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Supporting information for article:

A three-domain copper-nitrite reductase with a unique sensing loop

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Table S1 Cupredoxins with reported crystal structures that resembles the C-terminal extra domain of *TsNirK*.

Protein	PDB	Microorganism	Loop Cys-Met	% Identity
Domain III- <i>TsNirK</i>		<i>Thermus scotoductus SA-01</i>	CSIHPYM	-
Amicyanin (<i>PdAmi</i>)	1MDA	<i>Paracoccus denitrificans</i>	CTPHPFM	31
Pseudoazurin	3TU6	<i>Sinorhizobium meliloti</i> 2011	CAPHVGM	31
Amicyanin (<i>PvAmi</i>)	1ID2	<i>Paracoccus versutus</i>	CTPHPFM	30
Pseudoazurin	1BQK	<i>Achromobacter cycloclastes</i>	CTPHYGM	25
Plastocyanin	1BXU	<i>Synechococcus sp.</i>	CEPHRGAGM	25
Plastocyanin	1JXD	<i>Synechocystis</i> PCC6803	CEPHRGAGM	21
Azurin	1RKR	<i>Alcaligenes xylosoxidans</i>	CSFPGHFALM	19

Table S2 Geometric parameters of *TsNirK* T1Cu centres and its comparison with other T1Cu.

Protein ^a	<i>Ts</i>		<i>Hd</i>		<i>Gk</i>	<i>Ax</i>	<i>Af</i>	<i>Cs</i>	<i>Pv</i>
	NirK		Nir		Nir	Nir	Nir	Ste	Ami
T1 Centres	C	N	C	N	-	-	-	-	-
Distances (Å)									
Cu–His ₁ N ^{δ1}	2.02(0.01) ^b	2.05(0.01)	2.14	2.12	2.07	2.02	2.08	1.96	2.04
Cu–CysS ^γ	2.27(0.02)	2.18(0.04)	2.13	2.23	2.13	2.20	2.22	2.18	2.13
Cu–His ₂ N ^{δ1}	2.04(0.02)	2.04(0.01)	2.10	2.11	2.03	2.03	2.07	2.04	2.13
Cu–MetS ^δ	3.02(0.04)	–	2.55	2.90	2.61	2.45	2.45	–	2.84
Cu–GlnO ^{ε1}	–	2.03(0.01)	–	–	–	–	–	2.21	–
Cu–O	3.58(0.02)	–	–	3.23	–	–	–	–	3.87
Angles (°)									
His ₁ N ^{δ1} –Cu–His ₂ N ^{δ1}	106(1)	99(1)	95	100	99	101	96	101	104
His ₁ N ^{δ1} –Cu–CysS ^γ	127,7(0.4)	121.5(0.5)	144	135	139	122	128	134	132
His ₁ N ^{δ1} –Cu–MetS ^δ	80(1)	–	81	82	82	88	90	–	84
His ₂ N ^{δ1} –Cu–CysS ^γ	123(1)	126.3(0.8)	104	120	103	114	107	118	111
His ₂ N ^{δ1} –Cu–MetS ^δ	98(3)	–	116	97	117	116	130	–	101
MetS ^δ –Cu–CysS ^γ	108.5(0.8)	–	116	111	113	114	107	–	117
His ₁ N ^{δ1} –Cu–GlnO ^{ε1}	–	103.4(0.9)	–	–	–	–	–	94	–
His ₂ N ^{δ1} –Cu–GlnO ^{ε1}	–	101(1)	–	–	–	–	–	102	–
GlnO ^{ε1} –Cu–CysS ^γ	–	95.4(0.7)	–	–	–	–	–	101	–
Dihedral angle (φ) ^c	81.5	89.3	64.1	79.4	64.7	74.3	65.8	83.5	79.3

^aThe structures of the T1Cu sites of Nir from *Hyphomicrobium denitrificans* (HdNir), *Geobacillus. kaustophilus* (GkNir), *Alcaligenes. xylosoxidans* (AxNir), *A. faecalis* (AfNir), *Cucumis sativus stellacyanin* (CsSte), *Paracoccus versutus amicyanin* (PvAmi) are taken from PDB entries 2DV6, 3WI9, 1OE1, 1SNR, 1JER and 1ID2, respectively. His₁ and His₂ are the first and second His ligands in the amino acid sequence. *TsNirK* ligand distances and bond angles are an average of all three monomers. ^bValues in parentheses represents the standard deviation of measurements taken from the three monomers. ^cThe dihedral angle (φ) is the angle between the planes His₁N^{δ1}–Cu–His₂N^{δ1} and L_{axial}–Cu–CysS^γ.

