

## Supplementary Materials

### **Entropy-driven inclusion of natural protoberberine alkaloids in sulfobutylether- $\beta$ -cyclodextrin**

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## Fitted functions

The following function describes the relationship between the absorbance at a particular wavelength (A) and the total concentration of the host compound ( $[\text{SBE}_6\beta\text{CD}]_0$ ) for 1:1 complex formation:<sup>1</sup>

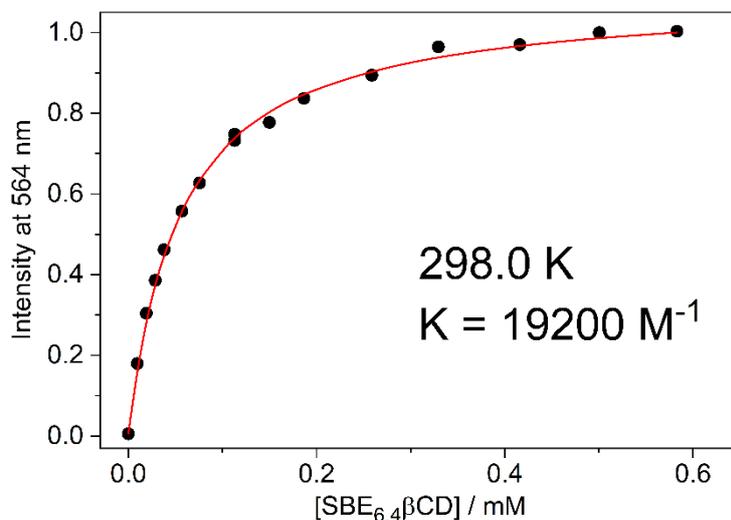
$$A = A_0 + \frac{A_\infty - A_0}{2} \left\{ 1 + \frac{[\text{SBE}_6\beta\text{CD}]_0}{[\text{B}]_0} + \frac{1}{K[\text{B}]_0} - \left[ \left( 1 + \frac{[\text{SBE}_6\beta\text{CD}]_0}{[\text{B}]_0} + \frac{1}{K[\text{B}]_0} \right)^2 - 4 \frac{[\text{SBE}_6\beta\text{CD}]_0}{[\text{B}]_0} \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \right\} \quad (\text{S1})$$

where K represents the association constant,  $A_\infty$  and  $A_0$  denote the absorbance of the fully complexed and free berberine, whose initial concentration is  $[\text{B}]_0$ .

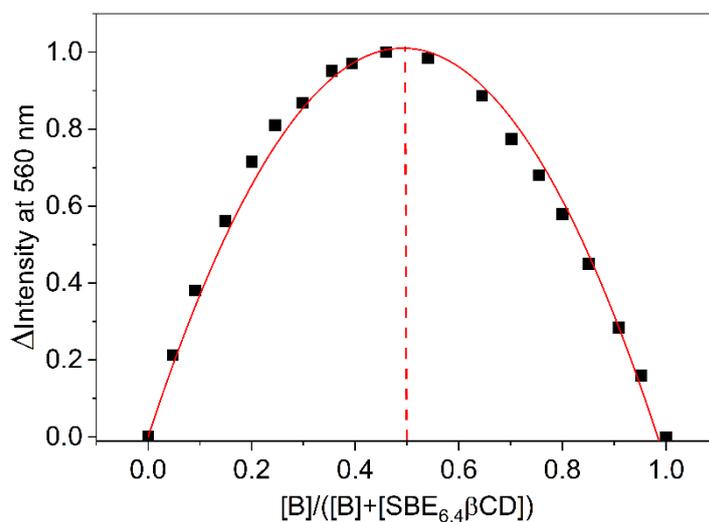
In the case of 1:1 binding, the fluorescence intensity at a particular wavelength varies with the total concentration of the host compound ( $[\text{SBE}_6\beta\text{CD}]_0$ ) as follows:<sup>1</sup>

$$I = I_0 + \frac{I_\infty - I_0}{2} \left\{ 1 + \frac{[\text{SBE}_6\beta\text{CD}]_0}{[\text{B}]_0} + \frac{1}{K[\text{B}]_0} - \left[ \left( 1 + \frac{[\text{SBE}_6\beta\text{CD}]_0}{[\text{B}]_0} + \frac{1}{K[\text{B}]_0} \right)^2 - 4 \frac{[\text{SBE}_6\beta\text{CD}]_0}{[\text{B}]_0} \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \right\} \quad (\text{S2})$$

