

## Supplementary Information

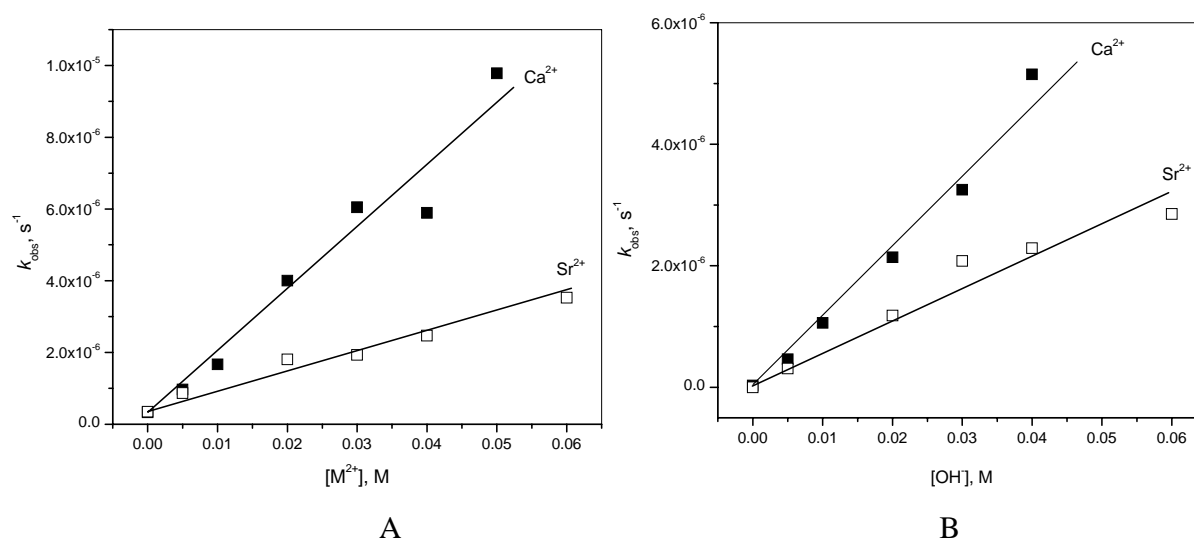
### Rapid hydrolysis of model phosphate diesters by alkaline earth cations in aqueous DMSO: speciation and kinetics

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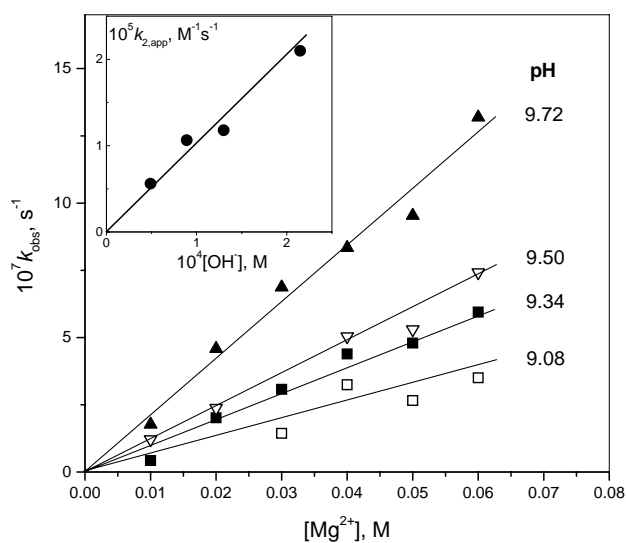
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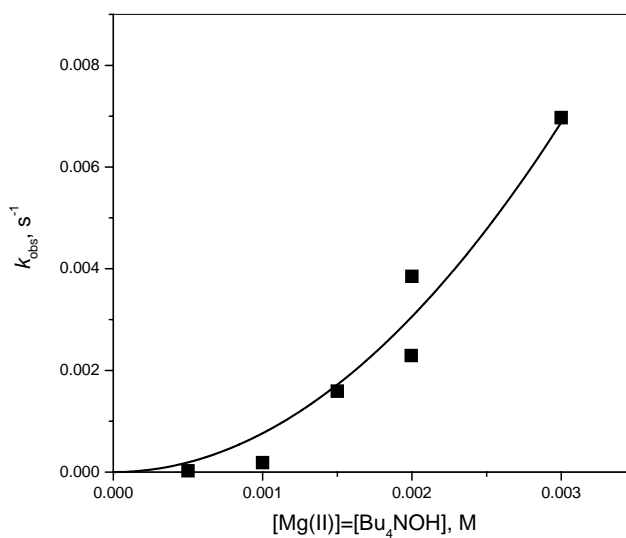
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**Fig. S1.** Kinetics of BNPP hydrolysis in the presence of  $Ca^{2+}$  and  $Sr^{2+}$  in water at variable metal ion and hydroxide concentrations at 37°C. (A) Variable metal in the presence of 10 mM NaOH (B) Variable NaOH in the presence of 5 mM metal ion.



