PROTON HYPERFINE NMR CHARACTERIZATION OF TRUNCATED HEMOGLOBINS FROM *Herbaspirillum seropedicae*

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The truncated hemoglobins (trHbs) correspond to a new family of small globins. They are widely distributed in bacteria, plants and unicellular eukaryotes. Based on conserved residues, trHbs are divided in three subgroups. The group I is involved on oxidative or nitrosative stress, but the function of groups II and III are unknown. Our group cloned and purified two truncated hemoglobins from *Herbaspirillum seropedicae* (*Hs*_trHb1 and 2). In order to characterize the heme pocket of these new members of group II, we performed a NMR study of the recombinant proteins. The Soret band was used to verify their ability b bind cianide and CO. We were capable to assign the heme proton resonances of trHb-1 bound to cyanide and a preliminary heme ¹H hyperfine profile of trHb-2. The ¹⁵N isotopic labeled Hs-trHb-1 protein in the cianide and carbomonoxy forms were analyzed by NMR using 1D ¹H and 2D ¹H/¹⁵N HSQC experiments. The spectra presented chemical shift dispersion compatible with a globin fold. The reduced state of the *H. seropedicae* truncated hemoglobins bounded to CO was also analyzed by NMR for further 3D structural determination.

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