

ELECTRONIC SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

BINDING OF Ni²⁺ AND Cu²⁺ IONS TO PEPTIDES WITH CYS-HIS MOTIF

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Table 1S. Potentiometric and spectroscopic data for proton and Ni²⁺ complexes of **Ac-nW** Ac-GGKPDLRPCHP-NH₂. Metal to ligand ratio = 1:1.1; [Ni²⁺] = 0.001 M.

Species	log β	logK	UV-Vis		CD	
			λ/nm	ε/M ⁻¹ cm ⁻¹	λ/nm	Δε/M ⁻¹ cm ⁻¹
HL	10.60(1)	logK _{NH₂-Lys} = 10.60				
H ₂ L	19.32(1)	logK _{Cys} = 8.72				
H ₃ L	25.60(1)	logK _{Nim} = 6.28				
H ₄ L	29.15(1)	logK _{Asp} = 3.55				
NiHL	15.17(6)		minor			
NiL	8.60(1)	6.57	494	469	569	-0.598
			374	1528	487	+3.699
			286	2867	381	-2.917
					330	+0.509
					308 _{sh}	-2.192
					282	-4.235
					237	-3.172
			219	-4.559		
NiH ₁ L	-1.36(3)	9.96	495	455	542	-1.473
			374	1474	482	+4.654
			286	2869	382	-3.740
					337	+0.553
					305 _{sh}	-9.205
					285	-11.786
					246	-4.391
			223	+12.217		
NiH ₂ L	-11.99(2)	10.64	493	406	544	-0.968
			374	1257	484	+3.536
			285	2867	381	-3.012
					338	+0.213
					305 _{sh}	-6.690
					285	-8.818
					246	-4.643
			222	+9.707		

Table 2S. Potentiometric and spectroscopic data for proton and Ni²⁺ complexes of **Ac-cW** Ac-PCHYIPRPKPR-NH₂. Metal to ligand ratio = 1:1; [Ni²⁺] = 0.001 M.

Species	log β	logK	UV-Vis		CD	
			λ/nm	ε/M ⁻¹ cm ⁻¹	λ/nm	Δε/M ⁻¹ cm ⁻¹
HL	11.30(2)	logK _{NH₂-Lys} = 11.30				
H ₂ L	21.14(2)	logK _{O-Tyr} = 9.84				
H ₃ L	29.85(3)	logK _{Cys} = 8.70				
H ₄ L	36.07(3)	logK _{Nim} = 6.22				
NiHL	19.28(1)		500	455	547	-1.904
			374	1277	486	+4.801
			282	2693	380	-3.163
					340	+0.837
					303	-11.734
					284	-12.751
					226	+4.858
NiL	9.09(4)	10.19	500	455	547	-2.011
			376	1189	486	+4.340
			282	2690	382	-2.397
					338	+0.926
					304	-8.301
					281	-9.244
					234	+3.239
NiH ₁ L	-1.59(4)	10.69	500	386	556	-0.727
			377	958	494	+2.402
			280	2690	435	-1.450
					375 _{sh}	-1.105
					308	-1.183
					293	+0.884
					271	-2.077
					251	+1.823

Table 3S. Potentiometric and spectroscopic data for proton and Ni²⁺ complexes of **Ac-sW** Ac-PCHPPCHYIPR-NH₂. Metal to ligand ratio = 1:1; [Ni²⁺] = 0.001 M.

Species	log β	logK	UV-Vis		CD	
			λ/nm	ε/M ⁻¹ cm ⁻¹	λ/nm	Δε/M ⁻¹ cm ⁻¹
HL	9.65(1)	logK _{O-Tyr} = 9.65				
H ₂ L	16.33(1)	logK _{Nim} = 6.68				
H ₃ L	22.16(1)	logK _{Nim} = 5.83				
NiH ₂ L	19.01(9)		minor			
NiHL	12.75(4)	6.26	minor			
NiL	4.13(6)	8.62	minor			
NiH ₁ L	-4.25(2)	8.38	-		788 +0.071 277 _{sh} -0.467 233 -4.829	
NiH ₂ L	-14.31(2)	10.06	-		526 -0.264 293 -0.533 261 +0.640 226 -8.373	

Table 4S. Potentiometric and spectroscopic data for proton and Ni²⁺ complexes of **nW** GKPDLRPCHP-NH₂. Metal to ligand ratio = 1:1.1; [Ni²⁺] = 0.001 M.

