

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

# Distinguishing Nitro vs Nitrito Coordination in Cytochrome *c'* using Vibrational Spectroscopy and Density Functional Theory

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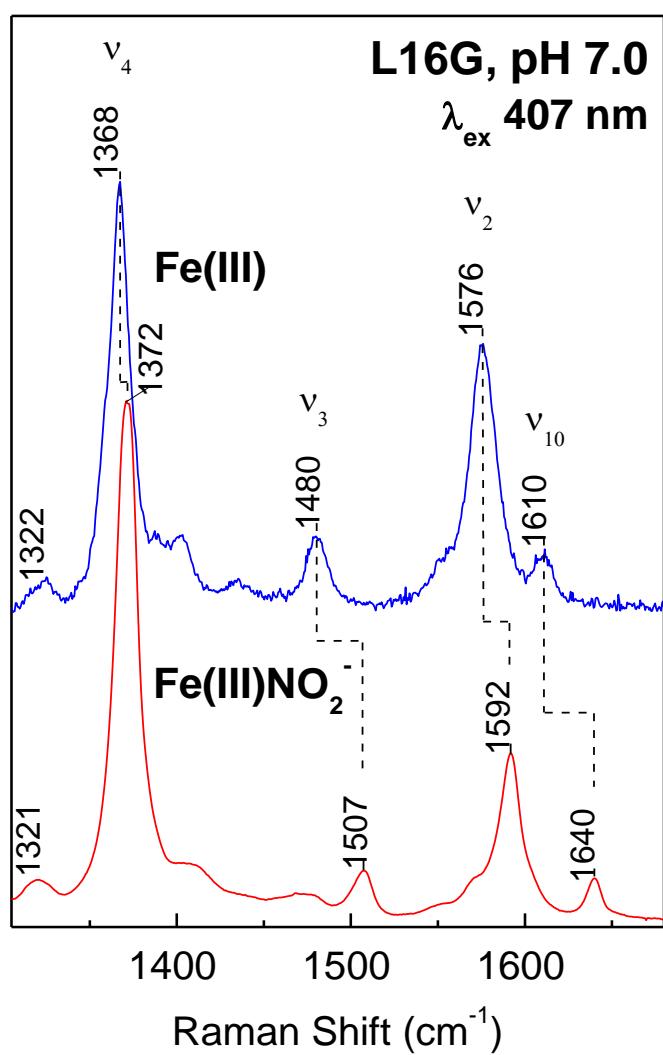
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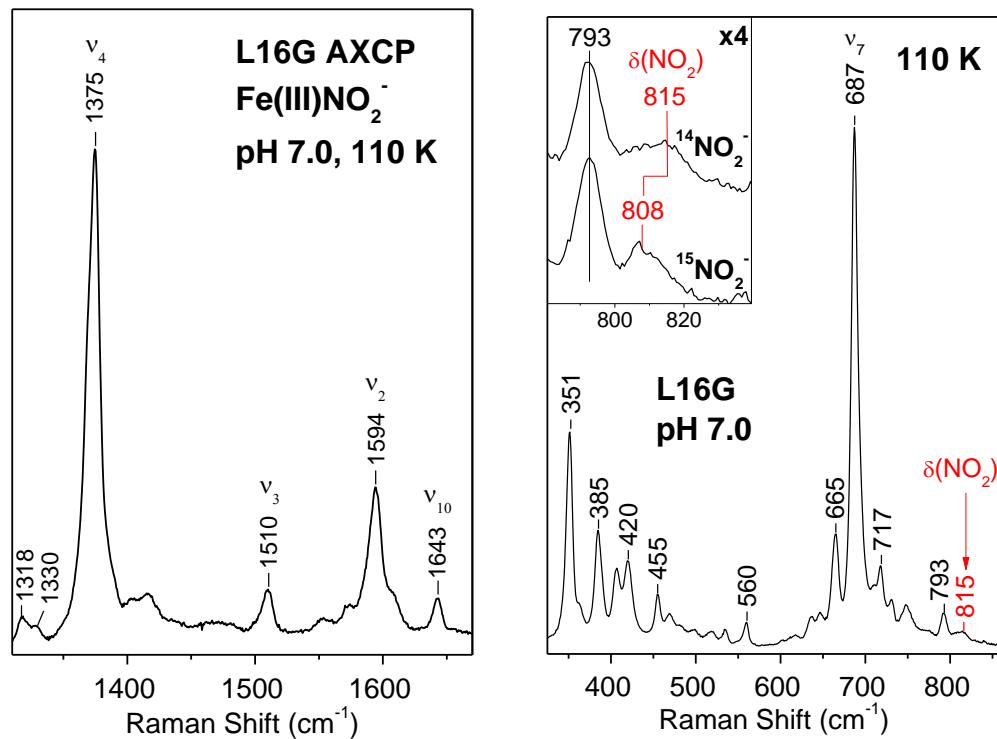
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## Supplementary Data

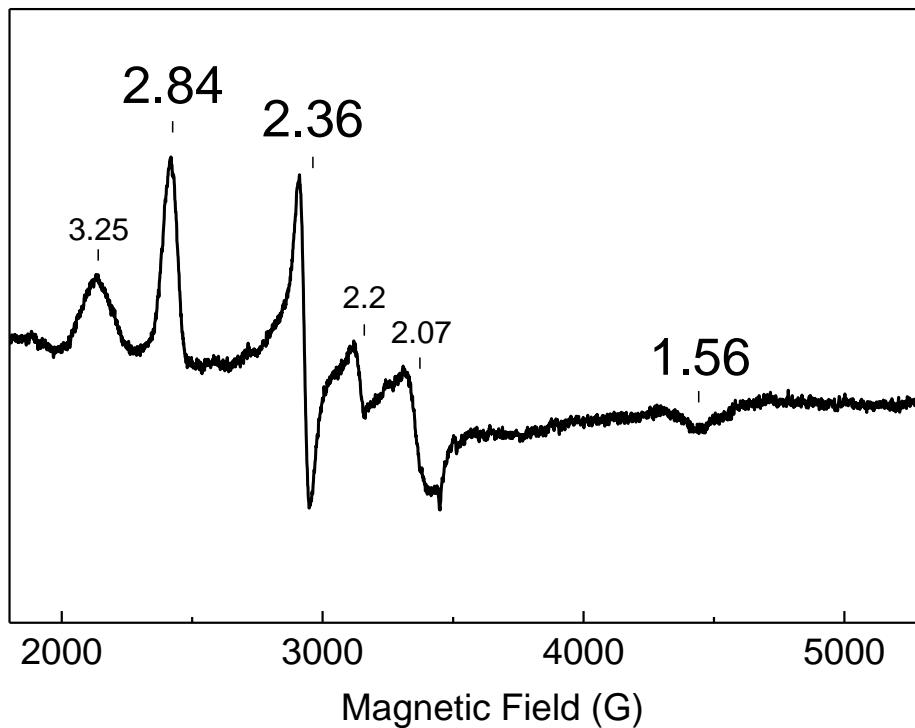
**Figure S1.** Porphyrin marker RR bands of Fe(III) L16G AXCP (pH 7.0, room temperature) in the absence and presence of nitrite.



