**Supplementary Information**

# Improved Production and Biophysical Analysis of Recombinant Silicatein-$\alpha$

**Emily I. Sparkes [1, 2], Rachel A. Kettles [1, 2], Chisom S. Egedeuzu [1, 2], Natalie L. Stephenson [1, 2], Stephanie A. Caslin [1, 2], S. Yasin Tabatabaei Dakhili [1, 2], Lu Shin Wong [1, 2, *]**

[1] Manchester Institute of Biotechnology, University of Manchester, 131 Princess Street, Manchester M1 7DN, United Kingdom.
[2] Department of Chemistry, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL, United Kingdom.
* Correspondence: l.s.wong@manchester.ac.uk

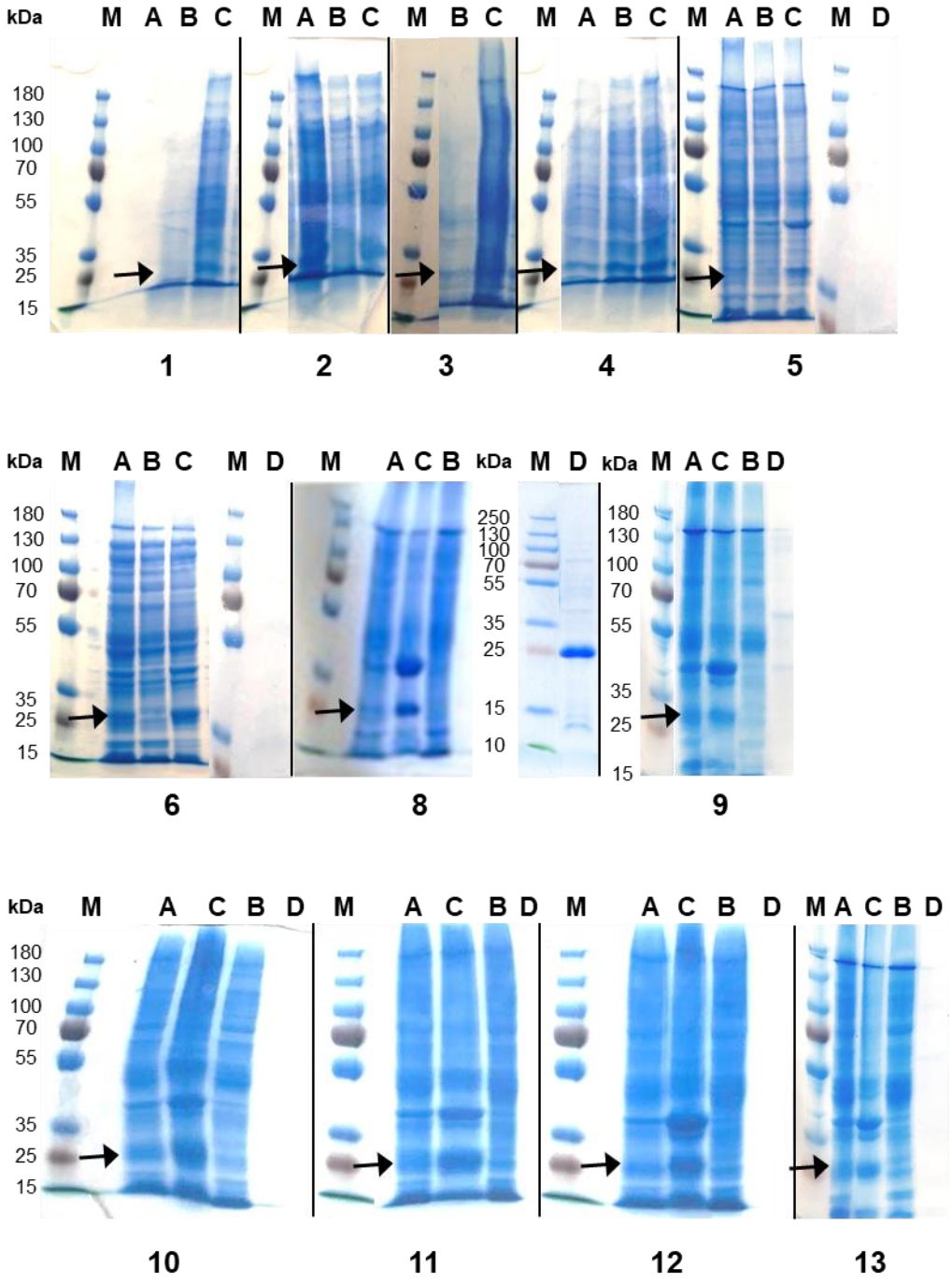


