

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

### The *P. aeruginosa* effector Tse5 forms membrane pores disrupting the membrane potential of intoxicated bacteria

Amaia González-Magaña<sup>1,#</sup>, Jon Altuna<sup>1,#</sup>, María Queralt-Martín<sup>2</sup>, Eneko Largo<sup>1,3</sup>, Carmen Velázquez<sup>1</sup>, Itxaso Montánchez<sup>3</sup>, Patricia Bernal<sup>4</sup>, Antonio Alcaraz<sup>2</sup>, David Albesa-Jové<sup>1,5\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Instituto Biofísika (CSIC, UPV/EHU), Fundación Biofísica Bizkaia/Biofísika Bizkaia Fundazioa (FBB) and Departamento de Bioquímica y Biología Molecular, University of the Basque Country, 48940 Leioa, Spain.

<sup>2</sup> Laboratory of Molecular Biophysics, Department of Physics, University Jaume I, 12071 Castellón, Spain

<sup>3</sup> Departamento de Inmunología, Microbiología y Parasitología, University of the Basque Country, 48940 Leioa, Spain.

<sup>4</sup> Departamento de Microbiología, Facultad de Biología, Universidad de Sevilla, 41012 Sevilla, Spain

<sup>5</sup> Ikerbasque, Basque Foundation for Science, 48013 Bilbao, Spain

# These authors contributed equally to this work

Running title: Tse5 forms ion-selective pores to depolarise intoxicated bacterial cells

\* To whom correspondence should be addressed: David Albesa-Jové, Instituto Biofísika (UPV/EHU, CSIC), Scientific Park of the University of the Basque Country, Leioa, E-48940, Spain; Phone: +34 94 601 5171; E-mail: [david.albesa@ehu.eus](mailto:david.albesa@ehu.eus)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Supplementary Results.....</i>	3
<i>Tse5 contributes to the antibacterial activity of P. aeruginosa when competing against P. putida.....</i>	3
<i>Supplementary Tables.....</i>	4
<i>Supplementary Table 1. Conductances obtained from I-V curves .....</i>	4
<i>Supplementary Table 2. Strains and Plasmids used in this study.....</i>	4
<i>Supplementary Figures.....</i>	7
<i>Supplementary Note 1 LC-ESI-MS report for Tse5-CT.....</i>	14
<i>Supplementary Note 2 N-terminal sequencing report.....</i>	18
<i>Supplementary references.....</i>	26

## Supplementary Results

### Tse5 contributes to the antibacterial activity of *P. aeruginosa* when competing against *P. putida*

*In vitro* competition assays were performed on LB Lennox (5 g/L NaCl) agar (1.5% w/v) plates, as previously described<sup>1</sup>. Briefly, overnight bacterial cultures were washed and adjusted to an OD<sub>600</sub> of 10 in sterile PBS and mixed in a 1:1 ratio (*P. aeruginosa* (attacker) : *P. putida* (prey)). To differentiate the antibacterial activity of Tse5 from other T6SS effectors, we employed three *P. aeruginosa* knockouts: *P. aeruginosa*  $\Delta retS$ ,  $\Delta retS \Delta vgrG1$ , and  $\Delta retS \Delta tse5$ . The *P. aeruginosa* : *P. putida* mixtures were grown on LB agar plates at 30 °C for 5 hours and then collected using an inoculating loop and resuspended in sterile PBS. The outcome of the competition was quantified by counting colony forming units (CFUs) using antibiotic selection at 5 hours. The prey strain *P. putida* KT2440R harbours a mini-Tn7 transposon<sup>2</sup> inserted at the *attTn7* site on the chromosome that confers resistance to gentamicin and was used for antibiotic selection. Seventeen biologically independent experiments were performed.

The bacterial competition assays show the antibacterial activity of *P. aeruginosa* effectors secreted by the T6SS (Supplementary Fig. 1). *P. putida* survival increases by 0.45 logs when VgrG1-dependent effectors are not secreted ( $\Delta retS \Delta vgrG1$ ), while survival increases 0.25 logs when Tse5 is not present ( $\Delta retS \Delta tse5$ ). Although these survival increments are small, they are statistically significant, providing experimental evidences of the Tse5 antibacterial activity during bacterial competition.

## Supplementary Tables

**Supplementary Table 1. Conductances obtained from I-V curves**

<i>E. coli</i> 250/50 mM	<i>E. coli</i> 50/250 mM	Neutral 250/50 mM
0.57 nS	0.99 nS	0.95 nS
0.57 nS	1.10 nS	6.62 nS
1.54 nS	2.22 nS	
1.76 nS	4.49 nS	
1.78 nS		
1.83 nS		

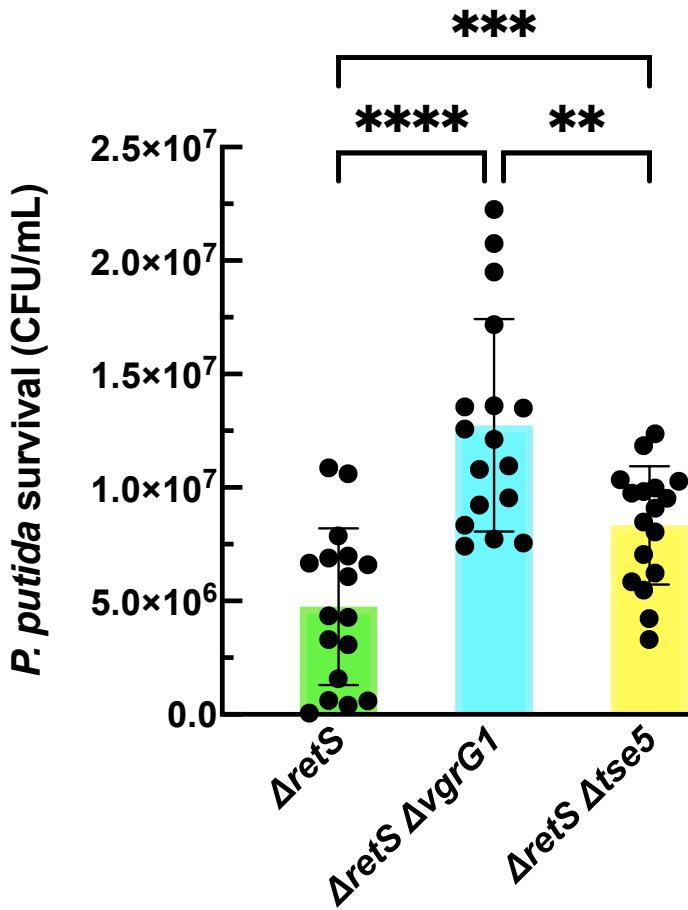
**Supplementary Table 2. Strains and Plasmids used in this study**

Strain	Relevant characteristics	Use	Origin
<i>E. coli</i>			
<b>DH5α</b>	<i>F</i> - <i>endA1 glnV44 thi-1 recA1 relA1 gyrA96 deoR nupG purB20 φ80dlacZ ΔM15 Δ(lacZYA- argF)U169</i> , <i>hsdR17</i> ( <i>r K-mK+</i> ), <i>λ-</i>	<i>In vivo</i> study of Tse5-CT TM regions using PhoA-LacZα dual reporter	Invitrogen
<b>Lemo21</b>	BL21(DE3) strain with an extra plasmid harbouring the gene encoding T7 lysozyme, an inhibitor of the T7 RNAP, under control of the well-titratable rhamnose promoter	Heterologous expression of Tse5 for purification of Tse5-CT	<sup>3</sup>
<i>P. putida</i>			
<b>EM383</b>	mt-2 derivative cured of the TOL plasmid pWW0 <i>Δprophage1 Δprophage4 Δprophage3 Δprophage2 ΔTn7 ΔendA-1 ΔendA-2 ΔhsdRMS Δflagellum, ΔTn4652 ΔrecA</i>	Flow cytometry and growth inhibition studies	<sup>4</sup>
<b>KT2440R</b>	Harbours a mini-Tn7 transposon inserted at the <i>attTn7</i> site on the chromosome that confers resistance to gentamicin	It was used for antibiotic selection in the bacterial competition assay	This work
<i>P. aeruginosa</i>			
<b>PAO1 ΔretS</b>	Knockout mutant with activated H1-T6SS	It was used as attacker in the bacterial competition assay	<sup>5</sup>
<b>PAO1 ΔretS ΔvgrG1</b>	Knockout mutant with activated H1-T6SS and deleted <i>vgrG1</i> gene	It was used as attacker in the bacterial competition assay	<sup>5</sup>

