

## Supplementary information

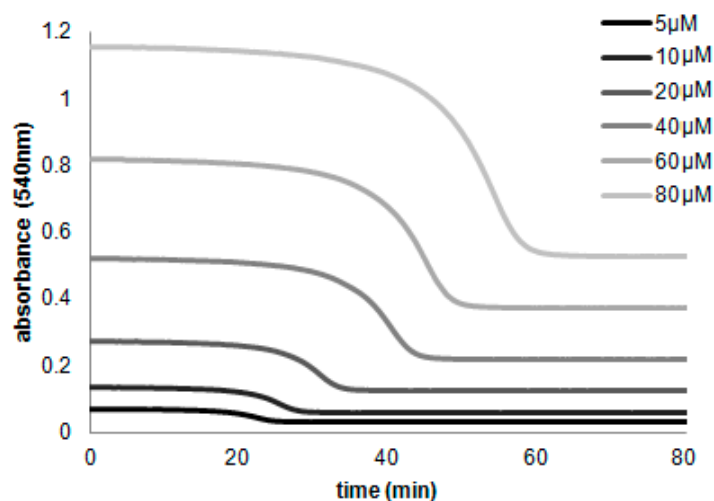
### The Reaction of Oxy Hemoglobin with Nitrite: Mechanism, Antioxidant-Modulated Effect, and Implications for Blood Substitute Evaluation

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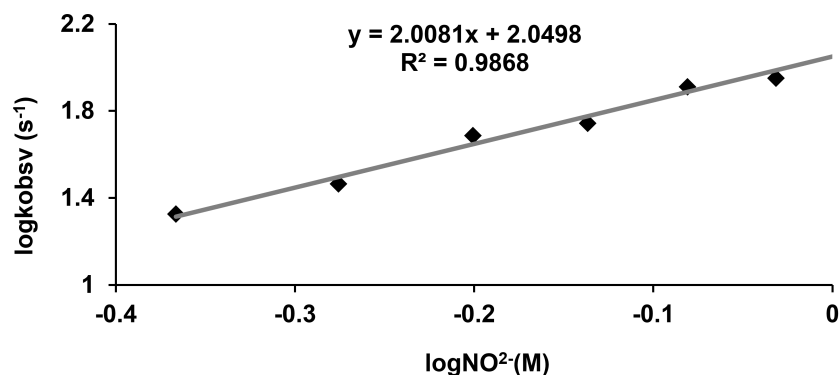
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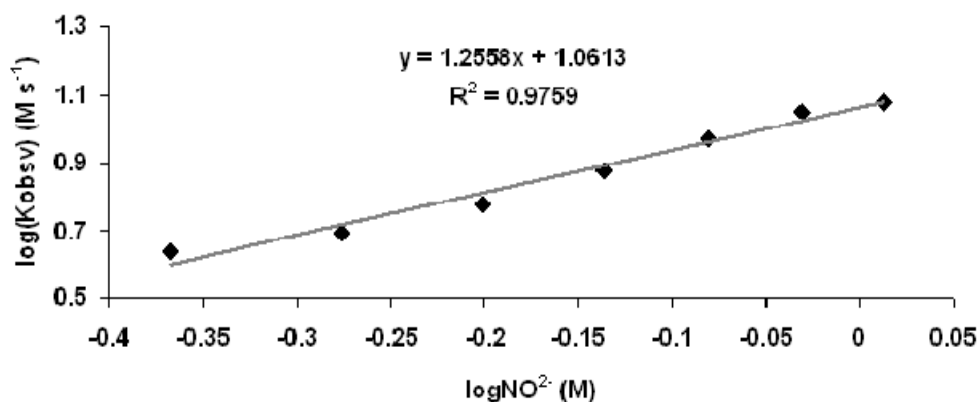
\*corresponding author; email: [rsilaghi@chem.ubbcluj.ro](mailto:rsilaghi@chem.ubbcluj.ro);



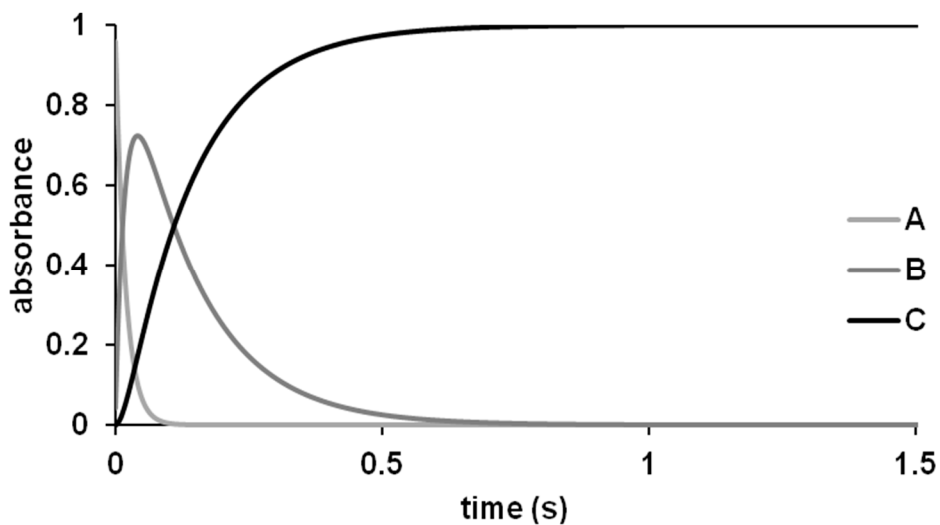
**Figure S1.** Time course for the reaction of oxyHb (varying concentrations) and nitrite. Conditions: 200 μM nitrite, PBS 7.4, room temperature.



