

## **Supporting Information**

### **Desulfurization Activated Phosphorothioate DNAzyme for the Detection of Thallium**

Po-Jung Jimmy Huang, Mahsa Vazin, and Juewen Liu\*

Department of Chemistry, Waterloo Institute for Nanotechnology, University of Waterloo,  
Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 3G1, Canada

Phone: (519) 888 4567 extension. 38919

Email: [liujw@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:liujw@uwaterloo.ca)

**Table S1.** DNA sequences used in this work (rA = ribo-adenosine; FAM = carboxyfluorescein; iSp18 = 18-atom hexa-ethyleneglycol spacer; N<sub>50</sub> = 50 nucleotide randomized region; \* = phosphorothioate). The DNA sequences for in vitro selection are identical to those reported previously.<sup>S1</sup>

<b>DNA Name</b>	<b>Sequence and modifications</b>
Lib-FAM	5'-GGCGAAACATCTTN <sub>50</sub> TAGTGACGGTAAGCTTGGCAC-FAM
Lib-rA	5'-AATACGAGTCACTATrAGGAAGAT
splint	5'-AAGATGTTTCGCCATCTTCCTATAGTCCACCACCA
P1 primer	5'-GTGCCAAGCTTACCG
P2 primer	5'-CTGCAGAATTCTAATACGAGTCACTATAGGAAGATGGCGAAACA
P3 primer	5'-FAM-AAATGATCCACTAATACGACTCACTATrAGG
P4 primer	5'-AACAAACAACAAC-iSp18-GTGCCAAGCTTACCG
PS-sub	5'-GTCACGAGTCACTATrA*GGAAGATGGCGAAA-FAM
Tl-sens-sub	5'-GTCACGAGTCACTATrA*GGAAGATGGC-FAM
PO-sub	5'-GTCACGAGTCACTATrAGGAAGATGGCGAAA-FAM
Tm7	5'-TTTCGCCATCTTCGATACTCTCTTTGACTCGTGAC
Tm7-Q	5'-Iowa Black® FQ-CGCCATCTTCGATACTCTCTTTGACTCGTGAC
17E	5'-TTT CGCC ATCTT C TCCGAGCCGGTCGAA ATAGTGACTCGT
Tl13	TTTCGCCATCATAGCGGAGCGTCTTTTTAGACGAAATAGTGACTCGTGAC
Tl22	TTTCGCCATCATAGCAGCGTCTTTTTAGACGAAATAGTGACTCGTGAC
Tl27	TTTCGCCATCAGCAGCGTCTTTTTAGACGAAATAGTGACTCGTGAC
cDNA	TTTCGCCATCTTCCTATAGTGACTCGTGAC
MS-DNA	TATrA*GGAAGA

**Table S2.** In vitro selection conditions and progress.

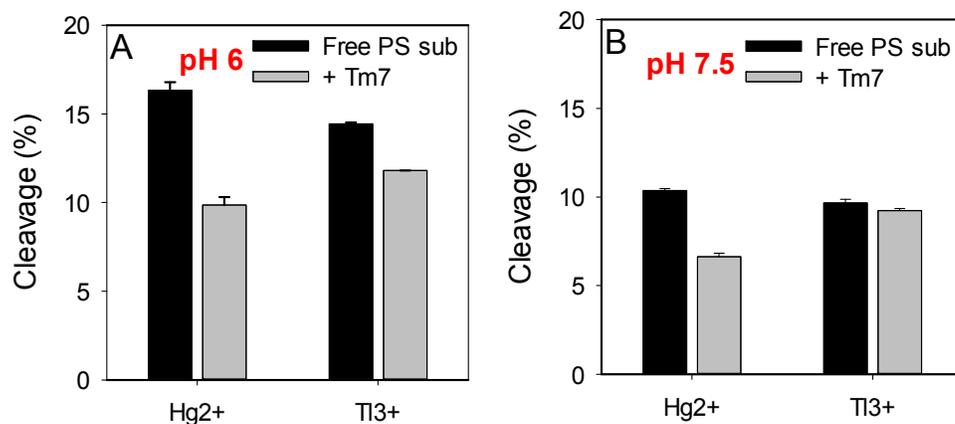
<b>Ce<sup>3+</sup> selection</b>	<b>Condition</b>	<b>% cleavage</b>
1st round	50 $\mu$ M, 1hr	0.1
2nd round	50 $\mu$ M, 1hr	0.1
3rd round	50 $\mu$ M, 1hr	4
4th round	50 $\mu$ M, 1hr	40.1
5th round	50 $\mu$ M, 1hr	41.6
6th round	20 $\mu$ M, 1hr	48.2