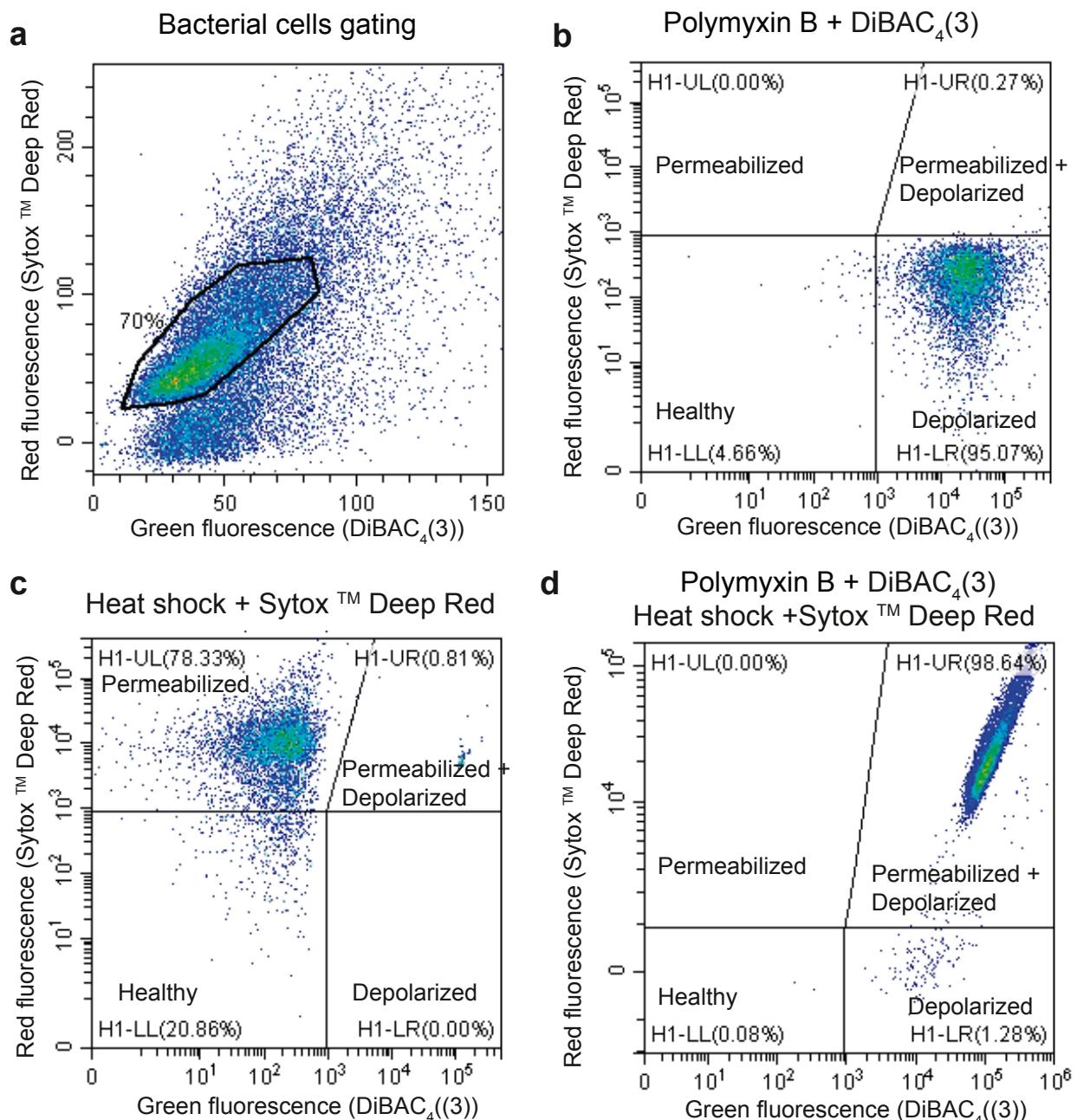
<b>PAO1 ΔretS Δtse5</b>	Knockout mutant with activated H1-T6SS and deleted <i>tse5</i> gene	It was used as attacker in the bacterial competition assay	5
Plasmid	Relevant characteristics	Use	Origin
<b>pKTop</b>	A vector expressing the reporter protein PhoA <sub>22-472</sub> / LacZ <sub>4-50</sub> , p15 ori; Km <sup>r</sup>	Parental vector	6
<b>pKTop::sptse5-CT<sub>1169-1229</sub></b>	Derived from pKTop expressing the Tse5-CT <sub>1169-1229</sub> / PhoA <sub>22-472</sub> / LacZ <sub>4-60</sub> fusion protein <b>with the PelB signal peptide fused at the N-terminus</b>	Membrane insertion study	This work
<b>pKTop::sptse5-CT<sub>1169-1269</sub></b>	Derived from pKTop expressing the Tse5-CT <sub>1169-1269</sub> / PhoA <sub>22-472</sub> / LacZ <sub>4-60</sub> fusion protein <b>with the PelB signal peptide fused at the N-terminus</b>	Membrane insertion study	This work
<b>pKTop::sptse5-CT<sub>1169-1281</sub></b>	Derived from pKTop expressing the Tse5-CT <sub>1169-1281</sub> / PhoA <sub>22-472</sub> / LacZ <sub>4-60</sub> fusion protein <b>with the PelB signal peptide fused at the N-terminus</b>	Membrane insertion study	This work
<b>pKTop::sptse5-CT<sub>1169-1300</sub></b>	Derived from pKTop expressing the Tse5-CT <sub>1169-1300</sub> / PhoA <sub>22-472</sub> / LacZ <sub>4-60</sub> fusion protein <b>with the PelB signal peptide fused at the N-terminus</b>	Membrane insertion study	This work
<b>pKTop::sptse5-CT<sub>1169-1317</sub></b>	Derived from pKTop expressing the Tse5-CT <sub>1169-1317</sub> / PhoA <sub>22-472</sub> / LacZ <sub>4-60</sub> fusion protein <b>with the PelB signal peptide fused at the N-terminus</b>	Membrane insertion study	This work
<b>pKTop::tse5-CT<sub>1169-1229</sub></b>	Derived from pKTop expressing the Tse5-CT <sub>1169-1229</sub> / PhoA <sub>22-472</sub> / LacZ <sub>4-60</sub> fusion protein <b>without PelB signal peptide</b>	Membrane insertion study	This work
<b>pKTop::tse5-CT<sub>1169-1269</sub></b>	Derived from pKTop expressing the Tse5-CT <sub>1169-1269</sub> / PhoA <sub>22-472</sub> / LacZ <sub>4-60</sub> fusion protein <b>without the PelB signal peptide</b>	Membrane insertion study	This work
<b>pKTop::tse5-CT<sub>1169-1281</sub></b>	Derived from pKTop expressing the Tse5-CT <sub>1169-1281</sub> / PhoA <sub>22-472</sub> / LacZ <sub>4-60</sub> fusion protein <b>without the PelB signal peptide</b>	Membrane insertion study	This work
<b>pKTop::tse5-CT<sub>1169-1300</sub></b>	Derived from pKTop expressing the Tse5-CT <sub>1169-1300</sub> / PhoA <sub>22-472</sub> / LacZ <sub>4-60</sub> fusion protein <b>without the PelB signal peptide</b>	Membrane insertion study	This work
<b>pKTop::tse5-CT<sub>1169-1317</sub></b>	Derived from pKTop expressing the Tse5-CT <sub>1169-1317</sub> / PhoA <sub>22-472</sub> / LacZ <sub>4-60</sub> fusion protein <b>without the PelB signal peptide</b>	Membrane insertion study	This work
<b>pS238D1</b>	Vector optimized to express toxins in <i>P. putida</i> with transcriptional repression, pBBR1 oriV and oriT; Km <sup>r</sup>	Parental vector	7
<b>pS238D1::tse5-CT</b>	Derived from pS238D1 that expresses the protein Tse5-CT <sub>1169-1317</sub>	Biological function study	This work

<b>pS238D1::sptse5-CT</b>	Derived from pS238D1 that expresses the Tse5-CT <sub>1169-1317</sub> protein with the PelB signal peptide fused at the N-terminus	Biological function study	This work
<b>pSEVA424</b>	Vector for protein expression in a broad-spectrum of organisms, oriV and oriT; Str <sup>r</sup>	Parental vector	8
<b>pSEVA424::tsi5</b>	Derived from pSEVA <sub>424</sub> that expresses the protein Tsi5 <sub>1-76</sub>	Biological function study	This work
<b>pS238D1::sptse5-CT_phoA-lacZα</b>	The gene coding for spTse5-CT <sub>1169-1317</sub> -PhoA <sub>22-474</sub> -LacZ <sub>4-60</sub> fusion protein was subcloned into the pS238D1 plasmid.	Test the biological function of the spTse5-CT <sub>1169-1317</sub> -PhoA <sub>22-474</sub> -LacZ <sub>4-60</sub> fusion protein in <i>P. putida</i>	This work
<b>pET29a(+)::9xhis-Tse5</b>	Plasmid harbouring a construct based on tse5 and coding for a 9xHis tag and a tobacco etch virus protease cleavage site at the 5' end.	Heterologous expression of Tse5 in <i>E. coli</i> Lemo21 cells for purification of Tse5-CT	This work
<b>pET29a(+)::D1141A</b>	Plasmid derived from pET29a(+)::9xhis-Tse5 coding for a D1141A point mutation.	Test the activity of the putative aspartyl protease motif DPXGL-(18)-DPXGL	This work
<b>pET29a(+)::D1164A</b>	Plasmid derived from pET29a(+)::9xhis-Tse5 coding for a D1164A point mutation.	Test the activity of the putative aspartyl protease motif DPXGL-(18)-DPXGL	This work

