

Supplementary Materials for
Zinc-dependent oligomerization of *Thermus thermophilus* trigger factor
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Table S1
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Table S1. The primers and templates for plasmid construction.

Primer	Oligo sequence (5' to 3')	PCR template	Constructed plasmid
1	CATCACGTGGCGGAGATCCTG	<i>TtTF</i> gene segment pCold <i>EcTF</i> ^{RBD} vector	<i>His</i> ₆ - <i>TtTF</i>
2	GAACAGAACTTCCAGTCAGCCCAGGG		
3	CCGCCACGTGATGATGATGAT		
4	TGACTGGAAGTTCTGTTC		
5	CATCATCACATGGAAGTTAAAGAACATTG	<i>TmTF</i> gene segment pCold <i>EcTF</i> ^{RBD} vector	<i>His</i> ₆ - <i>TmTF</i>
6	CCGC GGATTAGTTGTCCTCCTTCCC		
7	GACA ACTAATCCGCGGGTCTGGAA		
8	AACTTCCATGTGATGATGATGATGATG		
9	GAAAACCTGTATTTCAAGGGTGTGGCGGAGATCCTGGAG	His ₆ - <i>TtTF</i>	His ₆ -TEV- <i>TtTF</i>
10	ACCCTGAAAATAAGGTTTCGTGATGATGATGATG		
11	GAAAACCTGTATTTCAAGATGCAAGTTTCAGTTGA	His ₆ - <i>EcTF</i>	His ₆ -TEV- <i>EcTF</i>
12	CTGAAAATACAGGTTTCGTGATGATGATGATGATG		
13	CCCCGAGTGACTGGAAGTTCTGTTC	His ₆ -	His ₆ -TEV-
14	TCCAGTCACTCGGGTAGTTCTCCAC	TEV- <i>TtTF</i>	<i>TtTF</i> ^{RBD}
15	TCAGGGTCCCAGGTGAGGCTTCCC	His ₆ -	His ₆ -TEV-
16	ACCTCGGGACCCTGAAAATACAGGTT	TEV- <i>TtTF</i>	<i>TtTF</i> ^{PPD-SBD}
17	CTACGCCGAGCTGGACGAGGAGTTC	His ₆ -	His ₆ -TEV-
18	TCCAGCTCGCGTAGCGCTGGCGGAG	TEV- <i>TtTF</i> ^{PPD-SBD}	<i>TtTF</i> ^{SBD}
19	GGTAGTGGCAGCGGAGAGCTGGACGAGGAGTTC	His ₆ -	His ₆ -TEV-
20	TCCGCTGCCACTACCGGCGTAGCGCTGGCGGAG	TEV- <i>TtTF</i> ^{SBD}	<i>TtTF</i> ^{SBD} (GSGSG)
21	TCAGGGTGCCGAGCTCGTCCCCGTG	His ₆ -	His ₆ -TEV-
22	AGCTCGGCACCCCTGAAAATACAGGTT	TEV- <i>TtTF</i>	<i>TtTF</i> ^{PPD} (step 1)
23	CCCCGAGTGACTGGAAGTTCTGTTC	His ₆ -	His ₆ -TEV-
24	TCCAGTCACTCGGGAGCTTCAGGGT	TEV- <i>TtTF</i> ^{PPD} (step 1)	<i>TtTF</i> ^{PPD}
17	CTACGCCGAGCTGGACGAGGAGTTC	His ₆ -	His ₆ -TEV-
18	TCCAGCTCGCGTAGCGCTGGCGGAG	TEV- <i>TtTF</i>	<i>TtTF</i> ^{RBD-SBD}
19	GGTAGTGGCAGCGGAGAGCTGGACGAGGAGTTC	His ₆ -	His ₆ -TEV-
20	TCCGCTGCCACTACCGGCGTAGCGCTGGCGGAG	TEV- <i>TtTF</i> ^{RBD-SBD}	<i>TtTF</i> ^{RBD} (GSGSG)

