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**Thiol-cleavable Biotin for Chemical and Enzymatic
Biotinylation and its Application to Mitochondrial TurboID
Proteomics**

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4 **1 Thiol-cleavable Biotin for Chemical and Enzymatic Biotinylation and its**
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7 **2 Application to Mitochondrial TurboID Proteomics**
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3 **18 ABSTRACT**
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6 **19** Protein biotinylation via chemical or enzymatic reactions is often coupled with streptavidin-based
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8 **20** enrichment and on-beads digestion in numerous biological applications. However, the popular on-
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10 **21** beads digestion method faces major challenges of streptavidin contamination, the lost information
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12 **22** of biotinylation sites, and limited sequence coverage of enriched proteins. Here, we explored thiol-
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14 **23** cleavable biotin as an alternative approach to elute biotinylated proteins from streptavidin-coated
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16 **24** beads for both chemical biotinylation and biotin ligase-based proximity labeling. All possible
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18 **25** amino acid sites for biotinylation were thoroughly evaluated besides the primary lysine residue.
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20 **26** We found that biotinylation at lysine residues notably reduces the trypsin digestion efficiency
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22 **27** which can be mitigated by the thiol-cleavable biotinylation method. We then evaluated the
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24 **28** applicability of thiol-cleavable biotin as a substrate for proximity labeling in living cells, where
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26 **29** TurboID biotin ligase was engineered onto the mitochondrial inner membrane facing the
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28 **30** mitochondrial matrix. As a proof-of-principle study, thiol-cleavable biotin-assisted TurboID
29
30 **31** proteomics achieved remarkable intra-organelle spatial resolution with significantly enriched
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32 **32** proteins localized in the mitochondrial inner membrane and mitochondrial matrix.
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39 **33 KEYWORDS:**
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42 **34** Cleavable biotin; Proximity labeling; TurboID; Mitochondrion; Streptavidin
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36 INTRODUCTION

37 Biotin, also known as vitamin B7, is a cofactor for carboxylase enzymes required for fatty
38 acid synthesis.¹ Biotin can be covalently linked to proteins, peptides, and nucleic acids through
39 chemical and enzymatic biotinylation. Because of the exceptionally high affinity between biotin
40 and streptavidin ($K_d \sim 10^{-14}$ M), biotin-streptavidin system has been widely applied in
41 biotechnology for affinity purification, immobilization, imaging and drug delivery.²⁻⁵ However,
42 the extremely stable and strong biotin-streptavidin interaction is a double-edged sword.
43 Biotinylated proteins can only be eluted from streptavidin under harsh denaturing conditions (e.g.,
44 boiling in a denaturing buffer), on-beads digestion, or competitive elution with excess biotin in
45 detergent.^{4,6,7} Elution with detergent containing buffer (e.g., SDS or Triton) is not compatible with
46 mass spectrometry (MS) analysis and on-bead digestion often leads to overwhelming
47 contamination signals of streptavidin peptides.⁷ The information of biotinylation sites is also lost
48 from on-beads digestion since biotinylated peptides will remain attached to the beads. Alternative
49 strategies have been developed in recent years that use structurally modified avidins with lower
50 binding affinity ($K_d \approx 10^{-8}$ M), anti-biotin antibodies, or biotin derivatives with a cleavable
51 moiety that can be selectively released under mild elution conditions (e.g., UV-radiation, chemical
52 exposure, enzymes).⁸⁻¹²

53 A major class of applications of the biotin-streptavidin system involves attaching biotin to
54 proteins of interest by chemical labeling or *in situ* enzymatic reactions. Recent advancements in
55 enzymatic proximity labeling techniques have allowed both stable and transient protein networks
56 and subcellular microenvironment to be captured in various living cells and organisms.¹³⁻¹⁵
57 Engineered peroxidase or biotin ligase can be tagged to the bait protein to biotinylate neighboring
58 prey proteins upon activation, which can then be enriched by streptavidin-coated beads for MS-

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3 59 based proteomics.¹³ However, proximity labeling studies face the same challenges of using the
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5 60 biotin-streptavidin system. To address these challenges, anti-biotin antibodies have been shown to
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7 61 sufficiently elute biotinylated peptides with excellent coverage of biotinylation sites.^{9,10} But anti-
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9 62 biotin antibodies are much more expensive than streptavidin and have potential issues of antibody
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11 63 nonspecific bindings. The other alternative strategy is cleavable biotin but has rarely been used for
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13 64 proximity labeling studies.¹⁶ Therefore, on-beads digestion is still the most popular approach
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15 65 despite the lost information of biotinylation sites, streptavidin contamination, and limited sequence
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17 66 coverage of enriched proteins.
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21 Here, we sought to evaluate cleavable biotin for both chemical biotinylation and enzymatic
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23 68 proximity labeling in living cells. Commercially available thiol-cleavable biotin was used which
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25 69 contains a disulfide bridge that can be cleaved with the addition of a reducing agent after capturing
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27 70 biotinylated proteins on the streptavidin-coated magnetic beads. We first chemically labeled
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29 71 protein standards and complex human cell lysate with amine-reactive NHS-SS-biotin which
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31 72 primarily modifies the lysine side chains of proteins. The amino acid sites of SS-biotinylation and
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33 73 protein digestion efficiency were investigated in comparison to NHS-biotin labeled and unlabeled
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35 74 proteins. We then applied the thiol-cleavable biotin method to proximity labeling in living cells.
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37 75 Recently developed TurboID biotin ligase was selected because of its highly efficient labeling
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39 76 activity compared to the BioID method to reduce the diffusion of the reactive biotin cloud.¹⁷
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41 77 TurboID was genetically expressed onto the mitochondrial inner membrane, facing the
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43 78 mitochondrial matrix. Mitochondria are the powerhouses and the metabolic hubs of eukaryotic
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45 79 cells. The double membraned structure of mitochondrion created a unique compartment apart from
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47 80 the cytosolic environment. The inner mitochondrial membrane (IMM) is the major site for electron
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49 81 transport chain to produce ATP through aerobic respiration.¹⁸ In the presence of ATP and thiol-
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3 82 cleavable SS-biotin substrate, TurboID can catalyze the SS-biotinylation of nearby proteins within
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5 83 10 nm labeling radius of the IMM, achieving remarkable intra-organelle spatial resolution for
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8 84 mitochondrial proteomics.
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11 12 86 **EXPERIMENTAL SECTION**

