

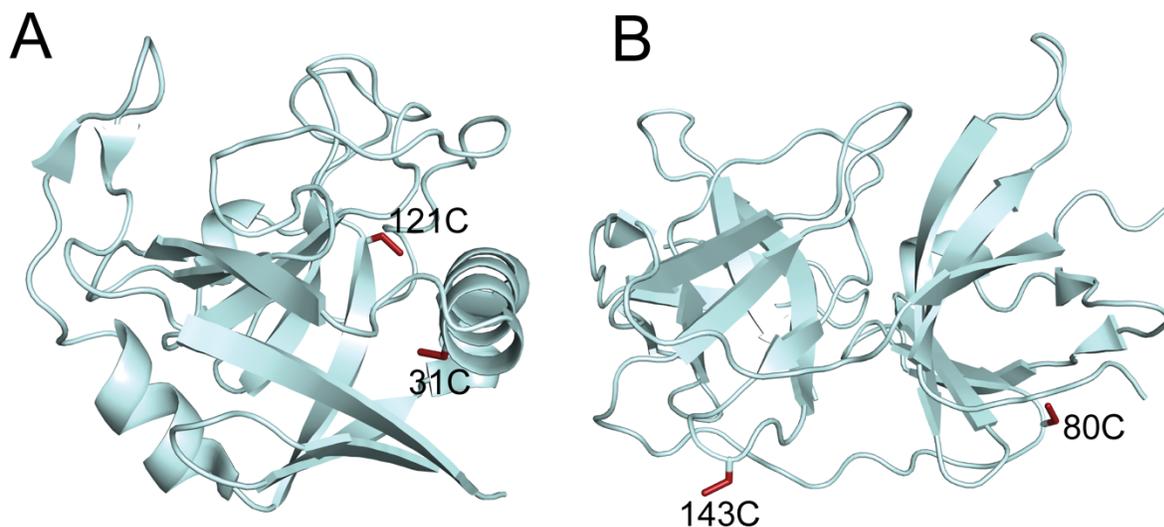
## Supporting information

### Site-specific incorporation of selenocysteine by genetic encoding as a photocaged unnatural amino acid

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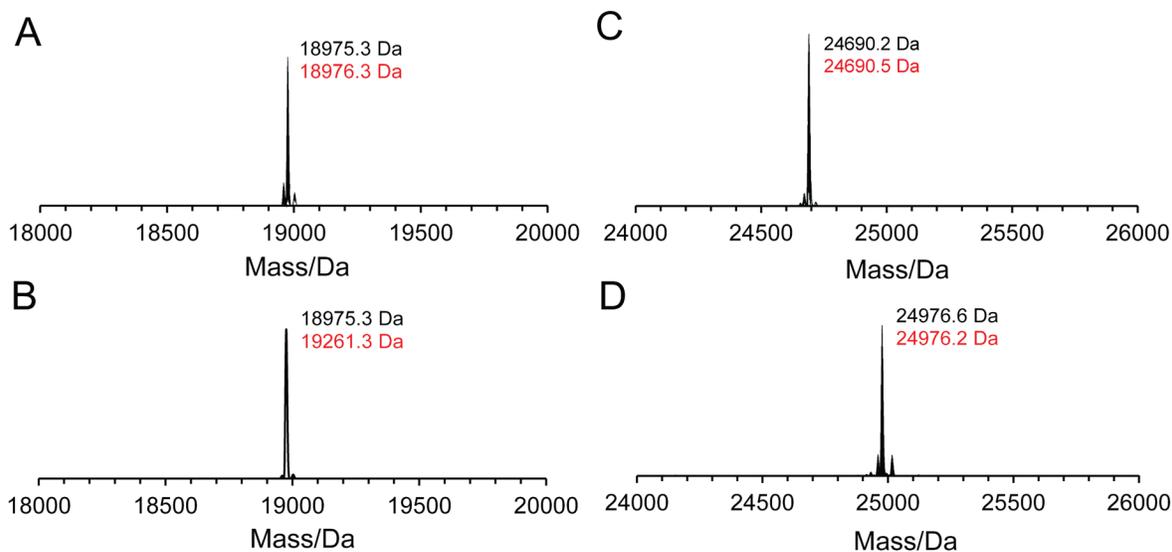
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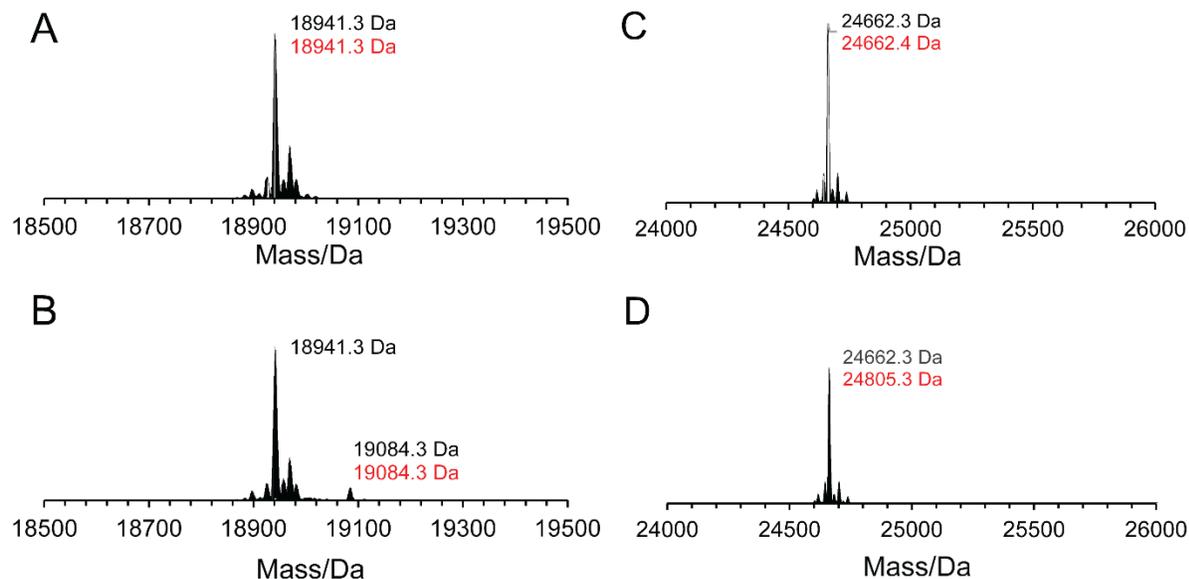