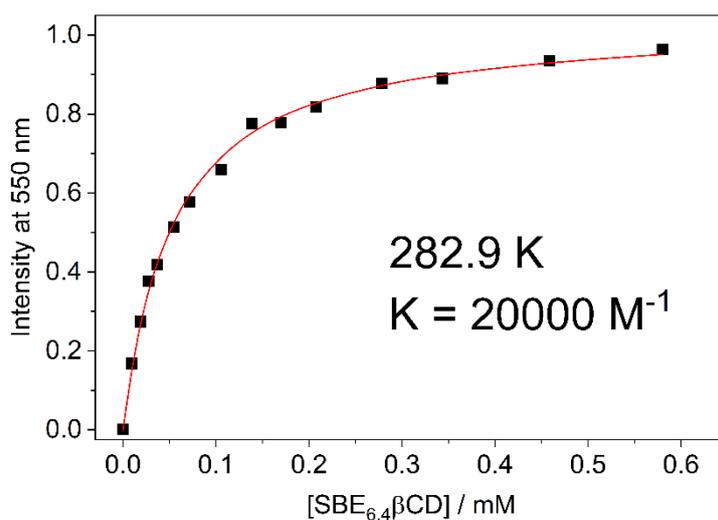
where K represents the association constant,  $[\text{B}]_0$  stands for the initial berberine concentration,  $I_\infty$  and  $I_0$  denote the fluorescence intensity of the fully complexed and free berberine.



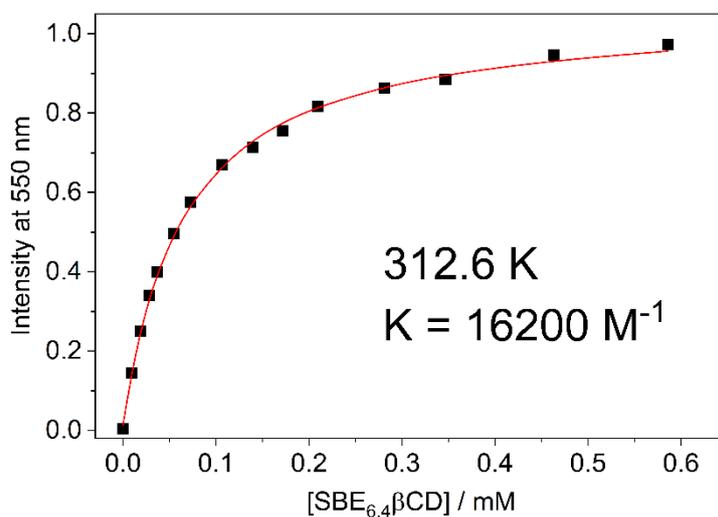
**Figure S1.** Fluorescence intensity change at 550 nm as a function of  $\text{SBE}_{6,4}\beta\text{CD}$  concentration in  $4.2 \mu\text{M}$  berberine aqueous solution at  $298.0 \text{ K}$ . Excitation wavelength was  $345 \text{ nm}$ . The line represents the fitted function corresponding to  $K = 19200 \text{ M}^{-1}$  association constant for 1:1 complexation.