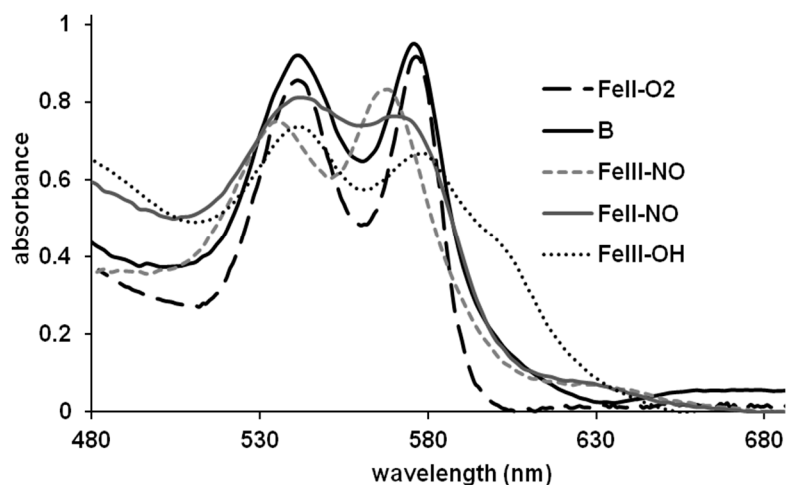
**Figure S2.** Rate dependencies for the oxy  $\rightarrow$  met transformation.



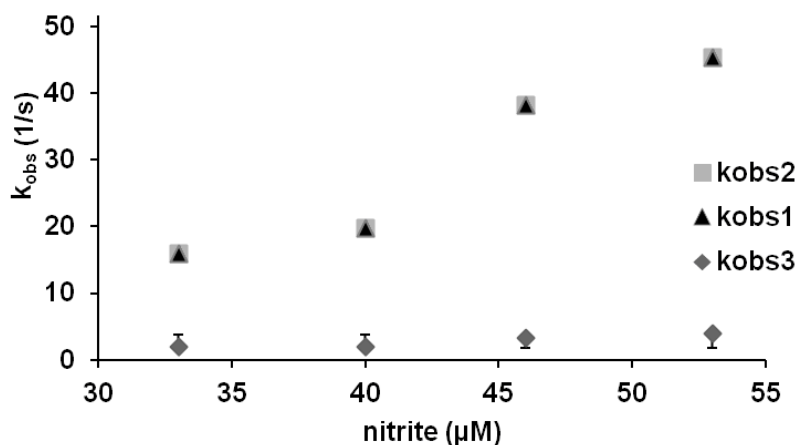
**Figure S3.** Rate dependencies for the met  $\rightarrow$  met-nitrite transformation.



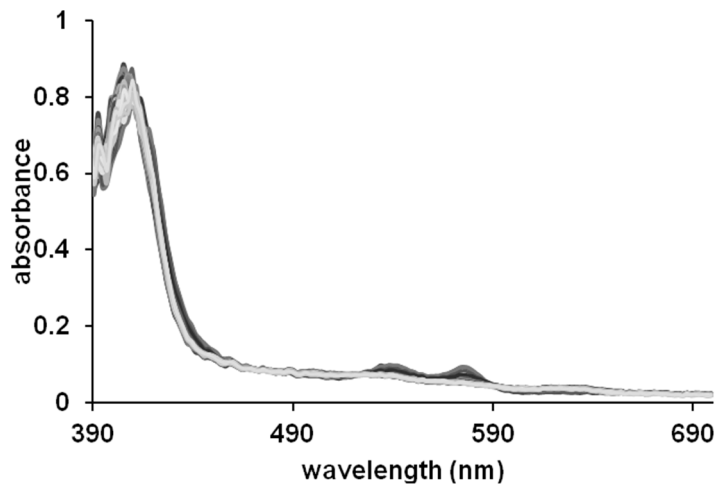
**Figure S4.** Formation and decay of the species involved in the  $A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C$  kinetic model for the oxy Hb + nitrite reaction. Conditions: oxyHb (66.6 $\mu$ M) and guanidine (1M) with NaNO<sub>2</sub> (66mM), pH 7.4, PBS buffer, aerobic, over a range of 1.5 seconds.



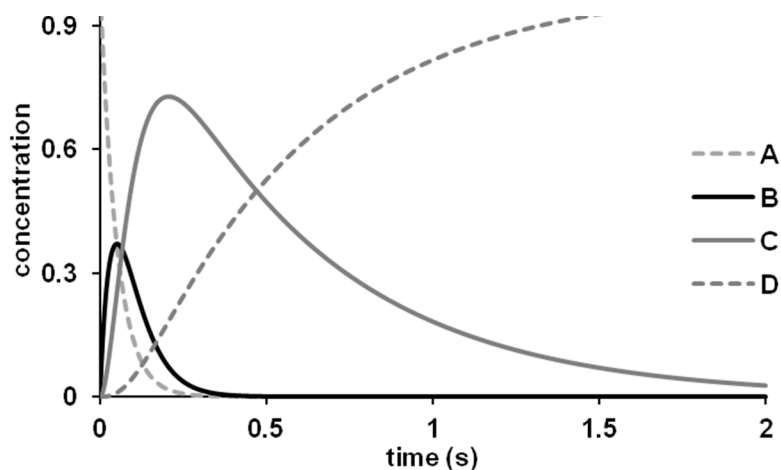
**Figure S5.** Overlay of the computed spectra of species B with the spectra of various possible intermediates. Conditions: Fe(II)-O<sub>2</sub>: oxy Hb 30  $\mu$ M, PBS buffer, pH 7.4, Fe(III)-OH: oxyHb 30 $\mu$ M, pH 10, 10mM phosphate buffer; Fe(II)-NO: deoxyMb 30  $\mu$ M, 200  $\mu$ M NONO-ate, pH 7.4, PBS buffer, anaerobic; Fe(III)-NO: 30  $\mu$ M Mb, 200  $\mu$ M 200  $\mu$ M NONO-ate pH 7.4, PBS buffer, anaerobic.