<b>Tl<sup>3+</sup> selection (high Tl<sup>3+</sup> concentrations)</b>	<b>Condition</b>	<b>% cleavage</b>
1st round	1 mM, 1hr	0.1
2nd round	1 mM, 1hr	0.1
3rd round	1 mM, 1hr	0.1
4th round	1 mM, 1hr	0.5
5th round	1 mM, 1hr	1
6th round	1 mM, 1hr	5.4
7th round	20 $\mu$ M, 1hr	3.5
8th round	20 $\mu$ M, 1hr	2.3
9th round	0.5 mM, 1hr	13.6
10th round	0.5 mM, 1hr	19.7

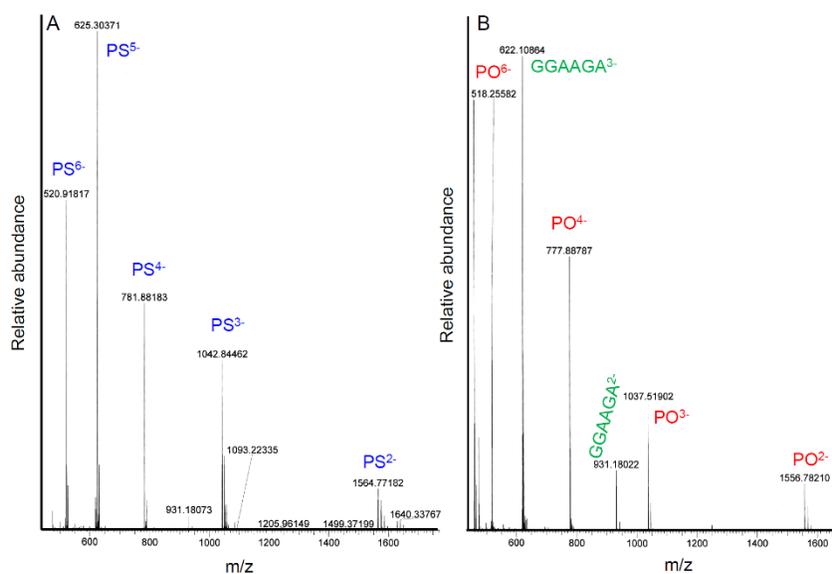
<b>Tl<sup>3+</sup> selection (low Tl<sup>3+</sup> concentrations)</b>	<b>Condition</b>	<b>% cleavage</b>
1st round	50 $\mu$ M, 1hr	0
2nd round	50 $\mu$ M, 1hr	0
3rd round	50 $\mu$ M, 1hr	0.1
4th round	50 $\mu$ M, 1hr	0.3
5th round	50 $\mu$ M, 1hr	0.1
6th round	100 $\mu$ M, 1hr	0.2
7th round	100 $\mu$ M, 2hrs	0.1
8th round	100 $\mu$ M, 2hrs	0.2
9th round	100 $\mu$ M, 2hrs	0.2
10th round	100 $\mu$ M, 30min	6.4
11th round	100 $\mu$ M, 15min	11

**Table S3.** Sequence alignment from the  $Tl^{3+}$  selection. A few representative sequences were individually tested.