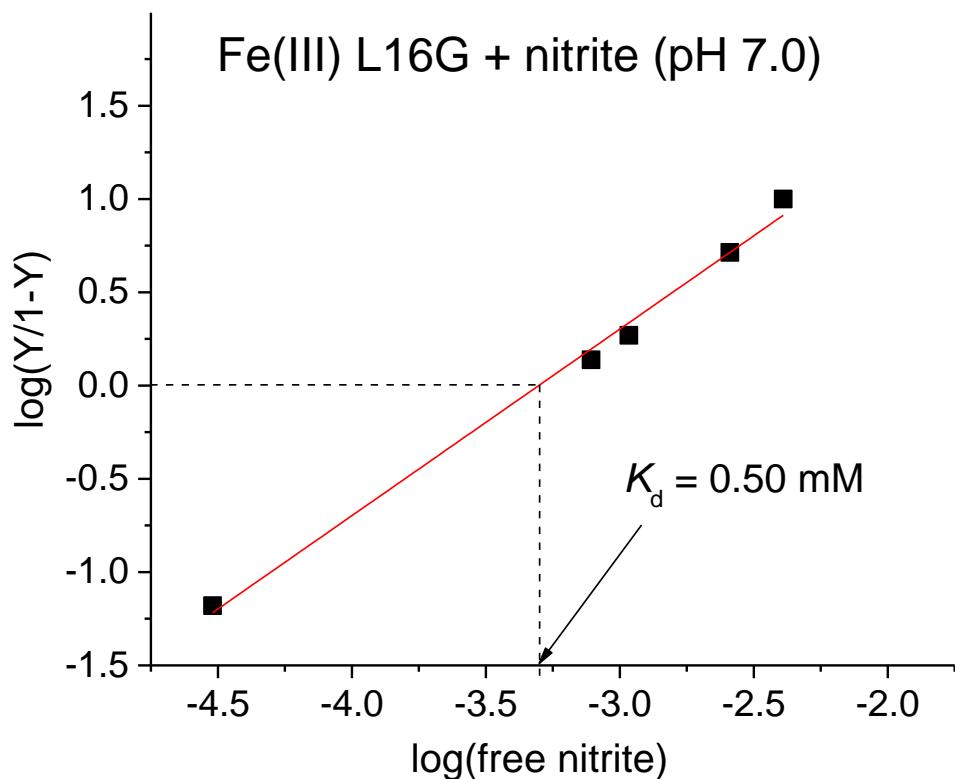
**Figure S2.** RR spectra of Fe(III)-nitrite L16G AXCP obtained at 110 K. Left panel shows the porphyrin marker band region. Right panel shows the low-frequency region and the identification of the  $\delta(\text{NO}_2)$  vibration via isotopic substitution (inset).



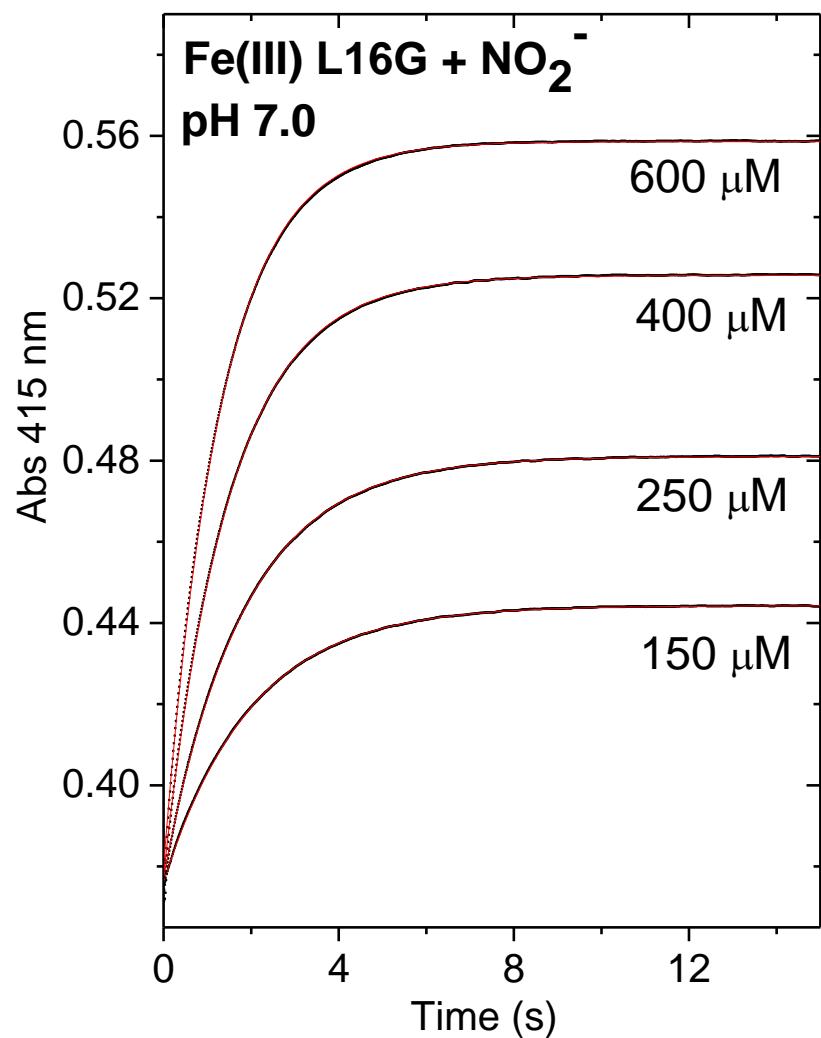
**Figure S3.** EPR spectrum of the nitrite complex of Fe(III) L16G AXCP (100  $\mu$ M in heme, 20 mM nitrite) obtained at 10 K. Dominant low-spin rhombic  $g$  values are observed at 2.84, 2.36 and 1.56. Lower intensity signals at  $g = 3.25$  and 2.2 are suggestive of minor conformational heterogeneity in the low-spin nitrite complex, while the signal around  $g = 2.07$  is likely to reflect some Cu(II) impurity.