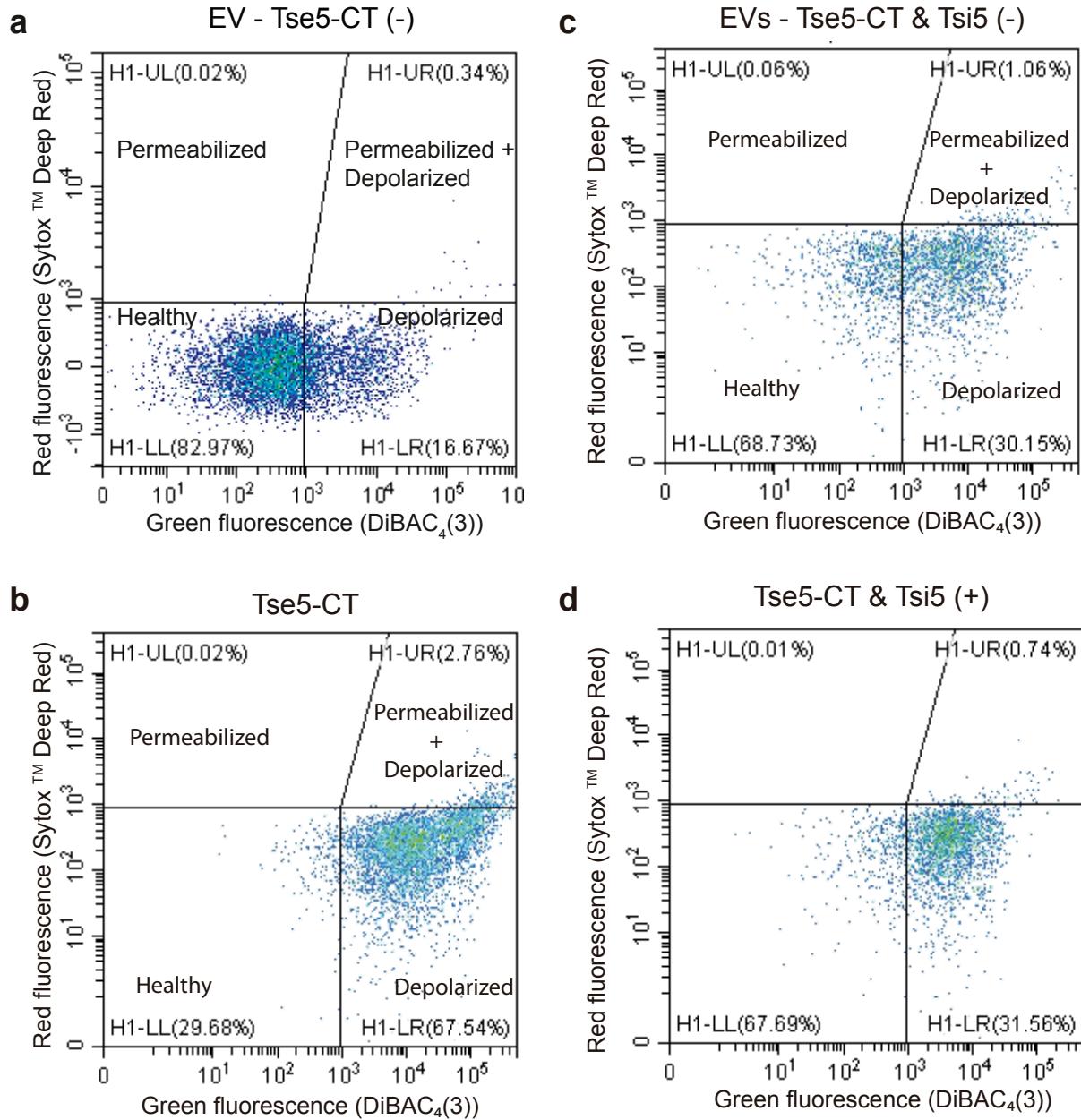
## Supplementary Figures



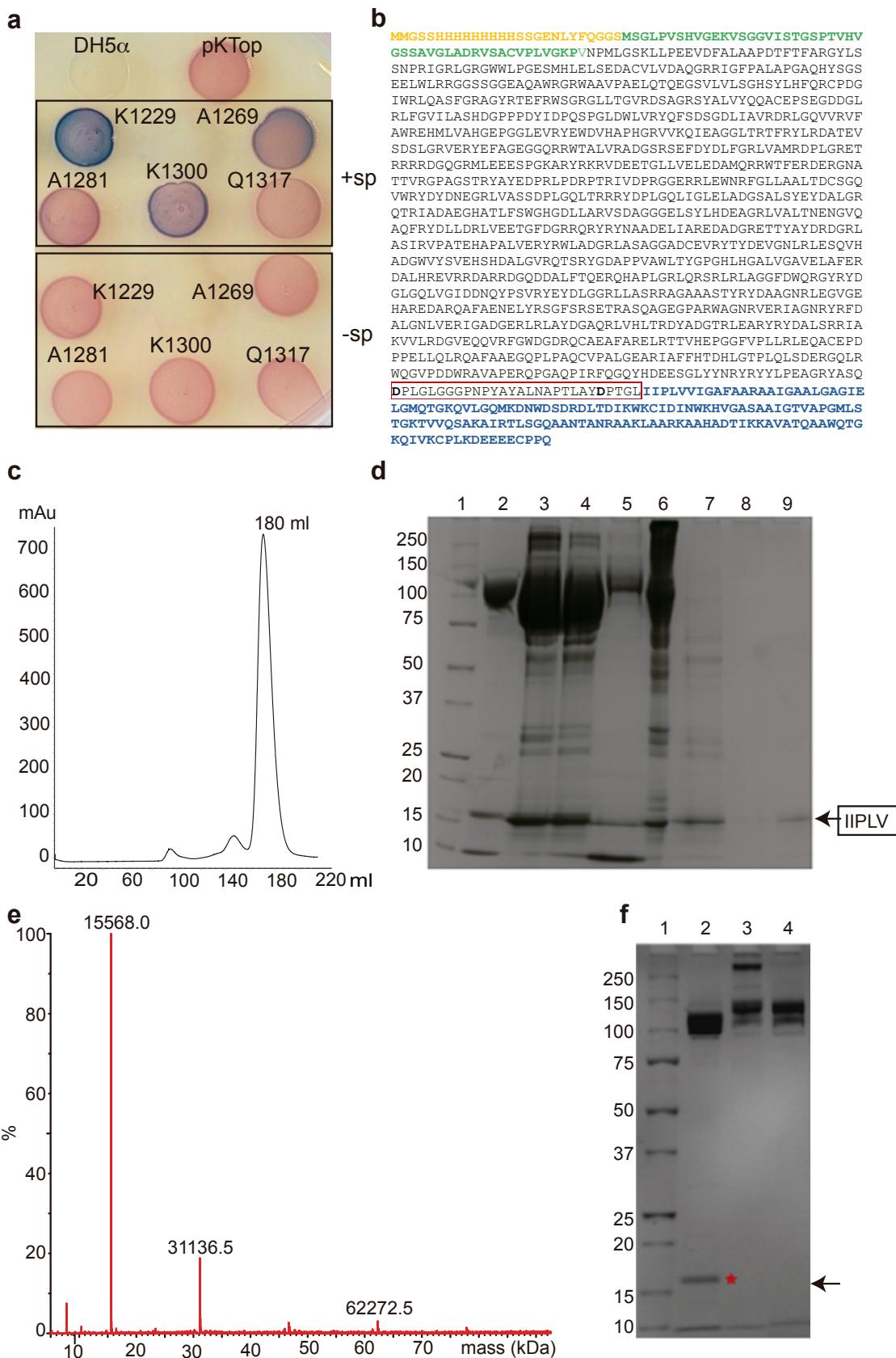
**Supplementary Fig. 1 | Competition assays between *P. aeruginosa* PAO1 *retS* attacker strains and *P. putida* KT2440R prey strain.** The prey strain harbors a mini-Tn7 transposon inserted on the chromosome that confers gentamycin resistance. The *P. aeruginosa* PAO1 *retS* (parental strain) and its isogenic *vgrG1* and *tse5* mutants were co-incubated with *P. putida* KT2440R for 5 hours. Colony-forming unit (CFU) quantifications of the prey survival after competition were performed on gentamycin selection. Graph shows means  $\pm$ SD, significance is indicated by \*\* if  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\* if  $p < 0.001$  or \*\*\*\* if  $p < 0.0001$ . Statistical analysis was performed using RM one-way ANOVA multiple comparison ( $n=17$ ).



**Supplementary Fig. 2 | Analysis of bacterial control cells by Flow Cytometry** **a.** *P. putida* cells gating to classify cell size and complexity, with the X-axis being the size (FSC channel) and the Y-axis is the complexity (SSC channel). **b.** Not treated cells to identify healthy population. **c.** Cells treated with polymyxin B (100 µg/ml) to classify the depolarized population. **d.** Cells treated with heat shock to classify the permeabilized population. **e.** Cells treated with polymyxin B (100 µg/ml) and heat shock to identify depolarized and permeabilized population. Red fluorescence emitted by the Sytox™ Deep Red fluorescent marker (APC channel), a cell permeability marker, is represented on the X-axis, while the green fluorescence obtained by the DiBAC<sub>4</sub>(3) marker (FITC channel), a fluorophore sensitive to membrane depolarization.

