## **Supporting Information**

## Mechanistic information on the nitrite-controlled reduction of aquacob(III)alamin by ascorbate at physiological pH

Justyna Polaczek, Łukasz Orzeł, Grażyna Stochel and Rudi van Eldik\*



**Figure S1.** Spectral changes observed for the reaction of CblOH<sub>2</sub> (4.3 x  $10^{-5}$  M) with NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> (4.3 x  $10^{-4}$  M) at pH = 7.2 (25 °C, 0.10 M Tris buffer). Spectra were recorded every 0.05 s. **Inset:** Initial spectrum of CblOH<sub>2</sub> (black line) and final spectrum of CblNO<sub>2</sub> (red line).



**Figure S2.** Typical kinetic trace recorded at 310 nm for the reaction between CblOH<sub>2</sub> and  $NO_2^-$  to form CblNO<sub>2</sub>. Experimental data – black trace; first-order fit – red trace.



**Figure S3.** Plot of  $k_{obs}$  versus NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> concentration for the reaction between CblOH<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>. Experimental conditions: 8.6 x 10<sup>-5</sup> M CblOH<sub>2</sub>, 8.6 x 10<sup>-4</sup> - 8.6 x 10<sup>-3</sup> M NaNO<sub>2</sub>, pH = 7.2 (25 °C, 0.1 M Tris buffer).



**Figure S4.** Spectral changes observed for the reaction of CblNO<sub>2</sub> (4.3 x  $10^{-5}$  M; obtained by mixing equimolar solutions of CblOH<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>) with HClO<sub>4</sub> (0.03 M) at 25 °C. Spectra were recorded every 0.375 s. **Inset:** Typical kinetic trace recorded at 310 nm under the same experimental conditions except for CblNO<sub>2</sub> concentration which is 8.6 x  $10^{-5}$  M.



**Figure S5.** Plot of  $k_{obs}$  versus concentration of the acid for the reaction between CblNO<sub>2</sub> and HClO<sub>4</sub>. Experimental conditions: 8.6 x 10<sup>-5</sup> M CblOH<sub>2</sub>, 8.6 x 10<sup>-5</sup> M NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-7</sup>, 0.01 – 0.05 M H<sup>+</sup>, 25 °C.



**Figure S6.** UV-Vis spectra recorded for the formation of CblNO<sub>2</sub> as a function of nitrite concentration, concentration NaNO<sub>2</sub>/CblOH<sub>2</sub> = 0.1 - 5.0, at pH = 7.2 and 25 °C.



**Figure S7.** Plot of  $\ln(NO_2^{-})_{free}$  versus  $\ln(R-R_{min})/(R_{max}-R)$  for the spectra in Figure S6 recorded in the concentration ratio of NaNO<sub>2</sub> and CblOH<sub>2</sub> ranging from 1.5 to 4.0.



**Figure S8.** Spectral changes observed for the reaction between CblNO<sub>2</sub> (7.6 x  $10^{-5}$  M, obtained by mixing CblOH<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>, concentration ratio NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>/CblOH<sub>2</sub> = 40) and Asc (2.10 x  $10^{-2}$  M) at pH = 7.2 (25 °C, 1.0 M Tris buffer, Ar atmosphere). Spectra were recorded every 2 min. Plot of absorbance at 532 nm versus time.