**Fig. S2.** Kinetics of BNPP hydrolysis in the presence of  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  at variable metal ion concentration and pH in 0.05 M TRIS at 37°C. Inset: plot of the observed second-order rate constant vs. concentration of free hydroxide ions. The linearity of plots at each given pH value confirms the first order kinetics in  $\text{Mg}(\text{II})$  and the slopes of these plots ( $k_{2,\text{app}}$ ) are directly proportional to concentrations of hydroxide ions corresponding to each pH value (see inset).

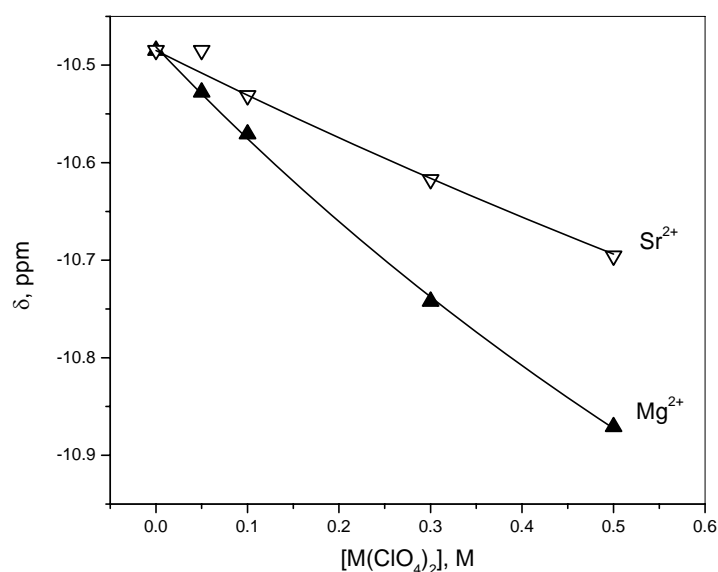


**Fig. S3.** Observed first-order rate constants for BNPP cleavage in 90 % DMSO measured at variable concentration of  $\text{Mg}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$  in the presence of 1 mol equivalent of  $\text{Bu}_4\text{NOH}$ .

**Table S1.** Results of potentiometric titrations of alkaline earth cations in 90% vol DMSO.

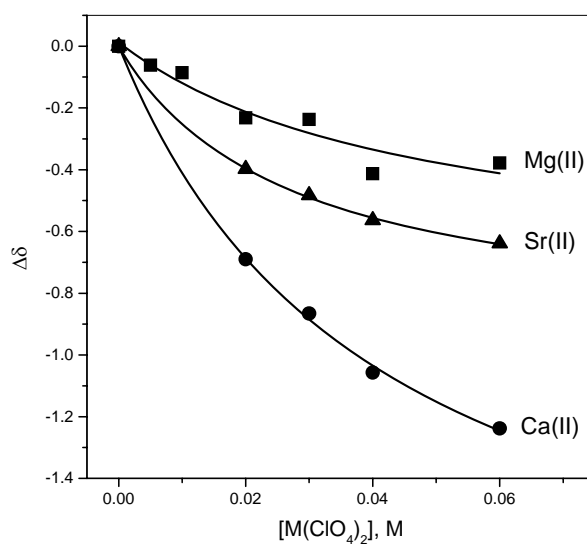
The mean values of  $\log\beta_{pq}$  are given with standard errors. Fitting errors in  $\log\beta_{pq}$  calculated by Hyperquad in each titration experiment were less than 0.05. Goodness of fit is measured in Hyperquad by *sigma*, the value of the scaled sum of squares, which is given in the table together with  $\log\beta_{pq}$  values for each titration.