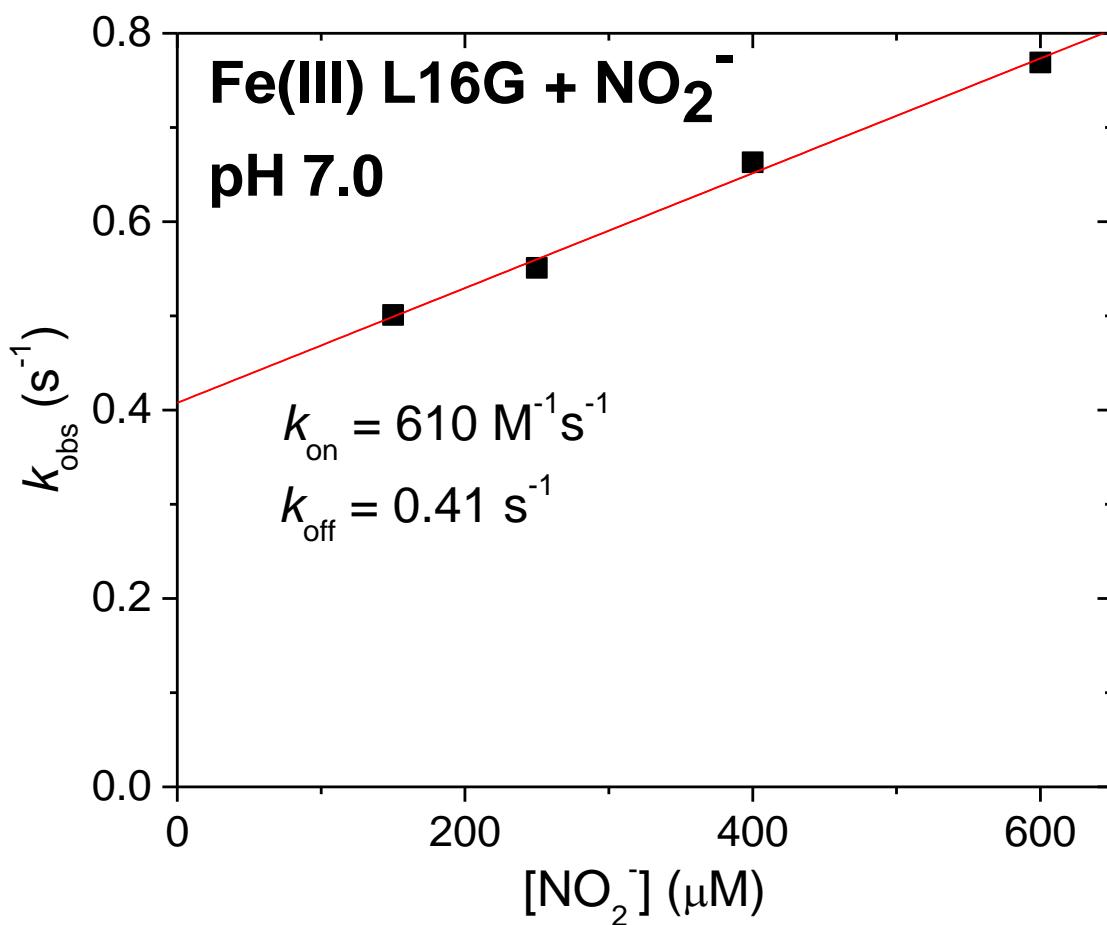
**Figure S4.** Titration of Fe(III) L16G AXCP (pH 7.0) with nitrite to determine  $K_d$ .



**Figure S5.** Absorption time courses at 415 nm showing the reaction of Fe(III) L16G AXCP with nitrite. Overlaid (and mostly obscured) are kinetic fits to single exponential functions

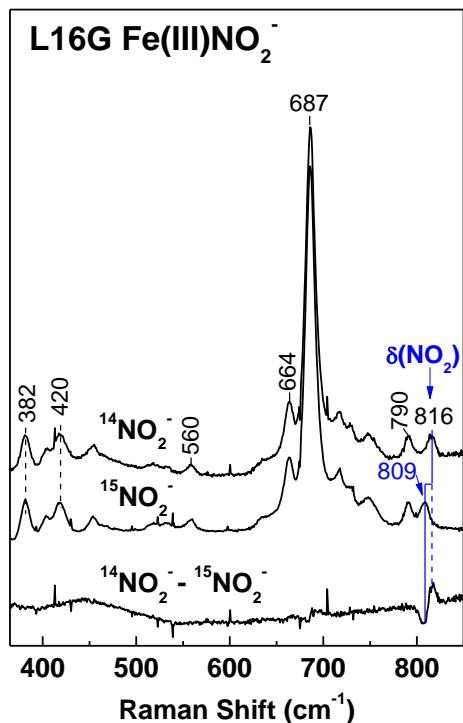


**Figure S6.** Determination of  $k_{\text{on}}$  and  $k_{\text{off}}$  for the Fe(III)-nitrite complex of L16G AXCP from the dependence of  $k_{\text{obs}}$  on nitrite concentration.

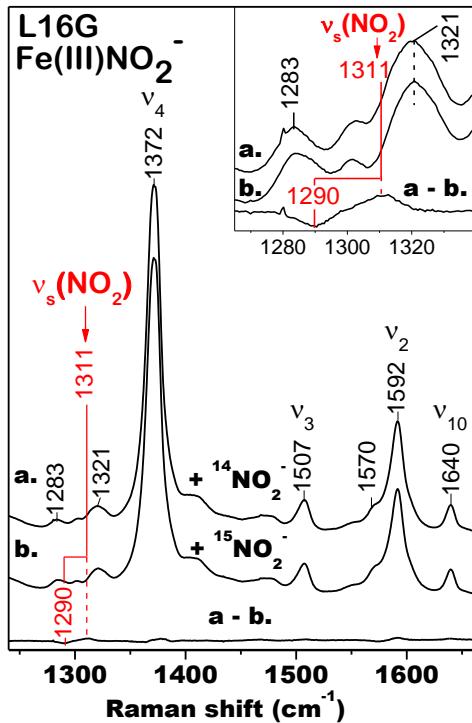


**Figure S7.** Room-temperature RR spectra of Fe(III)-nitrite L16G AXCP prepared with  $^{14}\text{NO}_2^-$  and  $^{15}\text{NO}_2^-$ , recorded in different frequency windows: (A)  $370 - 850\text{-cm}^{-1}$ , (B)  $1240 - 1660\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , and (C)  $760 - 1350\text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

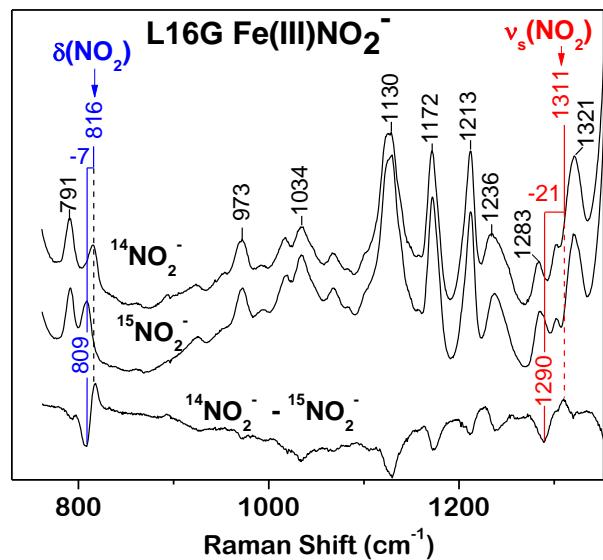
(A)



