## **Supplementary Information**

## <sup>43</sup>Ca MAS-DNP NMR of frozen solutions for the investigation of calcium ion complexation

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**Figure S1**. Optimization of LP (A) and HP (B) Hartman and Hahn conditions by varying the <sup>1</sup>H RF field during CP. <sup>43</sup>Ca RF fields were respectively set to 0.8 and 32 kHz.



**Figure S2.** Contact time optimization for (A) Ca-H<sub>2</sub>O, (B) Ca-EDTA-50 and (C) Ca-LAsp-100 using HP CP DNP MAS NMR at 100K. (D) Contact time optimization for Ca-H<sub>2</sub>O using LP CP DNP MAS NMR at 100K



**Figure S3.** <sup>43</sup>Ca MAS-DNP NMR normalized spectra of <sup>43</sup>Ca-labelled hydroxyapatite sample acquired with HP (32 scans) and LP (160 scans) CP conditions. <sup>43</sup>Ca-labelled hydroxyapatite was prepared according to Wang et al. (*Nat. Mater.* volume 12, pages 1144–1153 (2013); DOI: 10.1038/nmat3787) and the corresponding powder impregnated with Glycerol-d8/D<sub>2</sub>O/H<sub>2</sub>O (volume ratio 2/3/5) containing 15 mM of Amupol.



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**Figure S4.** <sup>43</sup>Ca MAS-DNP NMR spectrum of the CT line shape of <sup>43</sup>Ca-labelled hydroxyapatite sample acquired with LP CP conditions (blue curve) and its best fitting: total spectrum (black dotted curve) and individual sites Ca(I)(red) and Ca(II) (green). Good quality fitting could only be obtained after including 2 Ca sites, in agreement with previous studies (Lee, D. *et al. Nat Commun* 8, 14104 (2017). DOI : 10.1038/ncomms14104 and Laurencin et al. *Magnetic Resonance in Chemistry* 2008, *46*(4), 347-350. DOI: 10.1002/mrc.2117). The best-fitting parameters for the two Ca sites are displayed in Table S1. The <sup>43</sup>Ca chemical shift was referenced by setting the center of gravity of the <sup>43</sup>Ca signal of HA at 9.4 T to 0 ppm (see main text for discussion).

HA CT best fit parameters	δ <sub>iso</sub> <sup>43</sup> Ca (ppm)	C <sub>Q</sub> (MHz)	η <sub>Q</sub>
Ca(I)	2±3	2.3±0.2	0.5±0.1
	11±9ª	2.6±0.4ª	0.4±0.3ª
	4.5±0.8 <sup>b</sup>	2.6±0.4 <sup>b</sup>	0.4±0.2 <sup>b</sup>
Ca(II)	26±3	2.7±0.2	0.2±0.1
	25±5ª	2.6±0.4ª;	0.4±0.1ª
	17.5±0.8 <sup>b</sup>	2.6±0.4 <sup>b</sup>	0.6±0.2 <sup>b</sup>

**Table S1.** Best fit parameters obtained for the CT line shape of of <sup>43</sup>Ca-labelled hydroxyapatite sample. The fit was realized using ssNake (Van Meerten et al. *Journal of Magnetic Resonance* 2019, *301*, 56-66 ; DOI: 10.1016/j.jmr.2019.02.006).

<sup>a</sup> Lee et al. Nat. Comm. 2017, 8(1), 14104. DOI : 10.1038/ncomms14104

<sup>b</sup> Laurencin and Smith Progress Nucl. Magn. Reson. 2013, 68, 1-40. DOI :

10.1016/j.pnmrs.2012.05.001



**Figure S5**. Theoretical acquisition time of a 1D <sup>43</sup>Ca MAS-DNP NMR spectrum for SNR = 20 (red squares) and SNR = 5 (blue squares) in HP CP conditions depending on the Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentration (for 62,2% <sup>43</sup>Ca-labelled samples). For physiological concentrations of <sup>43</sup>Ca (*i.e.* between 10 and 2.5 mM), the acquisition of 1D spectrum with a SNR = 20 (*i.e.* allowing to further record 2D spectra) would take from 46 min. to 3 days, while a 1D spectrum with a SNR=5 (*i.e.* allowing a straightforward analysis of 1D spectra) would require from 3 min. to 4 hours. This simple calculation shows that analysis of Ca<sup>2+</sup> complex solutions at natural abundance would be feasible at high concentrations but extremely difficult in physiological concentration. As an example, a SNR = 5 for 1D <sup>43</sup>Ca NMR spectrum of 300 mM Ca<sup>2+</sup> solutions would be obtained in 12h at natural abundance, in our conditions. Whereas the same SNR for a 10 mM Ca<sup>2+</sup> solutions would be obtained after more than 1 year, justifying <sup>43</sup>Ca-labelling approach.



**Figure S6**. <sup>43</sup>Ca hyperbolic secant spectra of Ca-H<sub>2</sub>O sample at 100K recorded with (top) and without (bottom) MW. Enhancement factor:  $\varepsilon_{43Ca HS}$  = 5.5.

Interestingly, the HS experiment provides a significant DNP enhancement factor. Such <sup>43</sup>Ca enhancement probably arises from direct <sup>43</sup>Ca excitation that might be due to the large EPR linewidth of the AMUPol radical used here, which guarantees efficient polarization transfer over a broad range of nuclear Larmor frequencies.



Figure S7. <sup>43</sup>Ca CPHP DNP MAS NMR spectra of Ca-Asp100 (top) and Ca-H<sub>2</sub>O samples (bottom).



**Figure S8**. Low energy configurations obtained by DFT and corresponding calculated <sup>43</sup>Ca quadrupolar parameters for Ca<sup>2+</sup> complexed with water molecules. Characteristic distances around Ca<sup>2+</sup> are shown.



**Figure S9**. Low energy configurations obtained by DFT and corresponding calculated <sup>43</sup>Ca quadrupolar parameters for Ca<sup>2+</sup> in interaction with EDTA and water molecules. Characteristic distances around Ca<sup>2+</sup> are shown.



**Figure S10.** Low energy configurations obtained by DFT and corresponding calculated <sup>43</sup>Ca quadrupolar parameters for L-Asp in interaction through  $C_1OO^-$  with  $Ca^{2+}$ . Characteristic distances around  $Ca^{2+}$  are shown.



**Figure S11**. Low energy configurations obtained by DFT and corresponding calculated <sup>43</sup>Ca quadrupolar parameters for L-Asp in interaction through  $C_4OO^-$  with  $Ca^{2+}$ . Characteristic distances around  $Ca^{2+}$  are shown.