

# Unraveling the Impact of Acetylation Patterns in Chitosan Oligomers on Cu<sup>2+</sup> Ion Binding: Insights from DFT Calculations

Ratna Singh <sup>1,\*</sup>, Jens Smiatek <sup>2</sup> and Bruno M. Moerschbacher <sup>1,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Institute for Biology and Biotechnology of Plants, University of Münster, Schlossplatz 8, 48143 Münster, Germany

<sup>2</sup> Institute for Computational Physics, Universität Stuttgart, Allmandring 3, 70569 Stuttgart, Germany; smiatek@icp.uni-stuttgart.de

\* Correspondence: singhr@uni-muenster.de (R.S.); moersch@uni-muenster.de (B.M.M.)

## Supplementary

**Table S1** Distance between Cu<sup>2+</sup> and 3'O or 2'N in GlcN- Cu<sup>2+</sup> (M) complexes in bridge and pendant form

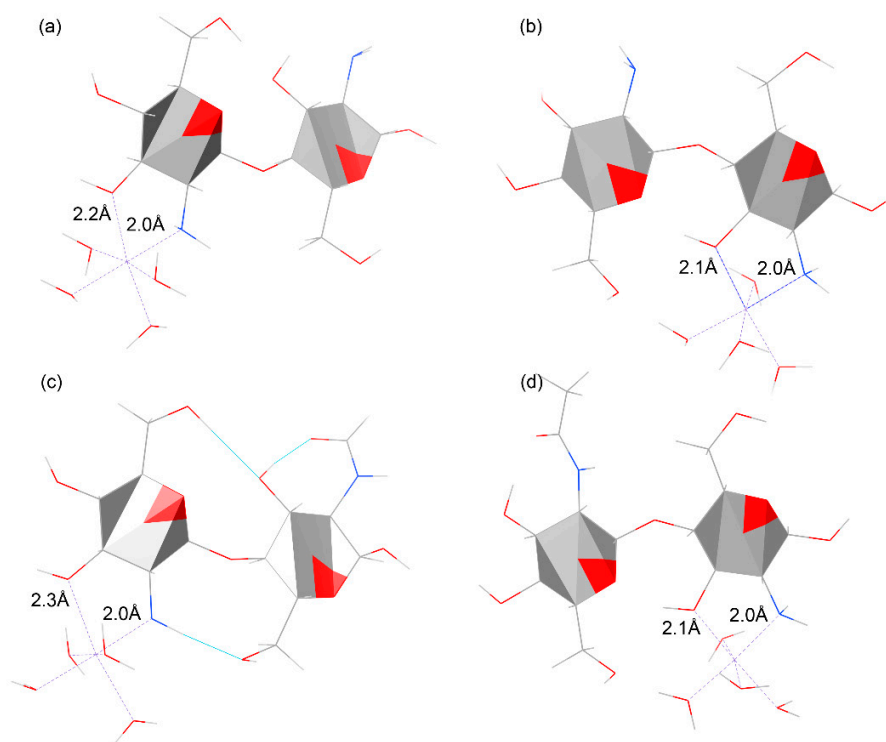
coordination method		tetra BLYP Å	penta BLYP Å	hexa BLYP Å
Cu-3'OH				
	bridge	2.0	2.1	2.3
Cu-2'NH <sub>2</sub>				
i)	bridge	2.0	2.0	2.0
ii)	pendant	2.0	2.0	2.0