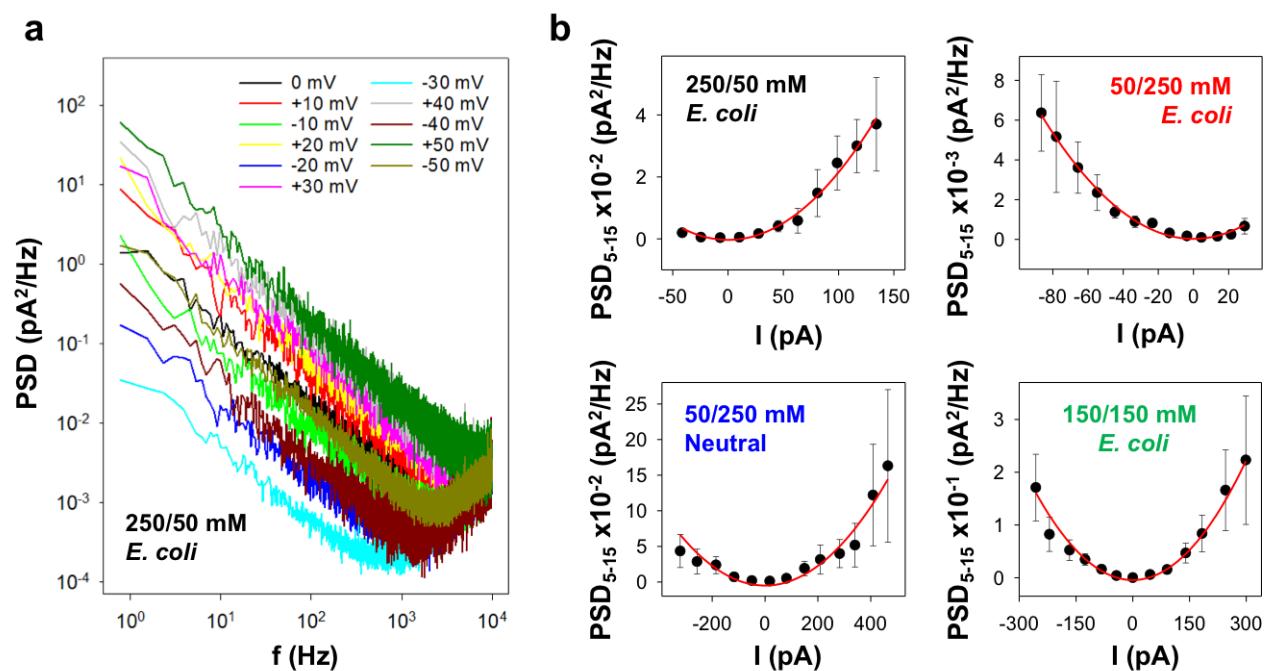


**Supplementary Fig. 3 | Bacterial cell analysis by Flow Cytometry reveal Tse5-CT causes membrane depolarization, and Ts5 can protect from Tse5-induced effect.** **a.** Empty vector carrying cells to identify basally permeabilized or/and depolarized cell populations. **b.** *P. putida* cells expressing Tse5-CT. **c.** *P. putida* cells expressing spTse5-CT, which translocate to the periplasm through the SEC pathway. **d.** *P. putida* cells expressing Tse5-CT and Ts5.

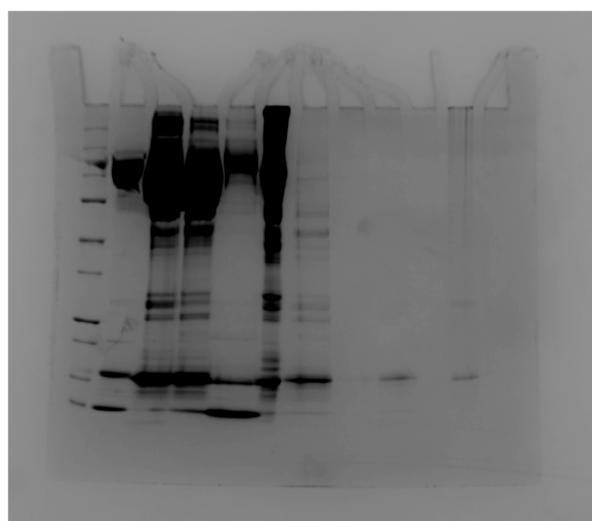
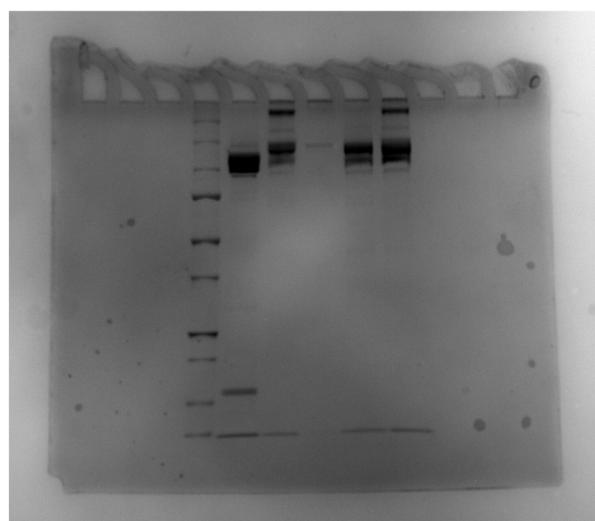


**Supplementary Fig. 4 | PhoA-LacZ dual reporter strategy for topology analysis, Tse5/Tse5-CT protein purification analysis, and autoproteolytic activity of Tse5.** **a.** In the absence of a signal

peptide (-sp), the reporter PhoA-LacZ $\alpha$  fusion always remains in the cytosol. *E. coli* DH5 $\alpha$  cells transformed with spTse5-CT-PhoA-LacZ $\alpha$  and Tse5-CT-PhoA-LacZ $\alpha$  fusion proteins growing on dual reporter agar plates. In the absence of a signal peptide (-sp), the reporter PhoA-LacZ $\alpha$  fusion remains in the cytosol independently of the Tse5-CT fusion point. As a result, the colonies growing on dual reporter LB agar plates are always coloured in red as a result of the  $\beta$ -galactosidase activity of LacZ. **b.** The protein sequence of Tse5 full length construct used in this study for heterologous expression in *E. coli* Lemo21 cells. The construct contains a 9xhis-tag at the N-terminus to facilitate the purification, coloured in yellow. The three predicted domains of Tse5 are indicated in different colours: The N-terminal domain in green, the Rhs domain in black and the Tse5-CT sequence in blue. The conserved motif that forms the active site of a putative aspartyl protease that releases the C-terminal is delimited by a red rectangle, with the two aspartic residues highlighted in bold (D1141 and D1164). **c.** Purified Tse5 behaves in solution as a monodisperse protein. Size exclusion chromatography (Superdex 200 26/600) of the Tse5 full-length protein expressed in *E. coli* Lemo21 cells shows an elution peak at 180 mL, which according to molecular weight standards approximates to a Tse5 monomer (146 kDa). **d.** Tse5-CT can be purified from Tse5 following protein denaturation and precipitation. Sodium dodecyl sulfate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE) analysis of Tse5-CT purification (4-20% gel (ExpressPlus™ PAGE Gel, GenScript)). Lane 1, molecular weight standard (Precision Plus Protein™ Standards, BIO-RAD); Lane 2, pure Tse5 full length; Lane 3, Tse5 dissolved in buffer A with 8M urea; Lane 4, unbound fraction of the nickel resin; Lane 5, 100% B elution of the nickel resin; Lane 6, the pellet of 0.9M ammonium sulphate precipitation; Lane 7, supernatant of 0.9 M ammonium sulphate precipitation; Lane 8, supernatant of wash steps; Lane 9, pure Tse5-CT. The N-terminal sequence of Tse5-CT was confirmed to be IIPLV by N-terminal Edman sequencing (sequence indicated in the SDS-PAGE gel). **e.** Mass Spectrometry analysis confirms the identity of purified Tse5-CT. The identity of the purified Tse5-CT protein (see lane 9 in the SDS-PAGE (panel (d)) was confirmed by MS analysis. The major peak corresponds to Tse5-CT (the calculated mass for Tse5-CT is 15571.02 Da), while the other two peaks approximate to the molecular weight of the dimer and trimer, respectively. **f.** Single point mutants of putative catalytic residues D1141A and D1164A are unable to cleave Tse5 to release the Tse5-CT. SDS-PAGE analysis of Tse5, D1141A, and D1164A purifications (4-20% gel (ExpressPlus™ PAGE Gel, GenScript)). Line 1, molecular weight standard (Precision Plus Protein™ Standards, BIO-RAD); Line 2, purified Tse5 full length showing the Tse5-CT above the 15 kDa marker (red star); Line 3, purified D1141A mutant; Line 4, purified D1164A mutant. Both mutants are unable to cleave the Tse5-CT.



**Supplementary Fig. 5 | Tse5-CT-induced currents display 1/f power spectral densities and equilibrium conductance fluctuations.** **a.** Representative PSDs as a function of frequency obtained from Tse5-CT-induced currents in 250/50 mM KCl gradient and using a polar lipid extract from *E. coli* to form the membrane. **b.** Each curve corresponds to a different applied voltage, as indicated. Averaged PSD at the 5–15 Hz band as a function of the measured current obtained from PSDs (a) for the different explored conditions, as indicated. Solid lines represent a parabolic fitting.

**a****b**

**Supplementary Fig. 6 | Uncropped and unedited SDS-gels shown in Supplementary Fig. 3.** **a.** Sodium dodecyl sulfate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE) analysis of Tse5-CT purification. **b.** SDS-PAGE analysis of Tse5, D1141A, and D1164A purifications.

## Supplementary Note 1 LC-ESI-MS report for Tse5-CT

**ETHzürich** University of Zurich functional genomics center zurich

Protein and Proteomics analyses  
Functional Genomics Center Zurich  
UZH/ETH Zürich  
Winterthurerstrasse 190  
CH-8057  
Dr. Serge Chesnov  
+41 44 635 39 50

---

<b>Requested analysis:</b>	<b>Protein Characterisation</b>			
<b>Order/Sample:</b>	24894/ 4 samples			
<b>Customer:</b>	David Albesa-Jove			
<b>Date:</b>	26/05/2021			
<b>Analysis ID:</b>	20210525			

**Procedure**

Due to high sample heterogeneity (proven by direct-infusion ESI-MS), the samples were analysed in an LC-ESI-MS approach.

The samples were 3- resp. 2-fold diluted with 1% TFA and transferred to an autosampler vial for LC/MS. 7 ul resp. 10 ul of sample were injected into an ACQUITY UPLC@ BioResolve-RP-mAb 2.7 $\mu$  2.1x150 450 A (Waters, USA) column. For separation and elution on an Acuity UPLC station, a gradient buffer A (0.1% FA in water)/ buffer B (0.1% FA in AN) at a flow rate 200ul/min at 50<sup>0</sup>C over 25 min was applied.