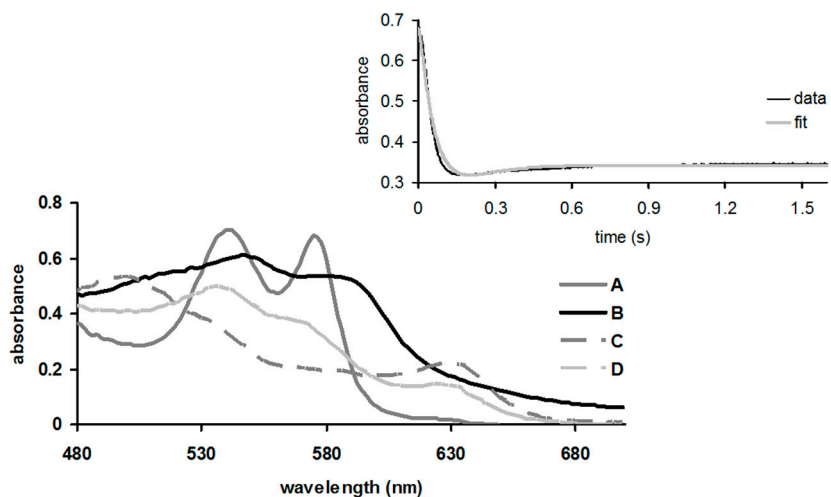
**Figure S6.** Plots of  $k_1$ ,  $k_2$  and  $k_3$  vs.  $\text{NO}_2^-$  concentration for the reaction of oxyHb-guanidine with  $\text{NO}_2^-$  at pH 7.4, aerobic.



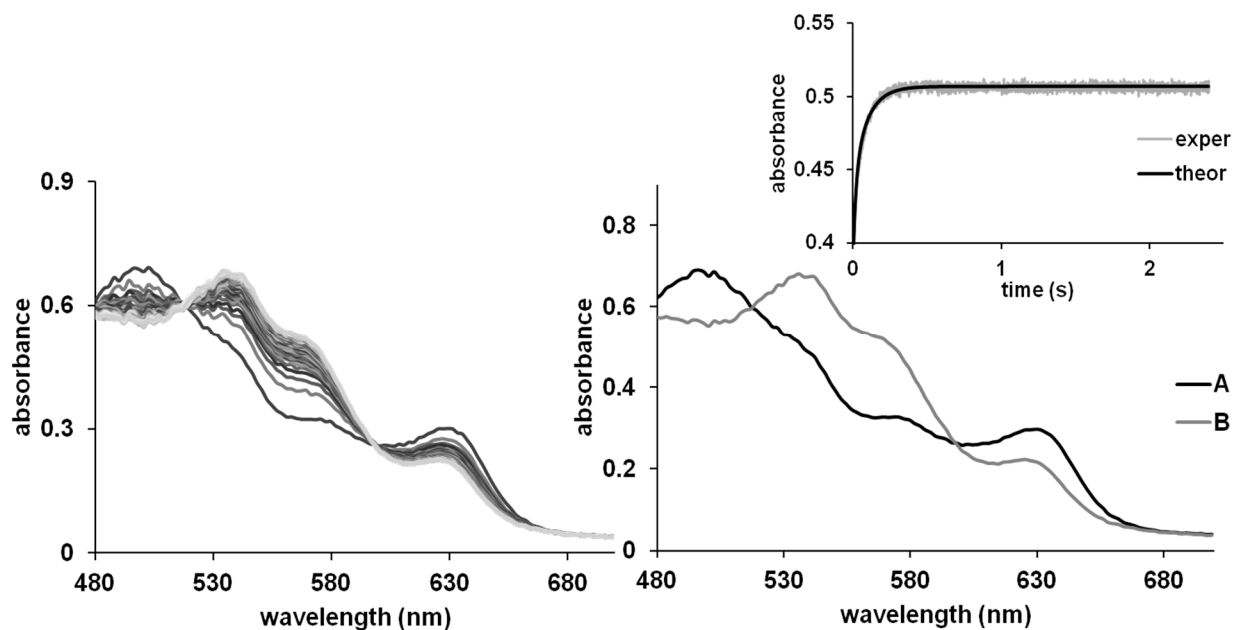
**Figure S7.** UV-vis spectra collected upon mixing oxyHb (6.6 $\mu$ M) and guanidine (1M) with NaNO<sub>2</sub> (66 mM). Conditions: pH 7.4, PBS buffer, aerobic, over a range of 2 seconds.