13 14 15 87 ***In-vitro* Protein Labeling with NHS-SS-Biotin and NHS-Biotin**

16
17 88 Amine-reactive NHS-SS-biotin and NHS-biotin reagents (APEXBIO) were used to label BSA
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19 89 protein standard (Fisher Scientific) and whole-cell human protein extract (Promega). BSA protein
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21 90 standard and human cell lysate were prepared in Phosphate-Buffer Saline (PBS) at 2 mg/mL
22
23 91 concentrations. Urea and Tris buffers that contain primary amine groups cannot be used for NHS
24
25 92 labeling. NHS-SS-biotin and NHS-biotin reagents are moisture-sensitive and were carefully
26
27 93 prepared in DMSO (100 mM) to remain anhydrous in a desiccator in -30 °C. NHS reagent was
28
29 94 mixed with each protein sample with a 50-fold molar excess for 30 min in a ThermoMixer at 25
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31 95 °C. The labeling reaction was quenched with 10% hydroxylamine for 15 min and labeled samples
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33 96 were stored at -80 °C.
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38 97 To evaluate the labeling reaction, an aliquot of each labeled protein samples (40 µg) was
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40 98 transferred to a new tube to react with Tris(2-carboxylethyl) phosphine (TCEP, 20 mM) in a
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42 99 ThermoMixer for 60 min at 37 °C to reduce/cleave the disulfide bonds. The free SH-group was
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44 100 alkylated with 50 mM iodoacetamide (IAA) for 30 min, followed by an additional 20 mM TCEP
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46 101 treatment for 10 min to get rid of excessive IAA. Trypsin enzyme (Promega) was added (enzyme:
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48 102 protein = 1:30, w/w) for an in-solution digestion at 37 °C for 18 hrs. For the comparison of Trypsin,
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50 103 LysC, and Trypsin/LysC mix enzymes (Promega), 0.4 µg of enzymes were used to digest 40 µg of
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52 104 SS-biotin labeled cell lysate in each replicate. Protein digestions were quenched with 10%
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3 105 trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) until pH < 3. Peptide samples were desalted on a C18 96-well μ Elution
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5 106 plate (Waters), dried under SpeedVac, and stored at -30 °C.
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7 107 **Cell Culture and Mitochondrial TurboID Stable Cell Line**

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10 108 HEK293T and HeLa cells were cultured in DMEM medium supplemented with 10% FBS, 1 mM
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12 109 sodium pyruvate, 10 mM HEPES, non-essential amino acids, and GlutaMAX. All reagents were
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14 110 purchased from Gibco. TurboID was genetically expressed onto a mitochondrial inner membrane
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16 111 protein, Stomatin-like protein 2 (STOML2), using the well-established TurboID method
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18 112 developed by the Ting group.¹⁹ pLVX-puro-STOML2-TurboID-HA plasmid was created by PCR
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20 113 amplification and sub-cloning into the EcoRI sites of pLVX-puro vector (Clontech). The sequence
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22 114 coding TurboID was amplified from TurboID-V5-KDEL-pDisplay (kindly provided by Dr. Alice
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24 115 Ting) with a sequence coding HA-tag. To generate a stably transfected cell line expressing
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26 116 STOML2-TurboID-HA, lentiviruses were packaged in HEK293T cells, and HeLa cells were
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28 117 transduced with these viruses with 10 μ g/ml Polybrene (Sigma) then optimized for protein
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30 118 expression via antibiotics selection. Wild-type HeLa cells without TurboID expression were used
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32 119 as the negative control group. Cells were cultured in 15 cm dishes until confluence. Both
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34 120 mitochondrial TurboID cells and control cells were incubated with 1 mM SS-biotin (Cayman) at
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36 121 37 °C for 30 min, gently washed twice with PBS, and pelleted. Cell pellets were flash frozen in
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38 122 liquid nitrogen and stored at -80 °C.
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40 123 **Sample Preparation of Mitochondrial TurboID Cells**

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42 124 Cell pellets were lysed in ice-cold lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl, 500 mM NaCl, 0.1% SDS, 1%
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44 125 Triton-X, Ultra mini protease inhibitor). Lysis buffer needs to avoid adding reducing reagents such
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46 126 as TCEP or DTT. Cell lysates were homogenized, sonicated on ice for 15 minutes, and clarified
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48 127 by centrifugation at 16500 rpm for 15 minutes at 4 °C. The total protein concentrations of cell
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3 128 lysate samples were measured by a Detergent-Compatible Colorimetric Protein Assay (DCA, Bio-
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5 129 Rad). Streptavidin (SA) magnetic beads (Cytiva) were used to enrich biotinylated proteins with
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7
8 130 our previously developed enrichment and washing protocol.⁷ Briefly, after a 16 hour incubation
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10 131 with the SA beads at 4 °C, supernatants were removed and the beads were washed twice
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12 132 sequentially with each wash buffer (Buffer A: 2% SDS; Buffer B: 50 mM Tris-HCl, 500 mM
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14 133 NaCl, 2% Triton-X; Buffer C: 50 mM Tris-HCl, 250 mM NaCl, 0.5% SDS, 0.5% Triton-X, Buffer
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17 134 D: 2M Urea, 50 mM Tris-HCl). An additional two washes were performed with Buffer D to ensure
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19 135 complete removal of detergent. Then, SS-biotin labeled proteins were cleaved off beads with
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21 136 elution buffer (20 mM TCEP, 0.1% Rapigest (Waters), 30 mM NaCl, and 50 mM Tris-HCl) in a
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24 137 ThermoMixer for 60 min at 37 °C. The beads were eluted again with 1% formic acid (FA) in 50
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26 138 mM Tris-HCl for another 30 min to ensure complete protein elution. The eluents were combined
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28 139 for alkylation with IAA and quenched with TCEP as described above. Trypsin/Lys-C mix was
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31 140 used for protein digestion (1:30 ratio) for 16 hrs at 37 °C in a ThermoMixer. Protein digestion was
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33 141 quenched with 10% TFA until pH < 3, incubated at 37 °C for 45 min, and clarified by centrifugation
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35 142 at 13000 rpm for 10 min to remove Rapigest. Peptides were desalted, dried, and stored at -30 °C
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38 143 until LC-MS/MS analysis.