		$\log\beta_{pq}$			
<b>[Mg(ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>], mM</b>	<b>sigma</b>	<b>1 -1</b>	<b>1 -2</b>	<b>2 -5</b>	<b>1 -3</b>
0.6	14.08	-11.50	-22.41	-58.34	-39.32
1.0	2.51	-11.49	-22.98	-60.40	-41.23
1.13	2.93	-11.46	-22.48	-60.23	-40.59
2.23	4.84		-22.30	-58.90	-41.10
<b>mean</b>		<b>-11.48±0.01</b>	<b>-22.5±0.2</b>	<b>-59.5±0.4</b>	<b>-40.6±0.4</b>
<b>[Ca(ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>], mM</b>	<b>sigma</b>	<b>2 -1</b>	<b>1 -1</b>	<b>1 -2</b>	<b>2 -5</b>
0.53	2.15	-7.49	-11.71	-26.10	-67.50
1.0	1.35	-8.42	-12.70	-26.70	-66.10
1.0	2.51	-8.10	-11.85	-26.10	-66.65
1.02	59.86	-8.42	-12.54	-26.20	-67.90
1.93	14.60	-9.00	-12.53	-26.40	-69.50
<b>mean</b>		<b>-8.3±0.2</b>	<b>-12.3±0.2</b>	<b>-26.3±0.1</b>	<b>-67.5±0.6</b>
<b>[Sr(ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>], mM</b>	<b>sigma</b>	<b>2 -1</b>	<b>1 -1</b>	<b>2 -5</b>	
0.5	1.78	-7.92	-12.76	-73.85	
1.0	1.63	-8.40	-13.87	-77.02	
1.93	14.28	-10.38	-14.00	-75.10	
<b>mean</b>		<b>-8.9±0.8</b>	<b>-13.5±0.4</b>	<b>-75.3±0.9</b>	

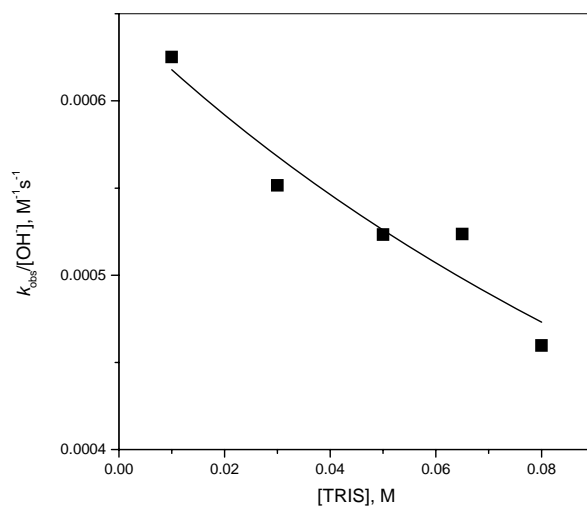


**Fig. S4.** <sup>31</sup>P NMR shifts of 5 mM BNPP at variable concentrations of Mg(II) and Sr(II) perchlorates in D<sub>2</sub>O at 37°C. Solid lines are best fits to the theoretical equation (S1).

$$\delta_{\text{obs}} = (\delta_{\text{S}} + \delta_{\text{MS}}K_{\text{S}}[\text{M(II)}]) / (1 + K_{\text{S}}[\text{M(II)}]) \quad (\text{S1})$$



**Fig. S5.** <sup>31</sup>P NMR titrations of 5 mM BNPP by metal perchlorates in 90% DMSO/D<sub>2</sub>O at 37°C. Solid lines are best fits to the theoretical equation (S1).



**Fig. S6.** Kinetics of BNPP hydrolysis in the presence of 5 mM  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  at variable TRIS concentration and pH 9.0 at 37°C.