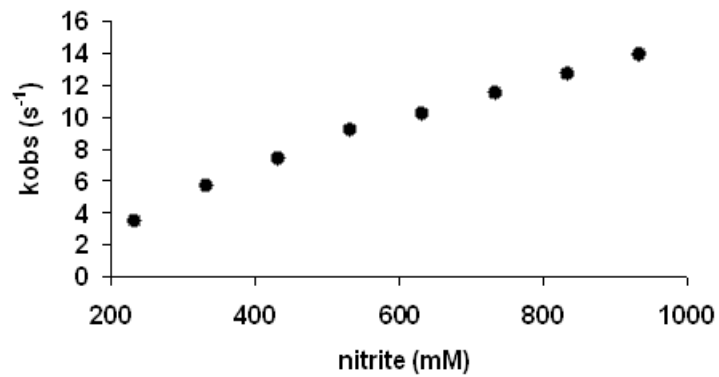
**Figure S8.** Formation and decay of the species involved in the  $A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \rightarrow D$  kinetic model for the oxy Hb-guanidine + nitrite reaction. Conditions: oxyHb (66.6 $\mu$ M) and guanidine (1M) with NaNO<sub>2</sub> (66mM), pH 7.4, PBS buffer, aerobic, over a range of 2 seconds.



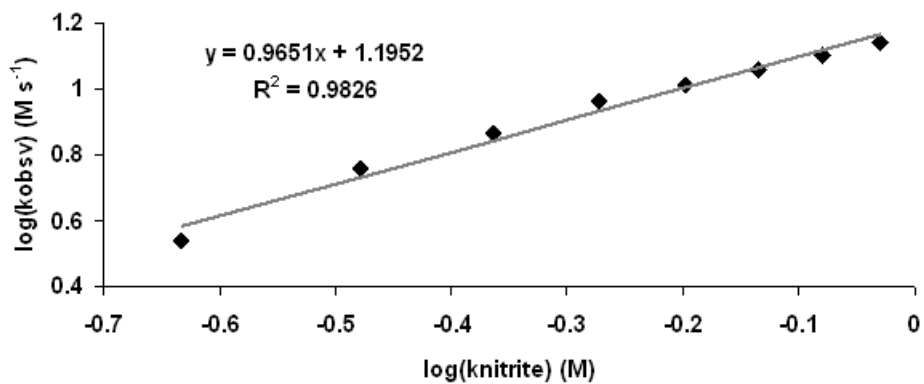
**Figure S9.** Computed spectra for the species involved in the  $A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \rightarrow D$  reaction model for oxy Hb + nitrite with B and C as a fixed species (A - oxy Hb, B - ferryl, C - met Hb, D - met-nitrite Hb). Conditions: 66  $\mu\text{M}$  Hb, 0.3 M nitrite, pH 7.4. Inset: fitting at 575 nm trace for the  $A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \rightarrow D$  kinetic model.



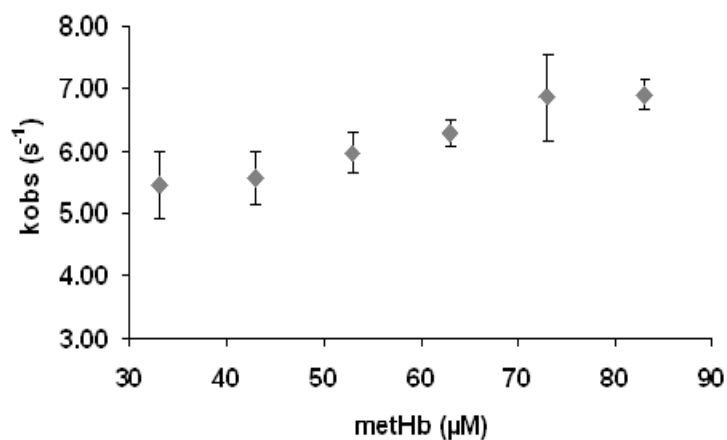
**Figure S10.** Left panel- UV-vis spectra collected upon mixing metHb (66.6  $\mu\text{M}$ ) with  $\text{NaNO}_2$  (0.66 M). Conditions: pH 7.4, PBS buffer, aerobic, over a range of 2.5 seconds; Right panel- Computed spectra for the species involved in the  $A \rightarrow B$  simulated reaction model. Conditions: 66.6  $\mu\text{M}$  metHb, 0.66 M nitrite, pH 7.4, PBS buffer, aerobic; Fitting at 580 nm trace for the  $A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C$  kinetic model for the met Mb + nitrite reaction.



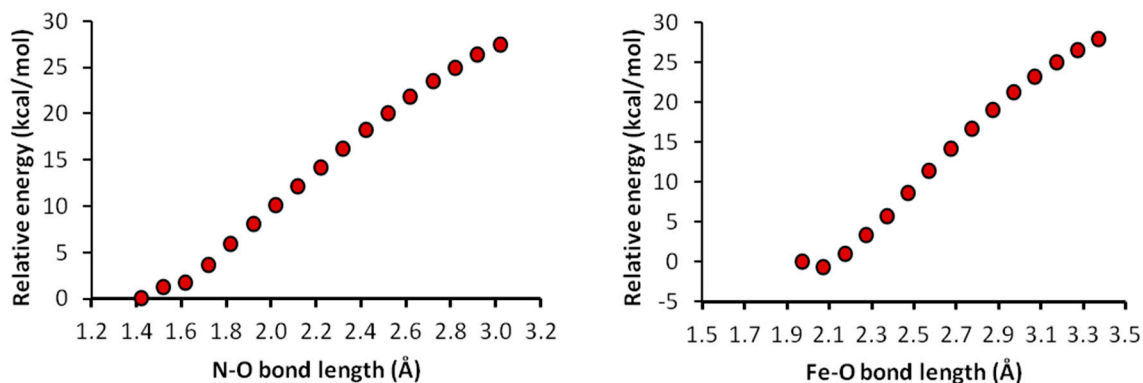
**Figure S11.** Plots of  $k_{obs}$  vs.  $\text{NO}_2^-$  concentration for the reaction of met Hb with  $\text{NO}_2^-$  at pH 7.4, aerobic.