40 144 **LC-MS/MS analysis**

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42 145 Peptides samples were reconstituted in 2% acetonitrile (ACN), 0.1% FA in LC-MS grade water,
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44 146 briefly sonicated and clarified by centrifugation at 16500 rpm for 10 minutes at 4 °C. A Dionex
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47 147 Ultimate 3000 RSLCnano system coupled with a Thermo Scientific Q-Exactive HFX mass
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49 148 spectrometer was used for LC-MS/MS analysis. The mobile phase A was 0.1% FA in water, and
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51 149 mobile phase B was 0.1% FA in ACN. Peptides were separated on an Easy-spray PepMap C18
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54 150 column (2 μM, 100 Å, 75 μM × 75 cm) with a 2-hour LC gradient and 55 °C column temperature.

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3 151 The flow rate was 0.2 $\mu\text{L}/\text{min}$. The MS scanned from m/z 380 to 2000 at 120 K resolution with a
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5 152 top 30 data-dependent acquisition with MS/MS resolution at 7.5K. Parent masses were isolated
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7 153 with a m/z 1.4 window and fragmented with higher-energy collision dissociation (HCD). The
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10 154 normalized collision energy was 30% and the dynamic exclusion time was 30 s. The maximum
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12 155 injection times were 30 ms for MS and 35 ms for MS/MS. The automatic gain control (AGC) was
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15 156 1×10^6 for MS and 2×10^5 for MS/ MS.

16 17 157 **Data Analysis**

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19 158 LC-MS/MS raw files were analyzed with Thermo Proteome Discoverer (2.4.1.15) software. The
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21 159 Uniprot BSA protein sequence was used to search labeled and unlabeled BSA sample. Swiss-Prot
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23 160 *Homo sapiens* database (reviewed) was used for human protein identification (1% false discovery
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26 161 rate cutoff). Common proteomics contamination database (from Max Planck Institute of
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28 162 Biochemistry) was included as the contamination marker. Trypsin was used as the enzyme with
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31 163 four maximum missed cleavages. Cysteine carbamidomethylation was included as a fixed
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33 164 modification. Methionine oxidation, and acetylation of protein N-terminus were included as
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35 165 variable modification. Biotinylation (+226.0776 Da) or thiol-cleavable biotinylation (+145.0198
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37 166 Da) was added as an additional variable modification at lysine residue for biotin and SS-biotin
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40 167 labeled samples, respectively. Chromatographic alignment was conducted with a maximum
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42 168 retention time shift of 2 min and a minimum signal-to-noise ratio of 5. Precursor mass tolerance
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44 169 was 4 ppm. Fragment mass tolerance was 0.02 Da. Biotinylated proteins/peptides were also
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47 170 confirmed with Maxquant (1.6.17.0) software with the same parameters as the Proteome
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49 171 Discoverer software. For the analysis of mitochondrial TurboID samples, proteomics data was
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51 172 normalized to the endogenously biotinylated protein PCCA as described previously.⁷ Statistical
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54 173 analysis was conducted with a *t-test* built in the Proteome Discoverer software. Protein Go-term

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3 174 analysis was conducted by the Enrichr online software platform.²⁰ Raw LC-MS/MS data from this
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5 175 manuscript are available through the MassIVE repository (Identifier will be added here upon
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11 12 178 **RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

13 14 15 179 **Thiol-Cleavable Biotin for Chemical Labeling**

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17 180 In proximity labeling, biotin ligases (e.g. BioID²¹, TurboID¹⁷) catalyze the biotinylation of
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19 181 neighboring proteins in the presence of ATP and biotin substrate within a 10 nm labeling radius
20
21 182 (**Figure 1**). Thiol-cleavable biotin can be a promising alternative to traditional biotin substrate,
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23 183 allowing the efficient and complete elution of biotinylated proteins from streptavidin beads while
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25 184 preserving the information of biotinylation sites. To imitate biotin ligase-based proximity labeling
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27 185 in cells, we first investigated the thiol-cleavable biotin labeling *in vitro* with the succinimidyl 2-
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29 186 (biotinamido)-ethyl-1,3'-dithiopropionate (NHS-SS-biotin) reagent. NHS-SS-biotin is amine-
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31 187 reactive and labels the lysine side chain and N-terminus of proteins. To investigate chemical
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33 188 biotinylation, bovine serum albumin (BSA) standard and human whole cell lysate were labeled
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35 189 with NHS-SS-biotin reagent. Biotinylated proteins can be enriched with streptavidin-coated
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37 190 magnetic beads. Reducing agent can then be added to cleave the disulfide bond and release the
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39 191 proteins from the beads to the supernatant. Then the eluted proteins can be digested in-solution for
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41 192 subsequent proteomics analysis. TCEP was chosen as the reducing agent because it is more stable,
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43 193 effective, and odor-less compared to DTT. IAA was added to the eluent to carbomethylate the
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45 194 free thiol group and prevent the reformation of disulfide bonds (**Figure 1B**). The concentration of
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47 195 TCEP and IAA was optimized to achieve nearly complete (99.5%) cleavage and carbomethylation
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49 196 reaction for human cell lysate samples (**Table 1**). For NHS-SS-biotin labeled human cell lysate
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3 197 proteins, we identified a total of over 3000 modified peptides (**Supplemental Table S1**).
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5 198 Additionally, to compare with the thiol-cleavable NHS-SS-biotin labeling, we also used the non-
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7 199 cleavable biotin derivative, N-hydroxysuccinimidobiotin (NHS-biotin) to labeled BSA and human
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10 200 whole cell lysate. The complete protein IDs and quantification in three groups is provided in
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12 201 **Supplemental Table S2**. As shown in **Figure 2** and **Figure S1**, peptides labeled with biotin at
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14 202 lysine residues have larger delta masses (+226.0776 Da) compared to the cleavable SS-biotin
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16 203 (+145.0198 Da). SS-biotin or biotin modification alters the molecular size and polarity and
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18 204 therefore caused the delayed LC-MS retention times. Peptide backbone fragmentations are
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20 205 comparable if not better in SS-biotin-labeled peptides vs. biotin-labeled and unlabeled peptides.
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207 **Thiol-Cleavable Biotin and Biotin Modify Proteins More Than the Lysine Residues**