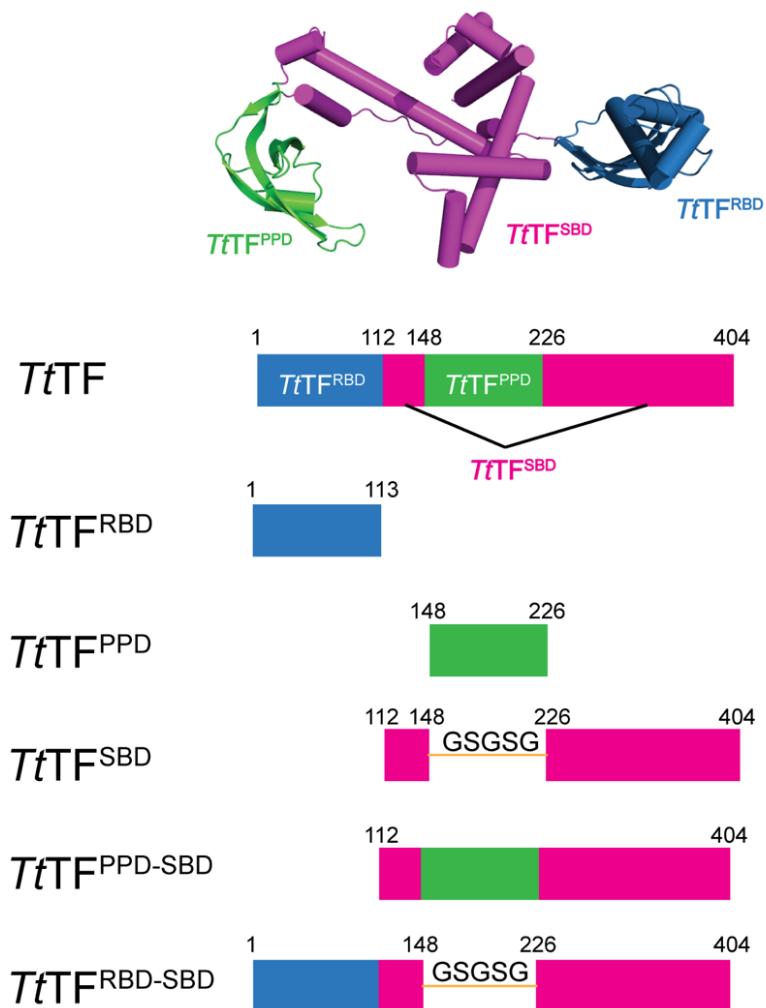


Figure S1. The domain architecture of *TtTF*. The domain architecture of *TtTF* and the constructs used in MALDI-TOF-MS experiments are shown with predicted structure of *TtTF*. The coordinate of *TtTF* was calculated by Alphafold2 (<https://colab.research.google.com/drive/1LVPSOf4L502F21RWBmYJJYYLDlOU2NTL>, Accessed date: 17 August 2021).