Table S3 Spectroscopic features of NirK and its comparison with other NirKs, stellacyanin and amicyanin.

Protein ^a	<i>TsNirK</i>	<i>HdNir</i>	<i>AxNir</i>	<i>AfNir</i>	<i>CsSte</i>	<i>PvAmi</i>
Type ^b	B	GB	B	G	B	B
Uv-Vis						
λ_1 (nm)	447	454	460	457	450	460
ϵ_1 (mM ⁻¹ cm ⁻¹)	1.86	2.9	1.6	6.98	1.1	0.43
λ_2 (nm)	597	605	593	587	608	596
ϵ_2 (mM ⁻¹ cm ⁻¹)	9.09	6.30	6.30	5.42	4.08	3.90
ϵ_1/ϵ_2	0.21	0.46	0.25	1.29	0.27	0.11
EPR (X-band)						
T1Cu [g_{\parallel} ; A_{\parallel} (mT)]	2.260; 5.9	2.21; 5.5 ^c 2.23; 6.0 ^d	2.208; 6.3	2.254; 7.4	2.290; 3.2	2.239; 5.6
T2Cu [g_{\parallel} ; A_{\parallel} (mT)]	2.296; 14.5	2.35; 13.5	2.298; 14.2	2.394; 13.0	–	–

^aCopper nitrite reductases from *Hyphomicrobium denitrificans* (*HdNir*) (Yamaguchi *et al.*, 2004), *Alcaligenes xylooxidans* (*AxNir*) (Abraham *et al.*, 1993), *A. faecalis* (*AfNir*) (Tocheva *et al.*, 2007), *Cucumis sativus* stellacyanin (*CsSte*) (DeBeer George *et al.*, 2003) and *Paracoccus versutus* amicyanin (*PvAmi*) (Buning *et al.*, 2000) are compared with *TsNirK*. ^b color of the protein: B, Blue; GB, greenish-blue; G, green. ^{c,d}These values correspond to the values reported for C114A and C260A variants of *HdNir*, respectively (Yamaguchi *et al.*, 2004).

Figure S1 Molecular phylogenetic analysis by maximum likelihood method. The unrouted phylogenetic tree shows the distribution of classical NirKs and novel three-domain NirK. The proteins are named by UniProt code or PDB (crystal structure available) followed by a 5 letter code identifying the source. THESC: *Thermus scotoductus* SA-01, THEBO: *T. brockianus*, THEOS: *T. oshimai* JL-2, CREPO: *Crenothrix polyspora*, FRAsp: *Fraserbacteria* sp., CALSU: *Caldiarchaeum subterraneum*, THIVE: *Thioalkalivibrio versutus*, CALTH: *Caldalkalibacillus thermarum*, ARMBA: *Armatimonadetes bacterium* GSX, NITEU: *Nitrosomonas europaea*, MELTH: *Melghirimyces thermohalophilus*, PAEGL: *Paenibacillus glacialis*, GEOTH: *Geobacillus thermophilus*, GEOKA: *G. kaustophilus*, RHISU: *Rhizobium sulae*, SINME: *Sinorhizobium meliloti* 2011, RHIGA: *R. galagae*, ALCFA: *Alcaligenes faecalis*, ACHCY: *Achromobacter cycloclastes*, BRAJA: *Bradyrhizobium japonicum* USDA110, PSECL: *Pseudomonas chlororaphis*, ALCXY: *A. xylooxidans*, RHOSP: *Rhodobacter sphaeroides*, HALME: *Haloerofax mediterranei*, HALMA: *Haloarcula marismortui*, POLNA: *Polaromonas naphthalenivorans*, NITMU: *Nitrospira multiformis* ATCC 25195, HYPDE: *Hyphomicrobium denitrificans* A3151, FUSOX: *Fusarium oxysporum*, CHRVI: *Chromobacterium violaceum*, RALSO: *Ralstonia solanaceum*, RALPI: *R. picketii*, BURMA: *Burkholderia mallei* NTCT 10229, FLACO: *Flavobacterium columnare*, NEIGO: *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, BDEBA: *Bdellovibrio bacteriovorus*, PSEHA: *Pseudoalteromonas haloplanctis*.