208 NHS-biotin reagents and biotin ligase-based proximity labeling primarily label proteins on the
209 lysine side chain and protein N-terminus. NHS-biotin has also been shown to label serine and
210 tyrosine residues that have hydroxyl groups.²² However, a systematic evaluation of all the possible
211 biotinylation sites is still lacking. Here, we examined all amino acid residues that have a primary
212 amine (lysine, arginine, asparagine, glutamine) or hydroxyl residue (serine, threonine, tyrosine)
213 that could react with NHS group. We also included histidine residue, which contains a secondary
214 amine group. We found that both SS-biotin and biotin primarily modify the lysine residues as
215 expected (**Figure 3**). However, ~10-14% of proteins were also modified at other amino acid
216 residues (e.g., serine, threonine, histidine) with confident peptide identification (percolator q-
217 values $<1 \times 10^{-3}$) (**Supplemental Table S3**). Interestingly, only a few protein N-terminuses were
218 labeled with biotin. This is probably due to the existing modifications at the protein N-terminus
219 and the low percentage of N-terminus unique peptide identifications. Protein N-terminus have been

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3 220 shown to be co- or post-translational modified, such as acetylation, methylation, formylation, and
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5 221 methionine excision.²³ Since biotinylation modifies more than the lysine residue, other amino acids
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8 222 should also be considered as variable modifications in order to obtain a comprehensive coverage
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10 223 of biotinylation sites.

11 12 224 **Biotinylation at Lysine Reduces Trypsin Digestion Efficiency**

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14 225 Trypsin is the most common enzyme for protein digestion that cleaves at the carboxyl side of
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17 226 lysine and arginine.²⁴ Since biotinylation primarily modifies the lysine residue, we hypothesized
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19 227 that such modification may hinder trypsin digestion efficiency. Therefore, we directly compared
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21 228 the trypsin digestion efficiency for SS-biotin-labeled, biotin-labeled, and unlabeled human cell
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24 229 lysate. A total of over 5000 proteins were identified and quantified. As expected, unlabeled
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26 230 samples showed excellent cleavage efficiency, and majority of unlabeled peptides have no
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28 231 miscleavages (**Figure 4A**). In contrast, more than 90% peptides modified with SS-biotin or biotin
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30
31 232 have at least one miscleavage. SS-biotin modified peptides mitigated the problem compared to
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33 233 biotin modified peptides with more percentage of peptides with ≤ 1 miscleavages and less
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35 234 percentage of peptides with ≥ 2 miscleavages. The improved digestion efficiency is probably due
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38 235 to the excision of the biotin group from the protein/peptide. Since digestion miscleavages result in
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40 236 longer peptides and probably higher peptide charges, we also compared the distribution of peptide
41
42 237 charges and precursor masses to validate this finding. As illustrated in **Figure 4B** and **Figure S2**,
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44 238 SS-biotin and biotin labeled peptides have significantly higher peptide charges and larger
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47 239 precursor masses compared to unlabeled samples. Since the addition of Lys-C enzyme has been
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49 240 shown to improve digestion efficiency at the lysine site for trypsin digestion, we directly compared
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51 241 the digestion efficiency of SS-biotin labeled cell lysate using trypsin, LysC, and Trypsin/LysC mix
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54 242 enzymes.²⁵ Although protein digestion with Trypsin/Lys-C mix provided the most protein/peptide

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3 243 identifications compared to trypsin or Lys-C alone, the majority of SS-biotin modified peptides
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5 244 still have at least one miscleavages. (**Figure S3**). Therefore, we have proved that biotinylation at
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7 245 lysine reduces the protein digestion efficiency. This is critical for biotin ligase-based proximity
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9 246 labeling proteomics that routinely involves on-beads digestion to cleave the biotinylated proteins
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11 247 off the streptavidin beads. The miscleaved peptides will remain on the beads without sufficient
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13 248 elution and therefore sacrifices the protein/peptide identification and coverage. But peroxidase-
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15 249 based proximity labeling that biotinylates proteins at the electron-rich region (e.g., tyrosine residue)
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17 250 should not be influenced by this issue. In fact, we examined our previously developed LAMP1-
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19 251 APEX proximity labeling data and found that majority of peptides have no miscleavages (data not
20
21 252 shown).⁷ For biotin ligase-based proximity labeling or chemical biotinylation at the lysine residue,
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23 253 enzymes that cleave at other residues, such as Glu-C, Asp-N, and Arg-C may be used instead or
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25 254 in combination with trypsin digestion to improve protein coverage during on-beads digestion.
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27 255 Since our thiol-cleavable biotin method allows sufficient protein elution without the need for on-
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29 256 beads digestion, we can increase the maximum allowed miscleavages to three or four instead of
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31 257 routinely used two miscleavages for the proteomics data analysis.
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40 259 **Application of Thiol-cleavable Biotin to Mitochondrial TurboID Proximity Labeling**