**Table S2** Free energy of complex formation and bond dissociation energy of GlcN- Cu<sup>2+</sup> (M) complexes

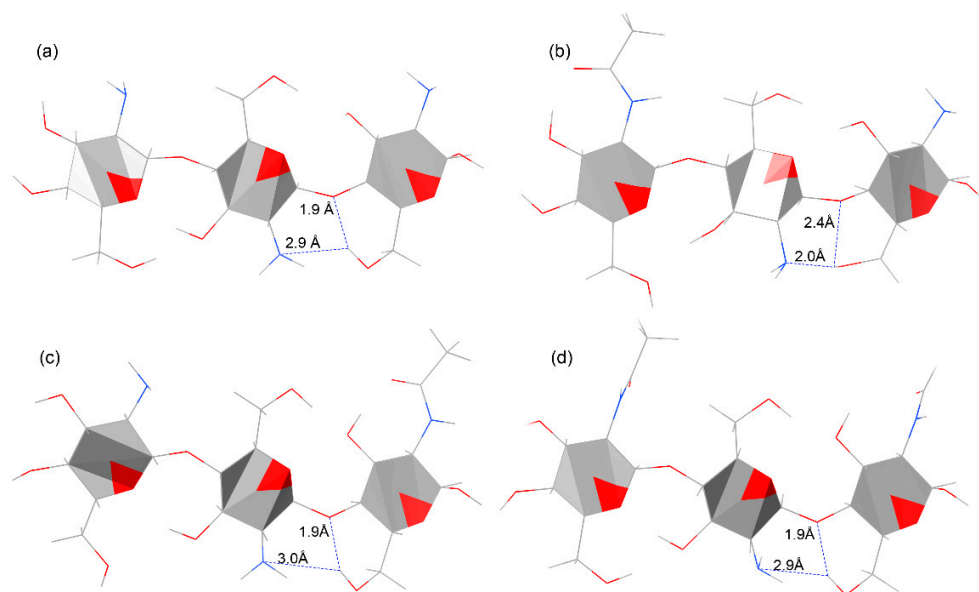
coordination method		tetra BLYP kcal/mol	penta BLYP kcal/mol	hexa BLYP kcal/mol
GlcN-Cu bridge				
i)	free energy	-69.9	-40.7	-20.9
ii)	dissociation energy	85.7	52.7	30.8
GlcN-Cu pendant				
i)	free energy	-36.7	-23.1	-12.9
ii)	dissociation energy	52.7	34.1	28.7

**Table S3** Distance between  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  and 3'O or 2'N in GlcN- $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  (M) complexes within chitosan dimers and trimers (D = GlcN; A = GlcNAc)

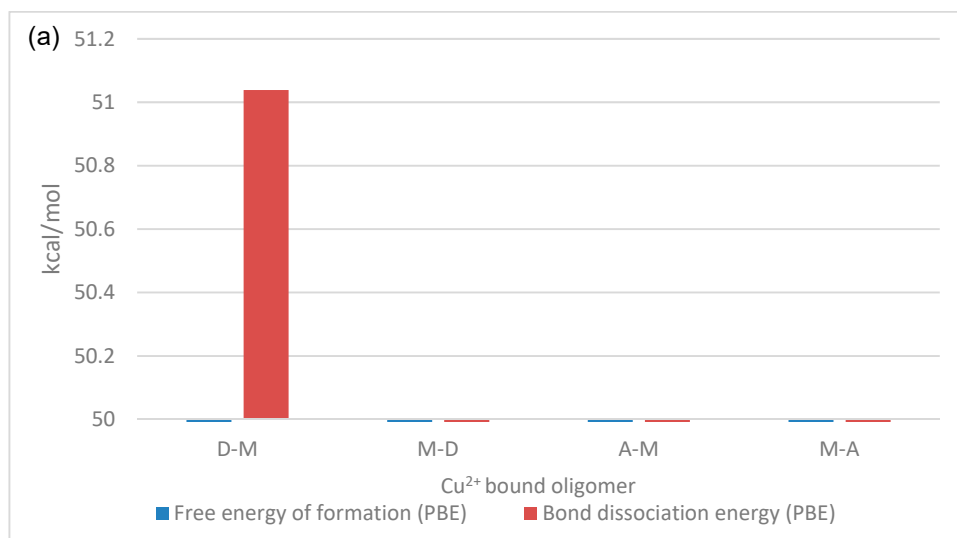
	2'N- $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ (Å)	3'O- $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ (Å)
GlcN-(GlcN with $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ ), (D-M)	2.0	2.1
(GlcN with $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ )-GlcN, (M-D)	2.0	2.2
(GlcN with $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ )-GlcNAc, (M-A)	2.0	2.3
GlcNAc-(GlcN with $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ ), (A-M)	2.0	2.1
GlcN-GlcN-(GlcN with $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ ), (D-D-M)	2.0	2.1
GlcN-(GlcN with $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ )-GlcN, (D-M-D)	2.0	2.4
(GlcN with $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ )-GlcN-GlcN, (M-D-D)	2.0	2.3
GlcNAc-(GlcN with $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ )-GlcN, (A-M-D)	2.0	2.5
GlcN-(GlcN with $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ )-GlcNAc, (D-M-A)	2.0	2.2
GlcNAc-(GlcN with $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ )-GlcNAc, (A-M-A)	2.0	2.4