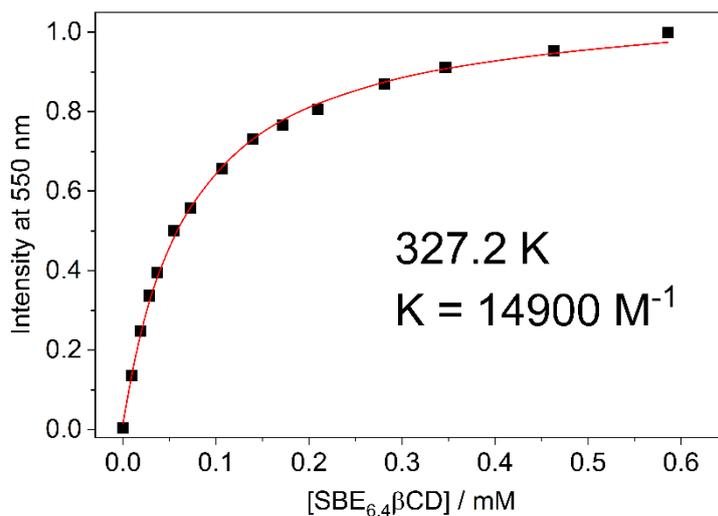
**Figure S2.** Job plot of the fluorescence intensity change at  $560 \text{ nm}$  as a function of the mole fraction of B. The sum of  $\text{SBE}_{6,4}\beta\text{CD}$  and B total concentrations is held constant ( $46 \mu\text{M}$ ). To avoid inner filter effect, excitation was performed at  $380 \text{ nm}$  where the absorbance is only  $0.117$  at  $1 \text{ cm}$  optical path.



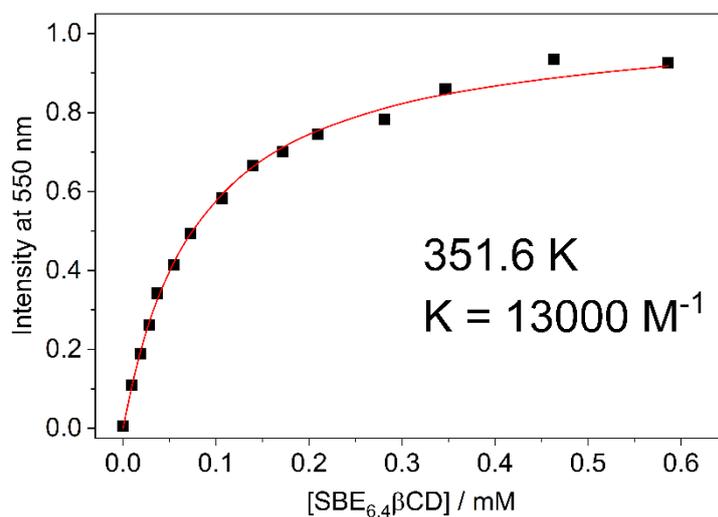
**Figure S3.** Fluorescence intensity growth upon increase of SBE<sub>6</sub>βCD concentration in 4.2 μM berberine aqueous solution at 282.9 K. Excitation wavelength was 345 nm. The line represents the fitted function corresponding to  $K = 20000 \text{ M}^{-1}$  association constant for 1:1 complexation.



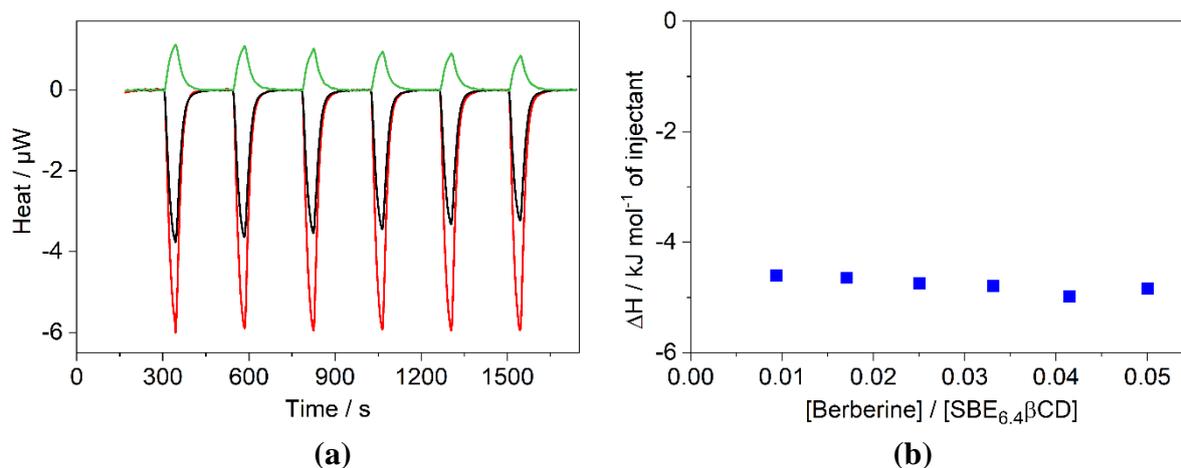
**Figure S4.** Fluorescence intensity growth upon increase of SBE<sub>6</sub>βCD concentration in 4.2 μM berberine aqueous solution at 312.6 K. Excitation wavelength was 345 nm. The line represents the fitted function corresponding to  $K = 16200 \text{ M}^{-1}$  association constant for 1:1 complexation.