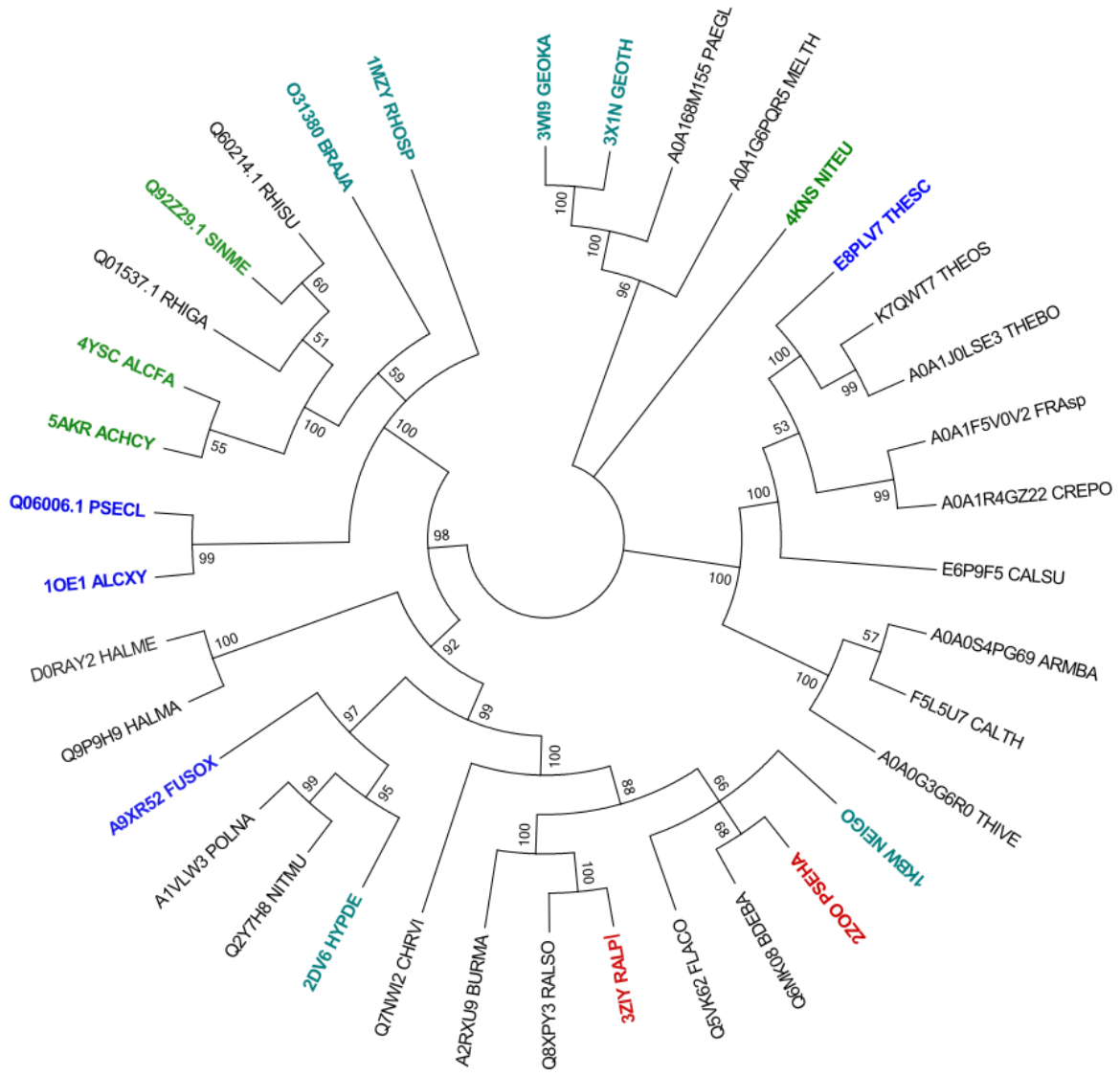


Figure S2 Size exclusion chromatography of TsNirK. A prepacked Superdex™ 200 10/300 G2 column (GE Healthcare) connected to an Akta prime (GE Healthcare) system was equilibrated with 200 mM NaCl 20 mM Tris–HCl buffer (pH 7.6). Isocratic elution at a flow rate of 0.5 mL min⁻¹ was performed with detection at 280 nm. The molecular weight markers used for calibration were ferritin (440 kDa), aldolase (158 kDa), conalbumin (75 kDa), ovalbumin (44 kDa) and carbonic anhydrase (29 kDa) and ribonuclease A (13.7 kDa). SDS-PAGE gel is shown. Prestained mid-range protein marker (2-105 kDa, Genbiotech) was used as protein ladder.

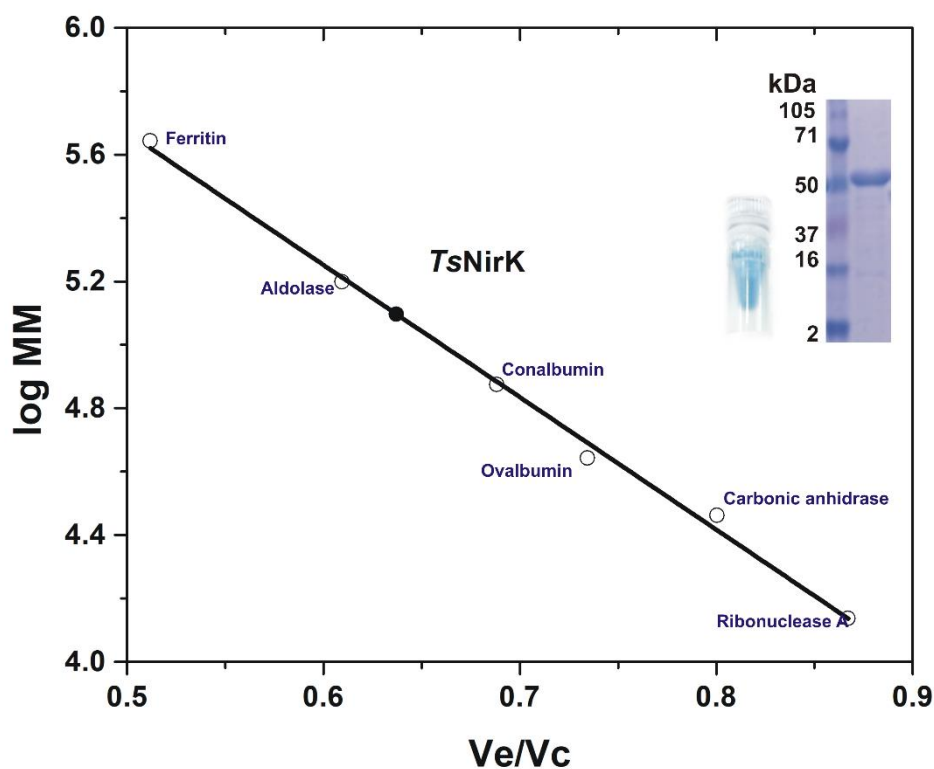


Figure S3 Domain I-domain III Interaction. Several amino acids of domain I (blue) and domain III (purple) are involved in the contact area. These amino acids interact through H-bonds or salt bridges (black dashed lines). Also, a few amino acids from domain III interact with amino acids within domain II of neighbouring subunit (II.c, in grey). A number of water molecules (red spheres) take part in the interdomain interaction. The possible $T1Cu_C \rightarrow T1Cu_N$ electron transfer pathway is indicated in magenta involving His431, Glu385, His125 and a water molecule. His120 ($N^{\epsilon 2}$)–Asn356 ($O^{\epsilon 1}$), Ala124 (O)–Tyr314 (OH) and His125 ($N^{\epsilon 2}$)–Glu385 ($O^{\epsilon 1}$).