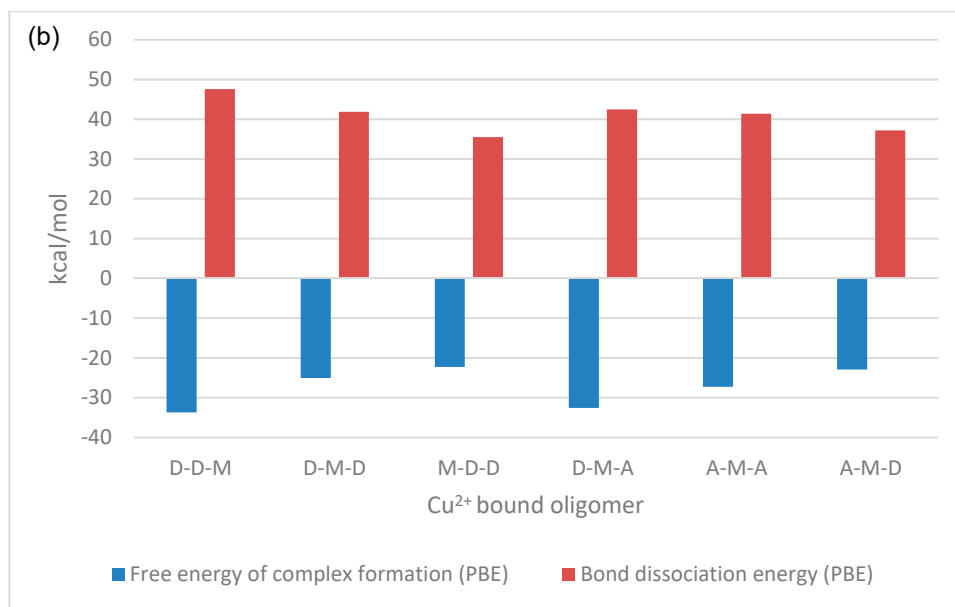


**Figure S1** Distance between  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  and 3'O or 2'N in GlcN- $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  (M) complexes within chitosan dimers after geometry optimization, using the BLYP functional; a) GlcN-GlcN with  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  bound to the non-reducing end GlcN (M-D); b) GlcN-GlcN with  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  bound to the reducing end GlcN (D-M); c) GlcN-GlcNAc with  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  bound to the GlcN (M-A); d) GlcNAc-GlcN with  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  bound to the GlcN (A-M). Increasing bond length between  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  and 3'O indicates weaker interactions.