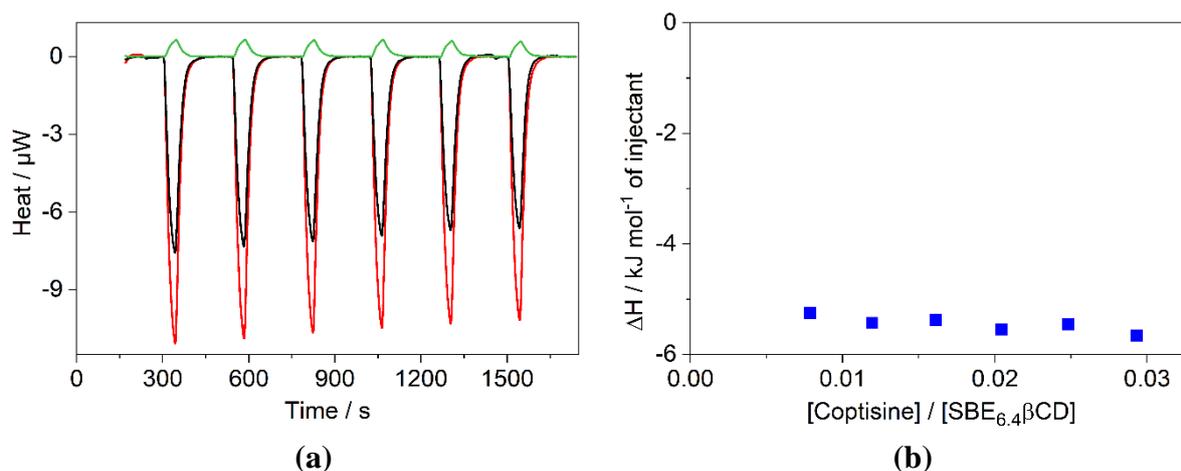
**Figure S5.** Fluorescence intensity growth upon increase of SBE<sub>6</sub>βCD concentration in 4.2 μM berberine aqueous solution at 327.2 K. Excitation wavelength was 345 nm. The line represents the fitted function corresponding to  $K = 14900 \text{ M}^{-1}$  association constant for 1:1 complexation.