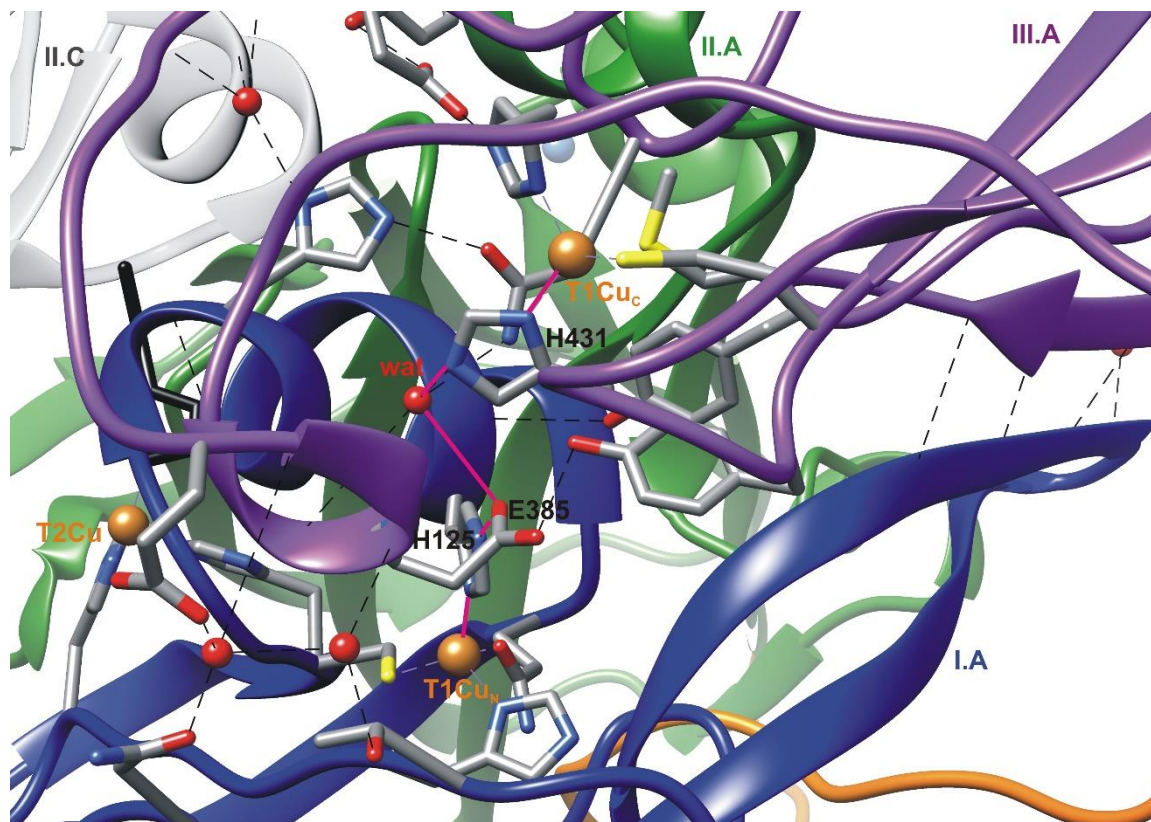


Figure S4 Details of the water channels in *TsNirK*. (a, b). Three channels allow the entrance of the substrate to the T2Cu active site pocket located at the region delimited by domains I and II. (c). These channels are located at the contact surface space between domains I and II of adjacent subunits (I.A-II.C; I.C-II.B; II.A-I.B). (d). Subunit A provides (purple): Leu77, Ser78, Thr86, Ser87, Gln91, Asn92, His114, Ala116 to Gly19, Ile122, Met123, Phe379, Leu382 and Arg386. Subunit C (yellow): Val188, His216, Val218, Asp261, Thr263, Val265, His267, Phe269, Leu277, Ile279 and Arg281. A network of H-bonded water molecules connects the mouth of the channel with the catalytic active site. The substrate sensing loop is located underneath the contact surface of subunit A and some of the residues interact with the water molecule network: Leu77, Ser78, Thr86, Ser87, Ala116, Gly119, Asp261 and Thr263. A hydrophobic lining spreads from the mouth of the channel through Leu277, Ile279, Val188, Phe379, Leu381 and Leu382.

