

## Supplemental Information

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Observation of organometallic and radical intermediates formed during the reaction of methyl-coenzyme M reductase with bromoethanesulfonate

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Fig S1. Kinetics of  $\text{MCR}_{\text{BES}}$  radical decay determined by visible absorption spectral changes of  $\text{MCR}_{\text{red1}}$  upon addition of BES in presence of CoBSH.

Figure S2. 35 GHz EPR spectra at 2 K of  $\text{MCR}_{\text{red1}}$  in presence 1 mM  $\text{CoB}_6\text{SH}$  after addition of BES. The spectra are normalized to give the same signal intensity for  $g_{\pm}$  of  $\text{MCR}_{\text{ox1}}$ . CW EPR spectra, recorded at 35.011 GHz, 1 G modulation amplitude, and two different microwave power settings: 20 dB ( $\sim 1$  mW; orange trace), 30 dB ( $\sim 0.1$  mW, red trace), are shown, along with echo-detected EPR spectra recorded at 34.851 GHz and two different repetition rates: 10 Hz (green trace), 50 Hz (blue trace); both used a Hahn spin echo sequence with:  $\pi/2$  pulse width = 40 ns; delay time,  $\tau = 600$  ns. Signals from the three primary EPR-active species,  $\text{MCR}_{\text{red1}}$ ,  $\text{MCR}_{\text{ox1}}$ , and  $\text{MCR}_{\text{BES}}$  radical are easily seen in the 35 GHz spectra. Also apparent is a weak signal from  $\text{MCR}_{\text{red2}}$ , with  $g_{\pm} = 2.07$ . A small signal from adventitious Mn(II) in the  $g \sim 2.00$  region underlies the radical signal. EPR spectroscopy at 35 GHz and 2 K enhances Mn(II) signals; this one could be essentially invisible at X-band and 70 K.

Figure S3. Broad scan swept CW 35 GHz  $^1\text{H}$  ENDOR spectra of  $\text{MCR}_{\text{red1}}$  recorded at 2 K at a field position on the MCR signal ( $g = 2.177$ , upper trace) and on the radical signal ( $g = 2.002$ , lower trace). As seen also in Figure 5 (which uses random hopping of rf), the MCR spectrum exhibits signal from a strongly coupled  $^1\text{H}$  (47); in this case, both  $\nu_{\pm}$  partners are observed. The radical signal exhibits much more severe baseline artifacts, however it is possible that there is  $^1\text{H}$  hyperfine coupling of at least  $\sim 40$  MHz, which would be consistent with the observation of hyperfine splitting by X-band EPR. Experimental conditions: microwave frequency, 35.010 GHz; modulation frequency, 2 G; microwave power, 20 dB ( $\sim 100$   $\mu\text{W}$ ); rf swept linearly from low to high frequency; 10 scans.

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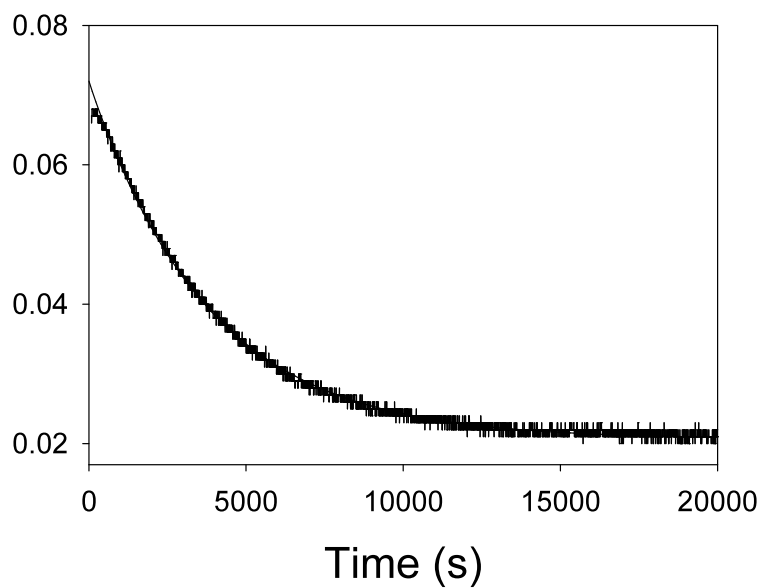


Figure S2. 35 GHz EPR spectra at 2 K of  $\text{MCR}_{\text{red}1}$  in presence 1 mM  $\text{CoB}_6\text{SH}$  after addition of BES.