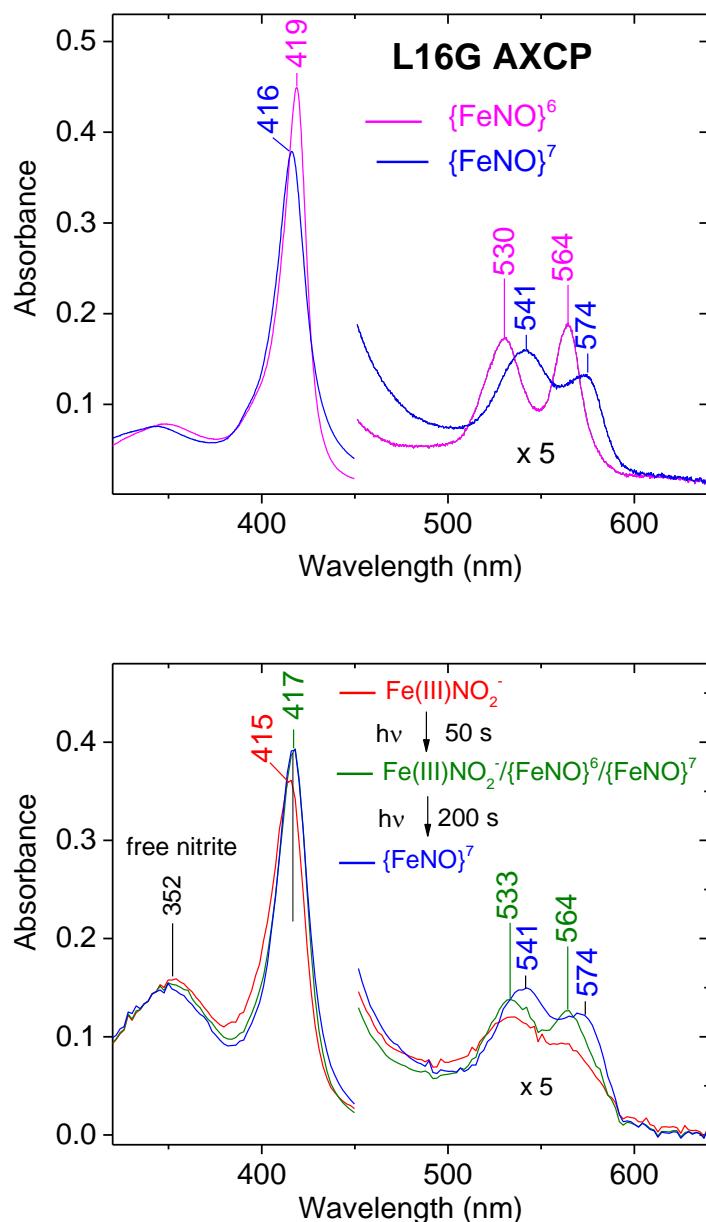
(B)



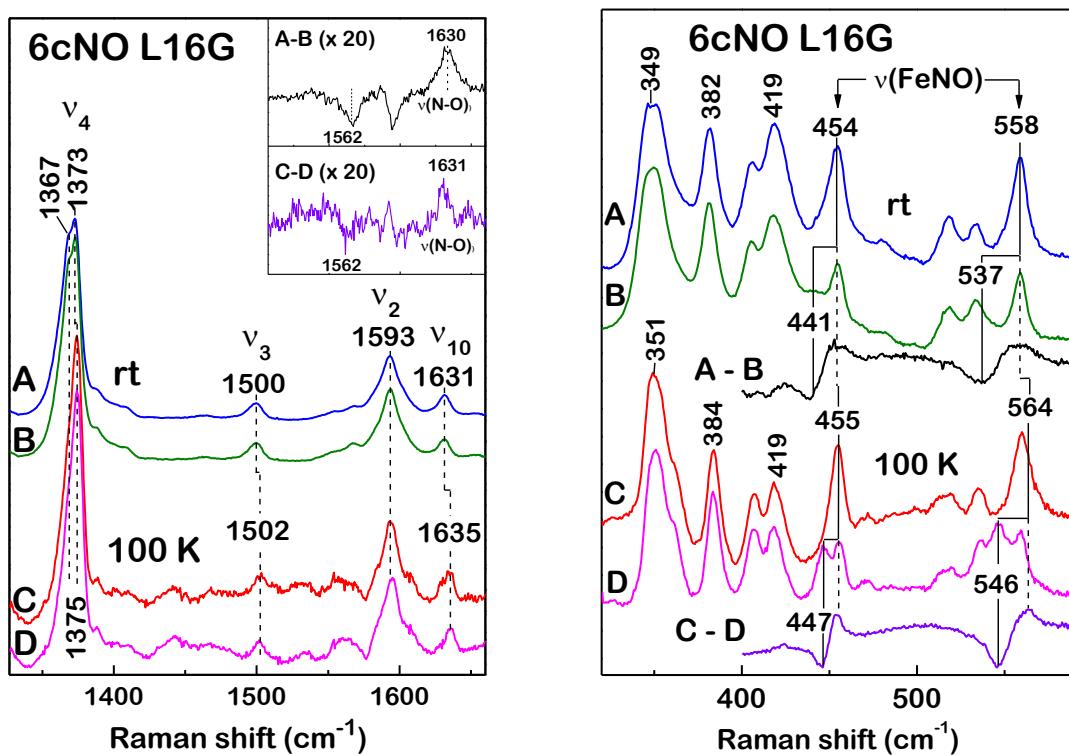
(C)