Time	Flow (ml/min)	%A	%B	Curve
Initial	0.2	85	15	Initial
3.0	0.2	45	55	6

•••  
1

20.3	0.2	20	80	6
21.3	0.2	85	15	6
25	0.2	85	15	6

The analysis was performed on a Synapt G2 mass spectrometer directly coupled to the UPLC station.

Mass spectra were acquired in the positive-ion mode by scanning the m/z range from 100 to 4000 da with a scan duration of 1 s and an interscan delay of 0.1s. The spray voltage was set to 3 kV, the cone voltage to 50V, and the source temperature to 80 °C. The data were recorded with the MassLynx 4.2 Software (both Waters, UK). Where possible, the recorded m/z data of single peaks were deconvoluted into mass spectra by applying the maximum entropy algorithm MaxEnt1 (MaxLynx) with a resolution of the output mass 0.5 Da/channel and Uniform Gaussian Damage Model at the half height of 0.5 Da.

## Useful links

- [Free Scaffold viewer](#)
- [FGCZ intranet pages: Frequently Asked Questions](#)
  - [FGCZ Quick Scaffold guide \(how to access the most relevant Scaffold features\)](#)
- Tools for analyses of pull-down experiments
  - [String](#): Protein-Protein interaction networks
- [Expasy tools](#) for proteomics
  - [PeptideCutter](#)
  - [PeptideMass](#)
- [Uniprot](#)
- Human repositories
  - [NextProt](#): Exploring the universe of human proteins



- [ProteomicsDB](#): expedite the identification of the human proteome
- [PaxDb](#): Protein Abundance Database

### Frequently asked questions (FAQs):

Please refer to our [FAQ pages](#) within the FGCZ intranet page.

If you do not find an answer to your questions, please contact us using the Comment functionality within your B-Fabric order.

For questions not related to a specific order, please send an email to:

[proteomics@fgcz.ethz.ch](mailto:proteomics@fgcz.ethz.ch)

### FGCZ policies

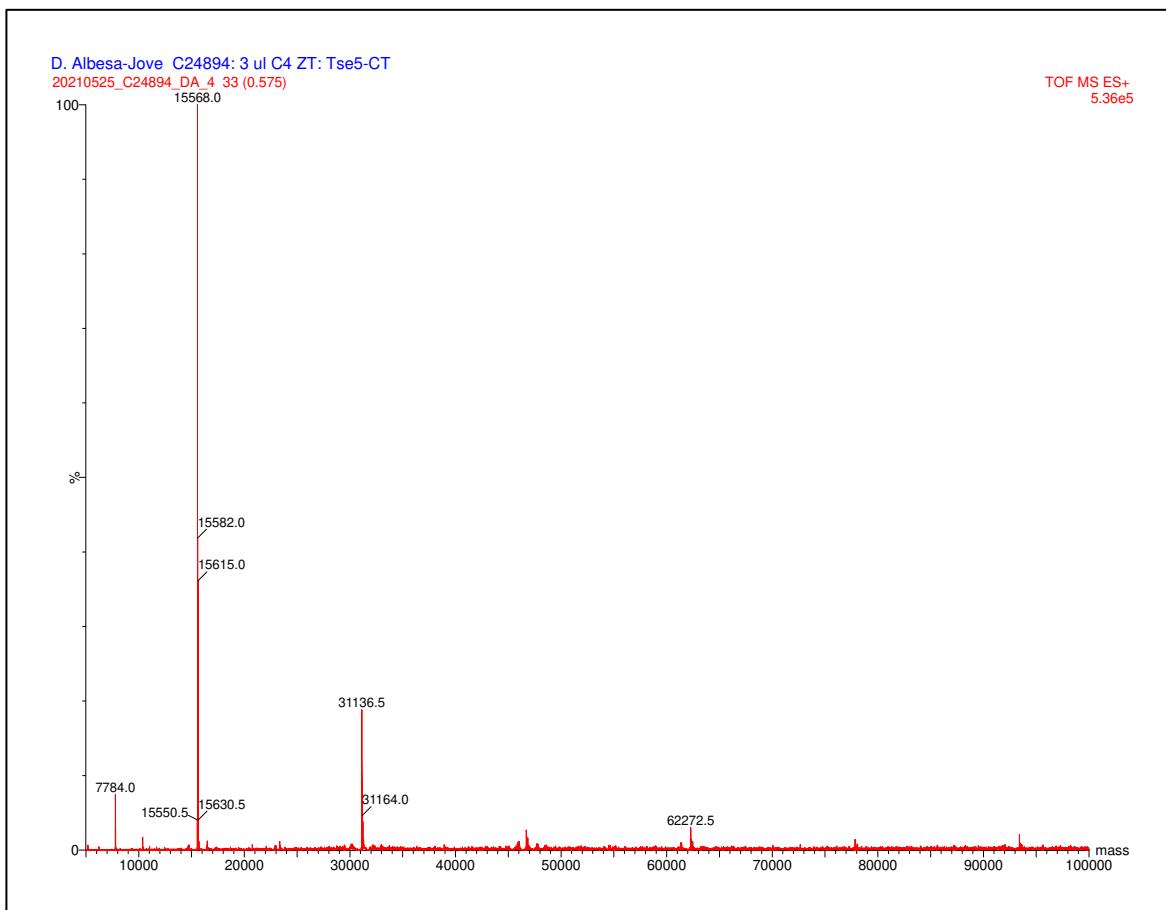
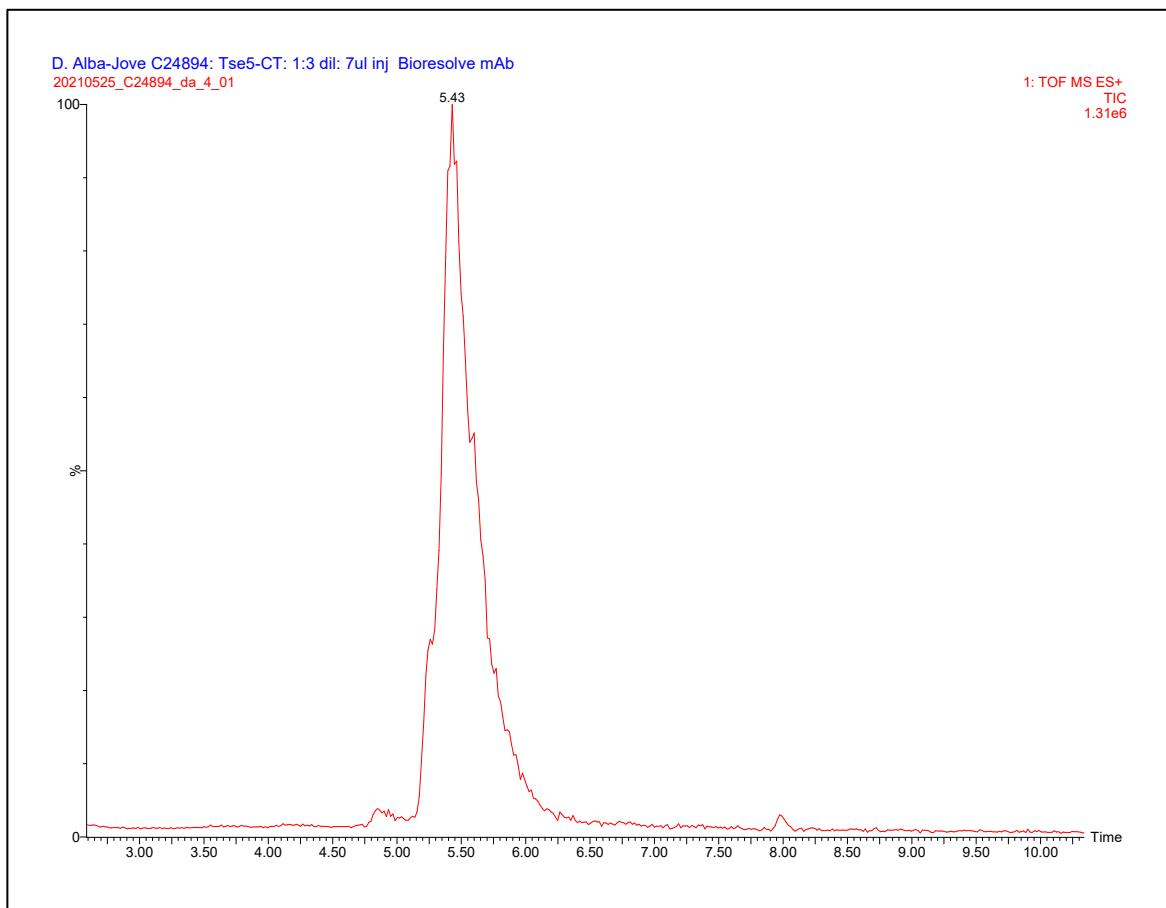
Unless stated otherwise, all the analyses have been performed under the [FGCZ Terms and Conditions](#).

In case of full or partial publication of the results, please acknowledge the FGCZ for the analyses and the technical support (Functional Genomics Center Zurich (FGCZ), University/ETH Zurich).

All the unused samples are discarded 4 week after analyses.