Species	log β	logK	UV-Vis		CD	
			λ/nm	ε/M ⁻¹ cm ⁻¹	λ/nm	Δε/M ⁻¹ cm ⁻¹
HL	10.58(1)	logK _{NH₂-Lys} = 10.58				
H ₂ L	19.37(1)	logK _{Cys} = 8.78				
H ₃ L	26.97(1)	logK _{NH₂} = 7.60				
H ₄ L	33.16(1)	logK _{Nim} = 6.18				
H ₅ L	36.85(1)	logK _{Asp} = 3.70				
NiH ₃ L	29.83(2)		398 _{sh} 340 _{sh} 291 _{sh}	78 198 451	-	-
NiHL	16.42(1)	6.70 (2H ⁺)	496 374 _{sh} 336 _{sh} 285 _{sh}	349 1200 1783 2681	556 485 382 305 _{sh} 282 226 _{sh} 215	-0.058 +0.264 -0.207 -0.327 -0.535 -7.529 -13.784
NiL	8.14(1)	8.28	495 374 _{sh} 284 _{sh}	371 1174 2767	547 484 384 338 305 _{sh} 283 225 _{sh} 215	-0.121 +0.356 -0.327 +0.072 -0.770 -1.079 -6.255 -15.531
NiH ₁ L	-1.61(1)	9.75	493 374 _{sh} 284 _{sh}	351 1065 2780	543 486 427 _{sh} 386 338 306 _{sh} 284 234 215	-0.104 +0.228 -0.225 -0.337 +0.072 -0.663 -1.284 -3.927 -5.612
NiH ₂ L	-12.33(1)	10.72	477 374 _{sh} 284 _{sh}	286 703 2783	507 437 387 _{sh} 233 217	+0.153 -0.533 -0.242 -3.912 -7.666

Table 5S. Potentiometric and spectroscopic data for proton and Ni²⁺ complexes of **cW** PCHYIPRPKPR-NH₂. Metal to ligand ratio = 1:3; [Ni²⁺] = 0.0003 M.

Species	log β	logK	UV-Vis		CD	
			λ/nm	ε/M ⁻¹ cm ⁻¹	λ/nm	Δε/M ⁻¹ cm ⁻¹
HL	11.47(2)	logK _{NH2-Lys} = 11.47				
H ₂ L	21.40(1)	logK _{O-Tyr} = 9.93				
H ₃ L	30.46(2)	logK _{Cys} = 9.06				
H ₄ L	38.40(2)	logK _{NH} = 7.94				
H ₅ L	44.49(2)	logK _{Nim} = 6.09				
NiHL	24.67(4)		457 331	445 2229	495 424 338 272 233 _{sh}	-0.381 +0.669 +0.433 -1.788 -7.159
NiL	18.23(6)	6.44	454 334 _{sh}	421 1309	506 428 337 276 235 _{sh}	-1.193 +1.660 +3.830 -9.506 -8.613

Table 6S. Potentiometric and spectroscopic data for proton and Ni²⁺ complexes of **sW** PCHPPCHYIPR-NH₂. Metal to ligand ratio = 1:3; [Ni²⁺] = 0.0003 M.

Species	log β	logK	UV-Vis		CD	
			λ/nm	ε/M ⁻¹ cm ⁻¹	λ/nm	Δε/M ⁻¹ cm ⁻¹
HL	9.75(1)	logK _{O-Tyr} = 9.75				
H ₂ L	18.12(1)	logK _{NH2} = 8.37				
H ₃ L	24.71(1)	logK _{Nim} = 6.59				
H ₄ L	30.52(1)	logK _{Nim} = 5.81				
NiH ₁ L	0.48(3)		424	202	477 415 289 _{sh} 257 234	-2.510 +2.135 +1.973 +5.620 -9.617
NiH ₂ L	-8.62(7)	9.10	421 284 _{sh}	241 5207	478 416 310 259 233	-2.593 +2.296 +0.483 +6.753 -14.732
NiH ₃ L	-19.47(9)	10.85	minor			

Table 7S. ^1H Chemical shift of nW fragments 2.0 mM in D_2O at pH 7.8 and 298 K

	H α	H β	H γ	Others
Gly-1	3.59			
Gly-2	3.98			
Lys-3	4.65	1.85	1.47	H δ 1.71 H ϵ 3.00
Pro-4*	4.41	2.27-2.02	1.87	H δ 3.82-3.65
Asp-5	4.57	2.71-2.57		
Leu-6	4.35	1.61	1.61	H δ 0.87
Arg-7	4.61	1.84-1.76	1.69	H δ 3.21
Pro-8*	4.41	2.27-2.02	1.87	H δ 3.82-3.65
Cys-9	4.38	2.86		
His-10	4.90	3.07		H δ 7.70 H ϵ 7.00
Pro-11	4.38	2.26	1.94	H δ 3.77-3.46

*The two proline were not distinguishable.

