

1 **Full title: A single dose of antibody-drug conjugate cures a stage 1 model of**
2 **African trypanosomiasis.**

3

4 **Short title: ADC cures stage 1 animal trypanosomiasis.**

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22 **Abstract**

23 Infections of humans and livestock with African trypanosomes are treated with drugs
24 introduced decades ago that are not always fully effective and often have severe
25 side effects. Here, the trypanosome haptoglobin-haemoglobin receptor (HpHbR) has
26 been exploited as a route of uptake for an antibody-drug conjugate (ADC) that is
27 completely effective against *Trypanosoma brucei* in the standard mouse model of
28 infection. Recombinant human anti-HpHbR monoclonal antibodies were isolated and
29 shown to be internalised in a receptor-dependent manner. Antibodies were
30 conjugated to a pyrrolobenzodiazepine (PBD) toxin and killed *T. brucei in vitro* at
31 picomolar concentrations. A single therapeutic dose (0.25 mg/kg) of a HpHbR
32 antibody-PBD conjugate completely cured a *T. brucei* mouse infection within 2 days
33 with no re-emergence of infection over a subsequent time course of 77 days. These
34 experiments provide a demonstration of how ADCs can be exploited to treat
35 protozoal diseases that desperately require new therapeutics.

36

37 **Author Summary**

38 Here we show that antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs) can be re-purposed from
39 cancer immunotherapeutics to anti-protozoals by changing the specificity of the
40 immunoglobulin to target a trypanosome cell surface receptor. Trypanosomes were
41 used as a model system due to the availability of receptor null cell lines that allowed
42 the unambiguous demonstration that ADCs targeted to a parasite surface receptor
43 could be specifically internalised via receptor-mediated endocytosis. A single low
44 dose of the resulting ADC was able to cure a stage 1 mouse model of trypanosome
45 infection. We have used toxins and conjugation chemistry that are identical to anti-

46 cancer ADCs demonstrating the ability to piggy-back onto the huge research efforts
47 and resources that are being invested in the development of such ADCs.

48 The potential for development of ADCs against a wide range of human pathogens is
49 vast, where only epitope binding sites need vary in order to provide selectivity. This
50 provides a far-reaching opportunity for the rapid development of novel anti-
51 protozoals for the targeted killing of a wide range of pathogens that cause disease
52 worldwide, especially in developing countries.

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71 **Introduction**

72 Infection with African trypanosomes causes disease in humans, livestock and wild
73 animals. At least seven species are able to infect livestock but only *Trypanosoma*
74 *brucei* subspecies normally infect humans: *T. b. gambiense* and *T. b. rhodesiense*
75 cause chronic or acute Human African Trypanosomiasis (HAT) respectively (1). New
76 drug treatments are required for human treatment, the drugs currently used require
77 multiple administrations over periods of weeks and all can have severe side effects
78 (reviewed in (2-4)).

79

80 Without intervention, infection persists as the trypanosomes have evolved a
81 population survival strategy based on antigenic variation of the variant surface
82 glycoprotein (VSG) that is present as a densely packed coat on the external face of
83 the plasma membrane. Receptors for host nutrient macromolecules are integrated in
84 the VSG coat, such as the HpHbR which is involved in haem acquisition through
85 binding and subsequent endocytosis of host haptoglobin-haemoglobin(5). Primate-
86 specific innate immune protein complexes have evolved to exploit this nutrient
87 uptake and kill most isolates of *T. brucei* (5). The two complexes, Trypanolytic Factor
88 1 and 2 (TLF1 and TLF2), each contain two primate-specific proteins, apolipoprotein
89 L1 (apoL-1) (6) and haptoglobin-related protein bound to haemoglobin (HprHb)
90 which acts as a molecular mimic of HpHb(7-10). HpHbR binds and internalises TLF1
91 and the toxin apoL-1 kills the trypanosome (5, 11). Human infective trypanosomes
92 have evolved counter-measures to the TLFs(12-19).

93

94 The binding of a host macromolecule to a receptor, followed by the internalisation of
95 the complex, provides a potential route to specifically deliver therapeutics into

96 trypanosome cells. Entry of TLF1 via the HpHbR and the release of a cytotoxin after
97 internalisation is analogous to the mode of action of ADCs (20), a growing class of
98 therapeutics, particularly used in applications in oncology(21-23) and also with
99 demonstrated potential as anti-bacterials(24, 25). An early attempt to develop ADCs
100 against the intracellular American trypanosome, *Trypanosoma cruzi*, used
101 chlorambucil conjugated to polyclonal IgGs purified from chronically infected rabbits
102 (26) and, while results were promising, this was only partially successful. More
103 recently, antibody therapeutics against African trypanosomes based on single
104 domain antibodies derived from camelid immunoglobulins (nanobodies) recognising
105 some, but not all, VSGs (27, 28) have also been developed. One study used a
106 nanobody apoL-1 fusion protein that was curative in mouse infections(29). In another
107 two studies, nanobodies were used to create nanoparticles containing pentamidine,
108 one of the current drugs used to treat trypanosome infection. These particles bound
109 VSG and were successfully taken up into the endocytic pathway, the concentration
110 required for cure was 10 to 100-fold lower than free pentamidine over a course of
111 four doses (30, 31). However, the variability of the VSG molecules and underpinning
112 antigenic variation will almost certainly limit their effectiveness as targets for
113 therapeutic delivery.

114

115 Here we have developed a recombinant human anti-trypanosome-HpHbR antibody
116 conjugated to a PBD toxin, selected so that recognition of the trypanosome would be
117 independent of the VSG identity. This approach also strategically exploits advances
118 in anti-cancer ADC development. The antibody-PBD conjugate was effective at
119 killing trypanosomes in culture at picomolar concentrations whereas killing of human
120 cell lines required more than 100,000-fold higher concentrations. A single low dose

121 (0.25 mg/kg) of one of the ADCs resulted in a long-term cure in the standard mouse
122 model of trypanosome infection(32, 33) with no apparent adverse effects.

123

124 **Results**

125 HpHbR was chosen as a target for ADCs for two reasons: first it is responsible for
126 receptor mediated endocytosis of ligands larger than IgGs and structural information
127 suggested it is accessible to external antibodies (34, 35); second, a cell line with
128 both HpHbR alleles deleted (HpHbR $-/-$) was available as a control for specificity.
129 HpHbR $-/-$ cell lines have little or no growth phenotype in culture (5, 34), although
130 they are attenuated in the murine experimental model of infection (5).