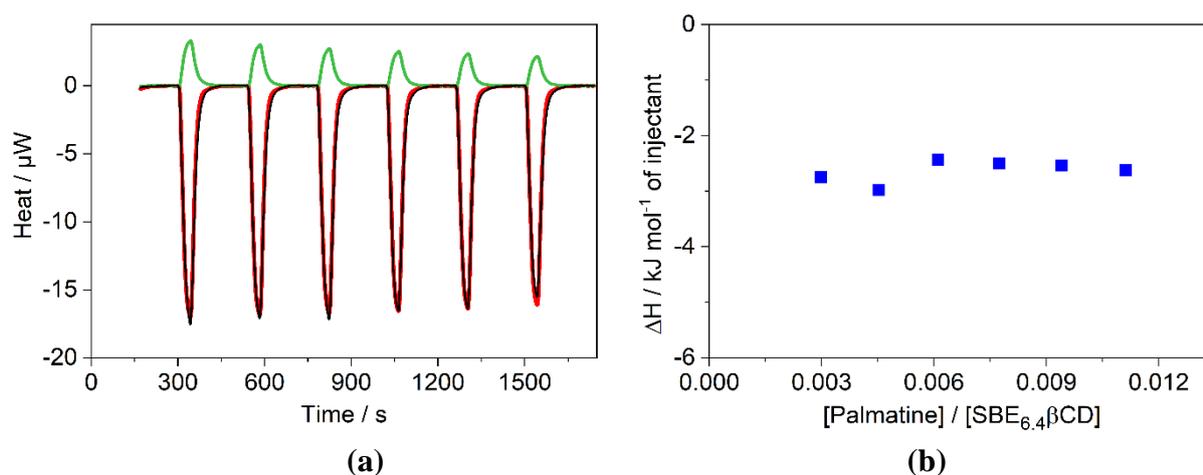
**Figure S6.** Fluorescence intensity growth upon increase of SBE<sub>6</sub>βCD concentration in 4.2 μM berberine aqueous solution at 351.6 K. Excitation wavelength was 345 nm. The line represents the fitted function corresponding to  $K = 13000 \text{ M}^{-1}$  association constant for 1:1 complexation.



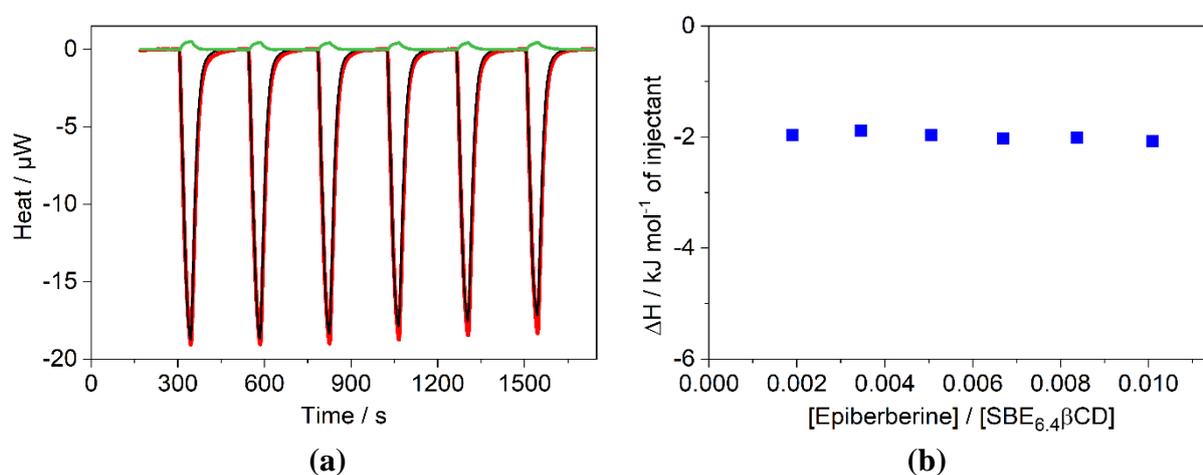
**Figure S7.** (a) ITC traces for the titration of 3.00 mM  $\text{SBE}_{6.4}\beta\text{CD}$  solution with water (black line) and 0.79 mM B solution (red line). Absorbed heat upon the addition of 0.79 mM B solution into water (green line); 40  $\mu\text{L}$  aliquots were injected into 1.433 mL volume. (b) The integral of the evolved heat after subtraction of the dilution heats of B and  $\text{SBE}_{6.4}\beta\text{CD}$  as a function of  $[\text{B}]/[\text{SBE}_{6.4}\beta\text{CD}]$  molar ratio.