**Figure S1.** Cysteine residues in PpiB are buried inside the protein, while cysteine residues in ZiPro are fully solvent exposed. (A) Ribbon representation of the crystal structure of PpiB (PDB ID 2NUL<sup>1</sup>), highlighting the side chains of cysteine residues in red. (B) Same as (A), but for ZiPro (PDB ID 5LC0<sup>2</sup>).

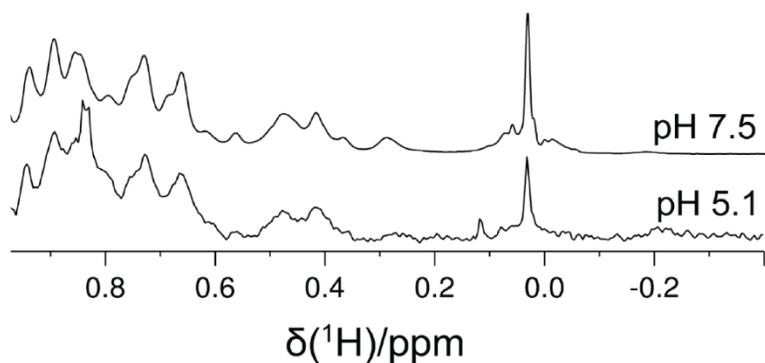




**Figure S3.** Mass spectra of wild-type PpiB and ZiPro before and after overnight incubation with TMS-1 at pH 7.5 and room temperature. Observed and expected masses are indicated in black and red, respectively. (A) Wild-type PpiB. (B) Wild-type PpiB after incubation with TMS-1. The unchanged mass highlights the inaccessibility of the cysteine residues in the interior of the three-dimensional structure of PpiB. (C) Wild-type ZiPro. The observed mass corresponds to the protein without N-terminal methionine. (D) Wild-type ZiPro tagged with TMS-1. The protein contains two solvent-exposed cysteine residues. Ligation with two TMS-1 tags leads to an expected increase in mass of 286 Daltons.