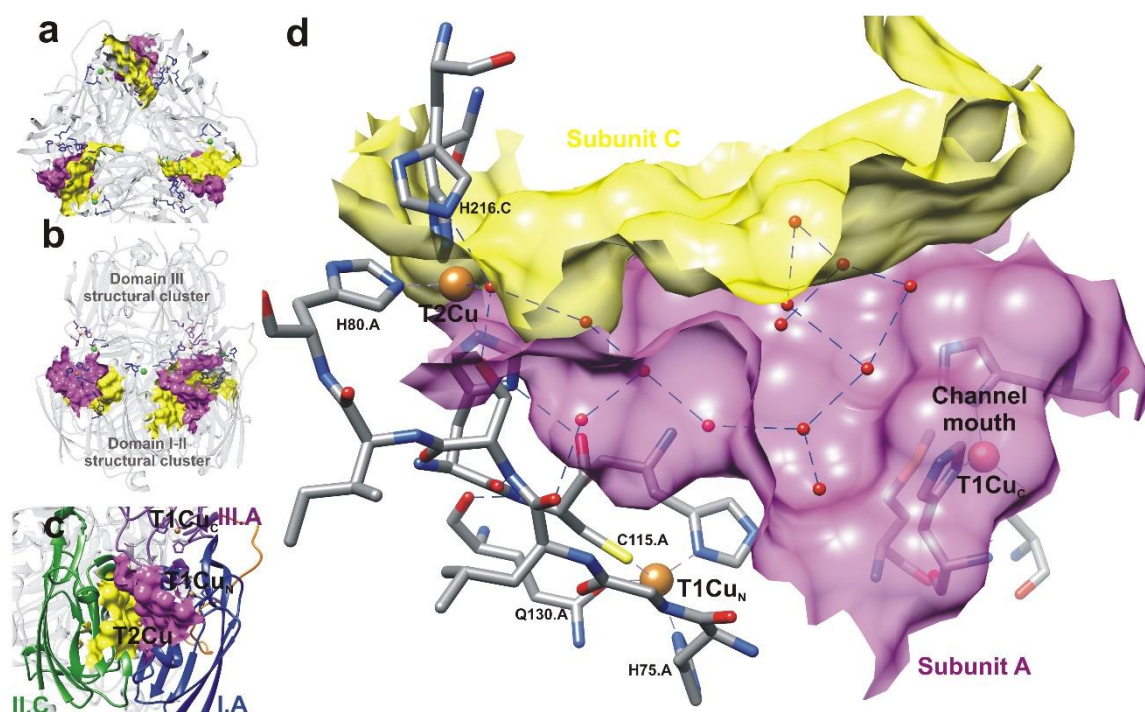


Figure S5 Plot of initial velocities (v) of Nir activities for the *TsNirK* vs nitrite concentrations. The solid line shown the fitted curved based on the standard Michaelis-Menten model. All the reactions were performed in mixtures containing 5.4 nM *TsNirK* (trimer).