Table 8S. ^1H Chemical shift of Ac-nW fragments 2.0 mM in D_2O at pH 8.5 and 298 K

	H α	H β	H γ	Others
Gly-1	3.93			
Gly-2	3.93			
Lys-3	4.65	1.85	1.47	H δ 1.71 H ϵ 3.00
Pro-4	4.41	2.27-2.02	1.87	H δ 3.82-3.65
Asp-5	4.57	2.71-2.57		
Leu-6	4.35	1.61	1.61	H δ 0.87
Arg-7	4.61	1.84-1.76	1.69	H δ 3.21
Pro-8	4.41	2.27-2.02	1.87	H δ 3.82-3.65
Cys-9	4.38	2.86		
His-10	4.90	3.07		H δ 7.70 H ϵ 7.00
Pro-11	4.38	2.26	1.94	H δ 3.77-3.46

*The two proline were not distinguishable.

Table 9S. ^1H Chemical shift of cW fragments 2.0 mM in D_2O at pH 8.5 and 298 K

	H α	H β	H γ	Others
Pro-12	4.10	2.28	1.89	H δ 3.18
Cys-13	4.27	2.80		
His-14	4.62	3.00		H δ 6.85 H ϵ 7.65
Tyr-15	4.52	2.97		H δ 7.06 H ϵ 6.80
Ile-16	4.35	1.75	1.43-1.10	H δ 0.89
Pro-17	4.31	2.28	1.97	H δ 3.65
Arg-18	4.60	1.76	1.76	H δ 3.21
Pro-19*	4.42	2.30-1.90	2.00	H δ 3.83–3.63
Lys-20	4.58	1.73	1.53	H δ 1.73 H ϵ 3.03
Pro-21*	4.42	2.30-1.90	2.00	H δ 3.83–3.63
Arg-22	4.26	1.86	1.71	H δ 3.21

*The two proline were not distinguishable.

Table 10S. ¹H Chemical shift of Ac-cW fragments 2.0 mM in D₂O at pH 8.4 and 298 K

	H α	H β	H γ	Others
Pro-12	4.35	2.27	1.95	H δ 3.64
Cys-13	4.29	2.80		
His-14	4.62	3.00		H δ 6.87 H ϵ 7.65
Tyr-15	4.51	2.97		H δ 7.06 H ϵ 6.80
Ile-16	4.35	1.76	1.45-1.10	H δ 0.87
Pro-17	4.31	2.28	1.97	H δ 3.66
Arg-18	4.60	1.76	1.76	H δ 3.21
Pro-19*	4.42	2.30-1.90	2.00	H δ 3.82–3.62
Lys-20	4.58	1.73	1.53	H δ 1.73 H ϵ 3.03
Pro-21*	4.42	2.30-1.90	2.00	H δ 3.82–3.62
Arg-22	4.26	1.86	1.71	H δ 3.21

*The two proline were not distinguishable.

Table 11S. ^1H Chemical shift of sW fragments 2.0 mM in D_2O at pH 8.5 and 298 K

	H α	H β	H γ	Others
Pro-8	3.99	2.21	1.85	H δ 3.14
Cys-9	4.63	3.12		
His-10	4.94	3.10-2.92		H δ 7.00 H ϵ 7.70
Pro-11	4.40	2.30-1.81	2.10-1.99	H δ 4.02–3.49
Pro-12	4.48	2.21-1.84	2.10-1.93	H δ 3.60–3.50
Cys-13	4.43	3.24-3.14		
His-14	4.64	3.00		H δ 6.89 H ϵ 7.66
Tyr-15	4.54	2.94		H δ 7.04 H ϵ 6.89
Ile-16	4.35	1.72	1.42-1.06	H δ 0.86
Pro-17	4.30	2.31	2.02-1.92	H δ 3.63
Arg-18	4.28	1.85	1.77-1.69	H δ 3.21

Table 12S. ^1H Chemical shift of Ac-sW fragments 2.0 mM in D_2O at pH 8.5 and 298 K

	H α	H β	H γ	Others
Pro-8	4.22	2.14-1.71	1.91	H δ 3.58
Cys-9	4.61	3.15		
His-10	4.93	3.10-2.93		H δ 7.00 H ϵ 7.71
Pro-11	4.42	2.30-1.81	2.10-1.99	H δ 4.03-3.51
Pro-12	4.47	2.21-1.84	2.10-1.93	H δ 3.60-3.50
Cys-13	4.44	3.25-3.13		
His-14	4.65	2.99		H δ 6.89 H ϵ 7.68
Tyr-15	4.54	2.94		H δ 7.04 H ϵ 6.79
Ile-16	4.34	1.72	1.41-1.06	H δ 0.86
Pro-17	4.28	2.30	2.02-1.92	H δ 3.65
Arg-18	4.28	1.85	1.77-1.69	H δ 3.21

Table 13S. Potentiometric and spectroscopic data for proton and Cu²⁺ complexes of **Ac-sW** Ac-PCHPPCHYIPR-NH₂. Metal to ligand ratio = 1:1; [Cu²⁺] = 0.001 M.