131

132 ***Identification of single chain variable fragments recognising the N-terminal*** 133 ***domain of the haptoglobin-haemoglobin receptor.***

134 In *T. brucei*, the mature HpHbR has a large N-terminal domain (264 residues) that
135 contains the HpHb binding site (34) and a small C-terminal domain (79 residues)
136 attached to the plasma membrane by a glycosylphosphatidylinositol anchor.
137 Recombinant HpHbR N-terminal domain (34) was used for phage display affinity
138 selection from a single chain variable fragment (scFv) library. Specificity for HpHbR
139 was confirmed using phage ELISA and sixteen distinct scFvs were identified (Figure
140 1A).

141

142 ***HpHbR antibodies are internalised by receptor mediated endocytosis***

143 Six of the scFvs (S1 Figure) were reformatted as human IgG1 for further analysis. To
144 determine whether any of these IgGs were endocytosed by trypanosomes in a
145 receptor dependent manner, each was labelled with Alexa fluor-594 and incubated

146 with either *Trypanosoma brucei*, Lister 427, HpHbR wild-type or HpHbR -/- cells in
147 culture for 2 hours in the presence of the lysosomal protease inhibitor FMK-024. A
148 control IgG1 with an unrelated specificity (NIP228) was used in parallel.
149 Internalisation was monitored by microscopy (Figure 2) and at 10 nM IgG1 five of the
150 six HpHbR antibodies were endocytosed by wild-type cells but not by HpHbR-/- cells
151 and localised to a compartment consistent with the lysosome. There was no
152 internalisation of the control antibody in either cell line at 10 nM. Hence, five of the
153 antibodies were internalised by receptor mediated endocytosis demonstrating that
154 they recognised epitopes on HpHbR that are accessible on live cells. The sixth
155 HpHbR antibody (Tb086) showed limited internalisation and was not used further.

156

157 ***Toxin-conjugated HpHbR-targeting antibodies kill trypanosomes at picomolar***
158 ***concentrations***

159 The receptor-mediated endocytosis of these HpHbR antibodies was then exploited to
160 assess the effectiveness of ADCs against *T. brucei in vitro*. Two PBDs, SG3199 and
161 SG3552 (ref(36)) (Figure 1B), were used in these experiments; each was used as a
162 toxin-linker derivative, SG3249 and SG3376 respectively (Figure 1B), for antibody
163 conjugation. PBDs are DNA minor groove binding toxins (37-40) and were chosen as
164 trypanosomes have a highly complex mitochondrial genome formed from a network
165 of thousands of concatenated DNA circles and are consequently susceptible to DNA
166 binding toxins. This sensitivity is illustrated by the original patent on ethidium
167 bromide as a treatment for trypanosome infection and ethidium derivatives are still
168 used for animal trypanosomiasis (41, 42).

169

170 To assay for trypanocidal activity, cultures of *T. brucei* were incubated with a range
171 of concentrations of the anti-HpHbR-PBD conjugates over 48 hours. Growth was
172 measured as percentage proliferation compared to no treatment, with 0% relative to
173 controls representing no viable cells observed, and IC₅₀ values calculated.

174

175 Initial experiments were designed to identify the most effective HpHbR antibody and
176 used the PBD, SG3199. Free SG3199 had an IC₅₀ of ~1 pM (Figure 3A, Table S1),
177 this confirmed its toxicity towards trypanosomes and indicated that it is freely cell
178 permeable. Prior to conjugation to the IgGs, SG3199 was modified by the addition of
179 a linker to facilitate conjugation and release in the lysosome after proteolysis to
180 produce SG3249(43) (Figure 1B). Free SG3249 had an IC₅₀ of ~240 pM (Figure 3A,
181 Table S1); presumably the hydrophilic nature of the linker meant that cell access via
182 passive diffusion was reduced. Antibody-SG3249 conjugates were prepared for the
183 five HpHbR antibodies selected in the uptake experiment above and the NIP228 IgG
184 control, following IgG engineering to contain a surface exposed cysteine residue at
185 position 239 in the heavy chain CH2 domain for conjugation to PBD molecules(44)
186 (Figure 1B). The HpHbR antibody-SG3249 conjugates all killed trypanosomes with
187 IC₅₀ values between 9 and 86 pM compared to 2100 pM for the control NIP228-
188 SG3249 conjugate (Figure 3A and Table S1), demonstrating targeted cell killing by
189 HpHbR antibody-PBD conjugates. The two most potent antibodies were Tb074 and
190 Tb085 with IC₅₀ values of 17 and 9 pM respectively and they were selected for
191 further experiments.

192

193 The next set of experiments used PBD SG3552 and its linker-derivative SG3376 (45,
194 46) (Figure 1B). This toxin-linker combination was chosen as it was designed to have

195 fewer off-target effects (45, 47) and was shown to be more potent against
196 trypanosomes in preliminary experiments. Three antibody-SG3376 conjugates were
197 prepared from Tb074, Tb085 and NIP228 and all were tested for trypanocidal activity
198 as above but using HpHbR wild type and -/- cell lines (Figure 3B and Table 1).
199 SG3552 killed trypanosomes with IC₅₀ values of 0.14 pM in wild type and 0.2 pM in
200 HpHbR -/- cell lines; the addition of the linker to make SG3376 reduced the toxicity to
201 112 pM and 197 pM in wild type and -/- cell lines respectively, again presumably due
202 to the increase in hydrophilicity conferred by the linker reducing passive cell entry.
203 The antibody conjugates Tb085-SG3376 and Tb074-SG3376 were effective in killing
204 wild-type trypanosomes with IC₅₀ values of 0.3 pM and 1.3 pM respectively. In
205 contrast both were far less effective against HpHbR -/- cells with IC₅₀ values of 1390
206 pM and 3270 pM showing that the action of the ADC is dependent on HpHbR
207 expression. The action of the NIP228-SG3376 conjugate was unaffected by HpHbR
208 expression and had an IC₅₀ of 3750 pM and 3000 pM in HpHbR wild type and -/-
209 cells respectively. Taken together these findings showed that HpHbR antibody-
210 SG3376 conjugates are highly effective in killing trypanosomes through a
211 mechanism whereby the presence of the receptor increases specificity by several
212 thousand-fold over the action of non-specific antibody-SG3376 conjugates.