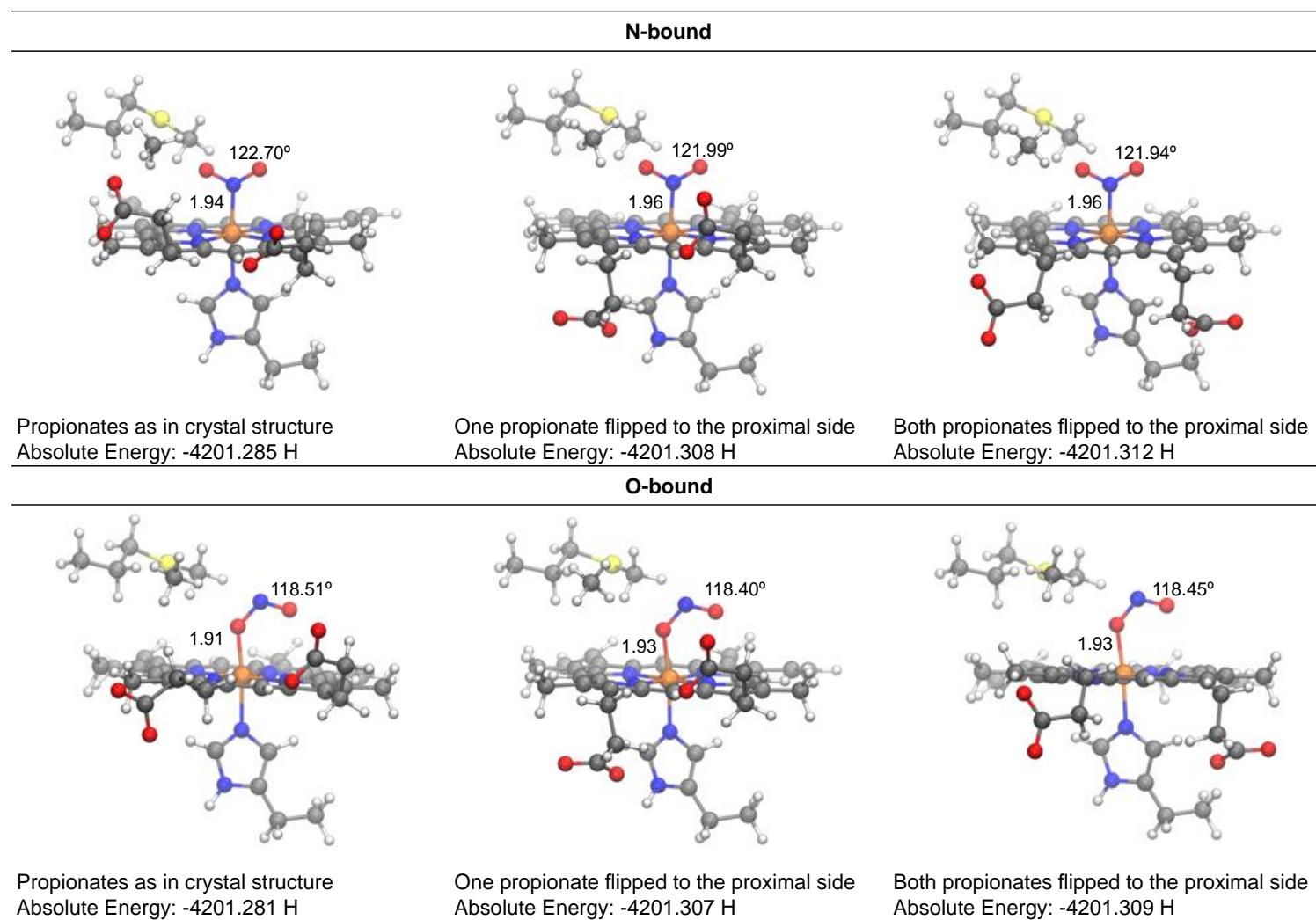
**Figure S8.** Top panel: UV-vis spectra of L16G AXCP  $\{\text{FeNO}\}^6$  (magenta, solid line) and  $\{\text{FeNO}\}^7$  (blue, dashed line) complexes (pH 7.0), formed by the reaction of NO with Fe(III) and Fe(II) L16G AXCP, respectively. Bottom panel: UV-vis spectra showing the photoconversion of the L16G AXCP  $\text{Fe(III)}\text{NO}_2^-$  complex (red line) to the  $\{\text{FeNO}\}^7$  complex (blue line) upon 200 s illumination with a Xe arc lamp. The spectrum recorded after 50 s illumination (green line) is consistent with a mixture of species that includes the  $\{\text{FeNO}\}^6$  complex.



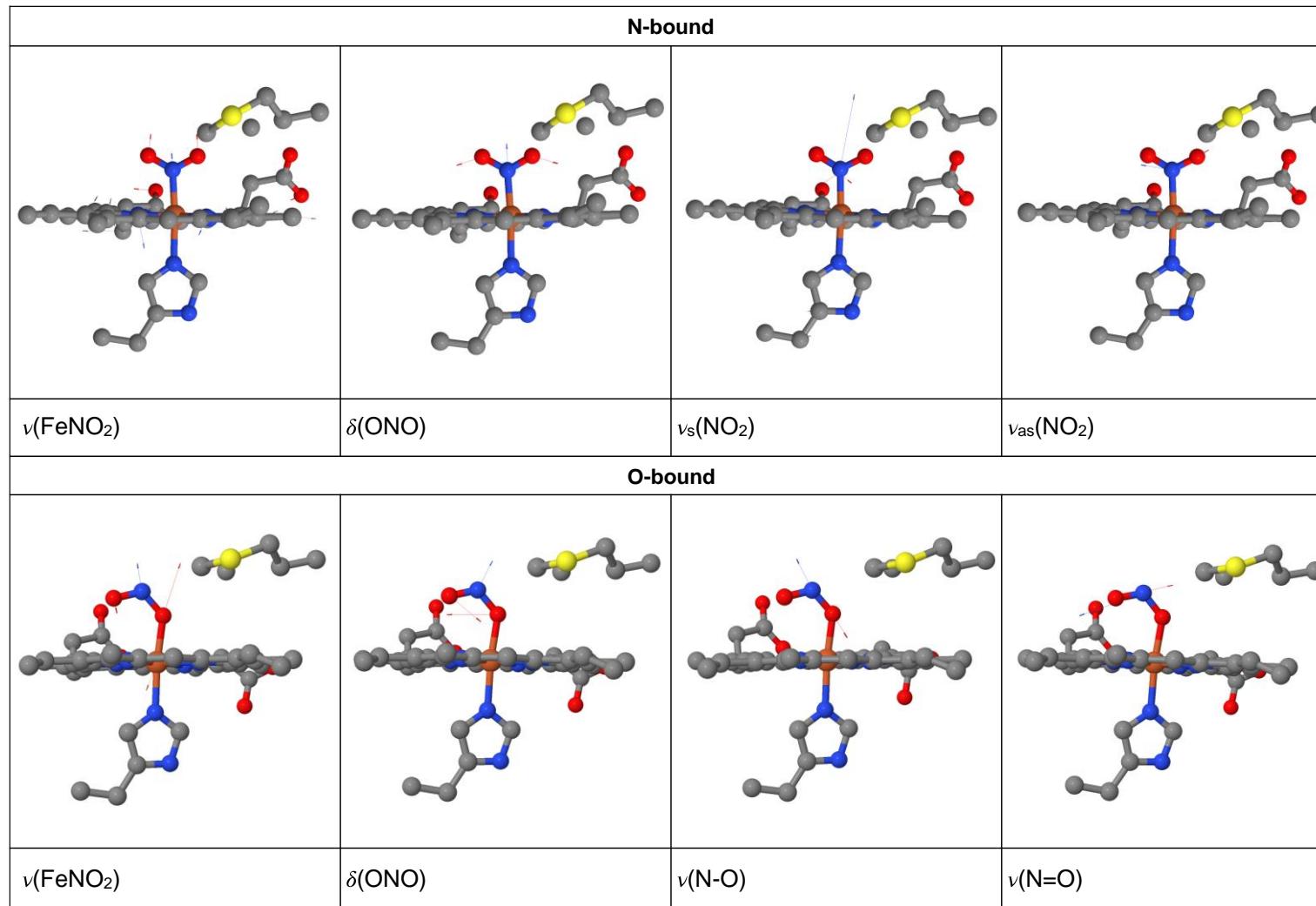
**Figure S9.** RR spectra of  $\{FeNO\}^7$  L16G AXCP in the high frequency (left panel) and low frequency (right panel) regions. Samples were measured at room temperature (rt) with  $^{14}N^{16}O$  (A) and  $^{15}N^{18}O$  (B) as well as at 100 K with  $^{14}N^{16}O$  (C) and  $^{15}N^{18}O$  (D). Vibrational assignments are based on isotopic substitution difference spectra at room temperature (A-B) and 100 K (C-D).