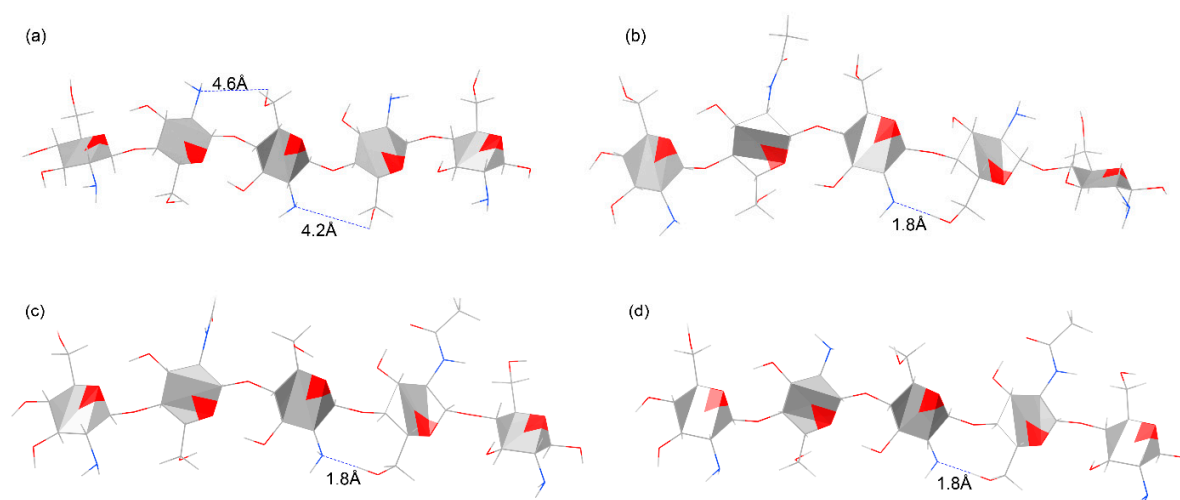


**Figure S2** Intramolecular interaction in the chito-oligomers a) GlcN-GlcN-GlcN (D-D-D); b) GlcNAc-GlcN-GlcN (A-D-D); c) GlcN-GlcN-GlcNAc (D-D-A); d) GlcNAc-GlcN-GlcNAc (A-D-A). In ADD, intramolecular interactions and their bond length were mapped differently compared to DDD, DDA and ADA.