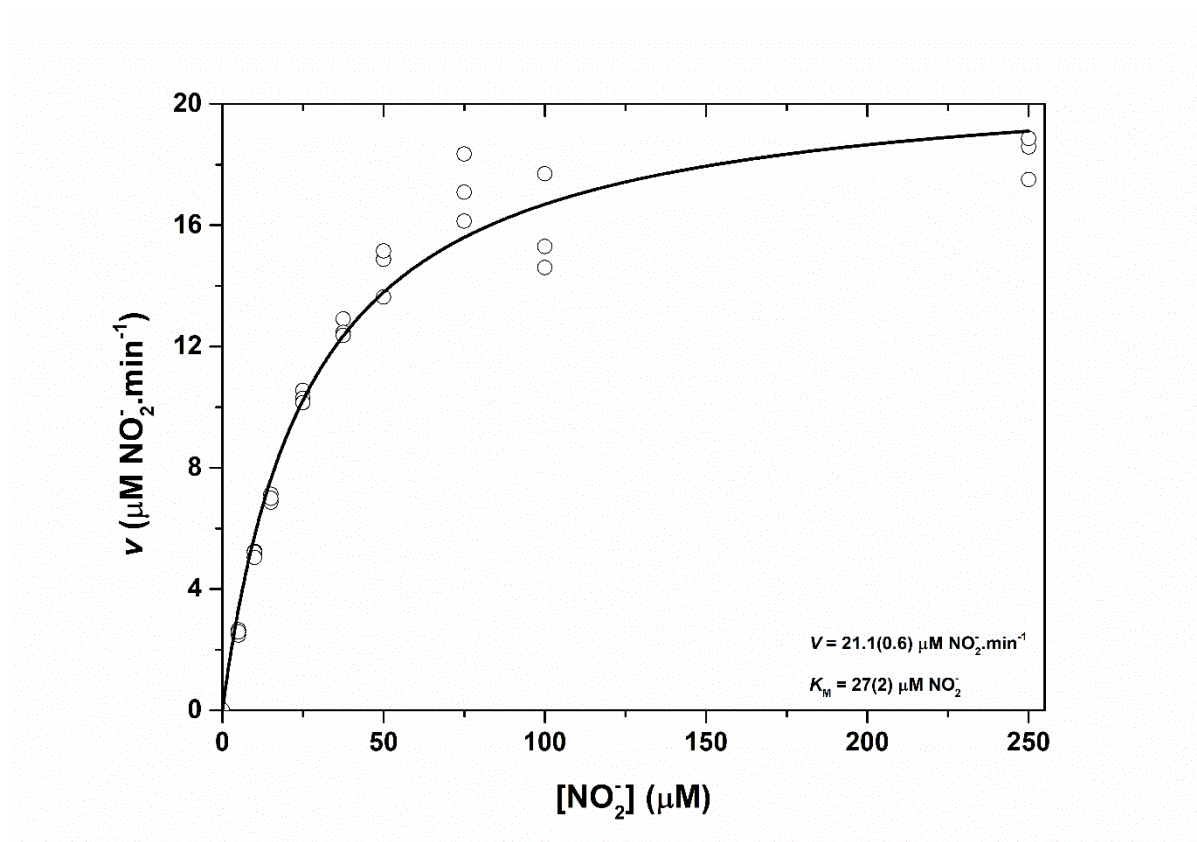


Figure S6 Time course of the absorbance changes at wavelength 597 nm in Nir assay using *SmPaz*. The reoxidation of *SmPaz* was followed at 597 nm. The mixture enzyme-*SmPaz* reduced with sodium dithionite was maintained under argon flux during 2 min then the reaction was started by addition of argon-flushed sodium nitrite solution. The green and blue lines are *SmNir* ($v_i = 0.55 \pm 0.01 \mu\text{M}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$) and *TsNirK* ($v_i = 0.075 \pm 0.009 \mu\text{M}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$) reactions, respectively. The black line corresponds to the reaction mixture with no enzyme as a reaction control. The measurements were performed in triplicates.