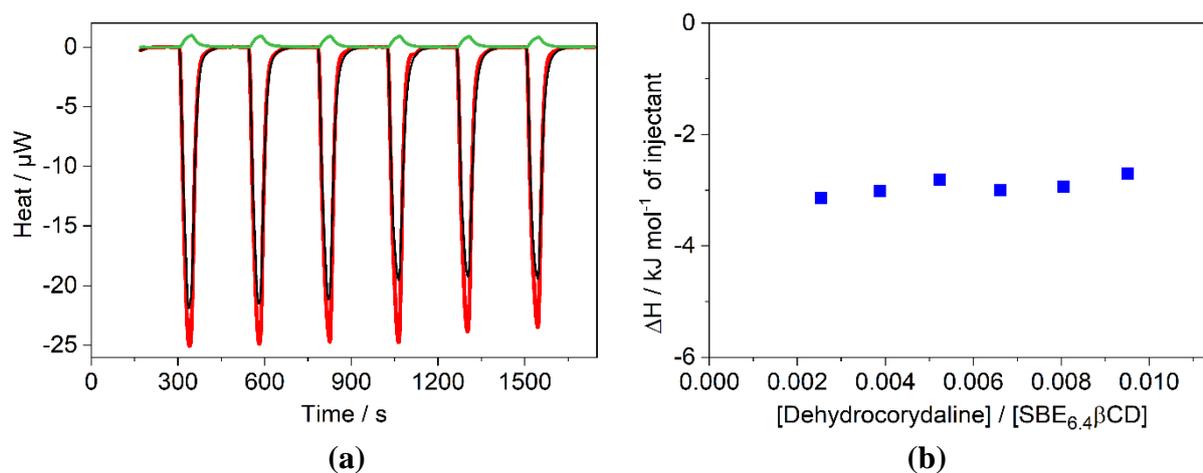
**Figure S8.** (a) ITC traces for the titration of 6.00 mM  $\text{SBE}_{6.4}\beta\text{CD}$  solution with water (black line) and 0.82 mM C solution (red line). Absorbed heat upon the addition of 0.82 mM C solution into water (green line); 40  $\mu\text{L}$  aliquots were injected into 1.433 mL volume. (b) The integral of the evolved heat after subtraction of the dilution heats of C and  $\text{SBE}_{6.4}\beta\text{CD}$  as a function of  $[\text{C}]/[\text{SBE}_{6.4}\beta\text{CD}]$  molar ratio.



**Figure S9.** (a) ITC traces for the titration of 16.2 mM  $\text{SBE}_{6,4}\beta\text{CD}$  solution with water (black line) and 0.84 mM P solution (red line). Absorbed heat upon the addition of 0.84 mM P solution into water (green line); 40  $\mu\text{L}$  aliquots were injected into 1.433 mL volume. (b) The integral of the evolved heat after subtraction of the dilution heats of P and  $\text{SBE}_{6,4}\beta\text{CD}$  as a function of  $[\text{P}]/[\text{SBE}_{6,4}\beta\text{CD}]$  molar ratio.



**Figure S10.** (a) ITC traces for the titration of 20.1 mM  $\text{SBE}_{6,4}\beta\text{CD}$  solution with water (black line) and 1.07 mM E solution (red line). Absorbed heat upon the addition of 1.07 mM E solution into water (green line); 40  $\mu\text{L}$  aliquots were injected into 1.433 mL volume. (b) The integral of the evolved heat after subtraction of the dilution heats of E and  $\text{SBE}_{6,4}\beta\text{CD}$  as a function of  $[\text{E}]/[\text{SBE}_{6,4}\beta\text{CD}]$  molar ratio.



**Figure S11.** (a) ITC traces for the titration of 24.8 mM SBE<sub>6.4</sub>βCD solution with water (black line) and 1.10 mM DHC solution (red line). Absorbed heat upon the addition of 1.10 mM DHC solution into water (green line); 40  $\mu\text{L}$  aliquots were injected into 1.433 mL volume. (b) The integral of the evolved heat after subtraction of the dilution heats of DHC and SBE<sub>6.4</sub>βCD as a function of  $[\text{DHC}]/[\text{SBE}_{6.4}\beta\text{CD}]$  molar ratio.

## Reference

1. Valeur, B. *Molecular Fluorescence, Principles and Applications*; Wiley-VCH: Weinheim, Germany, 2002; p. 343.