## Supporting Information

# Multiple Roles of Cu(II) in Catalyzing Hydrolysis and Oxidation of β-Lactam Antibiotics

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#### Text S1. Chemicals.

AMX, CFX hydrate, CFD and CFP were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich at >90% purity. AMP sodium salt, PG sodium salt, and CFR were obtained from Fisher Scientific at the highest purity. All chemicals were used without further purification. 2-(*N*-Morpholino)ethanesulfonic acid (MES), 4-morpholinepropanesulfonic acid (MOPS), 2-(cyclohexylamino)ethanesulfonic acid (CHES), cupric sulfate (CuSO<sub>4</sub>·5H<sub>2</sub>O), hydrochloric acid (HCl), sodium hydroxide (NaOH), humic acid (HA), ethylenediamine tetraacetic acid (EDTA), *tert*-butyl alcohol (TBA) and bathocuproine disulfonic acid disodium salt hydrate were obtained from Fisher Scientific or Acros Organics at analytical grade. Deionized (DI) reagent water (resistivity >18  $\Omega$ M) was produced from a Millipore Milli-Q Ultrapure Gradient A10 purification system. All stock solutions of  $\beta$ -lactam antibiotics were prepared in DI water at 1.0 g/L, stored at 5 °C before use, and renewed weekly. The stock solution of Cu<sup>II</sup> was prepared by dissolving CuSO<sub>4</sub>·5H<sub>2</sub>O in acidic DI water (pH 3.0, adjusted by HCl).

#### Text S2. LC/MS Method Conditions.

The mobile phase gradient elution was with 0.1% formic acid in water (A) and pure methanol (B) at a flow rate of 0.2 mL/min: 5% B was kept for 2 min first, then ramped to 18% B over 10 min, kept for 5 min, ramped to 30% B over 9 min and kept for 8 min, and finally ramped back to the initial mobile phase composition. Electrospray positive ionization at fragmentor voltage of 70 eV with mass scan range of m/z 50-1000 was employed. The drying gas was set at 6 L/min at 350 °C, capillary voltage 4000 V, and nebulizer pressure 25 psig.

Table S1. Characteristics of the water samples

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Sample	pН	UV254	TOC (mg/L)	Cu (µM)
SW1	7.31	0.043	6.4	0.32
SW2	7.26	0.021	4.4	0.11

Note: SW1: river water; SW2: lake water.

## Table S2. HPLC method parameters for detection of β-lactam antibiotics

Chamical	Mahila Phasa	Wavelength	Flow Rate
Chemical	Mobile Filase	(nm)	(mL/min)
CFX	water containing 0.75% acetic acid/ methanol (75:25 v/v)	262	1
CFR	water containing 0.75% acetic acid/ methanol (85:15 v/v)	262	1
CFD	water containing 0.75% acetic acid/ methanol (70:30 v/v)	262	1
CFP	water containing 0.75% acetic acid/ methanol (85:15 v/v)	262	1
CFT	water containing 0.75% acetic acid/ methanol (70:30 v/v)	262	1
AMP	water containing 0.75% acetic acid/ methanol (70:30 v/v)	230	1
AMX	water containing 0.75% acetic acid/ methanol (85:15 v/v)	230	1
PG	water with 10 mM $H_3PO_4$ /acetonitrile (35:65 v/v)	220	1

Table 55. Thist of der nyurorysis rate constants of CTAX and TO					
Reaction Conditions	k (s <sup>-1</sup> )				
	CFX	PG*			
pH 11.0	7.89×10 <sup>-6</sup>	7.82×10 <sup>-5</sup>			
$Zn^{II}$	8.33×10 <sup>-6,a</sup>	2.89×10 <sup>-4,b</sup>			

Table S3. First-order hydrolysis rate constants of CFX and PG

\* Data from Ref (1).

 $^{\rm a}$  Hydrolysis of CFX catalyzed by 5 mM  $Zn^{\rm II}$ 

 $^{\rm b}$  Hydrolysis of PG catalyzed by 1 mM  $\rm Zn^{II}$ 



**Figure S1.** Reaction of CFX with different amounts of Cu<sup>II</sup> under different oxygenation conditions: (A) oxygen-rich (open to ambient air during the reaction); (B) oxygen gas purging during the reaction; (C) oxygen-limited (nitrogen gas purging before the reaction and closed to ambient air during the reaction). Reaction conditions:  $[CFX]_0 = 0.1 \text{ mM}$ , pH 7.0 and 22 °C.



**Figure S2.** Reaction of CFX and Cu<sup>II</sup> under oxygen-limited conditions - Effects of (a) the addition of Cu<sup>II</sup>; and (b) exposure to oxygen after 24 h of reaction.  $[CFX]_0 = 0.1 \text{ mM}$ ,  $[Cu^{II}]_0 = 0.1 \text{ mM}$ , pH 7.0 and 22 °C.