Species	log β	logK	UV-Vis		CD		EPR	
			λ/nm	ε/M ⁻¹ cm ⁻¹	λ/nm	Δε/M ⁻¹ cm ⁻¹	A /mT	g
HL	9.65(1)	logK _{O-Tyr} = 9.65						
H ₂ L	16.33(1)	logK _{Nim} = 6.68						
H ₃ L	22.16(1)	logK _{Nim} = 5.83						
CuL	8.27(1)		593	41	713	+0.147	16,5	2.28
					523	+0.189		
					338	+0.259		
					258	+3.212		
CuH ₁ L	1.39(2)	6.88	580	83	627	+0.268	17,6	2.24
					526	+0.472		
					337	+0.610		
					255	+7.398		
					?231 _{sh}	+0.696		
CuH ₂ L	-8.14(2)	9.53	575	101	625	+0.231	17,3	2.24
					524	+0.395		
					335	+0.643		
					255	+7.283		
					231 _{sh}	+0.734		
CuH ₃ L	-19.41(5)	11.27	minor					

Table 14S. Potentiometric and spectroscopic data for proton and Cu²⁺ complexes of **sW** PCHPPCHYIPR-NH₂. Metal to ligand ratio = 1:1; [Cu²⁺] = 0.001 M.

Species	log β	logK	UV-Vis		CD		EPR	
			λ/nm	ε/M ⁻¹ cm ⁻¹	λ/nm	Δε/M ⁻¹ cm ⁻¹	A /mT	g
HL	9.75(1)	logK _{O-Tyr} = 9.75						
H ₂ L	18.12(1)	logK _{NH2} = 8.37						
H ₃ L	24.71(1)	logK _{Nim} = 6.59						
H ₄ L	30.52(1)	logK _{Nim} = 5.81						
CuHL	19.98(3)		minor					
CuL	14.67(3)	5.31	629	109	671	-0.981	16,8	2.22
					571	+0.383		
					489 _{sh}	+0.285		
					332	+0.332		
					282	-1.380		
					239	-3.702		
CuH ₁ L	7.26(4)	7.41	649 _{sh}	41	680 _{sh}	-0.258	20,8	2.17
			518	118	550	-0.621		
					480	+0.680		
					310	+0.918		
					256	+2.361		
					236	-5.040		
CuH ₂ L	-2.40(6)	9.66	514	143	551	-0.932	20,7	2.17
					480	+0.811		
					312	+1.054		
					255	+3.902		
					231	-9.353		