### Data

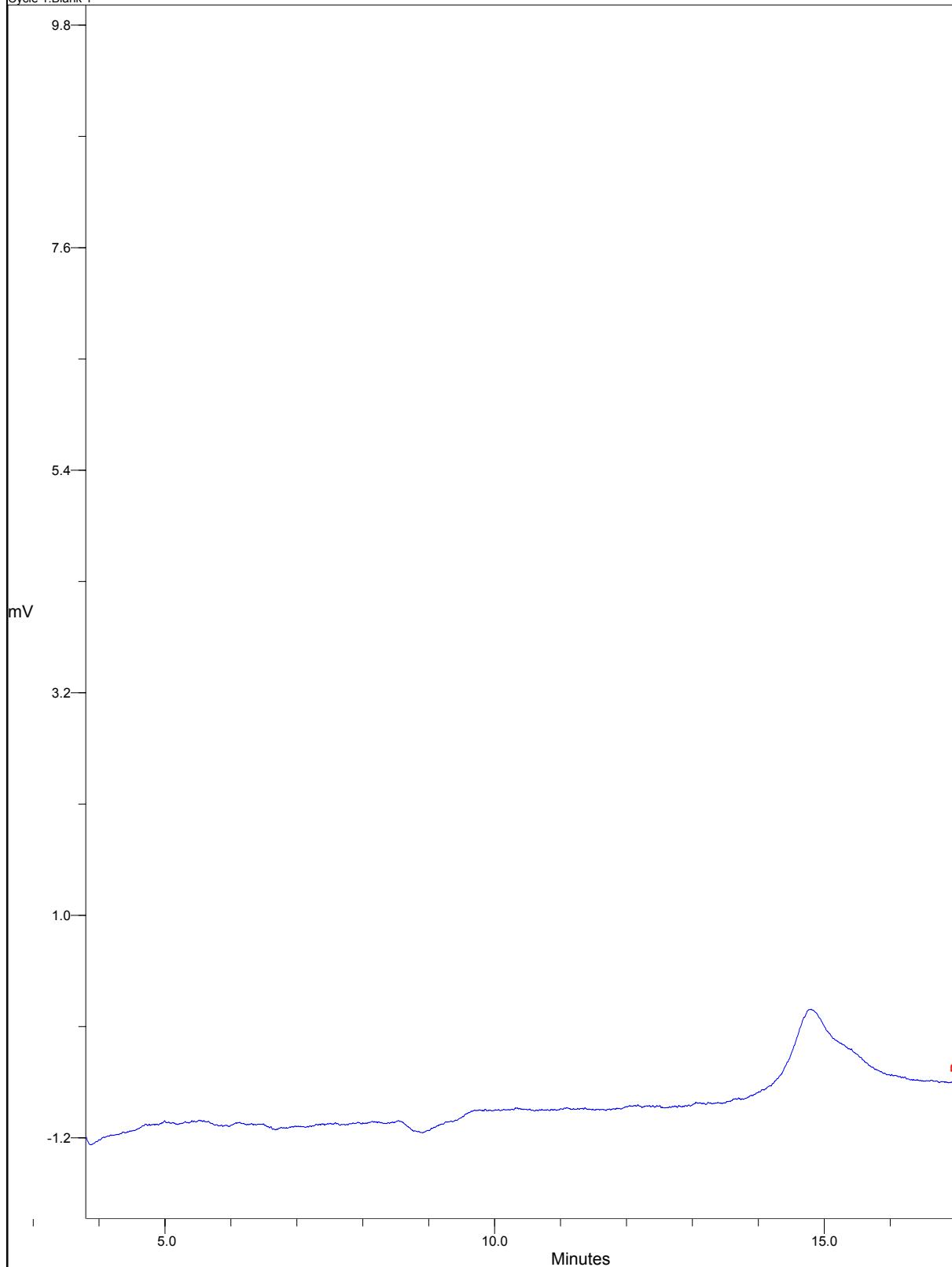
The following pages show the results of the requested analyses.



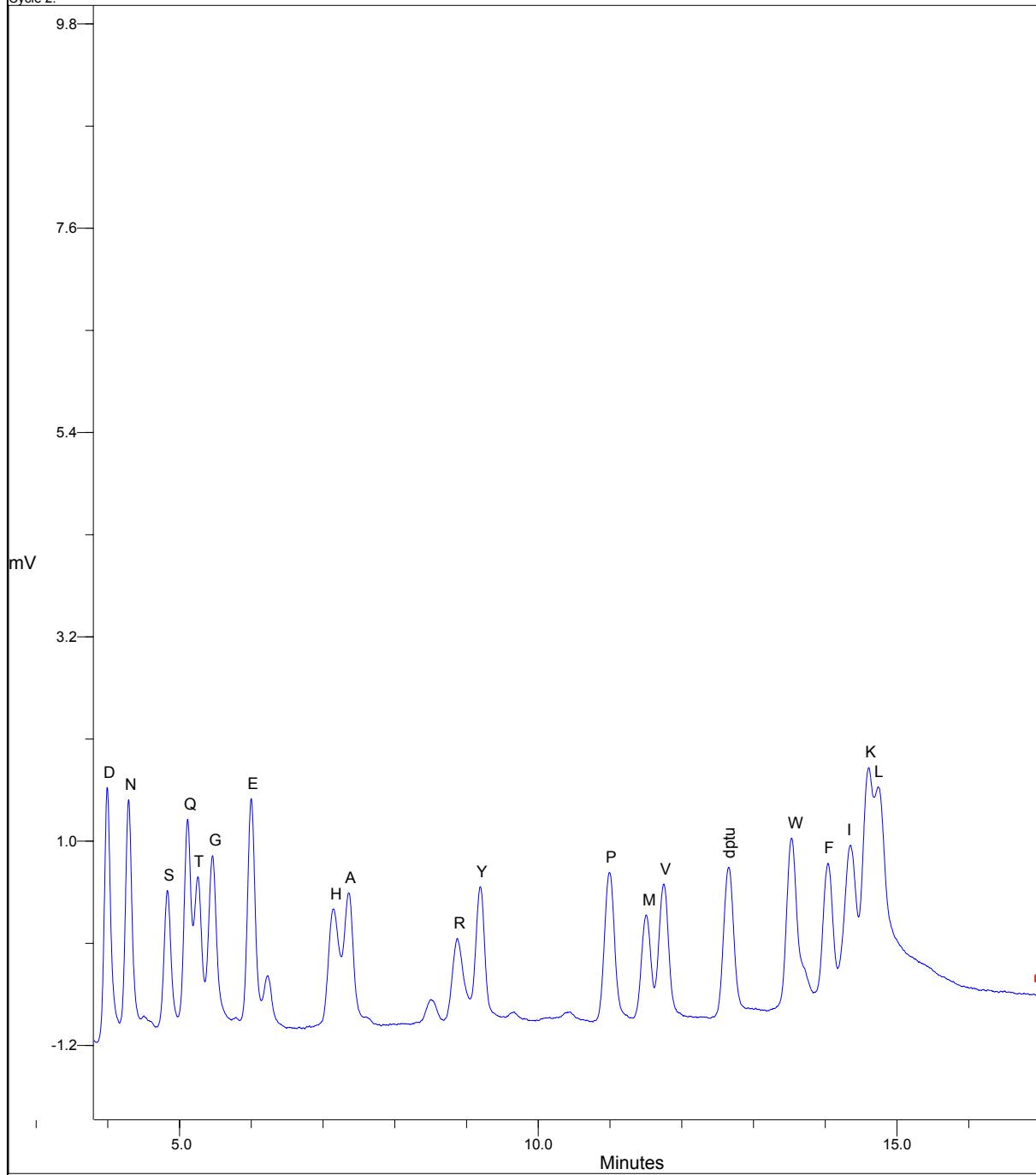
## Supplementary Note 2 N-terminal sequencing report

SequencePro™	QUIMICA DE PROTEINAS (CIB-CSIC) Ramiro de Maeztu, 9 28040 Madrid		
PNA-SQP004-F02			
<b>SAMPLE INFORMATION</b>			
Sample Name: ID Code:	David Albesa_Cterminal	Std Amount: Sample Amount: Detector Scale:	8.000 pmols 0.000 pmols 0.005 AUFS
Comments:	IIPLV		
<b>SEQUENCER INFORMATION</b>			
Name: Method: Operator:	PROCISE Pulsed liquid PVDF mod Javier Varela	Model Number: Cartridge:	494 D
Wednesday, March 09, 2022 09:49:15		David Albesa_Cterminal - 08Mar2022 10-09-34 - Page 1 of 8	