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| Cell line | IC ₅₀ (pM) | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | <i>T. b. brucei</i> | <i>T. b. brucei</i> HpHbR -/- | Human Jurkat |
| SG3552 Toxin | 0.14 (0.11-0.18) | 0.195 (0.14-0.27) | 19.6 (10.8-35.8) |
| SG3376 Toxin plus linker | 112 (76.7-163) | 197 (145-268) | >50,000 |
| NIP228-SG3376 Control | 3750 (2610-5380) | 3000 (2260-3960) | >50,000 |
| Tb074-SG3376 | 1.33 (1.16-1.53) | 3270 (2400-4450) | >50,000 |
| Tb085-SG3376 | 0.297 (0.25-0.36) | 1390 (1030-1880) | >50,000 |

220

221 **Table 1: IC₅₀ values (pM) of SG3552-based toxins and ADCs against *T.brucei***

222 **cell lines and a human Jurkat cell line.** The IC₅₀ values of toxin SG3552, toxin plus
223 linker SG3376, a control ADC (NIP228-SG3376) and two anti-trypanosome ADCs
224 targeting the *T. b. brucei* HpHbR (Tb074-SG3376 and Tb085-SG3376) against *T. b*
225 *brucei* wild type and *T. b brucei* HpHb -/- (Figure 3B) were calculated. Values in bold
226 are best-fit IC₅₀ values, the range is the 95% confidence intervals. It was not possible
227 to calculate accurate IC₅₀ values for the Jurkat cell line due to lack of saturation of
228 the cell killing assay and so all were conservatively estimated as greater than 50 nM
229 from the data in S2 Figure. All values are shown to 3 significant figures.

230

231 To assess whether the HpHbR antibody-SG3376 conjugates have specificity for
232 trypanosomes over mammalian cells in culture, PBD toxin SG3552 and antibody-
233 SG3376 conjugates were assessed for toxicity against a range of human cell lines.
234 SG3552 was toxic to all cell lines assayed at picomolar concentrations (S3 Figure),
235 the most sensitive was the Jurkat cell lines with an IC₅₀ value of 19.6 pM, around
236 100-fold less-sensitive than the *T. brucei* cell lines (Table 1). This was expected:

237 trypanosomes are particularly sensitive to many DNA damaging toxins as described
238 above. The NIP228-SG3376, Tb074-SG3376 and Tb085-SG3376 conjugates all had
239 IC₅₀ values that were conservatively estimated to be >50 000 pM (S3 Figure). The
240 IC₅₀ values of the two HpHbR antibody-SG3376 conjugates for the human cell lines
241 was at least 50,000 times greater than those for trypanosomes (Table 1).

242

243 **A single Tb085-SG3376 administration results in the clearance of trypanosome** 244 **infection in mice**

245 Based on the specificity and potency observed in the above experiments, Tb085-
246 SG3376 conjugate was chosen to determine anti-HpHbR-toxin conjugate efficacy in
247 a mouse model of *T. b. brucei* infection. Mice were infected with a pleomorphic
248 trypanosome cell line, *T. b. brucei* GVR35-VSL2, that expresses a luciferase
249 transgene (PpyRE9h) to facilitate measurement of infection in live animals over a
250 prolonged time course using bioluminescence imaging (BLI) (32, 33). This method
251 has the advantage that it detects trypanosomes in the bloodstream and tissues.
252 Fifteen mice were infected with trypanosomes and imaged on day 3 post infection to
253 provide a pre-treatment BLI signal level indicative of the whole-body infection burden
254 measured as photons per second (p/s) after administration of luciferase substrate.
255 All infected mice had a total flux of between 2.5×10^9 and 5.9×10^9 p/s with the
256 exception of a single mouse which had a lower level of infection at 3×10^7 p/s.
257 Subsequent to imaging, on day 3, groups of five mice were then treated with (1) 0.25
258 mg/kg Tb085-SG3376 or (2) 0.25 mg/kg NIP228-SG3376 or (3) PBS alone. Three
259 uninfected mice were used as negative controls for the BLI.

260

261 Infection levels were assessed by BLI on days 4, 5, 6 and 7, and then at regular
262 further time points (Figure 4, S4 Figure, S5 Figure). Within the first day post-
263 treatment the BLI signal in Tb085-SG3376-treated mice had dropped 3-fold relative
264 to the pre-treatment signal whilst control mice (NIP228-SG3376 or PBS alone) had
265 increased more than 2-fold. These control mice remained infected with a BLI signal
266 consistent with a first and second wave of parasitaemia, characteristic of
267 trypanosome infection dynamics (48, 49). At day 14 (11 days post-treatment), control
268 mice were culled at a humane endpoint, as the BLI signal represented a parasite
269 burden that would invariably lead to clinical symptoms of trypanosomiasis and death
270 (33).

271

272 In contrast, the BLI signal in mice in group 1 (treated with Tb085-SG3376) had
273 decreased to the level of uninfected controls by 2 days post-treatment. The BLI
274 signal remained indistinguishable from the uninfected controls for 60 days post-
275 treatment and the mice continued to appear healthy throughout the experiment, not
276 showing any external symptoms of clinical trypanosomiasis. To determine if Tb085-
277 SG3376 treated mice were harbouring very small numbers of trypanosomes that
278 were kept in check by the mouse adaptive immune response, the mice were
279 immunosuppressed with a single dose of cyclophosphamide on day 66 post-infection
280 and BLI measurements made on days 69, 74, 76 and 80 post-infection; no
281 trypanosomes were detected (Figure 4, S4 Figure, S5 Figure). On day 80 post-
282 infection mice were culled and BLI was performed on mouse tissues post-necropsy;
283 again no trypanosomes were detected in any tissue (S6 Figure). Finally, both a blood
284 sample and a section of brain tissue from each of the five mice treated with Tb085-
285 SG3376 were incubated in trypanosome culture medium for one month; in no case

286 were any trypanosomes then detected. Together, these observations and
287 measurements indicate that a single dose of Tb085-SG3376 was sufficient to cure
288 infection in 5/5 mice in the experimental group.