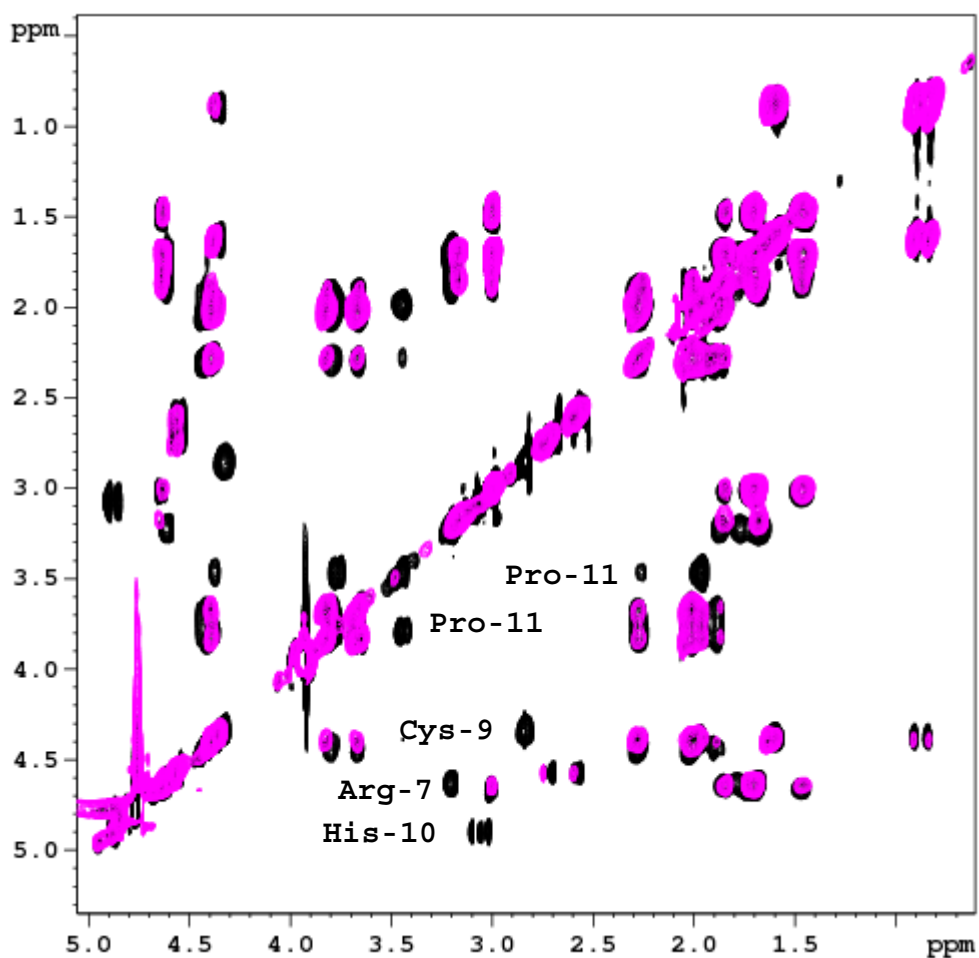


Figure 1S. Selected regions of the TOCSY spectrum of Ac-nW in D₂O 2.0 mM at pH 8.5 and T 298 K: in the absence (black) and in the presence of 1.0 Ni²⁺ eq. (magenta). The broadening of selected cross-peaks upon metal addition are shown.

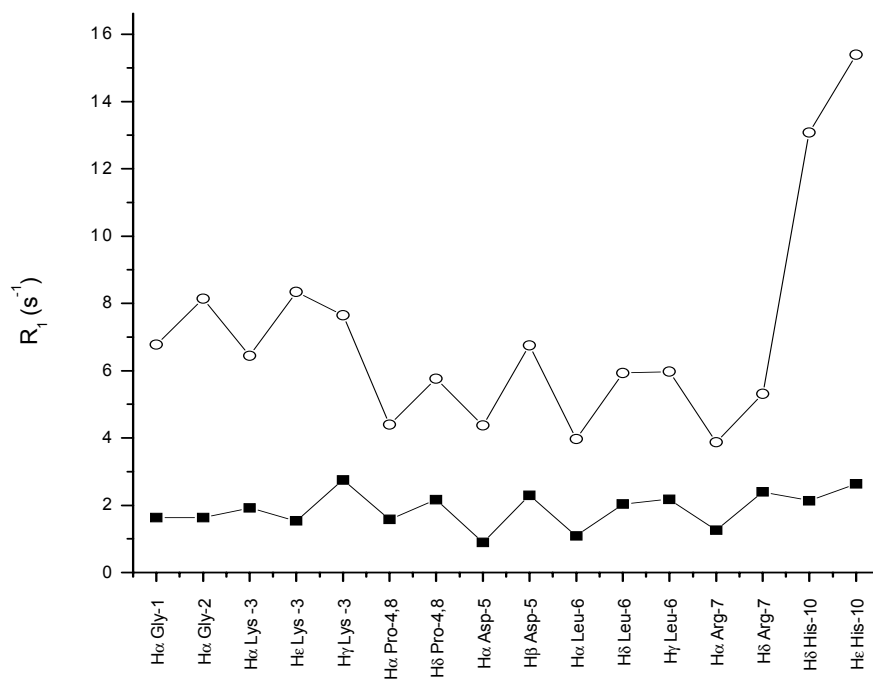


Figure 2S. ^1H longitudinal relaxation rates of Ac-nW (solid square) and nW (open circle) calculated in presence of 1.0 Ni^{2+} equivalents.

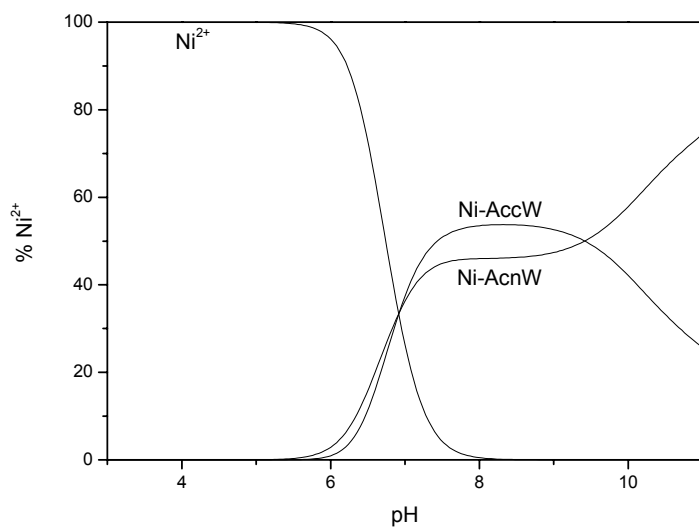


Figure 3S. tribution profile of competition between Ac-nW and Ac-cW in coordination of Ni²⁺; [Ni²⁺] = 0.001; ligand to metal ratio 1.1:1.