**Figure S12.** Rate dependencies for the metHb  $\rightarrow$  met- nitrite transformation.



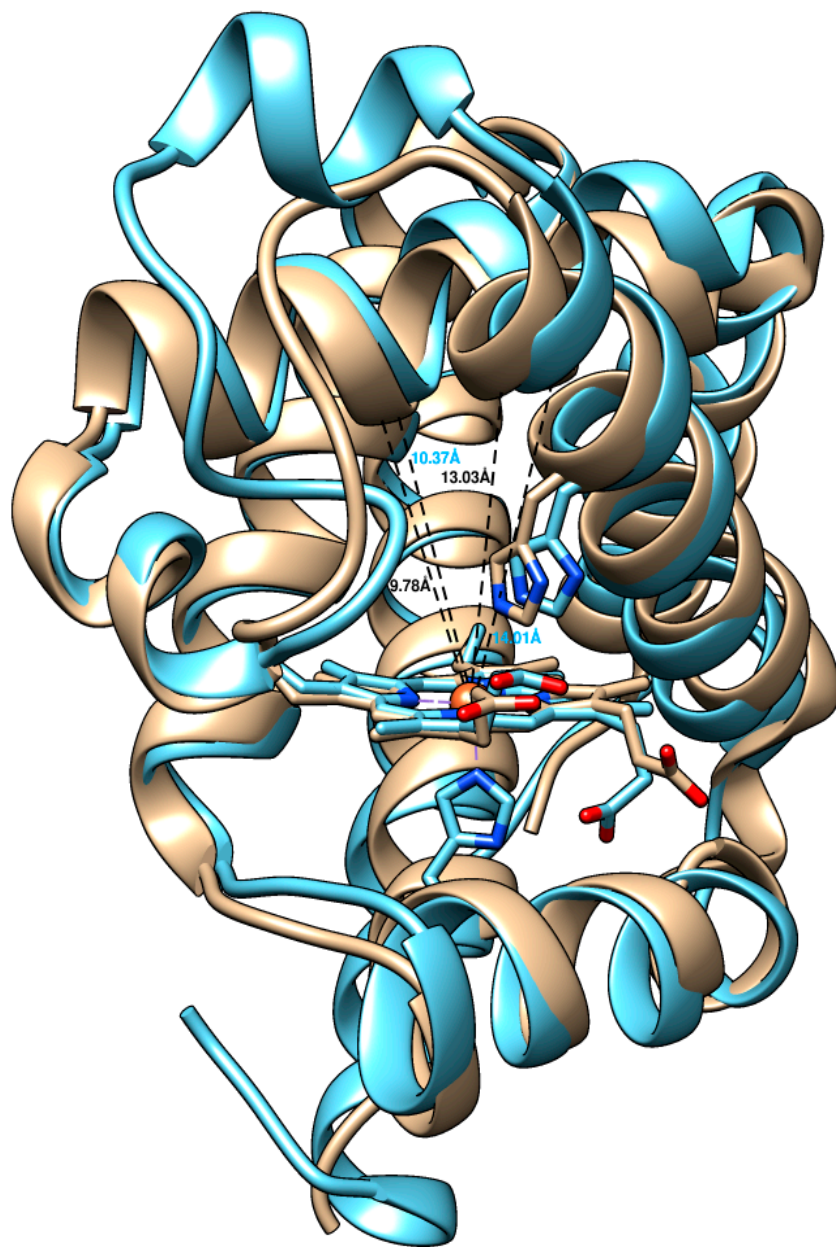
**Figure S13.** Plots of  $k_{obs}$  vs. met Hb concentration for the reaction of met Hb with  $\text{NO}_2^-$  at pH 7.4, 0.33 M nitrite, aerobic.



**Figure S14.** QM/MM computed potential energy surfaces for nitrite-dioxygen (N-O) bond formation (left) and ferrous-peroxynitrate (Fe-O) bond cleavage (right).

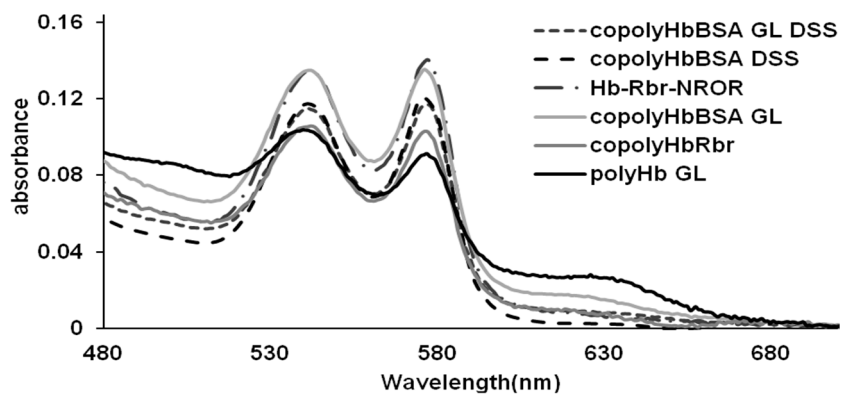
**Table S1.** Tabulated energies of frontier MOs involved in the excitations corresponding to the main Soret bands illustrated in Table 1 in the main text.