**Figure S1.** Images of SDS-PAGE gels demonstrating solubility analysis for $His_6$-Sil$\alpha$ following lysis in various buffer mixtures (numbers below each image correspond to the buffers entries in Table 1). Lanes are labelled as follows: M = marker, A = total lysed protein, B = soluble lysis fraction, C = insoluble lysis fraction, D = post-IMAC fraction. Black arrows indicate presence of protein band of the desired size.

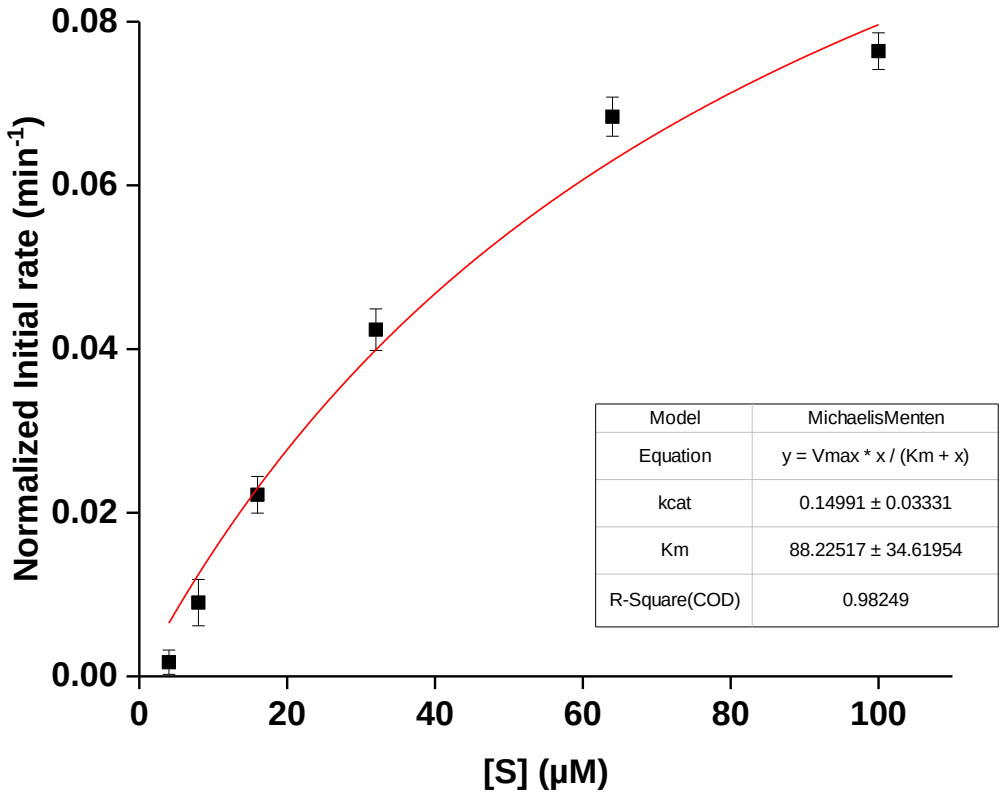


**Figure S2**. Michaelis-Menten plot of reaction velocity against TBDMS-ONp substrate concentration and best fit line. The error bars represent the standard deviations. The extracted parameters from the best-fit curve are shown in the inset, with standard deviations where appropriate.