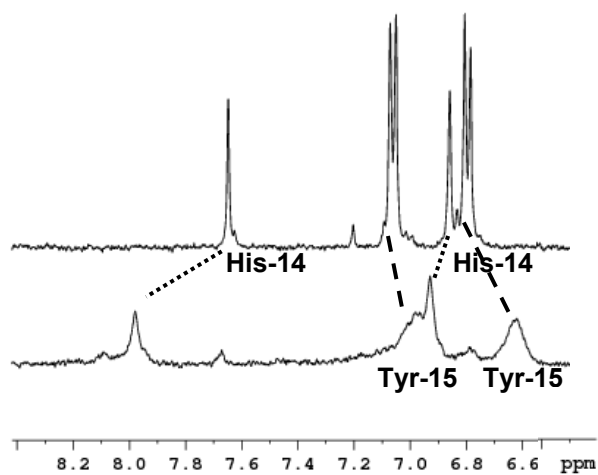


Figure 4S. Aromatic region of ¹H 1D spectra of the Ac-cW in absence (upper trace) and in the presence of 1.0 Ni²⁺ (lower trace). The solutions were 2.0 mM, pH 8.4 T=298 in D₂O.

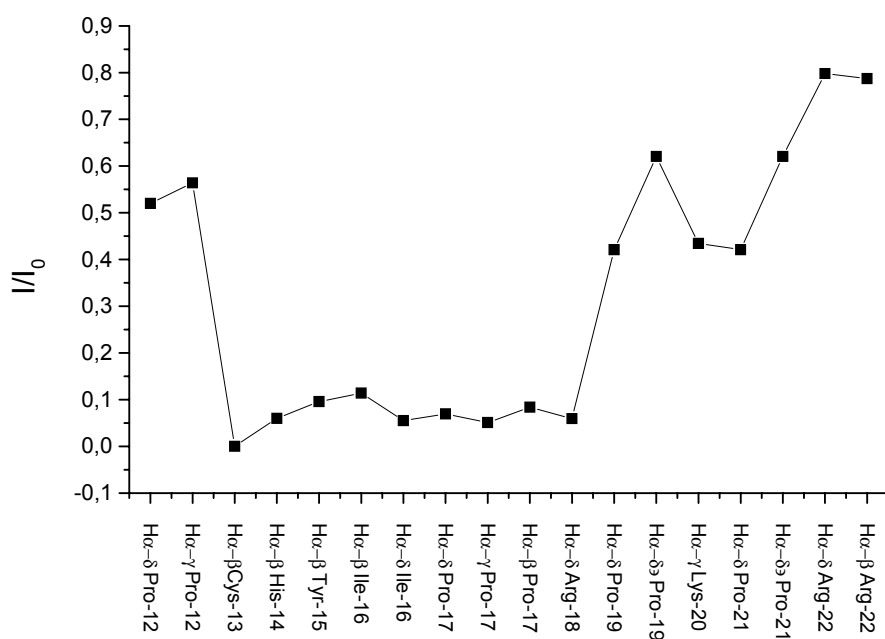


Figure 5S. I/I_0 profiles of the ^1H - ^1H TOCSY correlations of Ac-cW in absence (I_0) and in presence (I) of 1.0 Ni^{2+} equivalents; 2.0 mM, pH 8.4 and T=298.

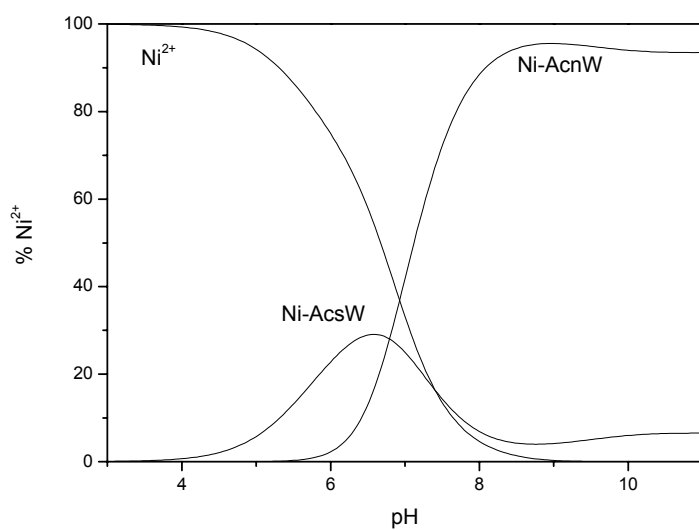


Figure 6S. Distribution profile of competition between Ac-nW and Ac-sW in coordination of Ni²⁺; [Ni²⁺] = 0.001; ligand to metal ratio 1.1:1.