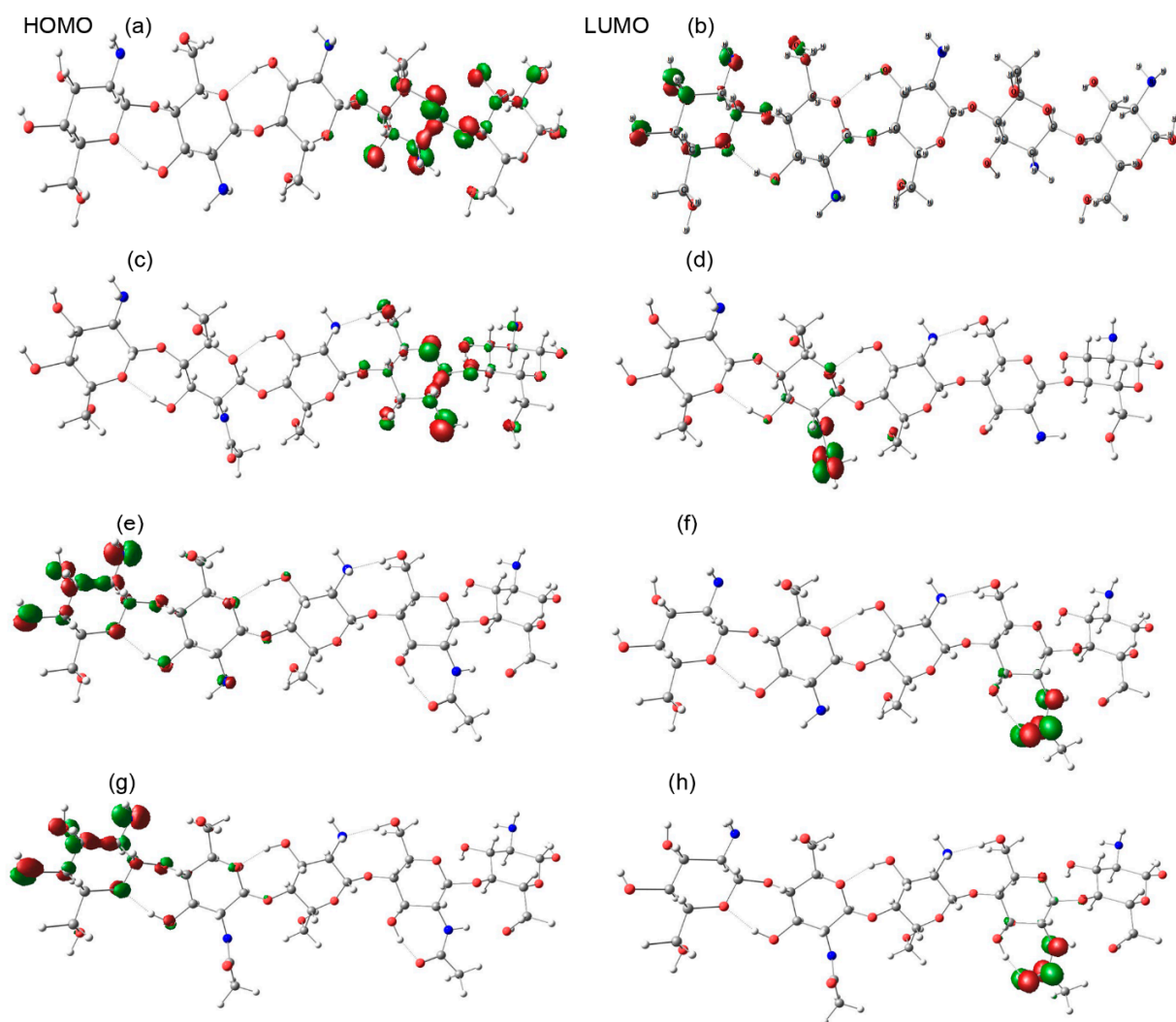




**Figure S3** Free energy of copper-chitosan complex formation (a) chitosan dimers (b) selected chitosan trimers calculated using PBE, where M represents the complex of GlcN and Cu<sup>2+</sup> bound to the 2'NH<sub>2</sub> and 3'OH sites of the same subunit; A = GlcNAc, D = GlcN, M = GlcN-Cu<sup>2+</sup> complex.



**Figure S4** Intramolecular interaction between 2'N and 6'H in neighboring units within chitosan pentamers; a) GlcN-GlcN-GlcN-GlcN-GlcN (D-D-D-D-D); b) GlcN-GlcNAc-GlcN-GlcN-GlcN (D-A-D-D-D); c) GlcN-GlcNAc-GlcN-GlcNAc-GlcN (D-A-D-A-D); d) GlcN-GlcN-GlcN-GlcNAc-GlcN (D-D-D-A-D). New intramolecular interaction in the partially acetylated oligomers indicates the influence of acetylated group on the structure and their polarity.



**Figure S5** Positions of HOMO and LUMO in chitosan pentamers; a) GlcN-GlcN-GlcN-GlcN-GlcN (D-D-D-D-D), HOMO; b) GlcN-GlcN-GlcN-GlcN-GlcN (D-D-D-D-D), LUMO; c) GlcN-GlcNAc-GlcN-GlcN-GlcN (D-A-D-D-D), HOMO; d) GlcN-GlcNAc-GlcN-GlcN-GlcN (D-A-D-D-D), LUMO; e) GlcN-GlcN-GlcN-GlcNAc-GlcN (D-D-D-A-D), HOMO; f) GlcN-GlcN-GlcN-GlcNAc-GlcN (D-D-D-A-D), LUMO; g) GlcN-GlcNAc-GlcN-GlcNAc-GlcN (D-A-D-A-D), HOMO; h) GlcN-GlcNAc-GlcN-GlcNAc-GlcN (D-A-D-A-D), LUMO.