289

290 **Discussion**

291 African trypanosomes proliferate in the bloodstream and tissue spaces of their
292 mammalian hosts where they are continually exposed to the adaptive immune
293 response. The trypanosome cell surface is covered by a densely packed coat of
294 VSG that underpins persistence of infection by antigenic variation. The VSG coat
295 must be permissive for receptor mediated endocytosis of host macromolecules as
296 nutrients and here this has been exploited for the delivery of an ADC. The HpHbR
297 was chosen for this study as: (i) it is a natural route for uptake of the trypanolytic
298 factors(5), which kill sensitive trypanosomes strains in human serum; (ii) it is
299 accessible to ligands larger than IgG (5); (iii) it has a known structure (34, 35); (iv)
300 HpHbR null cell lines grow at a normal rate in culture (5, 34) and were an ideal
301 control for specificity of uptake. We found that HpHbR monoclonal antibodies are
302 taken up into HpHbR wild type cells but not HpHbR $-/-$ cells, proving that receptors for
303 host macromolecules are accessible on live trypanosomes. These same antibodies
304 conjugated to a PBD were able to kill trypanosomes in culture at pM concentration in
305 a manner that was dependent on HpHbR expression. Significantly higher doses,
306 were needed to kill a panel of mammalian cell lines. Finally, in the mouse model of
307 infection, a single administration of an anti-HpHbR ADC was sufficient to cure the
308 infection.

309

310 The findings here have validated an approach that builds on the considerable
311 progress in anti-cancer ADCs and repurposing into an anti-protozoal simply involves
312 the development of pathogen specific antibodies. The use of ADCs here was
313 specifically based on those developed in oncology. Currently, ADCs are used in the
314 clinic against Hodgkin lymphoma (Brentuximab vedotin) (22) and HER2-positive
315 breast cancer (ado-trastuzumab-emtansine) (50). Many others are in pre-clinical
316 development or clinical trials, including ADCs against a range of cancers that
317 incorporate PBDs, including SG3249, one of the toxins used in this study (51-53).

318

319 The success of the experiments above lead to the question of whether this is a
320 realistic approach for development of therapeutics for trypanosome and other
321 protozoan infections. Amongst the key challenges in generating ADCs for
322 applications in oncology is ensuring minimal off-target toxicity and so, as well as
323 through ADC chemistry, low doses are desirable (reviewed in (54)). The single dose
324 of 0.25 mg/kg was selected in these experiments as a proof-of-concept because it is
325 at the lower end of effective oncological ADC treatment in mice(55) and is well below
326 the anticipated maximum tolerated dose (56). The minimum efficacious dose
327 achievable with the anti-HpHbR ADC was not tested in this study and it is likely that
328 the targeting of parasites will be achieved using lower doses than required for
329 oncology for two key reasons. First, in contrast to the surface of cancer cells,
330 parasite-specific surface receptors are entirely different from host cell surface
331 receptors leading to highly selective uptake of the antibody into the pathogen.
332 Second, the effectiveness of the ADC in this study was enhanced by the sensitivity
333 of trypanosomes to DNA-binding agents, in comparison to host cells. Together these
334 led to a 100,000-fold difference in toxicity between trypanosome and human cells *in*

335 *vitro*. These considerations will also apply to other protozoal pathogens providing a
336 suitable target can be identified.

337

338 Disease caused by *T. brucei* infection has two stages: in stage 1 trypanosomes are
339 excluded from the central nervous system (CNS) by the blood brain barrier (BBB)
340 while in stage 2 infections trypanosomes enter the CNS. In the experimental model
341 used here, we have tested the ability to clear a stage 1 infection. Would ADCs be
342 able to target trypanosomes in the CNS? While administered intravenous antibodies
343 are present in the CNS at less than 0.1% of the concentration in the blood in murine
344 models (57, 58) increased BBB permeability has been observed in murine models of
345 neurological-stage trypanosomiasis (59-61), which will increase the CNS
346 concentration of administered antibodies. Further, bifunctional fusion antibodies that
347 can cross the blood-brain barrier have been reported (57).

348

349 It is worth contrasting a potential ADC treatment with the current effective drug
350 regimens for trypanosomiasis. Pentamidine, the current stage 1 *T. b. gambiense*
351 treatment, is administered to patients intramuscularly at 4 mg/kg over 7 days,
352 although it has been shown to clear a mouse model of *T. b. brucei* infection at 2.5
353 mg/kg over four intraperitoneal injections (30, 62). For stage 2 *T. b. gambiense*
354 infection, the current nifurtimox eflornithine combination therapy involves oral
355 nifurtimox 15 mg/kg/day for 10 days plus eflornithine infusions 400 mg/kg/day for 7
356 days (for a 50 kg adult this is 20 g eflornithine per day) (63). A single dose of ADC
357 would clearly be an improvement.

358

359 Considerable resources are being used for the optimisation, assessment and clinical
360 trials of oncology ADCs. It is difficult to imagine such resources being available for
361 the developmental pipeline of therapeutics against protozoal pathogens that primarily
362 affect developing countries. Both cancer and protozoal pathogens are eukaryotic
363 cells and so the oncology-based strategies that take advantage of the cell biology of
364 cancer cells are often applicable to protozoa. Therefore, the scope for benefiting
365 from oncology developments is clear, particularly where the drug (such as PBDs, as
366 used in this study) do not deviate from oncology ADCs that are under development.
367 If simply modifying the epitope binding site can allow anti-cancer ADCs to be
368 repurposed then they could realistically be developed as a novel class of
369 therapeutics for protozoan pathogens. The cell surfaces of protozoan pathogens are
370 often particularly well studied due to the biological interest in their role in
371 host:parasite interactions and therefore the literature contains a reservoir of potential
372 targets (for example (64-68)). It is also worth noting that the production cost of ADCs
373 is far less than often realised (69-73).

374

375 In summary, we have demonstrated that a single dose of an ADC, shown to
376 specifically operate through the HpHbR was able to completely cure an infection in a
377 stage 1 trypanosomiasis model. These type of agents have the potential for
378 development for use to treat trypanosome infection in humans, and in the longer
379 term livestock animals. Furthermore, this work illustrates that developments in
380 oncology ADCs can be applied to protozoal pathogens, the causal agents of many
381 neglected diseases in need of new therapeutics.