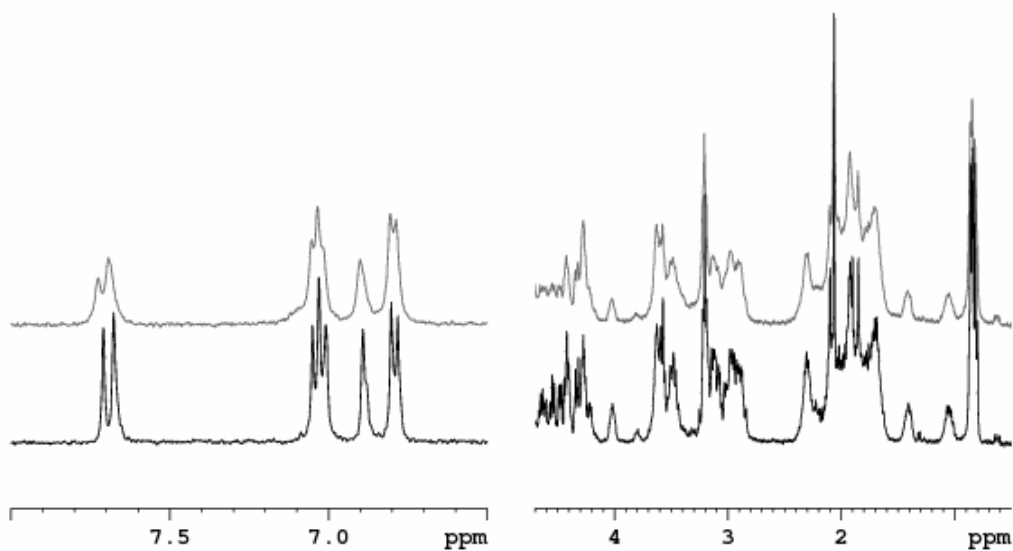


Figure 7S. ¹H NMR spectra of the Ac-sW in absence (black trace) and in the presence of 1.0 mM Ni²⁺ (grey trace). The solutions were 1.0 mM, pH 6 T=298 in D₂O.

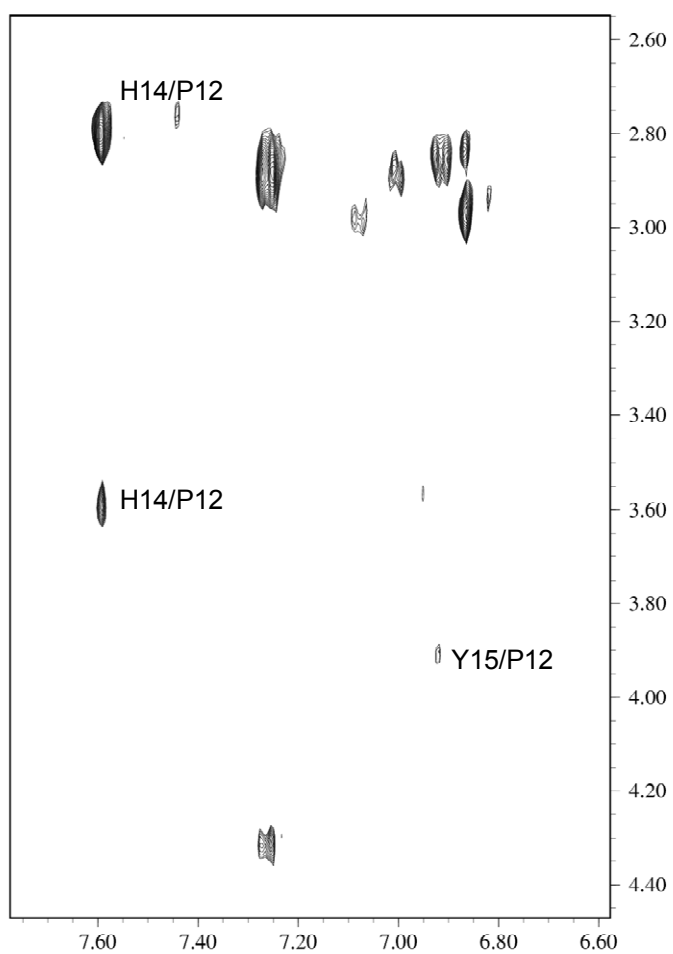


Figure 8S. Selected region of the NOESY spectrum of cW 2 mM at pH 8.5 in the presence of 1.0 Ni²⁺ eq. The long range NOEs between residues located in the proximity of the binding site are indicated.