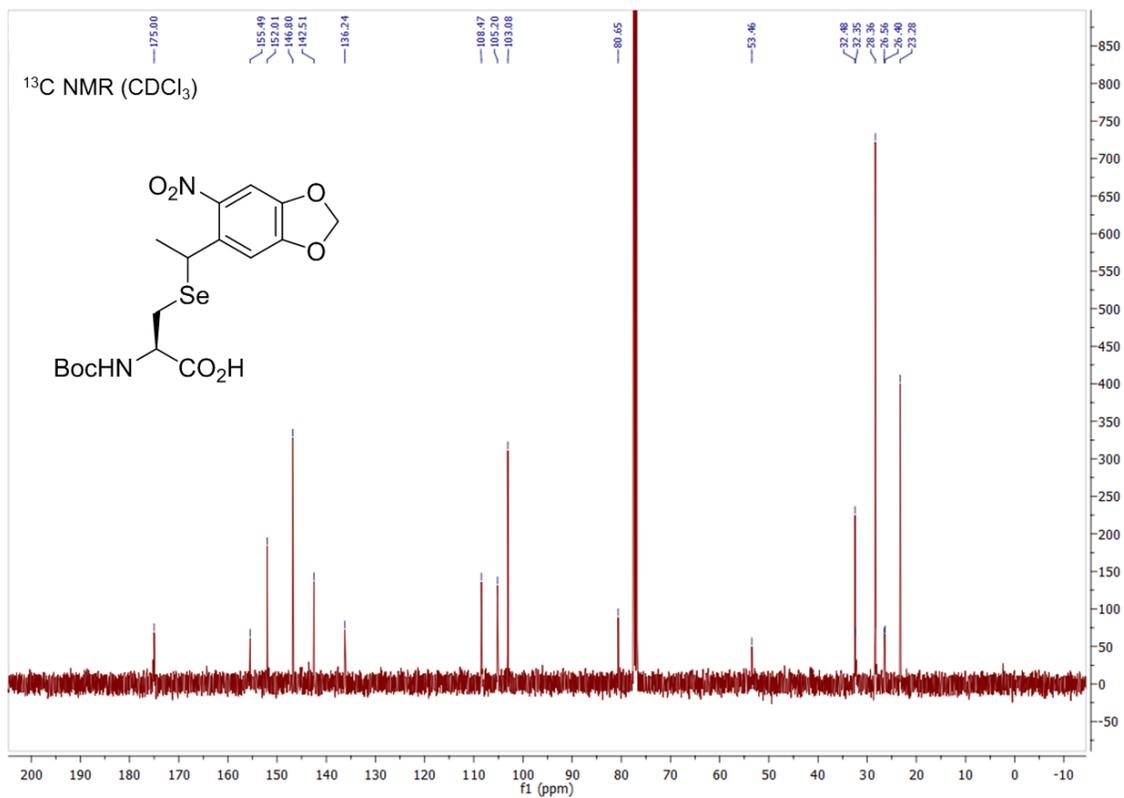
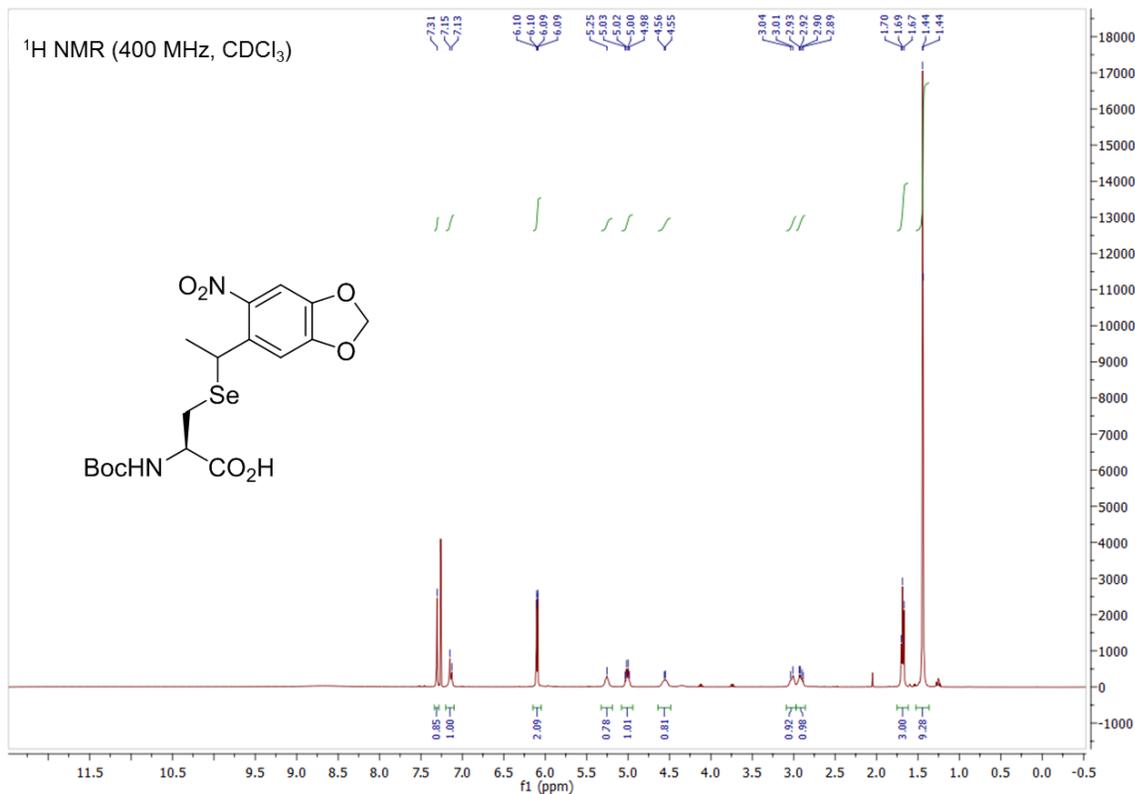