382

383

384 **Materials and Methods**

385 ***Phage display selection of anti-HpHbR N-terminal domain single chain variable*** 386 ***fragments***

387 Recombinant HpHbR N-terminal domain (NTD) was expressed as previously
388 described (34) and a scFv antibody library was used to perform soluble and panning
389 phage display selections (74). Briefly, panning selections were performed by coating
390 5 µg/mL biotinylated HpHbR NTD on to a single well of a streptavidin-coated 96-well
391 plate or 10 µg/mL non-biotinylated HpHbR NTD on to a single well of a Nunc
392 Maxisorp plate overnight at 4°C. Coated wells were washed three times with
393 phosphate buffered saline (PBS) prior to incubation for 1hr at room temperature with
394 3% Marvel skimmed milk powder in PBS. Next, 1×10^{12} phage particles in 6% Marvel
395 in PBS were added to each coated well and incubated for 1hr at room temperature.
396 The wells were washed five times with PBS containing 0.1% Tween-20 and five
397 times with PBS prior to elution and recovery of phage. For soluble selection, phage
398 were pre-incubated with magnetic beads in 3% Marvel in PBS at room temperature
399 for 1 hour. Subsequently, the magnetic beads were removed and the phage-
400 containing supernatant was incubated with biotinylated HpHbR NTD at room
401 temperature for 1 hour. Streptavidin magnetic beads were subsequently added to the
402 reaction and incubated at room temperature for 5 minutes. The magnetic beads were
403 washed five times with 0.1% Tween-20 in PBS. For all selections, phage were eluted
404 with 10 µg/ml trypsin in PBS for 30 minutes at 37°C. Exponentially grown TG1 *E.coli*
405 cells were infected with the eluted phage and grown overnight at 30°C on agar plates
406 containing ampicillin. *E. coli* colonies were harvested from the bioassay plates and
407 phage particles were rescued by super-infecting with M13 KO7 helper phage and

408 used in the next round of selection. In total, three serial rounds of selection were
409 performed.

410

411 ***Phage ELISA***

412 Individual phage were produced from *E. coli* and assayed, by phage ELISA, against
413 TbHpHbR NTD in parallel with BSA and streptavidin. Briefly, 10 µg/ml of each
414 protein was coated onto Nunc Maxisorp plates and 5µg/mL of each biotinylated
415 protein was coated onto streptavidin-coated plates overnight at 4°C. Plates were
416 washed three times with PBS before being incubated with 3% Marvel in PBS for 1
417 hour at room temperature. Phage containing supernatants were blocked with an
418 equal volume of 6% Marvel in 2xPBS for 1 hour at room temperature. Coated plates
419 were washed three times with PBS and incubated with 50 µl of blocked phage
420 supernatants for 1hr at room temperature. Plates were washed three times with
421 0.1% Tween 20 in PBS and bound phage were detected using an anti-M13
422 horseradish peroxidase conjugated antibody and colorimetric substrate. Rabbit
423 polyclonal anti-TbHpHbR antibody was used as a positive control and detected with
424 mouse anti-rabbit IgG HRP.

425

426 ***Generation of full length human IgG1 and THIOMABS***

427 Selected scFvs were converted to full length human IgG1s using standard molecular
428 biology techniques. Plasmids encoding secreted antibody (75) were purified by
429 protein A affinity chromatography. Recombinant antibody was labelled with Alexa
430 Fluor 594 following the manufacturer's instructions (Life technologies). Standard
431 molecular biology techniques were used to introduce a cysteine residue at position

432 239 in the CH2 domain of each heavy chain (44). Recombinant THIOMABs were
433 expressed and purified as detailed for full length IgG1.

434

435 ***PBD conjugation to THIOMABs***

436 The HpHbR THIOMABs and a NIP228 negative control were reduced by the
437 addition of a forty fold molar excess of tris(2-carboxyethyl)phosphine (TCEP) in PBS,
438 1 mM EDTA, pH 7.2 for 4 h at 37°C. TCEP was subsequently removed and the
439 THIOMABs were re-oxidised with a twenty times molar excess of dehydroascorbic
440 acid for 4h at 25°C. A ten times molar excess of toxin plus linker was added and
441 incubated for 1 h at 25 °C, the reactions were quenched by the addition of excess of
442 N-acetyl-L-cysteine. The resultant ADCs were formulated in PBS, pH 7.2 after
443 ultrafiltration to removed excess toxin. ADCs were characterized by determination of
444 monomeric purity by size exclusion chromatography (Table S2), drug-antibody-ratio
445 (DAR) by RP-HPLC chromatography (Table S2) and molecular mass (by LC-MS of
446 the reduced ADCs) (S5 Figure)

447

448 ***Trypanosome cell culture***

449 *T. b. brucei* Lister 427 bloodstream cells were grown in HMI-9 salts plus 10% foetal
450 calf serum (FCS) at 37°C with 5% CO₂ (76). The *T. b. brucei* Lister 427 HpHbR -/-
451 cell line used here has been described previously (34).

452

453 ***Internalisation of fluorescently labelled IgGs into live cells***

454 For *T. b. brucei* uptake assays 1 x 10⁶ cells per assay were incubated with 10 nM
455 Alexa Fluor 594-labelled IgG in 300µl HMI-9, 10% FCS, 2µM FMK-024 protease
456 inhibitor for 1.5 hours at 37°C. Cells were washed once in HMI-9, 10% FCS then

457 fixed in 1% PFA for 10 minutes at room temperature and resuspended in PBS.
458 Internalisation was determined by microscopy using a Zeiss Imager M1 microscope
459 and analysed with AxioVision Rel 4.8 software.

460

461 ***In vitro trypanosome cell-killing assays***

462 *T. b. brucei* Lister 427 wild-type or HpHbR -/- cell lines were incubated at 1×10^4
463 cells/ml in triplicate with PBDs or ADCs for 48 hours before cells were counted and
464 growth was calculated relative to an untreated control for each cell line. All assays
465 contained 0.5% DMSO. Data were Log_{10} transformed and nonlinear regression lines
466 of best fit and IC_{50} values were calculated using GraphPad Prism 6.

467

468 ***CellTiter-Glo Luminescent Cell Viability Assay***

469 *In vitro* viability cell assays were performed with primary and transformed human cell
470 lines: Raji (ECACC), Jurkat E6.1 (ATCC), NHLF (LONZA) and HUVEC (LONZA).
471 These cell lines were mycoplasma tested and authenticated by PCR using human
472 16-marker short tandem repeat profiling and interspecies contamination test by
473 IDEXX (Columbia, MO). Cells seeded at 2×10^5 cell/ml (Raji and Jurkat) and at $2 \times$
474 10^3 cell/ml (NHLF and HUVEC) in 96 well plates were incubated with the SG3552
475 toxin, the toxin+linker SG3376 and the corresponding ADCs (Tb074-SG3376,
476 Tb085-SG3376 and NIP228-SG3376). All assays contained 0.5% DMSO. After 96
477 hours, the number of viable cells in culture was measured using the CellTiter-Glo 2.0
478 luminescent cell viability assay and read in Envision plate reader. Growth was
479 calculated relative to an untreated control for each cell line. Data were Log_{10}
480 transformed and nonlinear regression lines of best fit and IC_{50} values were
481 calculated, where possible using GraphPad Prism 6.