Cycle 1:Blank 1

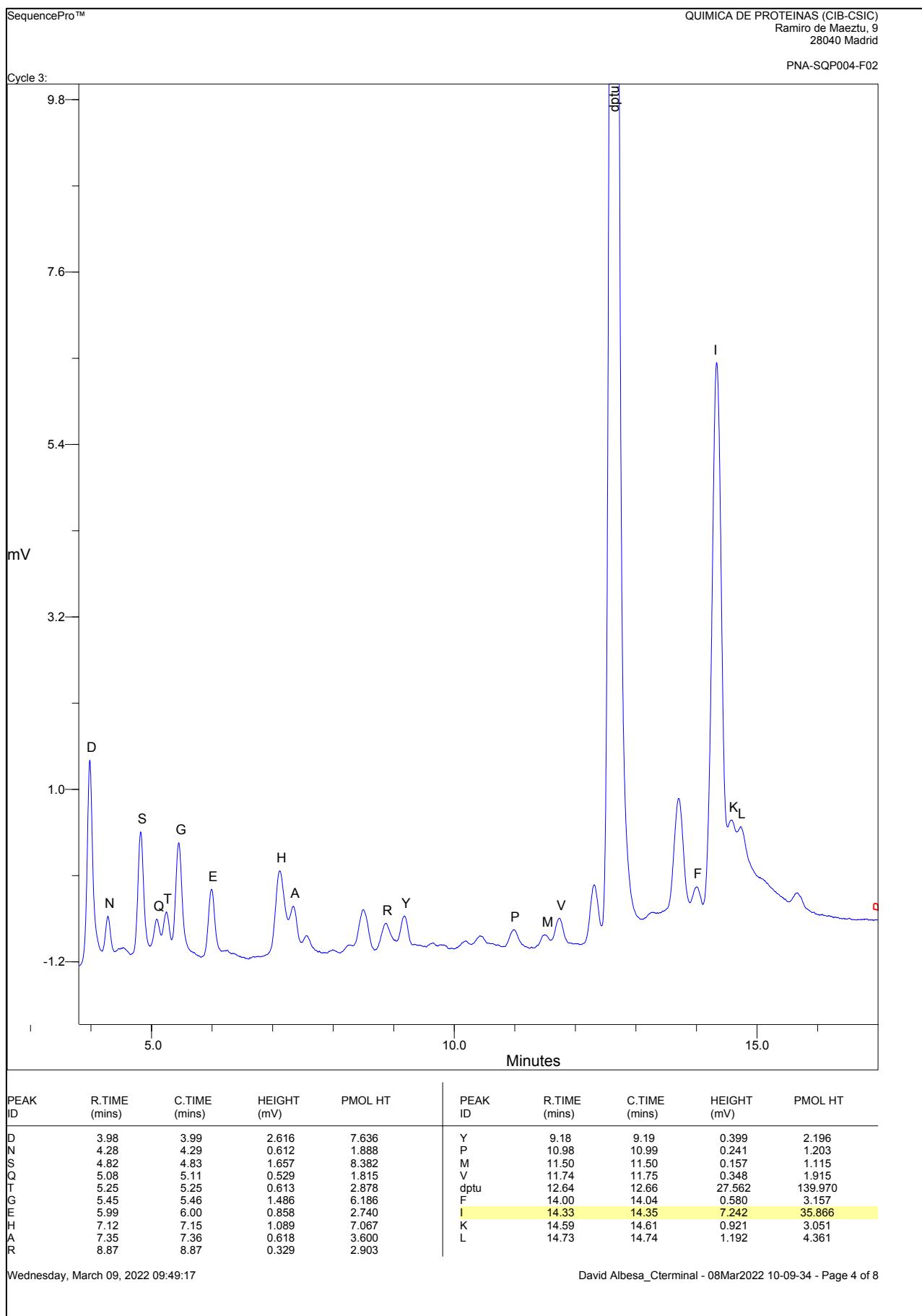


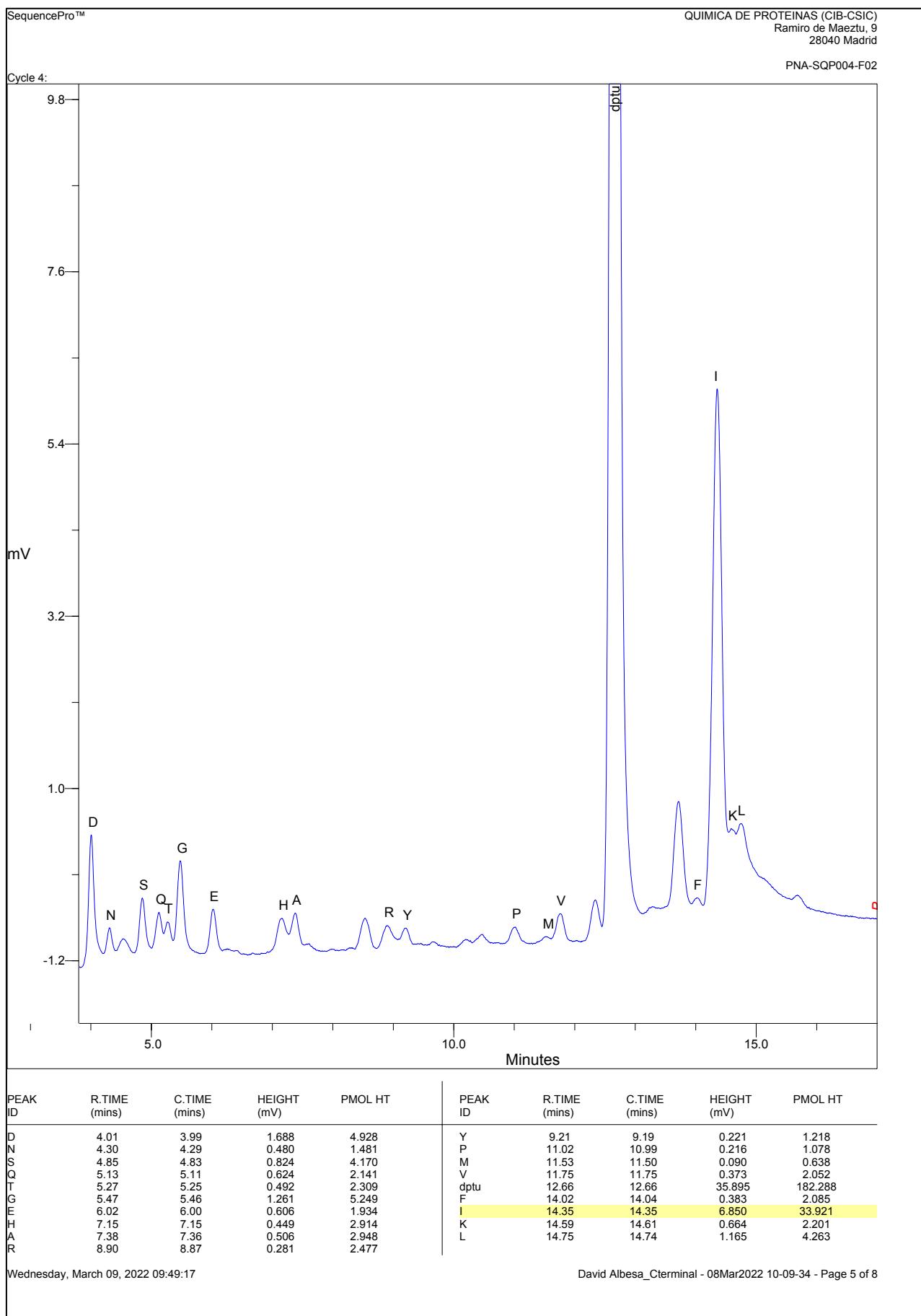
Cycle 2:

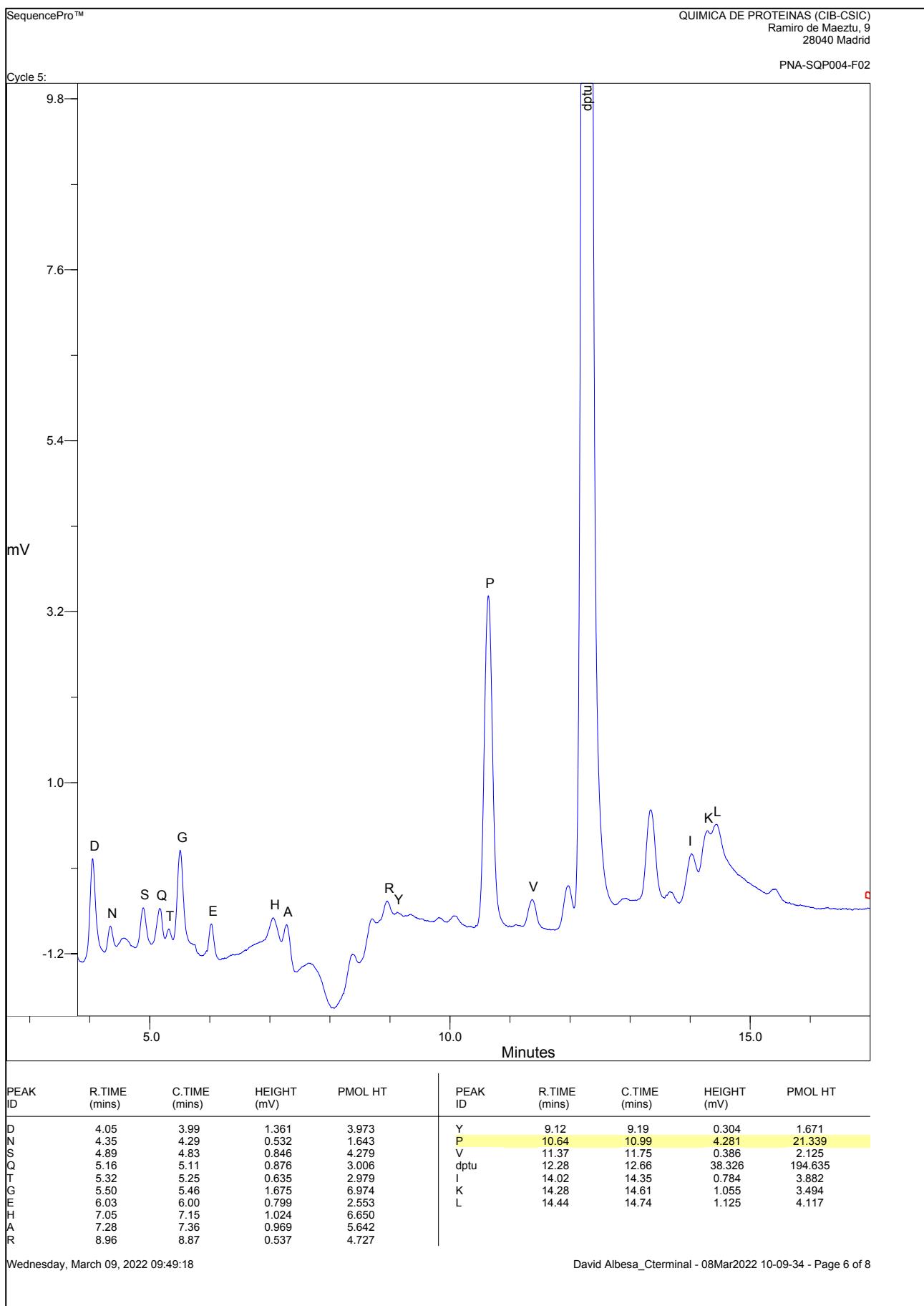


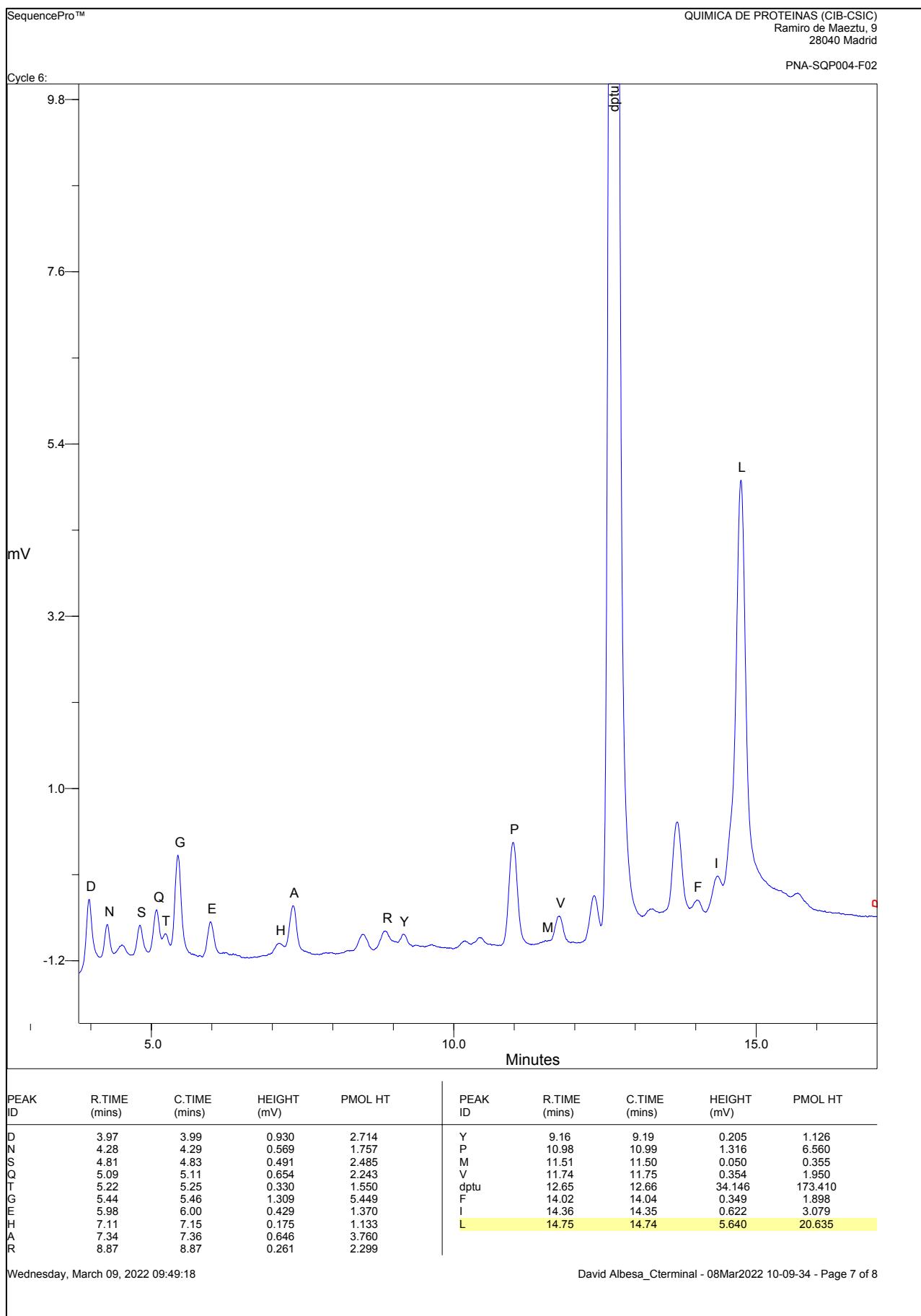
Wednesday, March 09, 2022 09:49:16

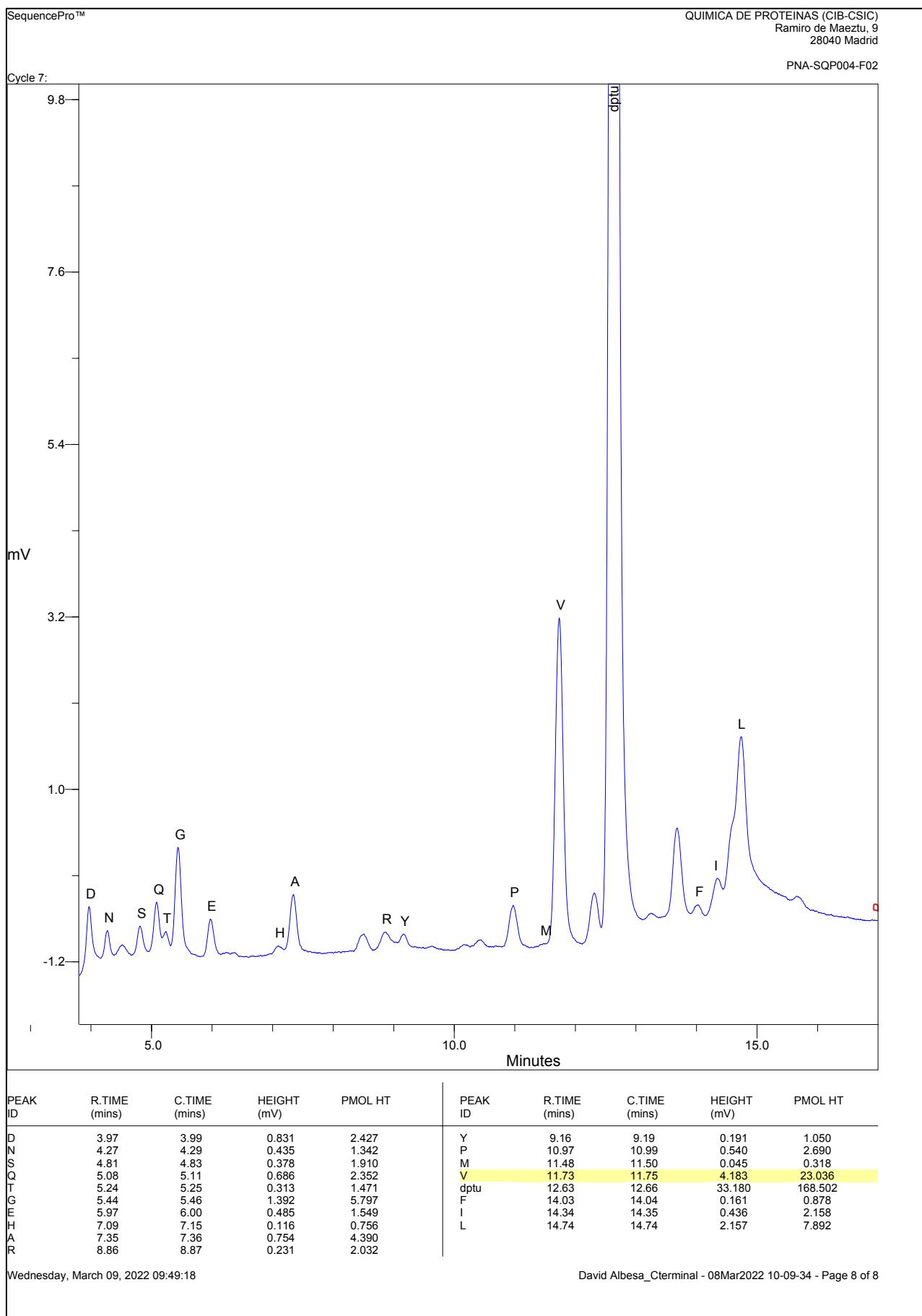
David Albesa\_Cterminal - 08Mar2022 10-09-34 - Page 3 of 8











## Supplementary references

1. Bernal, P. *et al.* A novel stabilization mechanism for the type VI secretion system sheath. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A.* **118**, e2008500118 (2021).
2. Lambertsen, L., Sternberg, C. & Molin, S. Mini-Tn7 transposons for site-specific tagging of bacteria with fluorescent proteins. *Environ. Microbiol.* **6**, 726–732 (2004).
3. Schlegel, S. *et al.* Optimizing membrane protein overexpression in the Escherichia coli strain Lemo21(DE3). *J. Mol. Biol.* **423**, 648–659 (2012).
4. Martínez-García, E., Nikel, P. I., Aparicio, T. & de Lorenzo, V. Pseudomonas 2.0: Genetic upgrading of *P. putida* KT2440 as an enhanced host for heterologous gene expression. *Microb. Cell Fact.* **13**, 159 (2014).
5. Whitney, J. C. *et al.* Genetically distinct pathways guide effector export through the type VI secretion system. *Mol. Microbiol.* **92**, 529–542 (2014).
6. Karimova, G., Robichon, C. & Ladant, D. Characterization of YmgF, a 72-residue inner membrane protein that associates with the Escherichia coli cell division machinery. *J. Bacteriol.* **91**, 333–346 (2009).
7. Calles, B., Goñi-Moreno, Á. & Lorenzo, V. Digitalizing heterologous gene expression in Gram-negative bacteria with a portable ON/OFF module. *Mol. Syst. Biol.* **15**, e8777 (2019).
8. Silva-Rocha, R. *et al.* The Standard European Vector Architecture (SEVA): A coherent platform for the analysis and deployment of complex prokaryotic phenotypes. *Nucleic Acids Res.* **41**, D666–D675 (2013).