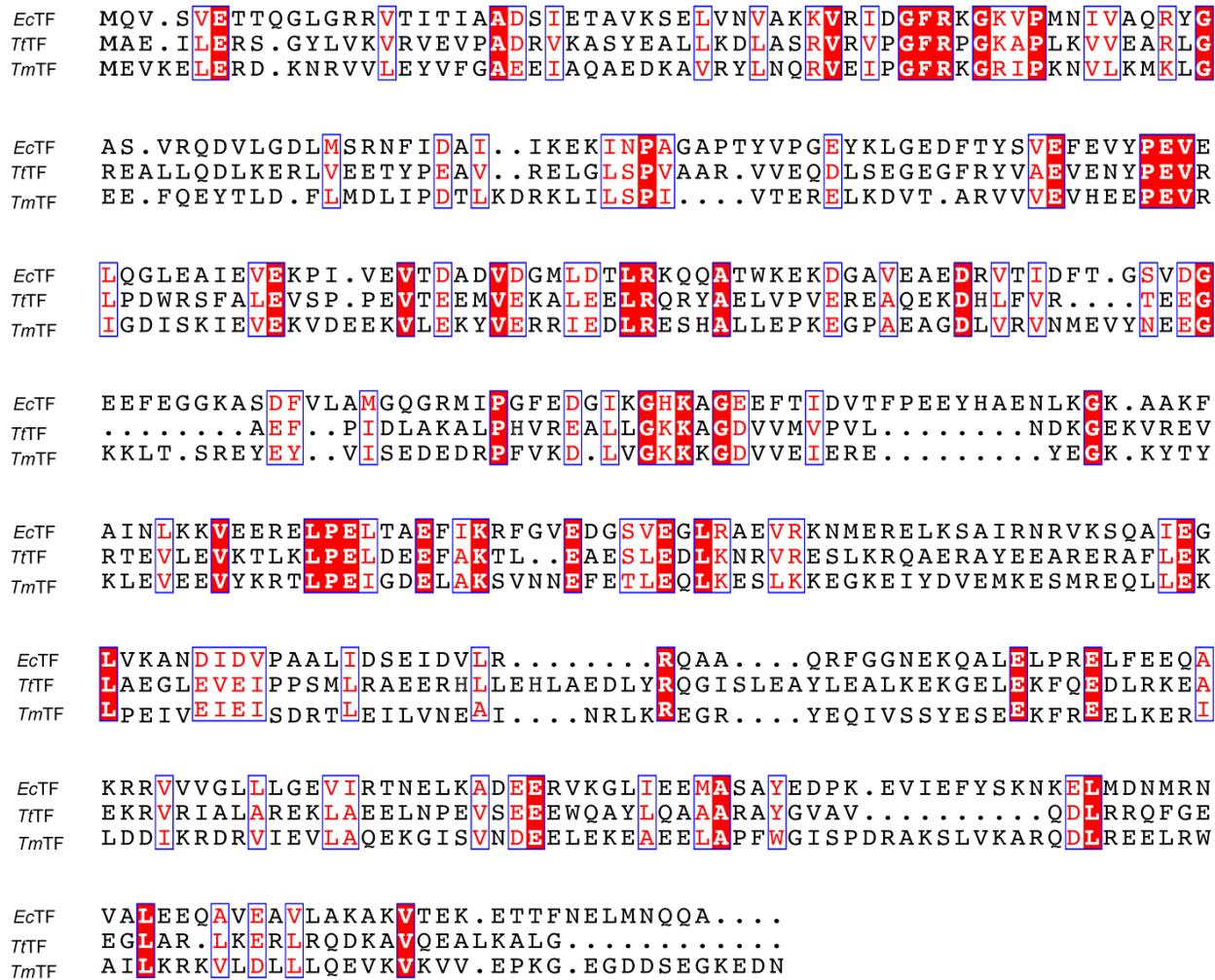


Figure S2. Amino acid sequence alignment of *EcTF*, *TtTF*, and *TmTF*. The conserved amino acid residues are shown in blue frame and the identical residues are highlighted in red background. The identity and similarity between *EcTF* and *TtTF* are 26% and 49%, respectively. The identity and similarity between *TtTF* and *TmTF* are 35% and 52%, respectively. The identity and similarity between *EcTF* and *TmTF* are 24% and 45%, respectively. The sequence alignment was performed operated on the BLAST web server (<https://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast.cgi>, Accessed date:14 April 2021, and 9 October 2021).