**Figure S3.** Accumulation of  $Cu^{I}$  during the reaction of  $Cu^{II}$  with CFX at different pHs under the oxygen-limited condition. [CFX]<sub>0</sub> = 0.1 mM, [Cu<sup>II</sup>]<sub>0</sub> = 0.05 mM. Control experiment: CFX only without the addition of Cu<sup>II</sup>. Note <sup>1</sup>: Reaction of Cu<sup>II</sup> with CFX under the oxygen-rich condition.



**Figure S4.** Effect of TBA and EDTA on the Cu<sup>II</sup>-catalyzed degradation of CFX in the oxygenrich condition.  $[CFX]_0 = [Cu^{II}]_0 = 0.1 \text{ mM}$ , [TBA] = 50 mM, [EDTA] = 5 mM, pH 7.0 and 22 °C.



**Figure S5.** Effect of humic acid (HA) on the Cu<sup>II</sup>-catalyzed degradation of CFX under the oxygen-rich condition.  $[CFX]_0 = [Cu^{II}]_0 = 0.1 \text{ mM}$ , pH 7.0 and 22 °C.



**Figure S6.**  $Cu^{II}$ -catalyzed degradation of CFX in DI water and surface water (SW) samples. [CFX]<sub>0</sub> = [Cu<sup>II</sup>]<sub>0</sub> = 0.1 mM, 22 °C. DI: pH = 7.01; SW1: river water, pH = 7.31; SW2: lake water, pH = 7.26.



Figure S7. (continued next page) -



**Figure S7.** Ultraviolet absorption spectra of free cephalosporins, free Cu<sup>II</sup>, and Cu<sup>II</sup>cephalosporin complex at pH 7. (A) CFD; (B) CFR; (C) CFP; and (D) CFT. [cephalosporin]<sub>0</sub> =  $[Cu^{II}]_0 = 0.1 \text{ mM}$ , pH 7.0 and 22 °C.



**Figure S8.** Effect of pH on the complex of CFX and Cu<sup>II</sup>. (A) pH 5.0; (B) pH 7.0; and (C) pH 9.0.  $[CFX]_0 = [Cu^{II}]_0 = 0.1 \text{ mM}.$ 



**Figure S9.** Degradation products of CFX in the presence of  $Zn^{II}$  (A) and  $Cu^{II}$  (B).  $[Cu^{II}]_0 = 0.1$  mM,  $[Zn^{II}]_0 = 5$  mM, pH 7.0 and 22 °C.



Figure S10. Proposed reaction scheme for oxidation of phenylglycine side chain by Cu<sup>II</sup>.



**Figure S11.** Absorbance change at 262 nm during the degradation of CFX in the presence of  $Zn^{II}$  or  $Cu^{II}$ , or at pH 11.0.  $[CFX]_0 = 0.1 \text{ mM}$ ,  $[Cu^{II}]_0 = 0.1 \text{ mM}$ ,  $[Zn^{II}]_0 = 5 \text{ mM}$ . The reaction with  $Cu^{II}$  was conducted under the oxygen-rich condition.



Figure S12. (continued next page) -



**Figure S12.** Degradation products of AMP (A) and ampicilloic acid (B, and C) catalyzed by  $Cu^{II}$  in the presence of oxygen. (B) Degradation of AMP at pH 11.5 for 3 h, followed by the adjustment of pH to 7.0, and the addition of MOPS and  $Cu^{II}$ ; (C) Hydrolysis of AMP catalyzed by 1 mM Zn<sup>II</sup> for 8 h, followed by the addition of  $Cu^{II}$ . [AMP]<sub>0</sub> = 0.1 mM, [ $Cu^{II}$ ]<sub>0</sub> = 0.1 mM, pH 7.0 and 22 °C.



**Figure S13.** Hydrolysis of CFX at alkaline pH or in the presence of  $Zn^{II}$ . The rate constant *k* is in unit of s<sup>-1</sup>.



**Figure S14.** Hydrolysis of PG and AMP in the presence of 1.0 mM  $Zn^{II}$ . [antibiotics]<sub>0</sub> = 0.1 mM, pH 7.0.



**Figure S15.** Proposed mechanisms for the Cu<sup>II</sup>-catalyzed degradation of non-phenylglycine-type  $\beta$ -lactam antibiotics.

### References

 Chen, J.; Sun, P.; Zhou, X.; Zhang, Y.; Huang, C.-H. Cu(II)–Catalyzed Transformation of Benzylpenicillin Revisited: The Overlooked Oxidation. *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 2015, 49, (7), 4218-4225.