Model	MO order		MO energy (eV)	
Heme-peroxynitrate	HOMO -7		-2.56236	
	HOMO -5		-1.46454	
	HOMO -4		-1.34215	
	HOMO -3		-1.12187	
Heme-oxy	HOMO -7		-6.0098	
	HOMO -4		-4.71367	
	HOMO -3		-4.66246	
Heme-oxo	$\alpha$ HOMO -4		2.141129	
		$\beta$ HOMO -3		2.139877
	$\alpha$ HOMO -1	$\beta$ HOMO -1	2.452836	2.527558

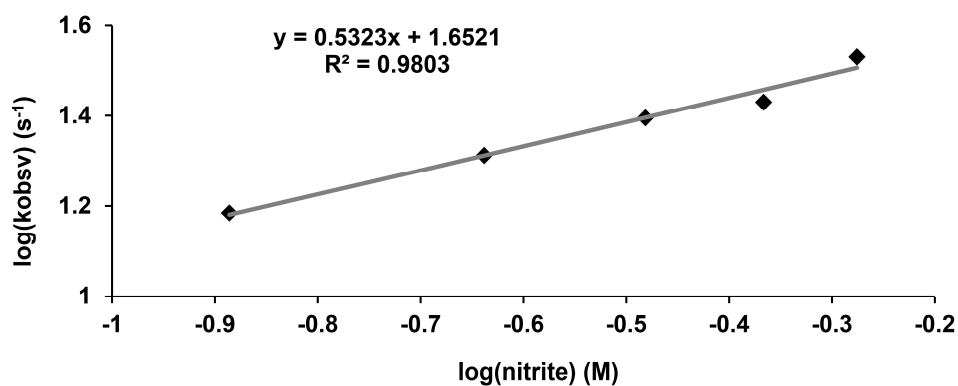


**Figure S15.** Superimposed crystal structures of myoglobin (light blue) and the alpha unit of hemoglobin (grey). Distances in light blue correspond to those of myoglobin while those in black correspond to hemoglobin.

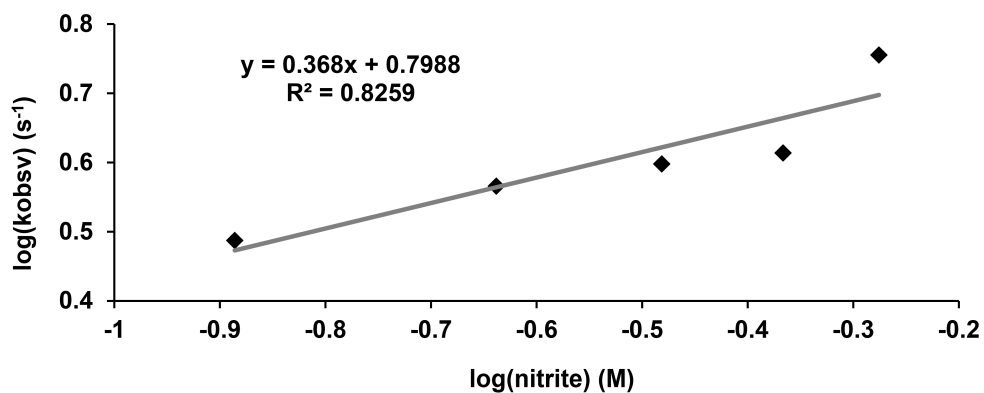




**Figure S16.** UV-vis spectra of derivatized globins. Conditions: 20  $\mu$ M protein, PBS pH 7.4.



**Figure S17.** Rate dependencies for the oxy polyHb  $\rightarrow$  met transformation.



**Figure S18.** Rate dependencies for the metpolyHb  $\rightarrow$  metnitrite transformation.

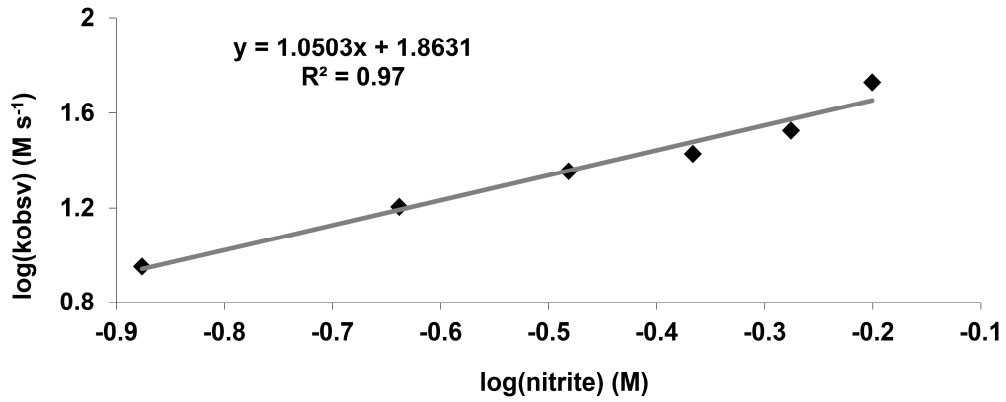


Figure S19. Rate dependencies for the oxy copolyHbBSA -> met transformation.