482

483 **Mouse infection and bioluminescent imaging of trypanosome infection**

484 Pleomorphic *T. b. brucei* GVR35-VSL2 bloodstream forms were cultured and
485 maintained at 37°C/5%CO₂ in HMI-9 medium supplemented with 20% FBS, 1µg/ml
486 puromycin and 1% methyl cellulose (33). Parasites were maintained at <1 x 10⁶ ml⁻¹
487 and were not cultured for more than three passages prior to mouse infection.

488

489 Mice were purchased from Charles River (UK). They were maintained under specific
490 pathogen-free conditions in individually ventilated cages with a 12 hour light/dark
491 cycle and access to food and water *ad libitum*. Female BALB/c mice aged 8 to 12
492 weeks were infected intraperitoneally with 3x10⁴ *T. b. brucei* GVR35-VSL2 cells (33).
493 Three groups of five mice were infected. On day 3 post infection the mice were
494 imaged to obtain the pre-treatment infection level. Five mice received 0.25 mg/kg
495 Tb085-SG3376, five mice received PBS alone and five mice received 0.25 mg/kg
496 NIP288, all intravenously. A group of three mice was not infected.

497

498 Imaging was carried out by intraperitoneal injection of 150 mg/kg D-luciferin. After 5
499 minutes, mice were anaesthetised with 2.5% (v/v) gaseous isoflurane in oxygen.
500 The mice were transferred to the IVIS Illumina and imaged using LivingImage 4.3.
501 software (PerkinElmer). Exposure times were determined automatically and varied
502 between 0.5 s and 5 min depending on the radiance. After imaging, mice were
503 allowed to recover and transferred back to their cages.

504

505 At 66 days post-infection, Tb085-SG3376 treated mice were immunosuppressed
506 with a single intraperitoneal dose of cyclophosphamide (200 mg/kg).

507

508 **Ethics statement**

509 All animal work was performed under UK Home Office licence 70/8207 and
510 approved by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine Animal Welfare
511 and Ethical Review Board. All protocols and procedures were conducted in
512 accordance with the UK Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

513

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517

518 **Competing Financial Interests Statement**

519 A.L.G.M., S.R., A.M.S., T.J.V. and R.M. are employees of Medimmune. F.D., C.S.B.
520 and P.H. are employees of Spirogen. Toxins SG3199/SG3249 and SG3552/SG3376
521 are subject to international patents, WO 2011/130598 A1 and WO 2014/140862 A2,
522 respectively (77, 78).

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733

734

735 **Figures Legends**

736

737 **Figure 1: The generation of ADCs that target the *T. brucei* HpHbR.**

738 (A) Workflow for the generation of anti-trypanosomal ADCs. (B) Structures of the two
739 PBD toxins (SG3199 and SG3552) and their corresponding toxins plus linker
740 derivatives (SG3249 and SG3376) used in this study. Note that the linker of SG3249
741 contains a cleavable dipeptide motif whereas the linker of SG3376 does not.

742

743 **Figure 2: Receptor mediated endocytosis of humanised anti-HpHbR IgG1s.**

744 Uptake of Alexa594-labelled antibodies into *T. b. brucei* Lister 427 *HpHbR* wild type
745 and *-/-* cells was monitored by microscopy. Uptake of five of the seven selected
746 antibodies was detected at 10 nM in wild-type (indicated by arrows in upper panel)
747 but not in *HpHbR -/-* cells (lower panel). No specific uptake of the remaining antibody
748 (Tb086) or a control antibody (NIP228) was detected. Scale bar represents 10 μ m.

749

750 **Figure 3: HpHbR antibody-PBD conjugates result in *T. brucei* cell death at low**
751 **picomolar concentrations *in vitro* in a HpHbR-dependent manner.**

752 (A) Toxin SG3199 kills *T. b. brucei* wild type cells at sub-picomolar concentrations
753 (IC_{50} 0.86 pM), killing activity is reduced by the addition of a linker (SG3249 IC_{50}
754 236.0 pM). Conjugation of SG3249 to a non-specific control antibody (NIP228)
755 further reduces trypanosome killing activity to low nanomolar concentrations (IC_{50} 2.1
756 nM) whereas conjugation of SG3249 to antibodies that target the HpHbR increased
757 killing activity to low picomolar concentrations (IC_{50} values range from 86 pM for
758 Tb073-SG3249 to 9.4 pM for Tb085-SG3249). All assays were carried out in
759 triplicate over 48 hours. Lines represents nonlinear regression lines of best fit on
760 Log_{10} transformed data. Error bars represent standard error of the mean (s.e.m.),
761 $n=3$ biological replicates (carried out in parallel). (B) Toxin SG3552 kills *T. b. brucei*
762 wild type and HpHbR $-/-$ cells with sub-picomolar IC_{50} concentrations The IC_{50} is
763 increased by orders of magnitude by the addition of a linker (Table 1). Conjugation of
764 SG3376 to a non-specific control antibody (NIP228) further increases the IC_{50} to
765 nanomolar concentrations in both trypanosome cell lines. HpHbR antibody SG3376
766 conjugates have an IC_{50} in the low/sub picomolar range for wild type *T. b. brucei*. In
767 contrast, IC_{50} values with *T. b. brucei* HpHbR $-/-$ cells remained similar to the control
768 ADC. All assays were carried out in triplicate over 48 hours. Lines represents
769 nonlinear regression lines of best fit on Log_{10} transformed data. See Table 1 for
770 corresponding IC_{50} values. Error bars represent s.e.m., $n=3$ biological replicates
771 (carried out in parallel).

772

773 **Figure 4: A single low dose of Tb085-SG3376 was able to cure infection in a**
774 **mouse model of trypanosomiasis.**

775 Three groups of 5 mice were infected with pleomorphic *T. b. brucei* GVR35-VSL2
776 cells (32, 33), which allow for parasite burden in live mice to be assessed over a time
777 course by bioluminescent imaging (BLI). BLI was performed prior to any treatment at
778 3 dpi and then at regular time points following treatment on 3 dpi with a single
779 intravenous dose of (1) 0.25 mg/kg Tb085-SG3376 (n=5), (2) 0.25 mg/kg NIP228-
780 SG3376 (n=5) or (3) PBS alone (n=5). Unlike the control-treated mice, Tb085-
781 SG3376 treatment caused a decrease in the luminescent signal to that obtained from
782 uninfected control animals within 2 days and this remained the case for the duration
783 of the infection, including following the immunosuppression of Tb085-SG3376
784 treated mice at 66 dpi. Mice treated with NIP228-SG3376 or PBS were culled at a
785 humane endpoint on day 14. (A) Quantification shown is the combined (dorsal +
786 ventral) luminescence over the whole mouse in photos per second (p/s). The
787 corresponding quantification data from the 18 individual mice are shown in S5
788 Figure. Error bars represent standard deviation. Downward error bars are missing
789 from 4 data points due to scale constraints. (B) For each group of mice selected
790 ventral images for the BLI are shown. Corresponding dorsal images of the same
791 mice are shown in S4 Figure. The scale bar represents the photons emitted at any
792 given point on the image. Exposure times range from 0.5 seconds (for heavily
793 burdened mice) to 5 minutes (for uninfected animals). One mouse in the PBS control
794 group had a lower BLI signal than all other infected mice at 3 dpi (S5 Figure). In the
795 image shown here this mouse appears negative, however, this is due to the low
796 exposure time required for adjacent mice.