**Figure S10.** L16G AXCP N-bound and O-bound  $\text{NO}_2^-$  structures with different propionate configurations, relaxed from the crystal structure and flipped to the proximal side of the heme. Absolute energies are in hartrees (1 hartree = 2625.5  $\text{kJ mol}^{-1}$ ), bond lengths in Å.



**Figure S11.** Calculated normal-mode eigenvectors for vibrational modes of the L16G AXCP Fe(III)-nitrite complex.



**Table S1.** Crystallographic data collection, processing and refinement statistics for Fe(III)-nitrite L16G AXCP. Values in parentheses are for highest resolution shells. Data were processed using  $\text{CC-1/2} \geq 0.5$  and  $I/\sigma(I) \geq 1.0$  (outer shell) cut off.

<b>Structure</b>	L16G-NO <sub>2</sub> AXCP
Space Group	P6 <sub>5</sub> 22
Cell axis (Å)	53.91, 53.91, 183.21
Resolution (Å)	45.24 – 1.06 (1.08 – 1.06)
Unique reflections	70168 (3511)
Redundancy	7.7 (5.1)
R <sub>ρim</sub> (%)	2.3 (49.3)
CC-1/2 outer shell	0.59
I/σ(I)	13.1 (1.2)
Completeness (%)	96.8 (99.0)
Wilson B-factor (Å <sup>2</sup> )	8.5
<b>Refinement</b>	
R <sub>work</sub> /R <sub>free</sub> (%)	17.8 / 20.0
RMSD Bond Length (Å)	0.016
RMDS Bond Angle (°)	2.18
ML Based ESU (Å)	0.024
Average Protein B-factor (Å <sup>2</sup> )	13.3
Average Water B-factor (Å <sup>2</sup> )	28.7
<b>Ramachandran (%)</b>	
Favored Regions	96
Allowed Regions	4
PDB Code	5NGX

**Table S2.** Effect of distal coordination and redox state on the electronic properties of L16G AXCP, pH 7.0.

	spin state	$\lambda_{\text{max}}$ (nm)			ref
Fe(III)(OH <sub>2</sub> )	6cHS	405	500	627	this work
Fe(III)(NO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup> )	6cLS	415	535	571	this work
{FeNO} <sup>6</sup>	6cLS	419	530	564	this work
{FeNO} <sup>7</sup>	6cLS	416	541	574	this work

**Table S3.** Porphyrin marker vibrational frequencies ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) of aqua and nitrite complexes of Fe(III) heme proteins.

	temp	spin-state	$\nu_4$	$\nu_3$	$\nu_2$	$\nu_{10}$	ref
L16G AXCP, pH 7.0							
Fe(III)(OH <sub>2</sub> )	rt	6cHS	1368	1480	1576	1610	this work
Fe(III)(NO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup> )	rt	6cLS	1372	1507	1592	1640	this work
	110 K	6cLS	1375	1510	1594	1643	this work
NP4, pH 7.0							
Fe(III)(OH <sub>2</sub> )	298 K	6cHS	1372	1481	1560	1610	<sup>1</sup>
Fe(III)(NO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup> )	77 K	6cLS	1375	1507	1584	1638	<sup>2</sup>
Hb, pH 6.6							
Fe(III)(OH <sub>2</sub> )	298 K	6cHS	1373	1481	1561	1610	<sup>3</sup>
Fe(III)(NO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup> )	77 K	6cLS	1375	1507	1585	1640	<sup>2</sup>

**Table S4.** Kinetic parameters and dissociation constants for heme protein Fe(III)nitrite complexes

protein		$k_{\text{on}} (\text{M}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1})$	$k_{\text{off}} (\text{s}^{-1})$	$K_D (\text{mM})^a$	ref
L16G AXCP	pH 7.0, 25 °C	610	0.41	0.67, 0.50	this work
Mb <sup>b</sup>	pH 7.4, 20 °C	156	2.6	16.7	4
Hb <sup>c</sup>	pH 7.4, 25 °C			3.0	5
Hb <sup>c</sup>	pH 7.4, 25 °C			1.1	6
Hb <sup>c</sup>	pH 6.9, 20 °C	140 <sup>e</sup>			7
		20 <sup>f</sup>			
NP4 <sup>d</sup>	pH 7.0, 30 °C	0.13 <sup>e</sup>	0.0084 <sup>e</sup>	67 <sup>e</sup>	2
		0.01 <sup>f</sup>	0.00047 <sup>f</sup>	47 <sup>f</sup>	
NP7 <sup>d</sup>	pH 7.0, 30 °C	0.076 <sup>e</sup>	0.00040 <sup>e</sup>	5.2 <sup>e</sup>	2
		0.0088 <sup>f</sup>	0.00013 <sup>f</sup>	15 <sup>f</sup>	

<sup>a</sup>Dissociation constants,  $K_d$ , calculated from the ratio of  $k_{\text{off}}/k_{\text{on}}$ , except for values in italics determined by titration. <sup>b</sup>Horse Mb. <sup>c</sup>Human Hb. <sup>d</sup>Nitrophorin from *Rhodnius prolixus*. <sup>e</sup>Slow component of biphasic reaction. <sup>f</sup>Fast component of biphasic reaction.

## References

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5. Smith, R. P., The nitrite methemoglobin complex: Its significance in methemoglobin analyses and its possible role in methemoglobinemia. *Biochem. Pharmacol.* **1967**, *16*, 1655-1664.
6. Rodkey, K. L., A mechanism for the conversion of oxyhemoglobin to methemoglobin by nitrite. *Clin. Chem.* **1976**, *22*, 1986-1990.
7. Gibson, Q. H.; Parkhurst, L. J.; Geraci, G., The reaction of methemoglobin with some ligands. *J. Biol. Chem.* **1969**, *244*, 4668-4676.

