Supplemental Material

MOMP contains eight cysteines; disulfide bonds between these residues could stabilize the trimer state and/or the loop conformations necessary for antibody recognition. To better understand the native state of detergent samples, nMOMP/Z3-14 samples were subjected to no boiling or boiling for 10 min and/or mixed with 1% dithiothreitol (DTT) (Fig. S1). For the samples stored at either temperature, addition of DTT had little effect on the amount of protein migrating at 66 kDa (*i.e.*, the trimer); after boiling, the protein migrated at 40 kDa (*i.e.*, the monomer), whether DTT was present or not. These data are consistent with the notions that neither SDS-insoluble aggregates are formed, nor that disulfide bridges are responsible for the formation of the trimer (Sun et al. 2007).

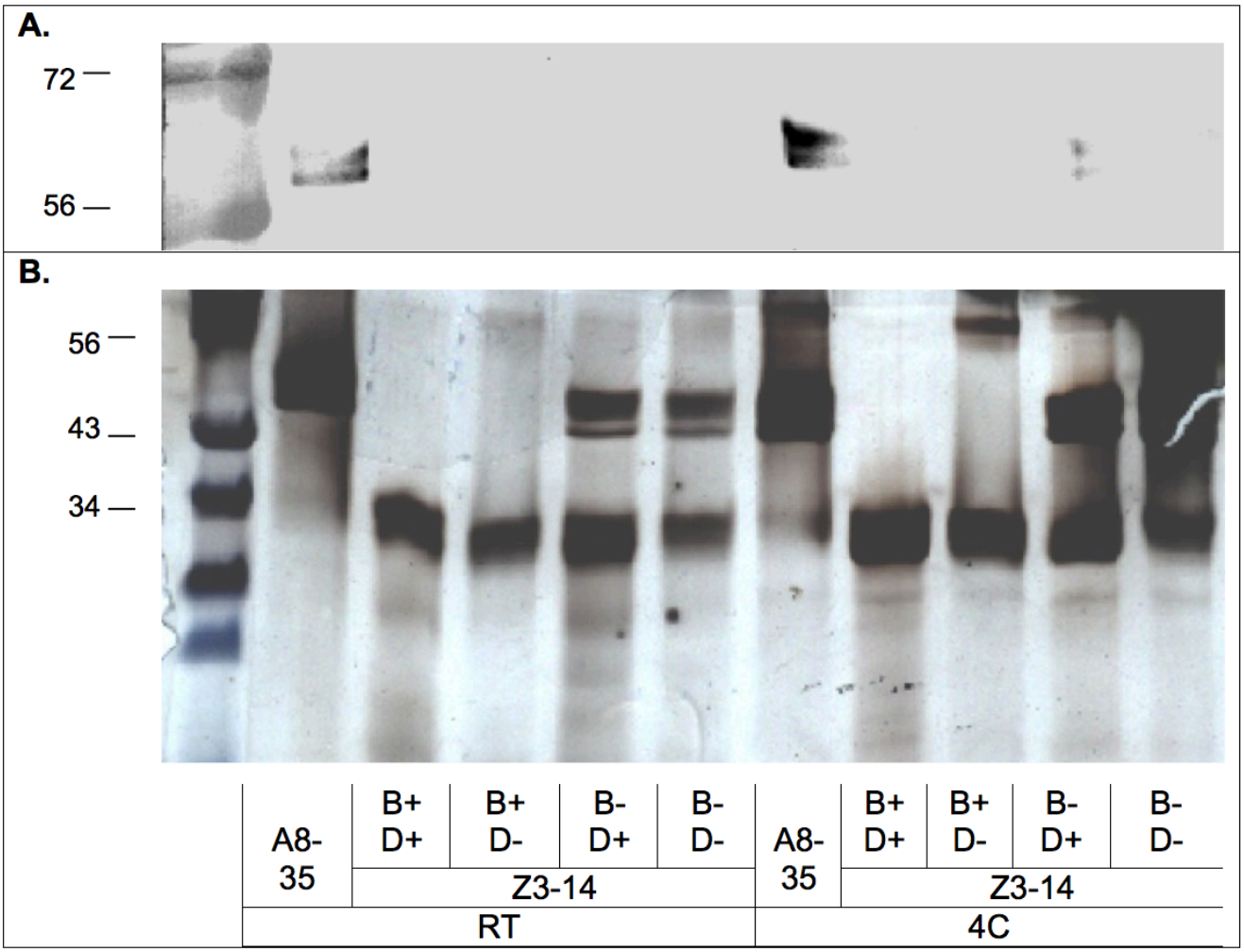

Fig. S1 Integrity of the tertiary and quaternary structures of nMOMP samples in either A8-35 or Z3-14, stored either at room temperature or at 4°C, as monitored by SDS-PAGE and Western blotting; complete gel; sections of this gel are presented in Fig. 2. **a**. Western blot probed with mAbs-18b. **b.** Corresponding silver-stained gel. Samples in Z3-14 were boiled (B+) or not (B-) for 10 min, and incubated (D+) or not (D-) with DTT prior to electrophoresis.