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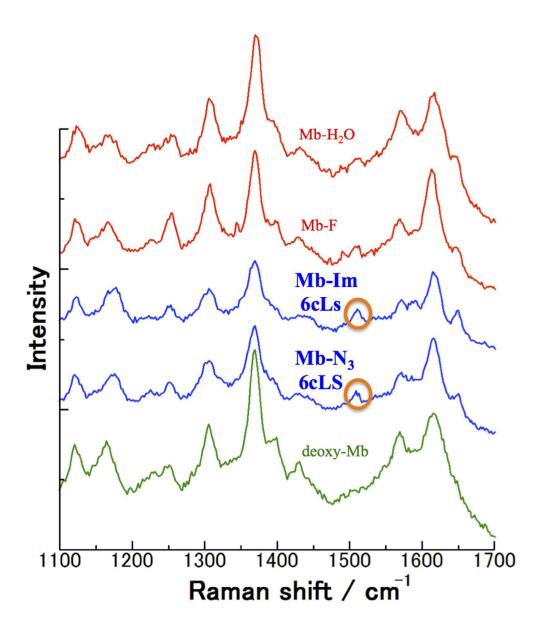
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In our SERRS spectra, the peaks at  $1510 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , which are assigned not to non-native 5-coordinated heme in the high spin state, but to native 6-coordinated heme in the low spin state (6cLS), were observed.  $154 \times 182 \text{mm}$  (150 x 150 DPI)

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## **COMMENT**

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# Reply to the comment on "Sensitive marker bands for the detection of spin states of heme in surfaceenhanced resonance Raman scattering spectra of metmyoglobin"

Yasutaka Kitahama,\* Masatoshi Egashira, Toshiaki Suzuki, Ichiro Tanabe and Yukihiro Ozaki

In our SERRS spectra of metmyoglobin by excitation at 514 nm, the peak at 1510 cm<sup>-1</sup>, which is assigned to the 6-coordinated heme in the low spin state, was observed by the addition of imidazole and NaN<sub>3</sub>. Thus, the SERRS likely originates not from the non-native 5-coordinated heme, which is in the high spin state.

We thank Dr. Feis and Prof. Smulevich for their fruitful comment regarding our paper. By changing ligand and pH, which affect a spin state of metmyoglobin (met-Mb), resonance Raman scattering (RRS) and surface-enhanced resonance Raman scattering (SERRS) spectra of met-Mb were measured. In the RRS spectra, the peak that has been used for discrimination between the heme ion in the high or low spin state appeared at 1610 or 1640 cm<sup>-1</sup>, respectively, although the corresponding SERRS peak was barely observed. We consider that the marker band for the spin state is not much enhanced by the surface selection rule.

Feis and Smulevich have commented that the heme in met-Mb on the citrate-reduced Ag becomes the non-native form through detachment from the heme pocket in the protein. Indeed, the SERRS peak was observed at 1490 cm<sup>-1</sup>, which is assigned to 5-coordinated heme b in the high spin state, by excitation at 406.7 and 413 nm (Soret band), while the corresponding RRS ( $v_3$ ) peak of native met-Mb appeared at 1480 and 1510 cm<sup>-1</sup>, which is attributed to 6-coordinated heme b in the high and low spin state, respectively.<sup>3-5</sup> By the interaction with Ag surface, also conformation of heme c in cytochrome c is changed and then is reflected in the spectra.<sup>6</sup>

In our paper,<sup>2</sup> however, the fig. 3 shows that the  $v_3$  peak in the SERRS spectra of met-Mb in the low spin state due to addition of imidazole and NaN<sub>3</sub>, which was confirmed by the RRS spectra, appeared at 1510 cm<sup>-1</sup> with excitation at 514 nm (the  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  bands) despite the long incubation and exposure time, and no SERRS peak appeared at 1490 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Even the peak at 1640 cm<sup>-1</sup>, which is the marker band for the low spin state, can be seen in the SERRS spectra of met-Mb in the low spin state.<sup>2</sup> The peak at 1640 cm<sup>-1</sup> prefers to be enhanced by the resonance Raman effect with excitation at 514 nm,<sup>7</sup> and then it has been sometimes clearly observed in the SERRS spectra.<sup>8,9</sup>

Moreover, we compare our spectra with the SERRS spectra of Mb by excitation at the similar wavelength, namely, 532 and 514.5 nm (the  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  bands). In the SERRS spectra, <sup>9,10</sup> the  $\nu_3$  peak was not observed at 1490 cm<sup>-1</sup>, which is due to the nonnative 5-coordinated heme in the high spin state, in a similar

way of our spectra. Thus, the SERRS spectra of Mb  $^{1}$  excitation at 514 nm can act like they originate from the narroe 6-coordinated heme. On the other hand, the SERRS peak ( $v_3$ ) of protein-free  $\beta$ -hematin and Fe-protoporphyrin IX was we  $^{11}$  observed at 1490 cm $^{-1}$  even by excitation at 532 and 514 5 nm,  $^{11,12}$  although it appeared at 1510 cm $^{-1}$  in our spectra. Therefore, it has not been confirmed that our SERRS spect  $\alpha$  are acquired from the protein-free hemin on the Ag as the re  $^{11}$  and 12.

SERRS spectrum of deoxy-Mb on alkanethiol-protected 7.g nanoparticles, on which Mb avoids contact with the surface,

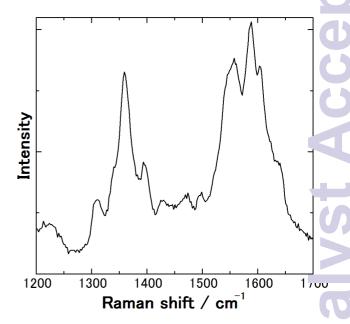


Fig. 1 SERRS spectrum of deoxy-Mb on alkanethiol-protected Ag

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 was measured.<sup>13</sup> Fig. 1 shows that the marker band for the high spin state at  $1610 \, \mathrm{cm^{-1}}$  barely appeared unlike the corresponding RRS spectrum.<sup>2</sup> In this case, the difference between the SERRS and RRS may be due not to the detachment from the heme pocket by the interaction with the Ag surface, but to the surface selection rule. The peak at  $1560 \, \mathrm{cm^{-1}}$  ( $v_2$ ), which has been used for the marker band in the SERRS spectra, appeared while another peak was observed not at  $1620 \, \mathrm{cm^{-1}}$  ( $v(C_a = C_b)$ ), but at  $1590 \, \mathrm{cm^{-1}}$  ( $v_{37}$ ).<sup>14</sup> The ratio of the two peaks in  $1560 - 1620 \, \mathrm{cm^{-1}}$  was similar to the previous results of deoxy-Mb on citrate-reduced Ag.<sup>2</sup>

In conclusion, Mb is affected by the Ag surface, whereas Mb can still behave as the native protein, namely, the 6-coordinated heme, whose  $v_3$  peak appears at 1510 cm<sup>-1</sup> in the low spin state.

### Notes and references

- <sup>a</sup> Department of Chemistry, School of Science and Technology, Kwansei Gakuin University, Sanda, Hyogo 669-1337, Japan. E-mail: kitahama@kwansei.ac.jp; Fax: +81-79-565-9077; Tel: +81-79-565-8349.
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