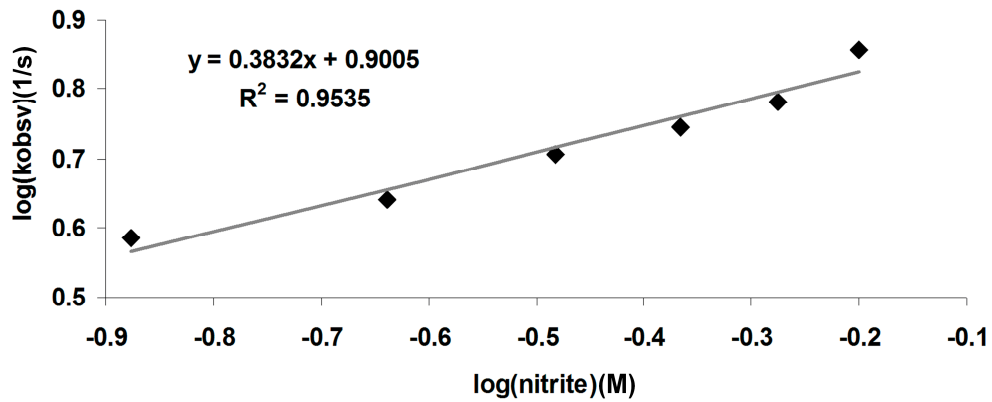


Figure S20. Rate dependencies for the copolyHbBSA -> metnitrite transformation.

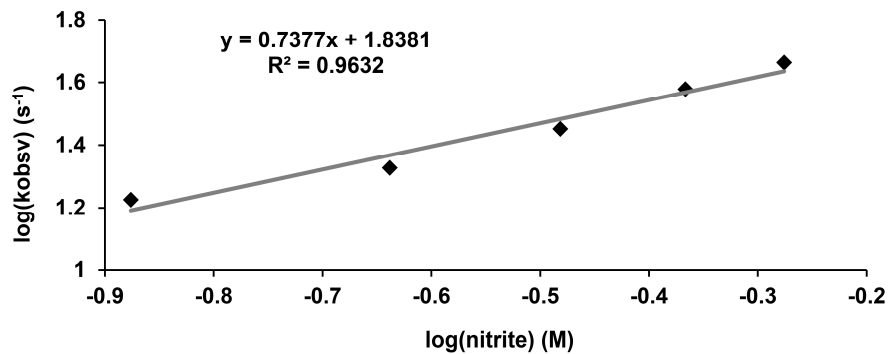


Figure S21. Rate dependencies for the oxy copolyHbRbr -> met transformation.

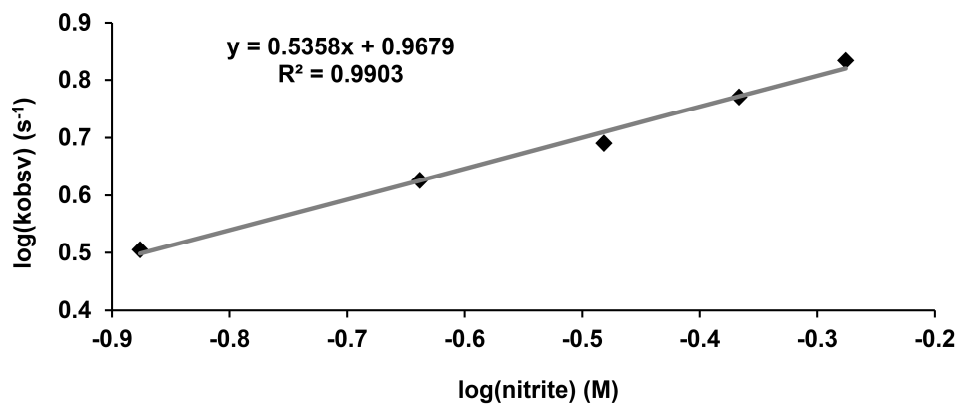


Figure S22. Rate dependencies for the met copolyHbRbr  $\rightarrow$  metnitrite transformation.

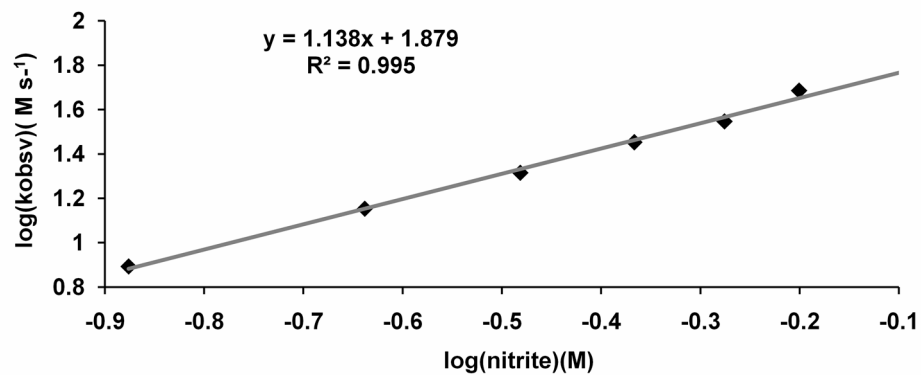


Figure S23. Rate dependencies for the oxy copolyHbBSA DSS  $\rightarrow$  met transformation.