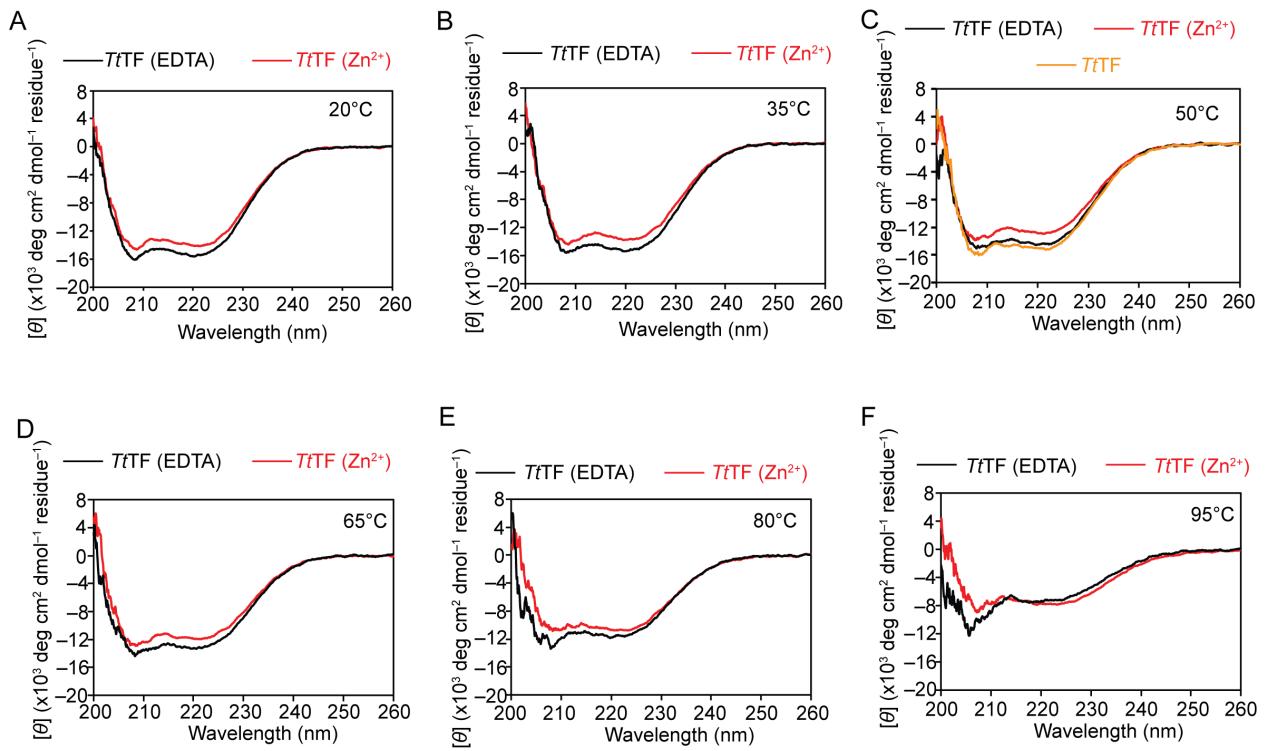


Figure S3. The CD spectra of *TtTF* at varying temperatures. The CD spectra of *TtTF* (Zn^{2+}) (red) and *TtTF* (EDTA) (black) at 20°C (A), 35°C (B), 65°C (C), 80°C (D), and 95°C (E) from 200 nm to 260 nm are displayed. The CD spectrum of *TtTF* before refolding at 50°C (orange) (C) is superimposed, showing that the spectrum of *TtTF* before refolding is essentially the same as that of *TtTF* (EDTA).

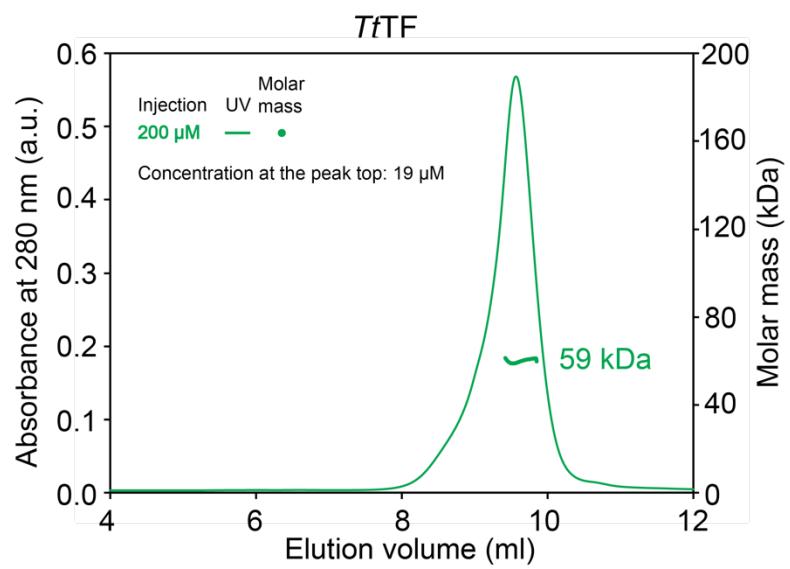


Figure S4. SEC-MALS profile of the natively purified *TtTF* before refolding. The mass plots show that *TtTF* exists mostly as a monomer at $\sim 19 \mu\text{M}$, which coincides with the SEC-MALS data of *TtTF* (EDTA).