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42 260 We have demonstrated the thiol-cleavable protein biotinylation by chemical labeling *in vitro*. Here,
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44 261 we aim to evaluate its applicability to the enzymatic proximity labeling reaction in living cells.
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46 262 Using the well-established TurboID proximity labeling method, we genetically engineered
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48 263 TurboID onto the Stomatin-like protein 2 (STOML2), a mitochondrial protein belonging to SPFH
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50 264 (stomatin/prohibitin/flotillin/HflKC) family. Members of SPFH family function as membrane
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52 265 organizers in various cellular membranes.²⁶ STOML2 is peripherally associated with the matrix-
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3 266 side of the inner mitochondrial membrane, and is suggested to act as membrane scaffolds of the
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5 267 inner mitochondrial membrane (**Figure 5A**).²⁷ Thiol-cleavable biotin (SS-biotin) was added to the
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8 268 HeLa cells expressing STOML2-TurboID as well as the negative control group (N=3). Through
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10 269 the proteomics workflow illustrated in Figure 1A, we identified and quantified a total of 1566
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12 270 proteins (**Supplemental Table S4**). Statistical analysis revealed 173 significantly enriched
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14 271 proteins in the mitochondrial TurboID group vs. control (p -value < 0.05, fold change > 2), of which,
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16 272 116 proteins were only identified and quantified in the TurboID group. These significantly
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18 273 enriched proteins are highlighted in red in the volcano plot, including the bait protein STOML2
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20 274 and key mitochondrial proteins (**Figure 5B**). When compared to the routine on-beads digestion
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22 275 method, thiol-cleavable biotin method provided less nonspecific protein IDs (e.g., histones, actins)
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24 276 with greatly reduced streptavidin signals and enabled 305 biotinylate sites to be identified from
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26 277 ~200 modified peptides, mainly at K, but also at other amino acid residues like S, T, and H
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30
31 278 (**Supplemental Table S5**).

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33 279 In order to confirm that the biotinylated proteins were completely cleaved and eluted from
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35 280 the streptavidin beads, we also conducted on-beads digestion of the leftover beads after elution.
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37 281 Only 156 proteins were identified including streptavidin, trypsin, keratins, actins, histones, and
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39 282 other nonspecific binding proteins, proving that the cleavage/elution was complete (**Supplemental**
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41 283 **Table S6**). Worth mentioning is that highly abundant biotin-dependent carboxylases were
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43 284 identified in the leftover beads digest. In our previous study, we found that these endogenously
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45 285 biotinylated carboxylases were highly abundant in both lysosomal and cytosolic APEX proximity
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47 286 labeling datasets. Our thiol-cleavable mitochondrial TurboID method reduced but not removed
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49 287 these carboxylases, including PC, PCCA, PCCB, MCC1, MCC2, ACACA, and ACACB
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51 288 (highlighted in green in **Figure 5B**).²⁸ These biotin-dependent carboxylases are probably partially
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3 289 biotinylated endogenously and partially SS-biotinylated due to the addition of SS-biotin during
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5 290 proximity labeling in living cells. Although these carboxylases cannot be removed, they serve as
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7 291 a quality control check point as they should remain unchanged among different groups and
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9 292 negative control that were all incubated with biotin substrate, and therefore can be used to
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11 293 normalize the proximity labeling dataset to reduce variation as we demonstrated previously.

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14 294 Protein enrichment analysis was conducted for the significantly enriched proteins in
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16 295 mitochondrial TurboID vs. control. Significantly enriched cellular location Go-terms include
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18 296 mitochondrion, mitochondrial matrix and mitochondrial inner membrane (IMM) (**Figure 5C**).
19
20 297 TurboID labeling radius (~10 nm) is much smaller than the average diameter of the mitochondrion
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22 298 (~1 μm), achieving super spatial resolution of labeling activity inside the mitochondrion.
23
24 299 Mitochondrial matrix and inner membrane proteins were much highly enriched than other
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26 300 locations of the mitochondrion. For instance, many mitochondrial ribosomal proteins were
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28 301 enriched (MRPLs and MRPSs), which are localized to the matrix attaching to the IMM and are
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30 302 responsible for mitochondrial protein synthesis.²⁹ Proteins related to the mitochondrial respiratory
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32 303 complexes localized at IMM were identified which are responsible for producing ATP.^{18,30} The
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34 304 known STOML2 interactor, YME1L and PARL were also enriched in our dataset.³¹ Mitochondrial
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36 305 enzymes in the matrix were enriched such as ACOT2, HSD17B10, CHPF, and PPA2. Whereas
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38 306 only few mitochondrial outer membrane proteins were enriched. Traditionally, such spatial
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40 307 resolution inside the organelle can only be achieved by super resolution microscopy and electron
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42 308 microscopy, but one protein at a time. Mitochondrial APEX proximity labeling, originally
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44 309 developed in the Ting group, achieved remarkable spatial resolution and high throughput
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46 310 mitochondrial proteomic identification.³²⁻³⁴ As a proof-of-principle study, our thiol-cleavable
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3 311 biotin-assisted mitochondrial TurboID also demonstrated excellent intra-organelle resolution
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5 312 without the need for on-beads digestion and mitochondrial fractionation.
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10 314 **CONCLUSION**

11
12 315 To summarize, we have developed both chemical and enzymatic biotinylation methods using thiol-
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14 316 cleavable biotin as the substrate. Through a comprehensive biotinylation site analysis, we
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16 317 demonstrated that NHS-reagent and biotin ligase-based biotinylation modify proteins more than
17
18 318 the lysine side chain. We found that biotinylation at lysine residues reduces the trypsin digestion
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20 319 efficiency, resulting in the increased miscleavages and longer peptides with higher peptide
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22 320 charges. Our thiol-cleavable biotin labeling mitigated this issue compared to the traditional
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24 321 biotinylation, in particularly with complete protein elution without the need for on-beads digestion.
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26 322 We also recommend setting the maximum allowed miscleavages to 3 or 4 for tryptic digested
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28 323 biotinylated proteins. Mitochondrial TurboID proteomics using the thiol-cleavable biotin method
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30 324 demonstrated intra-organelle spatial resolution of enriched mitochondrial proteins at
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32 325 mitochondrial inner membrane and matrix, providing a promising alternative method to study both
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34 326 chemical and enzymatic biotinylation of proteins in biological systems.
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42 328 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