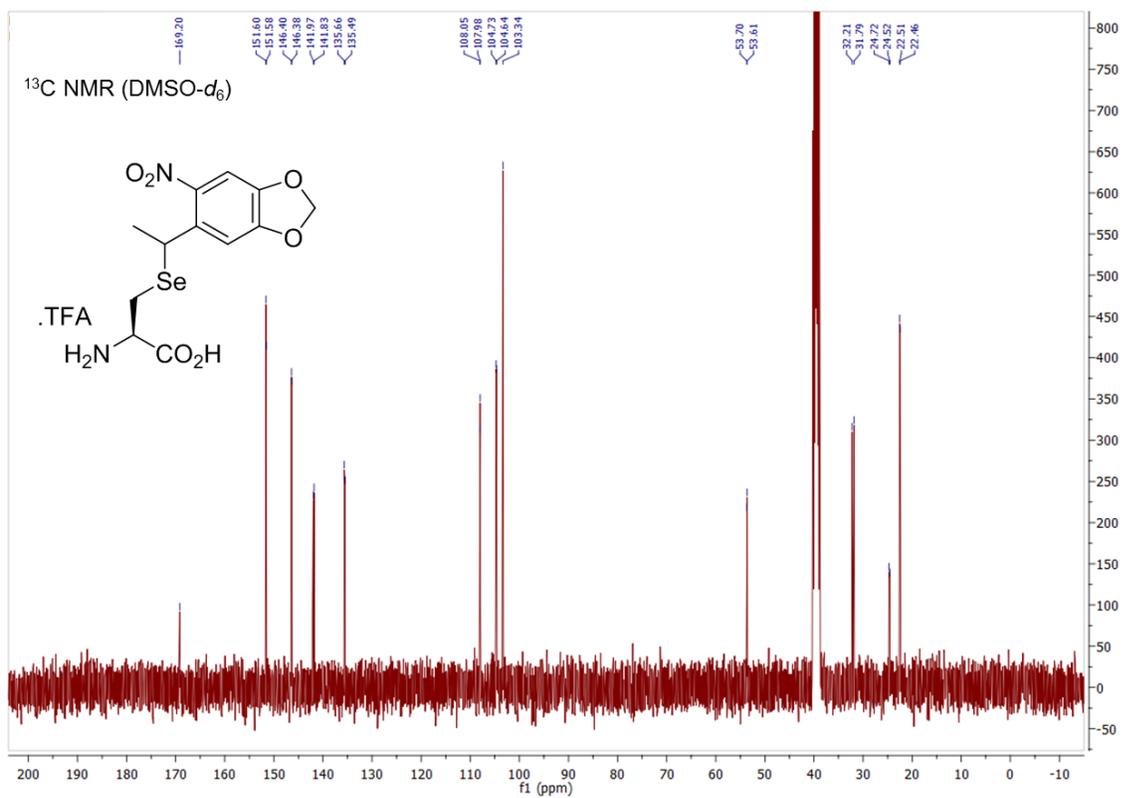
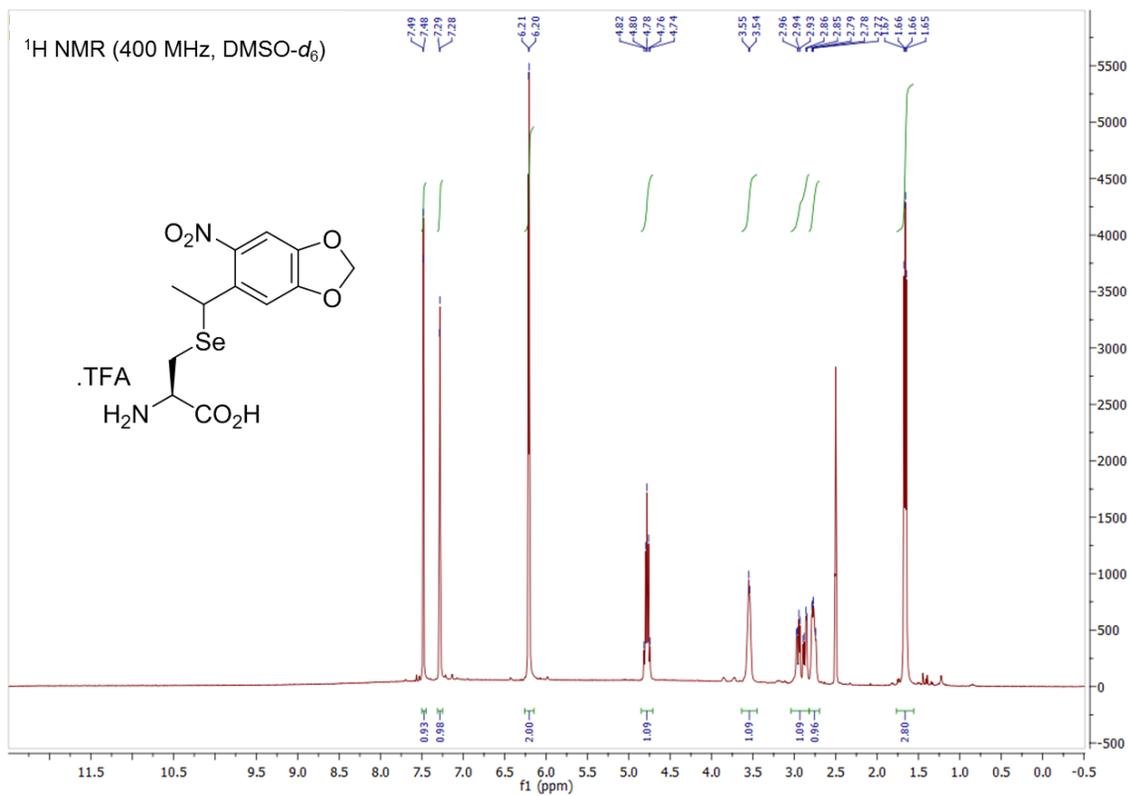
**Figure S4.** Mass spectra illustrating the poor reactivity of solvent-exposed cysteine residues of PpiB H147C and ZiPro V36C/C80S/C143S at pH 5.1 and room temperature towards overnight reaction with TMS-1. Observed and expected masses are indicated in black and red, respectively. (A) PpiB H147C mutant. (B) PpiB H147C after reaction with TMS-1. The small peak at 19084.3 Da indicates a tagging yield of less than 10%. (C) ZiPro V36C/C80S/C143S mutant. (D) Mass spectrum of ZiPro V36C/C80S/C143S after reaction with TMS-1. No evidence for reaction product was observed.



**Figure S5.** 1D  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra comparing the reactivity of TMS-1 at pH 7.5 and 5.1. PpiB H147 was incubated with TMS-1 overnight at room temperature. The signal of the TMS moiety (at about 0.03 ppm) was less intense when the reaction was performed at pH 5.1 rather than 7.5. The NMR spectra were recorded of 10 and 50  $\mu\text{M}$  protein solutions in 50 mM HEPES, pH 8.0.

# NMR spectra of the synthetic intermediate and PSc





## References

- (1) Konno, M., Ito, M., Hayano, T., and Takahashi, N. (1996) The substrate-binding site in *Escherichia coli* cyclophilin A preferably recognizes a *cis*-proline isomer or a highly distorted form of the *trans* isomer. *J. Mol. Biol.* 256, 897–908.
- (2) 2) Lei, J., Hansen, G., Nitsche, C., Klein, C. D., Zhang, L., and Hilgenfeld, R. (2016) Crystal structure of Zika virus NS2B-NS3 protease in complex with a boronate inhibitor. *Science* 353, 503–505.