13	CTGCAGAATTCTAATACGAGTCACTATAGGAAGATGGCGAAACATCATA----GCGGAGC	56
20	CTGCAGAATTCTAATACGAGTCACTATAGGAAGATGGCGAAACATCATA----GCGGAGC	56
7	CTGCAGAATTCTAATACGAGTCACTATAGGAAGATGGCGAAACATCATA----GCAGAGC	56
22	CTGCAGAATTCTAATACGAGTCACTATAGGAAGATGGCGAAACATCATA----GC--AGC	54
2	CTGCAGAATTCTAATACGAGTCACTATAGGAAGATGGCGAAACATCATA----GCAGAGC	56
6	CTGCAGAATTCTAATACGAGTCACTATAGGAAGATGGCGAAACATCATA----GCAGAGC	56
21	CTGCAGAATTCTAATACGAGTCACTATAGGAAGATGGCGAAACATCATA----GCAGAGC	56
4	CTGCAGA-TTCTAATACGAGTCACTATAGGAAGATGGCGAAACATCATA----GCAGAGC	55
9	CTGCAGAATTCTAATACGAGTCACTATAGGAAGATGGCGAAACATCATA----GCAGAGC	56
26	CTGCAGAATTCTAATACGAGTCACTATAGGAAGATGGCGAAACATCATA----GCAGAGC	56
27	CTGCAGAATTCTAATACGAGTCACTATAGGAAGATGGCGAAACATC-TA----GCAG--C	53
29	CTGCAGAATTCTAATACGAGTCACTATAGGAAGATGGCGAAACATCGTA----GCAGAGC	56
25	CTGCAGAATTCTAATACGAGTCACTATAGGAAGATGGCGAAACATCTTGA-GGGCGAGGC	59
30	CTGCAGAATTCTAATACGAGTCACTATAGGAAGATGGCGAAACATCTTGA-GGGCGAGGC	59
28	CTGCAGAATTCTAATACGAGTCACTATAGGAAGATGGCGAAACATCTTGAAGGGCGAGGC	60
23	CTGCAGAATTCTAATACGAGTCACTATAGGAAGATGGCGAAACATCTTGA-GGGSGAGGC	59
5	CTGCAGAATTCTAATACGAGTCACTATAGGAAGATGGCGAAACATCTTGA-GGGCGAGGC	59
19	CTGCAGAATTCTAATACGAGTCACTATAGGAAGATGGCGAAACATCTTGA-GGGCGAGGC	59
14	CTGCAGAATTCTAATACGAGTCACTATAGGAAGATGGCGAAACATCTTGA-GGGCGAGGC	59
8	CTGCAGAATTCTAATACGAGTCACTATAGGAAGATGGCGAAACATCTTGAAGGGCGAGGC	60
15	CTGCAGAATTCTAATACGAGTCACTATAGGAAGATGGCGAAACATCTTGAAGGGCGAGGC	60
24	CTGCAGAATTCTAATACGAGTCACTATAGGAAGATGGCGAAACATCTTGAAGGGCGAGGC	60
10	CTGCAGAATTCTAATACGAGTCACTATAGGAAGATGGCGAAACATCTTGAAGGGCGAGGC	60
1	CTGCAGAATTCTAATACGAGTCACTATAGGAAGATGGCGAAACAT---G---AGCCATAG	54
3	CTGCAGAATTCTAATACGAGTCACTATAGGAAGATGGCGAAACAT---GG---AGCCATAG	55
18	CTGCAGAATTCTAATACGAGTCACTATAGGAAGATGGCGAAACATCCTGG--AGCCATAG	58
31	CTGCAGAATTCTAATACGAGTCACTATAGGAAGATGGCGAAACAT---GG---AGCCATAG	55
16	CTGCAGAATTCTAATACGAGTCACTATAGGAAGATGGCGAAACAT---GG---AGCCATAG	55
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13	GTCTA-GAGATGTAAGTAGA--TCTTTTCTCAGCG-AGACGAAATAGTGACGGTAAGCTT	112
20	GTCTA-GAGATGTAAGTAGA--TCTTTTCTCAGCG-AGACGAAATAGTGACGGTAAGCTT	112
7	GCCTA-GAGATGTAAGTA-A--TCTTTTCTCAGCG-AGACGAAATAGTGACGGTAAGCTT	111
22	GTCTA-GAGATGTAAGTAAA--TCTTTTCTCAGCG-AGACGAAATAGTGACGGTAAGCTT	110
2	GTCTA-GA--TGTAAGTAAA--TCTTTTCTCAGCG-AGACGAAATAGTGACGGTAAGCTT	110
6	GTCTA-GA--TGTAAGTAAA--TCTTTTCTCAGCG-AGACGAAATAGTGACGGTAAGCTT	110
21	GTCTA-GA--TGTAAGTAAA--TCTTTTCTCAGCG-AGACGAAATAGTGACGGTAAGCTT	110
4	GTCTA-GAGATGTAAGTAAA--TCTTTTCTCAGCG-AGACGAAATAGTGACGGTAAGCTT	111
9	GTCTA-GAGATGTA-GCAA--TCTTTTCTCAGCG-AGACGAAATAGTGACGGTAAGCTT	111
26	GTCTA-GAGATGTA-GCAA--TCTTTTCTCAGCG-AGACGAAATAGTGACGGTAAGCTT	111
27	GTCTAAGAGATGTAAGTAAAA-TCTTCTCTAGCA-AGACGAAATAGTGACGGTAAGCTT	111
29	GTCTA-GAGATG-AAGTAAA--TCTTCTCTAGCA-AGACGAAATAGTGACGGTAAGCTT	111
25	-TCAATGAG----AAGTGCAA-CGTGCTTGAATTG-CGG-AAAATAGTGACGGTAAGCTT	111
30	-TCAATGAG----AAGTGCAA-CGTGCTTGAATTG-CGG-AAAATAGTGACGGTAAGCTT	111
28	-TCARTGAG----AAGTACRA-CGTGCTTGAATTG-CGG-AAAATAGTGACGGTAAGCTT	112
23	-TCAATGAG----AAGTACAA-CGTGCTTGAATTG-CGG-AAAATAGTGACGGTAAGCTT	111
5	-TCAATGAG----AAGTACAA-CGTGCTTGAATTG-CGG-AAAATAGTGACGGTAAGCTT	111
19	-TCAATGAG----AAGTACAA-CGTGCTTGAATTG-CGG-AAAATAGTGACGGTAAGCTT	111
14	-TCAATGAG----GAGTACAA-CGTGCTTGAATTG-CGG-AAAATAGTGACGGTAAGCTT	111
8	-TCAATGAG----AAGTACAA-CGTGCTTGAATTG-CGG-AAAATAGTGACGGTAAGCTT	112
15	-TCAATGAT----AAGTACAA-CGTGCTTGAATTG-CGG-AAAATAGTGACGGTAAGCTT	112
24	-TCAATGAT----AAGTACAA-CGTGCTTGAATTG-CGG-AAAATAGTGACGGTAAGCTT	112
10	-TCAATGAG----AAGTACRA-CRT-CTTGAATTG-CGG-AAAATAGTGACGGTAAGCTT	111
1	GTCAAAGGT----GGGTGCGAGTCGTATCATATCGACGAAATAATAGTGACGGTAAGCTT	110
3	GTCAAAGGT----GGGTGCG-GTCGTATCATATCGGCCAG-TAATAGTGACGGTAAGCTT	109
18	GTCAAAGGT----GGGTGCGTGTCTGAT---ATCGACTAAGTA-TAGTGACGGTAAGCTT	110
31	GTCAAAGGT----GGGTGCGTGTCTGATCTTATCGACTAAGTA-TAGTGACGGTAAGCTT	110
16	GTCAAAGGT----GGGTGAGAGTCGTATCATAACGACTAG-CAATAGTGACGGTAAGCTT	110
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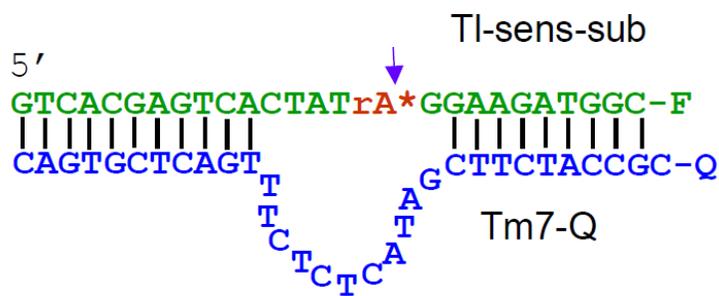