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45 329 **Figure S1.** Example LC-MS chromatograms (A) and MS/MS spectra of peptide fragmentation (B)
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47 330 for SS-biotin labeled, biotin-labeled, and unlabeled peptide (PNDTQWITKPVHK) from
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49 331 ribosomal protein L15 (RPL15) in human cell lysate. **Figure S2.** Histogram distribution of
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51 332 precursor masses (M+H) of non-labeled, biotin-labeled, and SS-biotin-labeled peptides from
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53 333 human cell lysate samples. **Figure S3.** Comparison of the protein digestion efficiency using
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3 334 Trypsin, LysC, and Trypsin/Lys-C mix for SS-biotin labeled human protein lysate. **Table S1:**
4
5 335 Thiol cleavable SS-biotin modified peptide sequences in labeled human cell lysate. **Table S2:**
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7 336 Protein IDs and quantification in SS-biotin labeled vs. biotin labeled vs. unlabeled human cell
8
9 337 lysate. **Table S3:** Average percolator q -values of modified peptides at various amino acid residues.
10
11 338 **Table S4:** Protein IDs and quantification in STOML2-TurboID vs. control. **Table S5:** SS-
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13 339 biotinylated peptides in STOML2-TurboID Proteomics. **Table S6:** Leftover beads digestion
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15 340 showing that the elution was complete.
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21 342 Notes: The authors declare no competing financial interest.
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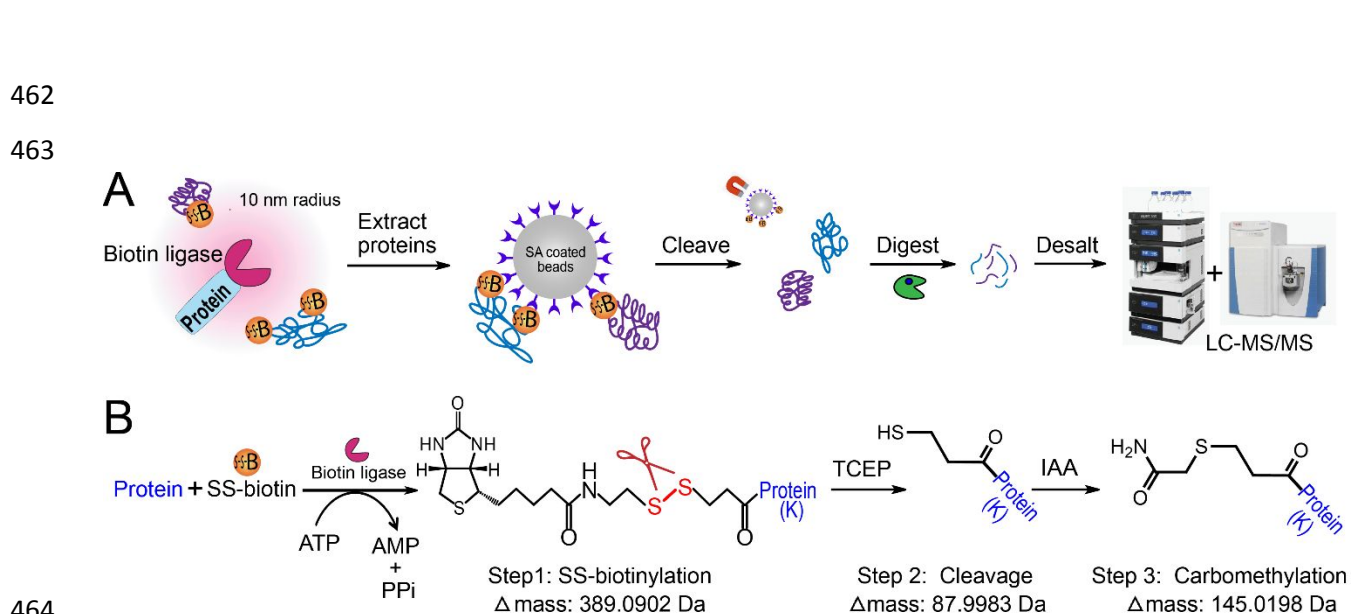
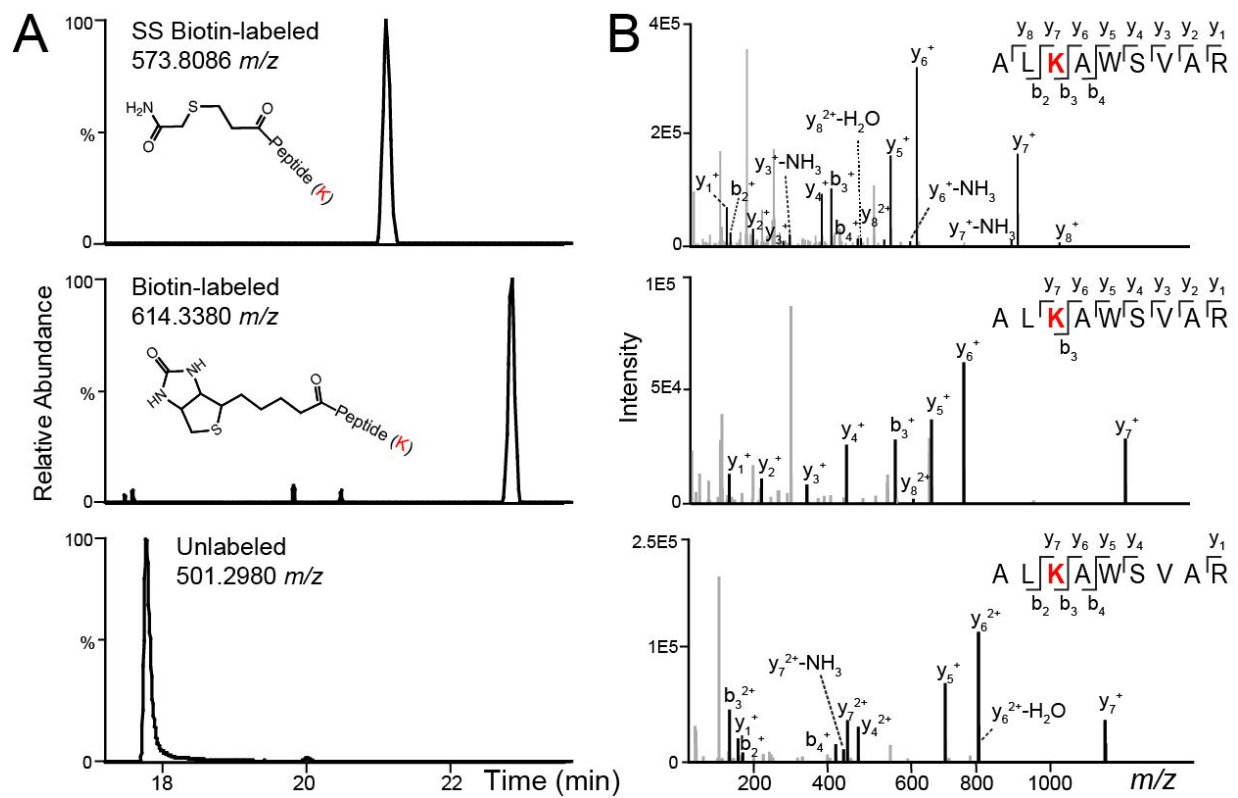