797

798

799

800 **Supporting information Figure Legends**

801

802 **S1 Figure: Sequences of the six scFv targeting the HpHbR NTD.** The framework
803 domains (FW) are shown in black and the complementarity-determining regions
804 (CDR1-3) are shown in blue. Sequence variation between scFvs is in CDR3, as
805 annotated by grey boxes.

806

807 **S2 Figure: Conjugating toxin SG3552 to antibodies that recognise the *T. brucei***
808 **HpHbR reduces toxicity against human cell lines.** Toxin SG3552, toxin plus linker
809 SG3376 and the associated ADCs were incubated with (A) Jurkat T-cells, (B) Human
810 Umbilical Vein Endothelial Cells (C) Normal Human Lung Fibroblasts, and (D) Raji B-
811 cell lymphoma cells in FCS. Toxin SG3552 kills the human cell lines at picomolar
812 concentrations. Killing activity is reduced in all cell lines by the addition of the linker
813 (SG3376) or incorporation into a control or Anti-HpHbR ADC (NIP22-SG3376,
814 Tb074-SG3376, Tb085-SG3376) to mid-to-high nanomolar concentrations. Lines
815 represents nonlinear regression lines of best fit on Log₁₀ transformed data, although
816 it was not possible to fit accurate lines or calculate IC₅₀ values for the ADCs due to
817 lack of saturation of the cell killing assay. All assays were carried out in triplicate over
818 96 hours. Error bars represent s.e.m., n=3.

819

820 **S3 Figure: Mass Spectrometry analysis of SG3376-containing antibody-toxin**
821 **conjugates.** Mass spectrometry analysis of reduced antibody-toxin conjugates was
822 performed using a RSLC UPLC system coupled to an Exactive EMR Orbitrap MS. L0
823 = unconjugated light chain species, H0 = unconjugated heavy chain species, H1 =
824 conjugated heavy chain species.

825

826 **S4 Figure: Bioluminescent imaging of *T. b. brucei* infected mice before and**
827 **after treatment with antibody-toxin conjugates.**

828 Parasite burden in mice infected with pleomorphic *T. b. brucei* GVR35-VSL2 cells
829 was assessed by BLI following intraperitoneal injection of d-luciferin. BLI was
830 performed prior to any treatment at 3 days post infection (dpi) and then at regular
831 time points following treatment on 3 dpi with (1) Tb085-SG3376 (n=5), (2) NIP228-
832 SG3376 (n=5) or (3) PBS alone (n=5), with selected time points shown here.

833 Uninfected mice were imaged as controls (n=3). Treatment with Tb085-SG3376
834 decreased the luminescent signal to that obtained from uninfected control animals
835 within 2 days and this remained the case for the duration of the infection, including
836 following the immunosuppression of Tb085-SG3376- treated mice at 66 dpi.

837 For each group of mice both the dorsal and ventral images are shown. Scale bar
838 represents the photons emitted at any given point on the image. Exposure times
839 range from 0.5 seconds (for heavily burdened mice) to 5 minutes (for uninfected
840 animals). One mouse in the PBS control group had a lower BLI signal than all other
841 infected mice at 3 dpi (S5 Figure). In the image shown here this mouse appears
842 negative, however, this is due to the low exposure time required for adjacent mice.

843 Quantification of the total luminescence from each mouse was also carried out
844 (Figure 4 and S5 Figure).

845

846 **S5 Figure: A single low dose of Tb085-SG3376 was able to cure infection in a**
847 **mouse model of trypanosomiasis: data from individual mice.**

848 Three groups of 5 mice were infected with pleomorphic *T. b. brucei* GVR35-VSL2
849 cells, which allow for parasite burden in live mice to be assessed over a time course

850 by bioluminescent imaging (BLI). BLI was performed prior to any treatment at 3 dpi
851 and then at regular time points following treatment on 3dpi with a single intravenous
852 dose of (1) 0.25 mg/kg Tb085-SG3376 (n=5), (2) 0.25 mg/kg NIP228-SG3376 (n=5)
853 or (3) PBS alone (n=5). Unlike the control-treated mice, Tb085-SG3376 treatment
854 caused a decrease in the luminescent signal to that obtained from uninfected control
855 animals within 2 days and this remained the case for the duration of the infection,
856 including following the immunosuppression of Tb085-SG3376 treated mice at 66 dpi.
857 Mice treated with NIP228-SG3376 or PBS were culled at a humane endpoint on day
858 14. Quantification shown is the combined (dorsal + ventral) luminescence over the
859 whole mouse in photos per second (p/s). The combined quantification data from the
860 4 groups of mice are shown in Figure 4. Selected images for the BLI are shown in S5
861 Figure.

862

863 **S6 Figure: No parasites were detected by BLI post-necropsy in *T. b. brucei***
864 **infected mice following treatment with Tb085-SG3376.** The five mice that were
865 infected with pleomorphic *T. b. brucei* GVR35-VSL2 cells, treated with 0.25 mg/kg
866 Tb085-SG3376 (3 dpi) and immunosuppressed (66 dpi) were culled at 80 dpi. Post-
867 necropsy, mice corpses and selected organs were assessed by BLI. Consistent with
868 BLI data from live mice, BLI signal was equivalent to the uninfected control mice.

869

870 **S1 Table: IC₅₀ values (pM) of SG3199-based toxins and antibody-toxin**
871 **conjugates against wild type *T. b. brucei*.** The IC₅₀ values of toxin SG3199, toxin
872 plus linker SG3249, a control ADC (NIP228-SG3249) and five anti-trypanosome
873 antibody toxin conjugates targeting the *T. brucei* HpHbR (Tb017-SG3249, Tb073-
874 SG3249, Tb074-SG3249, Tb078-SG3249, Tb085-SG3249) were calculated against

875 *T. b brucei* wild type (Figure 3). Values in bold are best-fit IC₅₀ values, the range is
876 the 95% confidence intervals. All values are shown to 3 significant figures.