**Figure S1.** Cleavage of the PS-modified substrate (PS-sub) by Hg<sup>2+</sup> or Tl<sup>3+</sup> as a free substrate or when it is hybridized with Tm7 at (A) pH 6 and (B) pH 7.5. Cleavage by Hg<sup>2+</sup> is significantly suppressed at higher pH and is further suppressed by hybridizing with Tm7. On the other hand, cleavage by Tl<sup>3+</sup> is less affected by Tm7 hybridization.



**Figure S2.** Mass spectrometry of (A) the original PS substrate (named MS-DNA, TATrA\*GGAAGA), and all the peaks correspond to the same molecule with different number of negative charges; (B) the PS substrate after Tl<sup>3+</sup> treatment. Cleaved fragments are marked in green and the remaining peaks are from the desulfurized full-length substrate (marked by PO). For the preparation of samples for mass spectrometry, MS-DNA (1  $\mu$ M, 2 mL) was incubated with 10  $\mu$ M Tl<sup>3+</sup> ion in buffer A (25 mM NaCl, 50 mM MES pH 6) for 2 h. The sample was desalted using a

Sep-Pak C18 column (Waters) and then lyophilized overnight. The dried samples were dissolved in Mill-Q water without any additional buffer. 40  $\mu$ M sample was mixed with water-methanol (1:1) containing 0.1%  $\text{NH}_4\text{OH}$  to facilitate ionization. Mass spectra were obtained with a Micromass Q-TOF Ultima Global mass spectrometer using electrospray ionization (ESI).



**Figure S3.** The DNA sequences and DNAzyme secondary structure of the sensor for  $\text{TI}^{3+}$  detection. The substrate contains a PS modification denoted by the red asterisk. F = FAM. Q = Iowa Black  $\text{\textcircled{R}}$  FQ dark quencher.

#### Additional References

(S1) Huang, P.-J. J.; Lin, J.; Cao, J.; Vazin, M.; Liu, J. *Anal. Chem.* **2014**, *86*, 1816-1821.