Cartesian coordinates of the optimized nitro and nitrito complexes

Nitro complex

C -24.73858 21.14488 12.13954  
H -24.86072 20.86432 11.08457  
H -25.68462 21.50676 12.57904  
H -24.37897 20.27187 12.71147  
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### Nitrito Complex

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C	-29.48618	24.08154	7.55702
O	-30.14412	23.03119	7.58730
O	-29.33556	24.96359	8.44537
Fe	-22.92533	24.73678	8.83161
O	-23.11625	22.84199	9.03055
N	-23.17815	21.90176	8.12958
O	-23.13930	22.21555	6.96756

### Vibrational Frequencies (cm<sup>-1</sup>)

#### Nitro Complex

0:	0.00
1:	0.00
2:	0.00
3:	0.00
4:	0.00
5:	0.00
6:	-99.66
7:	-36.62
8:	-28.61
9:	-20.57
10:	-13.70
11:	3.64
12:	5.75
13:	13.36
14:	16.97
15:	20.69
16:	22.02
17:	28.78
18:	30.70
19:	31.41
20:	37.35
21:	40.39
22:	42.08
23:	50.20
24:	54.33
25:	55.26
26:	61.67

27: 65.30  
28: 70.60  
29: 72.50  
30: 81.32  
31: 83.68  
32: 89.84  
33: 94.13  
34: 97.00  
35: 100.20  
36: 105.08  
37: 106.86  
38: 112.92  
39: 116.79  
40: 122.02  
41: 129.42  
42: 132.13  
43: 135.74  
44: 141.79  
45: 144.26  
46: 155.34  
47: 157.63  
48: 163.65  
49: 173.22  
50: 183.21  
51: 188.15  
52: 192.22  
53: 194.94  
54: 197.59  
55: 205.57  
56: 209.93  
57: 214.13  
58: 215.41  
59: 220.18  
60: 222.12  
61: 226.83  
62: 233.50  
63: 239.52  
64: 239.74  
65: 246.99  
66: 252.64  
67: 259.20  
68: 266.47  
69: 272.28  
70: 281.78  
71: 283.64  
72: 291.02  
73: 296.00  
74: 308.88  
75: 310.06  
76: 310.81  
77: 318.09  
78: 324.46  
79: 330.88  
80: 336.79

81: 340.05  
82: 343.94  
83: 347.77  
84: 358.81  
85: 376.30  
86: 379.23  
87: 390.25  
88: 399.48  
89: 414.09  
90: 427.20  
91: 430.37  
92: 435.92  
93: 458.76  
94: 469.05  
95: 493.45  
96: 506.17  
97: 514.59  
98: 521.63  
99: 523.39  
100: 544.60  
101: 561.09  
102: 571.07  
103: 587.02  
104: 607.20  
105: 609.54  
106: 613.96  
107: 632.23  
108: 641.70  
109: 641.78  
110: 651.67  
111: 659.99  
112: 674.49  
113: 678.94  
114: 679.79  
115: 685.59  
116: 693.32  
117: 714.54  
118: 718.31  
119: 718.79  
120: 725.13  
121: 730.32  
122: 732.64  
123: 739.32  
124: 741.29  
125: 744.39  
126: 748.17  
127: 765.91  
128: 768.06  
129: 770.54  
130: 778.33  
131: 782.85  
132: 783.72  
133: 795.44  
134: 802.98

135: 812.76  
136: 815.83  
137: 835.64  
138: 839.93  
139: 844.65  
140: 846.74  
141: 848.79  
142: 850.63  
143: 857.92  
144: 862.62  
145: 872.93  
146: 874.95  
147: 887.26  
148: 905.84  
149: 923.47  
150: 942.20  
151: 944.96  
152: 952.91  
153: 957.97  
154: 966.22  
155: 971.28  
156: 972.95  
157: 977.06  
158: 984.31  
159: 995.05  
160: 1009.07  
161: 1010.73  
162: 1017.84  
163: 1018.77  
164: 1021.62  
165: 1024.97  
166: 1028.76  
167: 1035.38  
168: 1035.78  
169: 1038.05  
170: 1039.80  
171: 1045.03  
172: 1052.45  
173: 1057.94  
174: 1058.16  
175: 1077.76  
176: 1084.00  
177: 1085.09  
178: 1101.60  
179: 1105.15  
180: 1106.01  
181: 1118.58  
182: 1128.73  
183: 1134.77  
184: 1149.58  
185: 1153.74  
186: 1156.93  
187: 1160.54  
188: 1164.39

189: 1167.57  
190: 1170.86  
191: 1184.28  
192: 1200.68  
193: 1215.98  
194: 1218.25  
195: 1228.89  
196: 1232.28  
197: 1233.93  
198: 1244.97  
199: 1253.60  
200: 1266.25  
201: 1274.01  
202: 1274.83  
203: 1291.03  
204: 1291.40  
205: 1293.91  
206: 1299.57  
207: 1308.59  
208: 1312.89  
209: 1315.72  
210: 1323.18  
211: 1331.00  
212: 1331.22  
213: 1339.79  
214: 1344.03  
215: 1352.67  
216: 1361.63  
217: 1365.13  
218: 1369.08  
219: 1370.85  
220: 1378.46  
221: 1379.04  
222: 1388.51  
223: 1392.70  
224: 1398.22  
225: 1398.57  
226: 1399.40  
227: 1401.90  
228: 1411.00  
229: 1413.43  
230: 1417.51  
231: 1420.49  
232: 1425.78  
233: 1427.62  
234: 1429.38  
235: 1430.17  
236: 1434.45  
237: 1437.48  
238: 1443.52  
239: 1446.09  
240: 1446.52  
241: 1449.99  
242: 1451.38

243: 1452.19  
244: 1454.88  
245: 1455.76  
246: 1461.88  
247: 1463.70  
248: 1464.70  
249: 1465.96  
250: 1466.03  
251: 1466.18  
252: 1466.70  
253: 1467.27  
254: 1472.16  
255: 1472.60  
256: 1473.47  
257: 1481.65  
258: 1485.93  
259: 1496.22  
260: 1517.91  
261: 1527.47  
262: 1532.33  
263: 1537.95  
264: 1545.97  
265: 1548.72  
266: 1564.66  
267: 1575.82  
268: 1588.47  
269: 1599.09  
270: 1615.40  
271: 1624.75  
272: 1628.04  
273: 1646.50  
274: 1654.25  
275: 1657.63  
276: 1679.50  
277: 1686.67  
278: 1713.11  
279: 1716.56  
280: 1764.06  
281: 2981.88  
282: 2988.73  
283: 2997.93  
284: 3001.37  
285: 3005.13  
286: 3007.84  
287: 3009.14  
288: 3017.62  
289: 3017.83  
290: 3019.24  
291: 3019.72  
292: 3026.80  
293: 3029.72  
294: 3036.51  
295: 3040.99  
296: 3054.71

297: 3057.72  
298: 3062.08  
299: 3065.52  
300: 3070.38  
301: 3072.12  
302: 3075.81  
303: 3075.94  
304: 3082.54  
305: 3084.51  
306: 3090.82  
307: 3093.96  
308: 3106.20  
309: 3107.03  
310: 3110.09  
311: 3113.78  
312: 3115.39  
313: 3117.17  
314: 3117.90  
315: 3118.11  
316: 3119.26  
317: 3122.49  
318: 3139.21  
319: 3140.22  
320: 3145.44  
321: 3148.67  
322: 3153.31  
323: 3157.63  
324: 3187.07  
325: 3206.91  
326: 3213.20  
327: 3216.21  
328: 3245.50  
329: 3247.67  
330: 3264.11  
331: 3278.41  
332: 3654.37

#### Nitrito Complex

0: 0.00  
1: 0.00  
2: 0.00  
3: 0.00  
4: 0.00  
5: 0.00  
6: -86.85  
7: -67.69  
8: -43.90  
9: -34.25