Figure 1. Development of thiol-cleavable biotin-enabled proximity labeling. (A) General workflow for thiol-cleavable biotinylation and protein sample preparation. (B) Schematic of enzymatic reaction of SS-biotinylation, chemical cleavage of disulfide bonds to elute proteins off the streptavidin beads, and carbomethylation of the free thiol group to avoid reformation of disulfide bonds.

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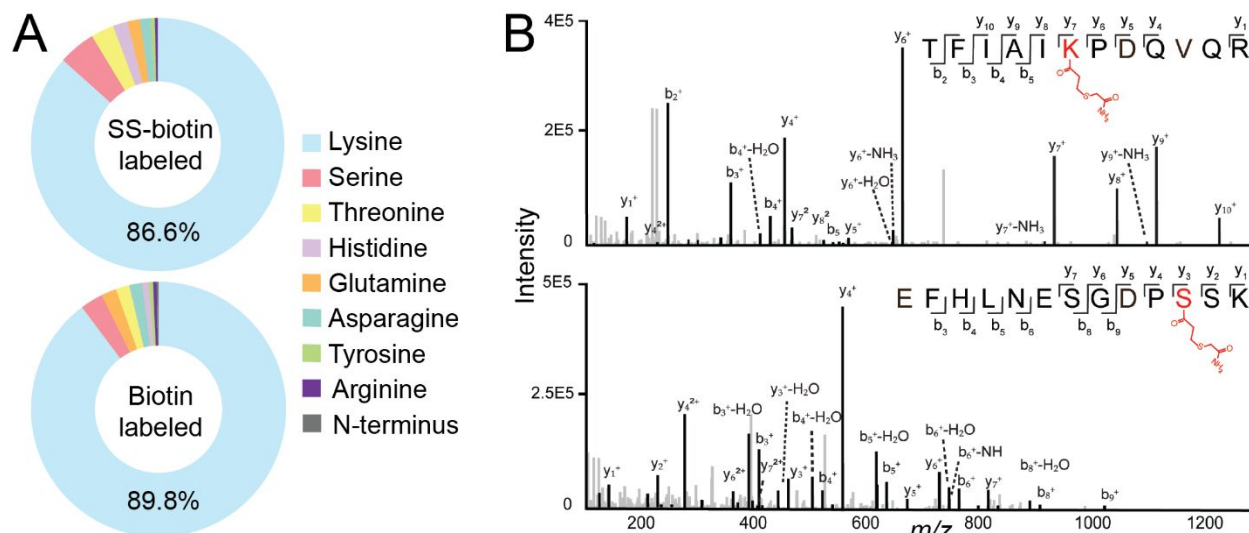


471

472 **Figure 2.** Example LC-MS chromatograms (A) and MS/MS spectra of peptide fragmentation (B)
 473 for SS-biotin-labeled, biotin-labeled, and unlabeled peptide (ALKAWSVAR) from bovine serum
 474 albumin (BSA) protein.

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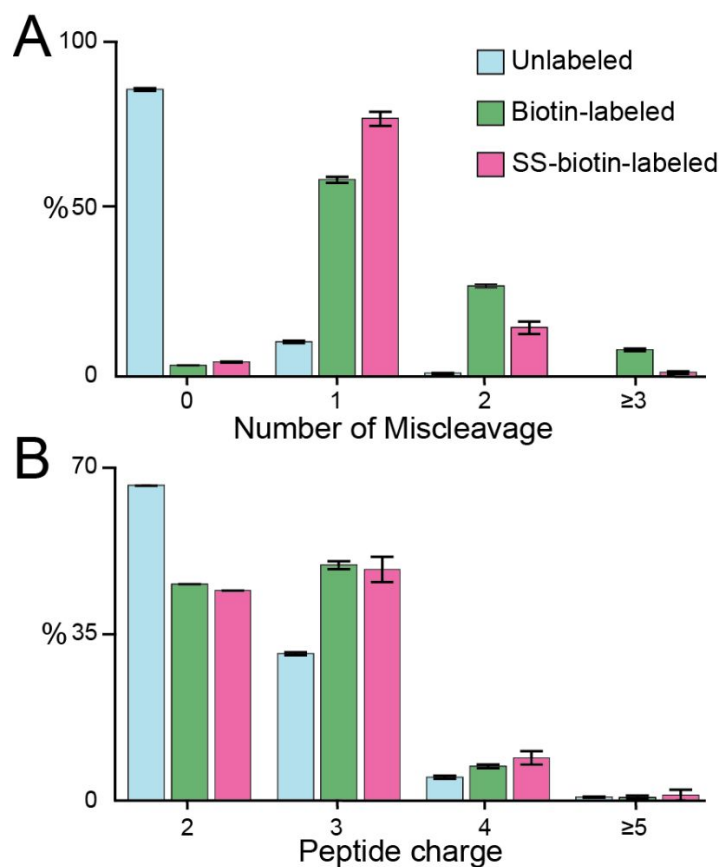