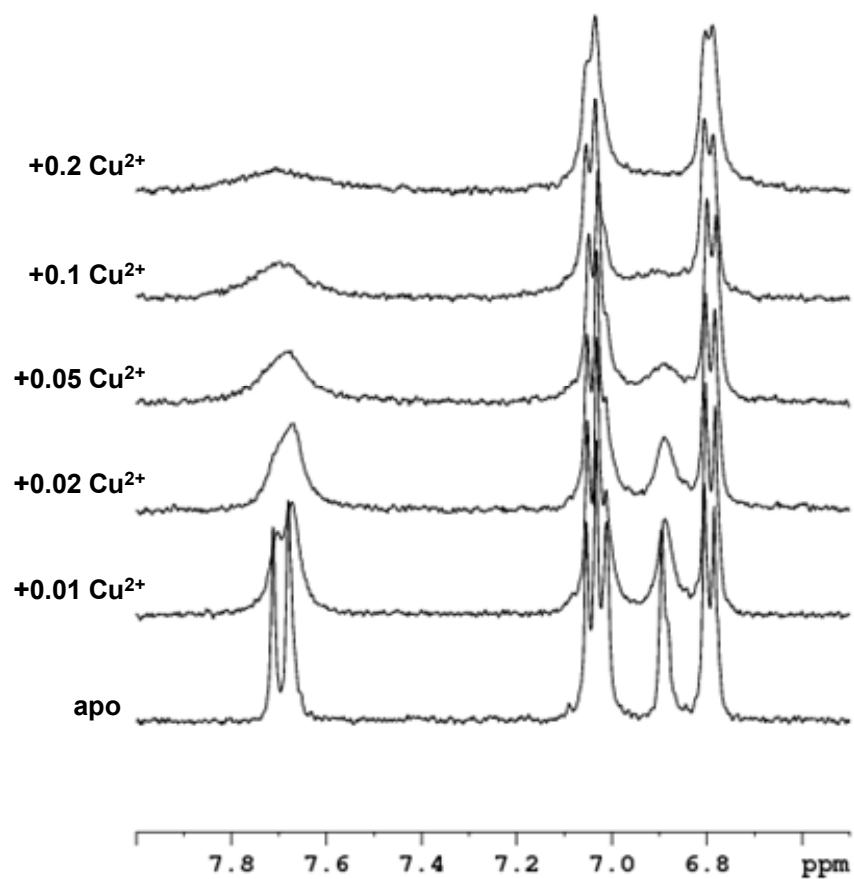


Figure 9S. Aromatic region of ¹H 1D spectra of the Ac-sW 2.0 mM T=298, pH 8.5, in the absence (apo) and in the presence of Cu²⁺.

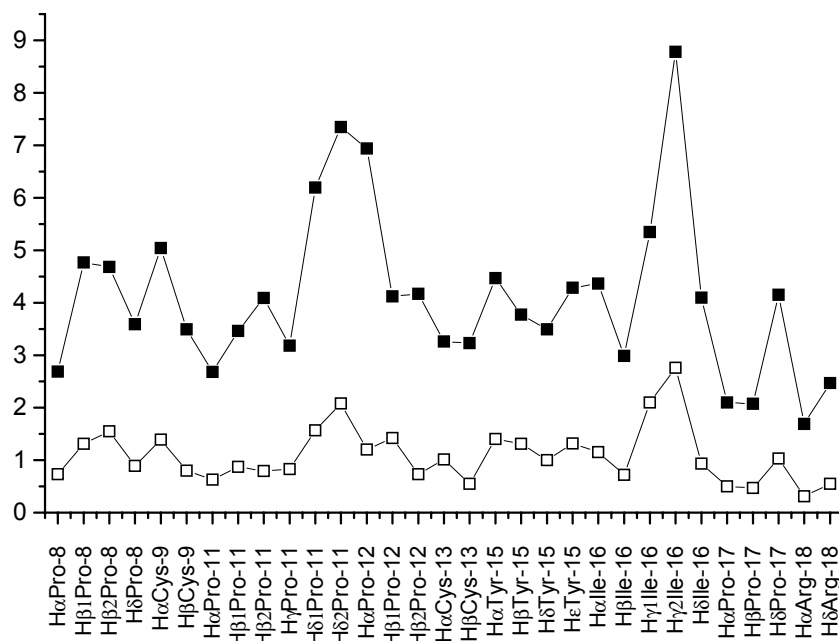


Figure 10S. Proton paramagnetic relaxation contributions (R_{1p}) of Ac-sW, calculated in presence of 0.1 (open squares) and 0.4 (solid squares) Cu^{2+} equivalents.