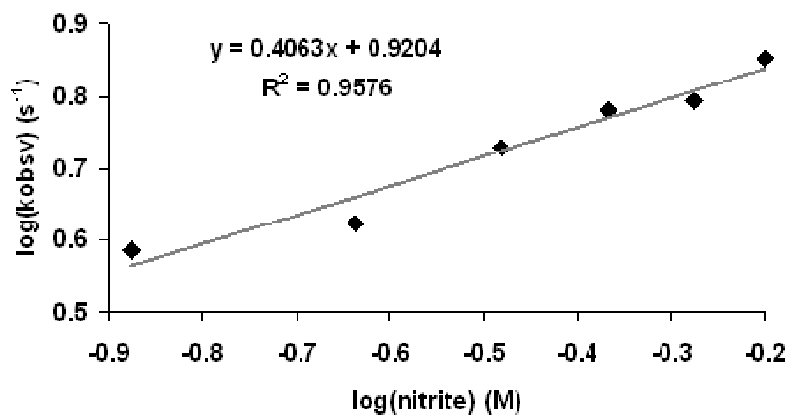
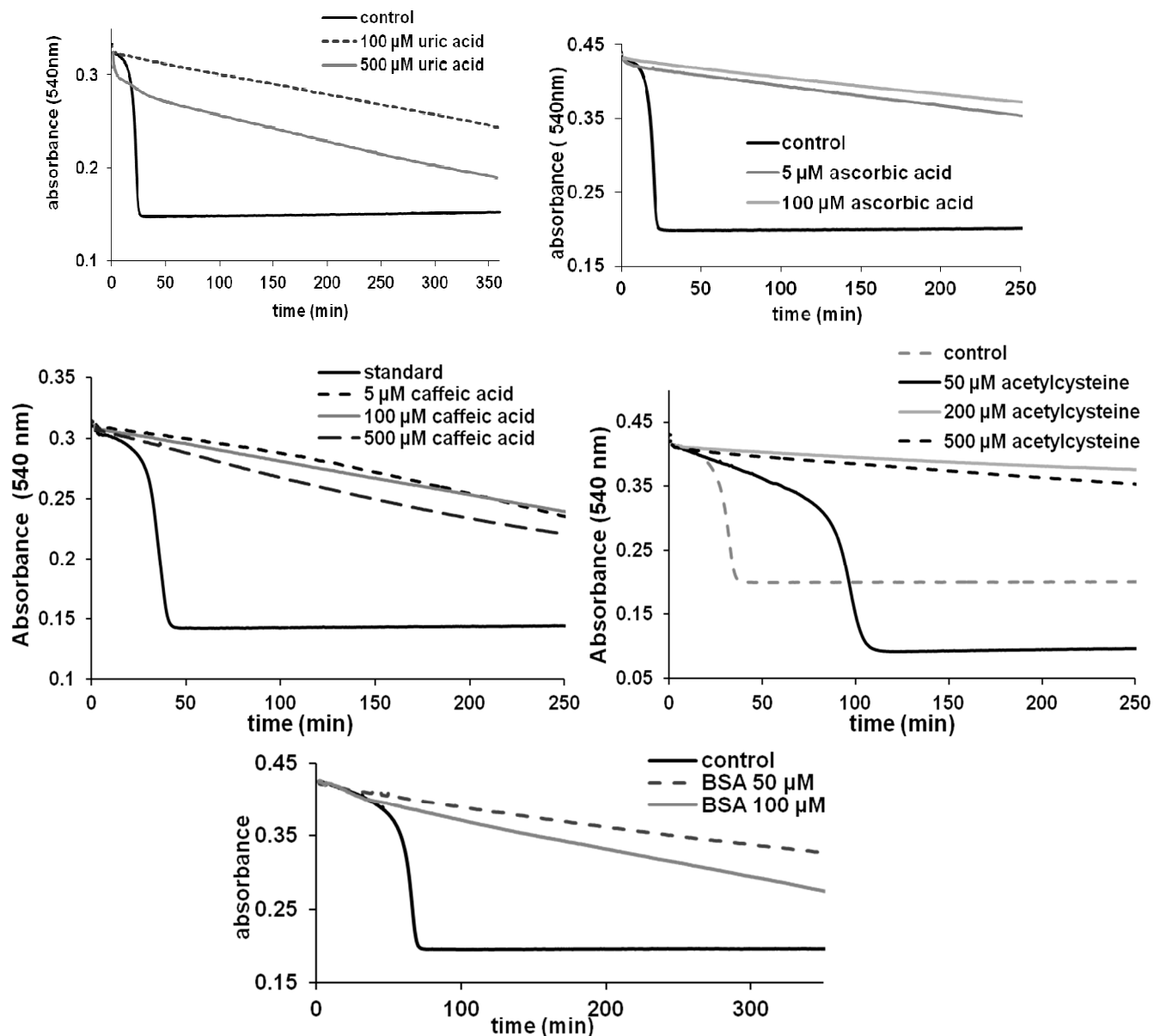


Figure S24. Rate dependencies for the met copolyHbBSA DSS  $\rightarrow$  met-nitrite transformation



**Figure S25.** Influence of urate, ascorbate, caffeate, acetylcysteine and albumin concentration upon the reaction between oxyHb and nitrite. Conditions: 25  $\mu\text{M}$  oxyHb, 200  $\mu\text{M}$  nitrite, PBS pH7.4, room temperature; Right: Influence of acetylcysteine concentration upon on the reaction between oxyHb and nitrite. Conditions: 25  $\mu\text{M}$  oxyHb, 200  $\mu\text{M}$  nitrite, PBS pH7.4, room temperature.