10: -13.69  
11: -5.12  
12: 13.90  
13: 14.87  
14: 18.41  
15: 20.53  
16: 24.75  
17: 27.39  
18: 29.61  
19: 35.19  
20: 37.41  
21: 40.65  
22: 45.43  
23: 47.27  
24: 51.67  
25: 55.03  
26: 57.86  
27: 63.98  
28: 66.46  
29: 68.92  
30: 69.68  
31: 74.20  
32: 76.32  
33: 81.69  
34: 87.81  
35: 92.79  
36: 98.78  
37: 102.35  
38: 107.13  
39: 110.49  
40: 112.73  
41: 117.16  
42: 121.87  
43: 124.39  
44: 128.09  
45: 131.24  
46: 136.56  
47: 148.16  
48: 158.11  
49: 161.33  
50: 171.13  
51: 174.79  
52: 178.08  
53: 187.75  
54: 191.56  
55: 195.85  
56: 197.46

57: 203.53  
58: 204.82  
59: 206.67  
60: 216.52  
61: 219.64  
62: 226.23  
63: 234.09  
64: 244.84  
65: 246.32  
66: 249.05  
67: 252.46  
68: 261.86  
69: 268.80  
70: 274.56  
71: 279.99  
72: 285.87  
73: 288.30  
74: 294.74  
75: 300.41  
76: 304.83  
77: 315.09  
78: 329.14  
79: 333.47  
80: 336.09  
81: 343.78  
82: 349.62  
83: 352.49  
84: 359.29  
85: 373.37  
86: 375.52  
87: 376.92  
88: 380.53  
89: 407.10  
90: 414.99  
91: 433.32  
92: 436.05  
93: 450.99  
94: 474.72  
95: 480.07  
96: 490.02  
97: 508.91  
98: 515.24  
99: 524.69  
100: 534.58  
101: 541.51  
102: 560.87  
103: 567.77

104: 575.82  
105: 587.94  
106: 614.31  
107: 635.73  
108: 642.79  
109: 643.57  
110: 644.51  
111: 658.83  
112: 668.30  
113: 674.23  
114: 677.09  
115: 678.61  
116: 686.04  
117: 695.47  
118: 715.05  
119: 718.73  
120: 725.39  
121: 726.87  
122: 729.32  
123: 731.59  
124: 739.83  
125: 743.17  
126: 749.36  
127: 754.22  
128: 758.50  
129: 771.53  
130: 775.37  
131: 782.17  
132: 783.58  
133: 795.27  
134: 802.04  
135: 813.26  
136: 818.26  
137: 843.04  
138: 845.33  
139: 846.11  
140: 847.60  
141: 848.06  
142: 848.44  
143: 854.14  
144: 868.32  
145: 874.24  
146: 875.35  
147: 888.71  
148: 903.27  
149: 924.51  
150: 936.81

151: 946.95  
152: 950.82  
153: 952.13  
154: 960.29  
155: 961.83  
156: 967.70  
157: 975.76  
158: 983.04  
159: 991.16  
160: 1007.05  
161: 1008.28  
162: 1015.17  
163: 1018.03  
164: 1024.33  
165: 1026.63  
166: 1027.99  
167: 1029.90  
168: 1032.54  
169: 1035.16  
170: 1040.29  
171: 1042.25  
172: 1048.73  
173: 1053.27  
174: 1067.18  
175: 1075.79  
176: 1079.61  
177: 1090.28  
178: 1093.47  
179: 1099.53  
180: 1104.12  
181: 1112.17  
182: 1118.36  
183: 1138.29  
184: 1142.09  
185: 1151.17  
186: 1154.36  
187: 1155.68  
188: 1156.91  
189: 1161.76  
190: 1162.72  
191: 1169.34  
192: 1184.17  
193: 1200.85  
194: 1215.74  
195: 1216.71  
196: 1226.05  
197: 1233.88

198: 1244.59  
199: 1247.13  
200: 1248.81  
201: 1266.36  
202: 1271.00  
203: 1274.60  
204: 1286.50  
205: 1295.29  
206: 1296.30  
207: 1305.04  
208: 1305.74  
209: 1312.33  
210: 1313.61  
211: 1320.83  
212: 1323.80  
213: 1332.87  
214: 1333.70  
215: 1336.28  
216: 1344.66  
217: 1350.08  
218: 1366.49  
219: 1367.98  
220: 1369.10  
221: 1377.89  
222: 1379.66  
223: 1384.90  
224: 1389.74  
225: 1395.34  
226: 1398.03  
227: 1400.94  
228: 1403.29  
229: 1410.56  
230: 1413.63  
231: 1417.38  
232: 1417.97  
233: 1420.61  
234: 1422.91  
235: 1427.40  
236: 1430.88  
237: 1433.87  
238: 1437.08  
239: 1443.95  
240: 1445.91  
241: 1448.06  
242: 1449.33  
243: 1451.72  
244: 1453.66

245: 1456.99  
246: 1459.95  
247: 1460.59  
248: 1462.28  
249: 1462.92  
250: 1463.38  
251: 1467.23  
252: 1467.92  
253: 1469.12  
254: 1470.24  
255: 1471.28  
256: 1473.49  
257: 1483.55  
258: 1483.70  
259: 1491.55  
260: 1515.54  
261: 1524.57  
262: 1529.57  
263: 1531.55  
264: 1534.49  
265: 1540.47  
266: 1563.98  
267: 1578.60  
268: 1592.93  
269: 1607.55  
270: 1616.06  
271: 1620.49  
272: 1623.40  
273: 1638.57  
274: 1646.61  
275: 1657.76  
276: 1678.68  
277: 1683.97  
278: 1712.01  
279: 1731.69  
280: 1760.11  
281: 2989.75  
282: 2998.84  
283: 3001.43  
284: 3001.72  
285: 3006.20  
286: 3007.02  
287: 3007.47  
288: 3011.56  
289: 3014.38  
290: 3017.13  
291: 3021.48

292: 3025.57  
293: 3030.50  
294: 3036.72  
295: 3049.98  
296: 3057.68  
297: 3060.28  
298: 3063.89  
299: 3067.91  
300: 3071.19  
301: 3071.28  
302: 3072.35  
303: 3074.04  
304: 3077.73  
305: 3077.89  
306: 3079.20  
307: 3097.43  
308: 3106.51  
309: 3109.44  
310: 3116.67  
311: 3117.43  
312: 3118.88  
313: 3124.17  
314: 3124.19  
315: 3132.63  
316: 3135.30  
317: 3137.73  
318: 3144.81  
319: 3147.78  
320: 3149.75  
321: 3150.46  
322: 3153.03  
323: 3163.76  
324: 3170.35  
325: 3207.45  
326: 3208.12  
327: 3223.36  
328: 3229.30  
329: 3243.44  
330: 3265.18  
331: 3276.65  
332: 3649.25

The first 6 frequencies correspond to translational and rotational ones and so are 0.00 cm<sup>-1</sup>

The imaginary frequencies are a result of the fragment optimization methodology and are associated with the atoms whose coordinates are kept constrained.