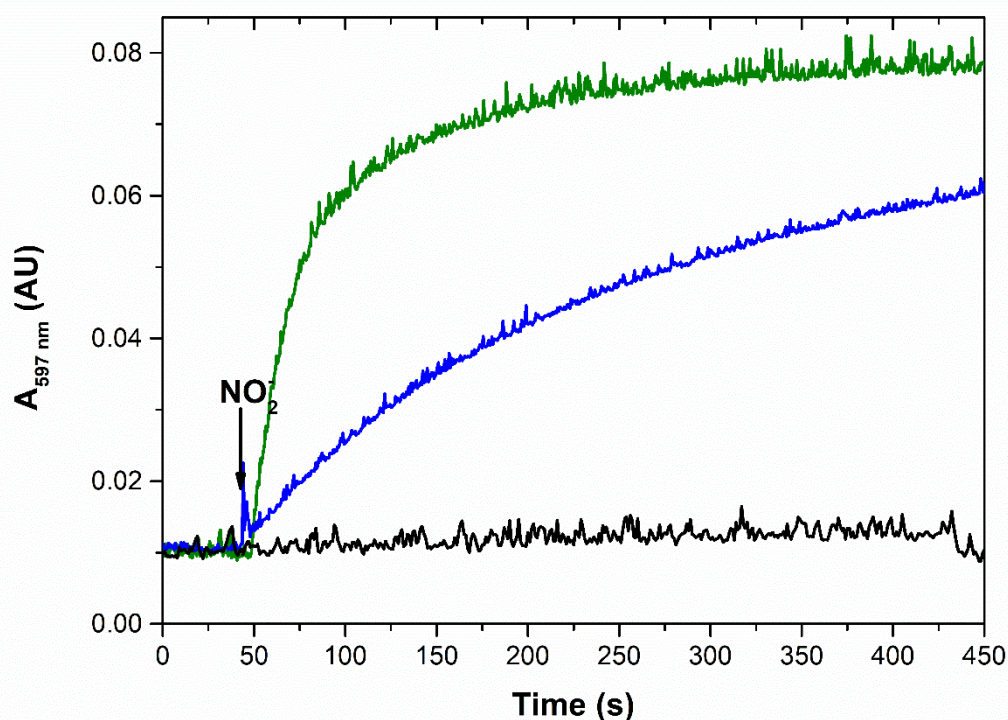


Figure S7 rR spectra calculated using QM/MM. The combination of Quantum Mechanics and Molecular Mechanics (QM/MM) calculations were used to compute the structure and the Raman spectra of the T1Cu_C and T1Cu_N sites in *TsNirK*. The main Cu–S (Cys) vibrational modes are indicated for each T1Cu centre.

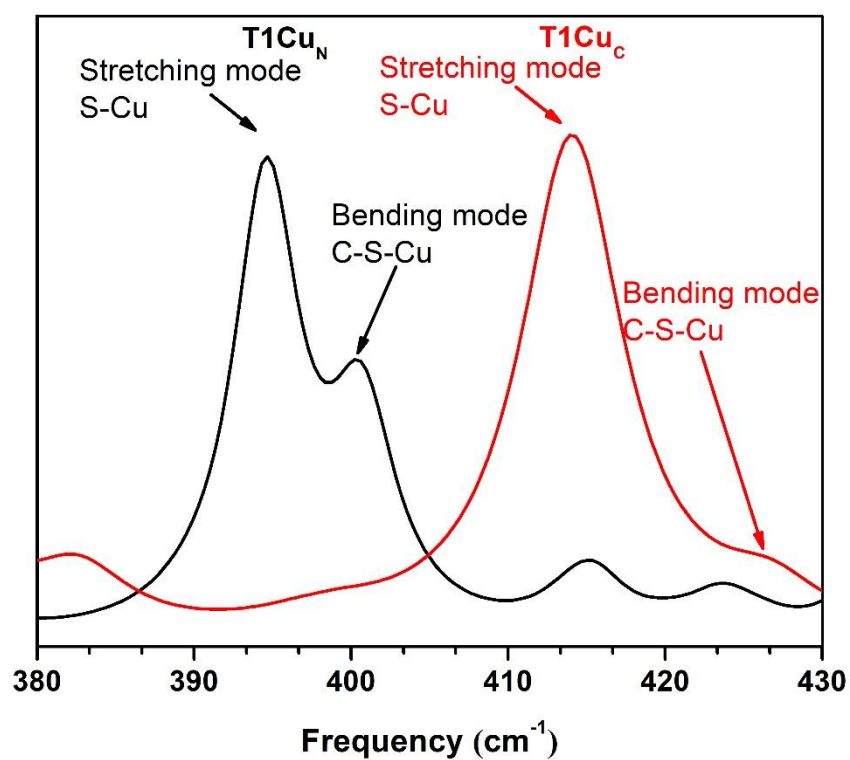


Figure S8 Relative peak intensities in the rR spectra of *TsNirK* and related copper proteins. Data taken from sources detailed in text. *Rhus vernicifera* stellacyanin (*RvSte*) (Nestor *et al.*, 1984), *Cucumis sativus* stellacyanin (*CsSte*) (Nersissian *et al.*, 1996), *Paracoccus denitrificans* amicyanin (*PdAmi*) (Sharma *et al.*, 1988), *P. versutus* amicyanin (*PvAmi*) (Buning *et al.*, 2000). Inserts in each panel shows the loop sequence that connects Cys with the axial ligand (Met or Gln) in T1Cu centres. Gray area represents the $\nu(\text{Cu-S})$ frequencies range for rhombic geometries and in yellow the axial geometry region (Andrew *et al.*, 1994).