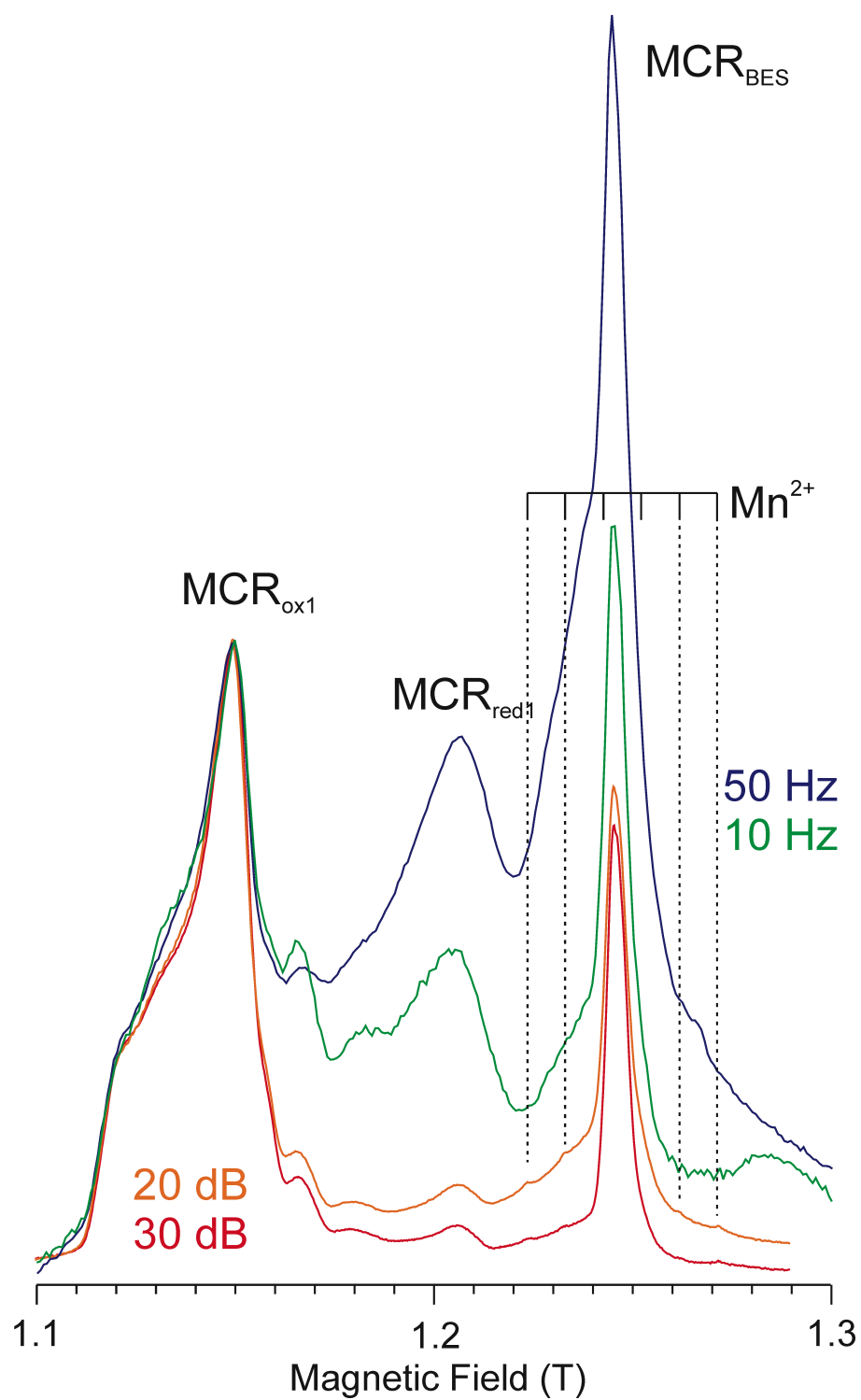


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