub>2</sub> L   | 17.25(2) | 8.21 C          |
| H <sub>3</sub> L   | 24.71(4) | 7.46 C          |
| H <sub>4</sub> L   | 30.02(6) | 5.31 C          |
| H₅L  | 33.36(8) | 3.34 E          |



Figure S8. The absorption spectra (A) UV-Vis and (B) CD for the Ni(II)- HypB(1-10)system in  $H_2O$  solution. [L] = 0.5 mM, molar ratio M:L – 1:1.d-d bands in the UV-Vis spectra are enlarged. Optical path lengths of 1 cm.



Figure S9. The absorption spectra (A) UV-Vis and (B) CD for the Ni(II)- HypB(1-10) system in 40 mM SDS solution. [L] = 0.5 mM, molar ratio M:L – 1:1.d-d bands in the UV-Vis spectra are enlarged. Optical path lengths of 1 cm.



Figure S10. ESI-MS spectra of Zn(II)- HypB(1-10) system. Molar ratio for Ni(II) complexes 1:1. [L] = 0.5 mM. The complexes were prepared in a mixture of MeOH:H<sub>2</sub>O (1:1) at pH 7. For chosen ligand and complex a comparison of experimental and simulated signals were performed on ESI-MS spectra.



Figure S11. Comparison between amide regions of 1D <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of HypB(1-10) fragment in aqueous solutions in presence (black lines) and in absence of SDS micelles (red lines).  $C_M = 0.5 \text{ mM}$ , pH = 8.0, T = 298 K.



Figure S12. Competition plots for A) Ni(II)-HypB(164-199) and Ni(II)-SlyD5 (Ac-GHGHDHGHEHG-NH<sub>2</sub>); B) Ni(II)-HypB(1-10) and Ni(II)-SlyD5 (Ac-GHGHDHGHEHG-NH<sub>2</sub>); C) Ni(II)-HypB(164-199) and Ni(II)-SlyD7 (Ac-AHGHVHGAHDHHHD-NH<sub>2</sub>) and D) Ni(II)-HypB(1-10) and Ni(II)-SlyD7 (Ac-AHGHVHGAHDH).