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478 **Figure 3.** Evaluation of protein biotinylation sites. (A) Percentage distribution of biotinylation
 479 sites from labeled human cell lysate. (B) Example fragmentation spectra of SS-biotin modified
 480 peptides.

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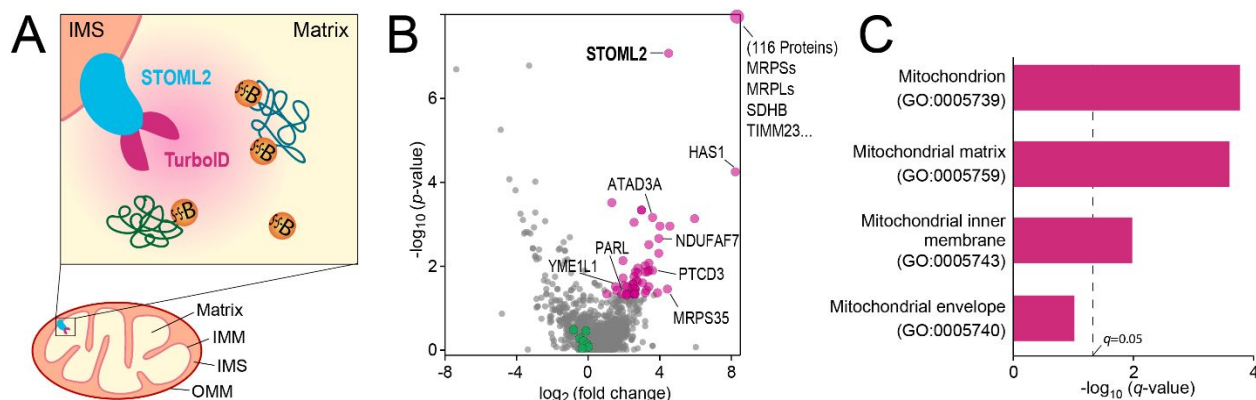


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484 **Figure 4.** Evaluation of the trypsin digestion efficiency for unlabeled, biotin-labeled (K), and
485 SS-biotin-labeled (K) peptides from human cell lysate samples. Histogram distributions of the
486 number of miscleavages (A) and peptide charges (B).

487

488



489 **Figure 5. Mitochondrial TurboID Proteomics with thiol-cleavable biotin.** (A) Schematic of
 490 STOML2-TurboID inside the mitochondrion using thiol-cleavable SS-biotin as the substrate. (B)
 491 Volcano plot of STOML2-TurboID proteomics vs. negative control (N=3). Significantly
 492 enriched proteins are highlighted in red. Endogenously biotinylated carboxylases were
 493 highlighted in green. (C) Go-term analysis of significantly enriched proteins (Top 4 ranked Go-
 494 terms for cellular location). Mitochondrial structure: outer mitochondrial membrane (OMM),
 495 intermembrane space (IMS), inner mitochondrial membrane (IMM), and mitochondrial matrix.

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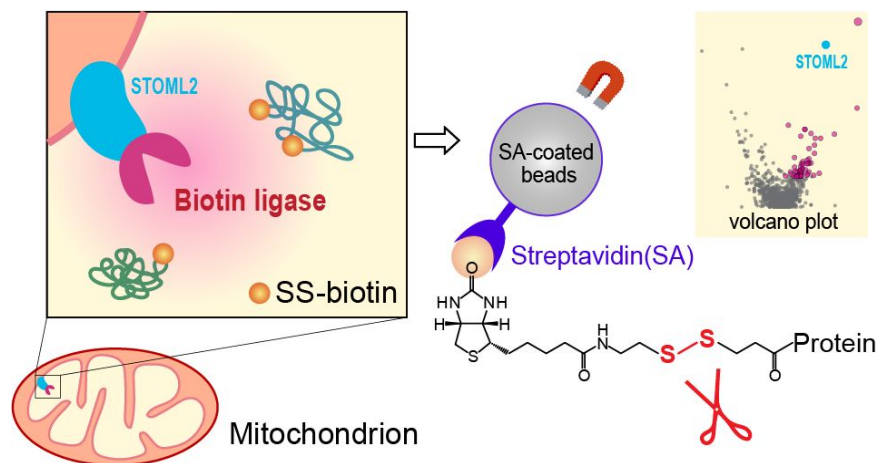
497 **Table 1:** Reaction efficiency of SS cleavage and carbomethylation from SS-biotin-labeled (K)
 498 human cell lysate proteins.

Modification	Delta Mass	Percentage of Biotinylated Peptides	Average Percolator q-Value	Average Percolator PEP
Cleaved, carbomethylated ^a	+145.0198	99.5%	8.90E-04	1.47E-02
Cleaved, not carbomethylated ^b	+87.9983	0.31%	5.50E-03	1.22E-01
SS-biotinylated, not cleaved ^b	+389.0902	0.20%	2.50E-04	8.46E-04

499 ^a Complete reaction of thiol-cleavable biotinylation

500 ^b Incomplete reaction of thiol-cleavable biotinylation

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