877

878 **S2 Table: Monomer content and drug-antibody-ratio (DAR) of SG3376-**
879 **containing Antibody-toxin conjugates.** Monomeric purity was determined by size
880 exclusion chromatography (SEC) and the DAR was determined by RP-HPLC. Both
881 assays were performed on a Shimadzu Nexera UPLC system fitted with a Shimadzu
882 Prominence DAD detector. Data were processed using LabSolutions software.

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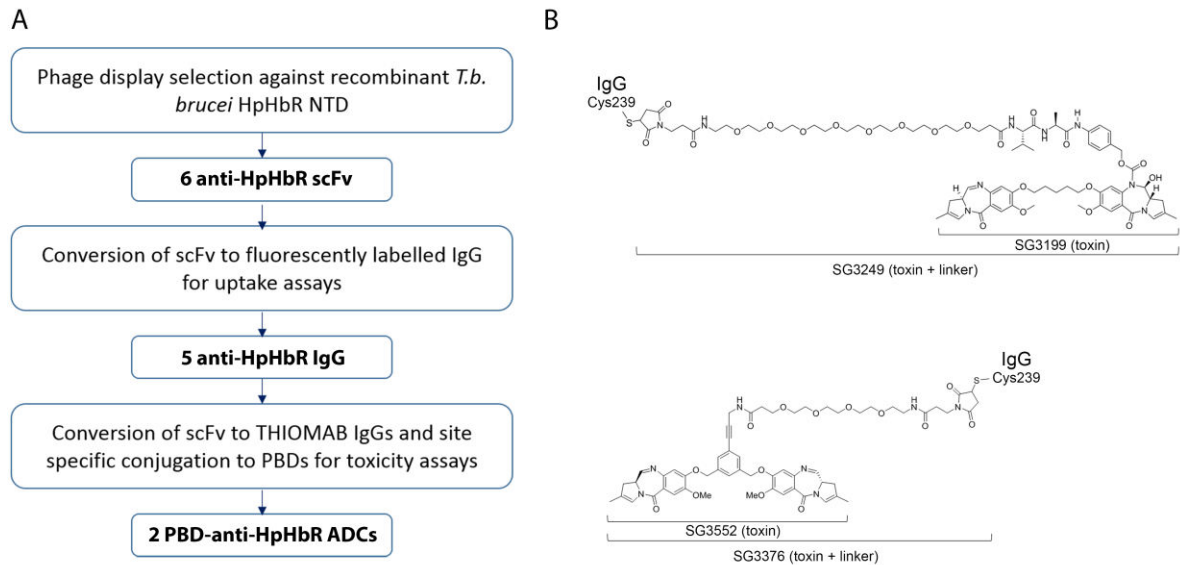
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896 **Figure 1**

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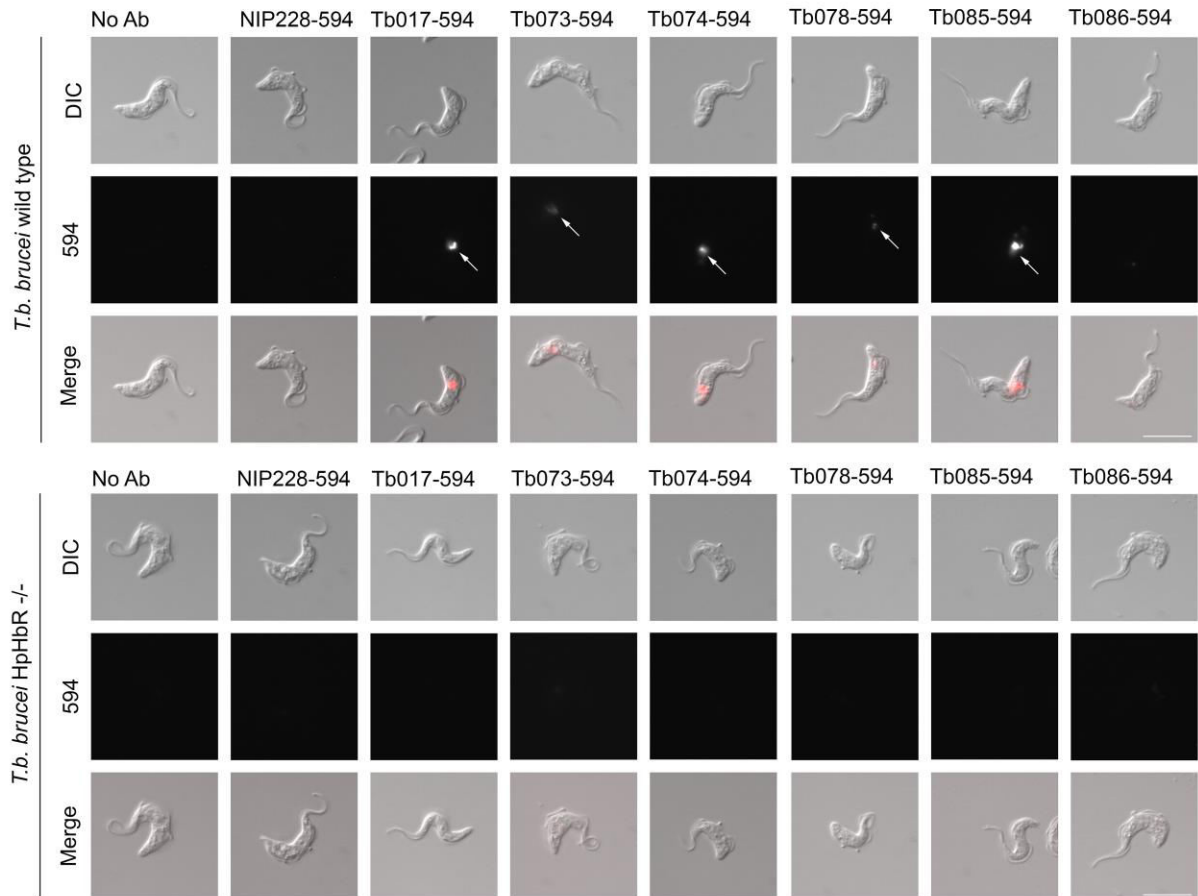
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914 **Figure 2**

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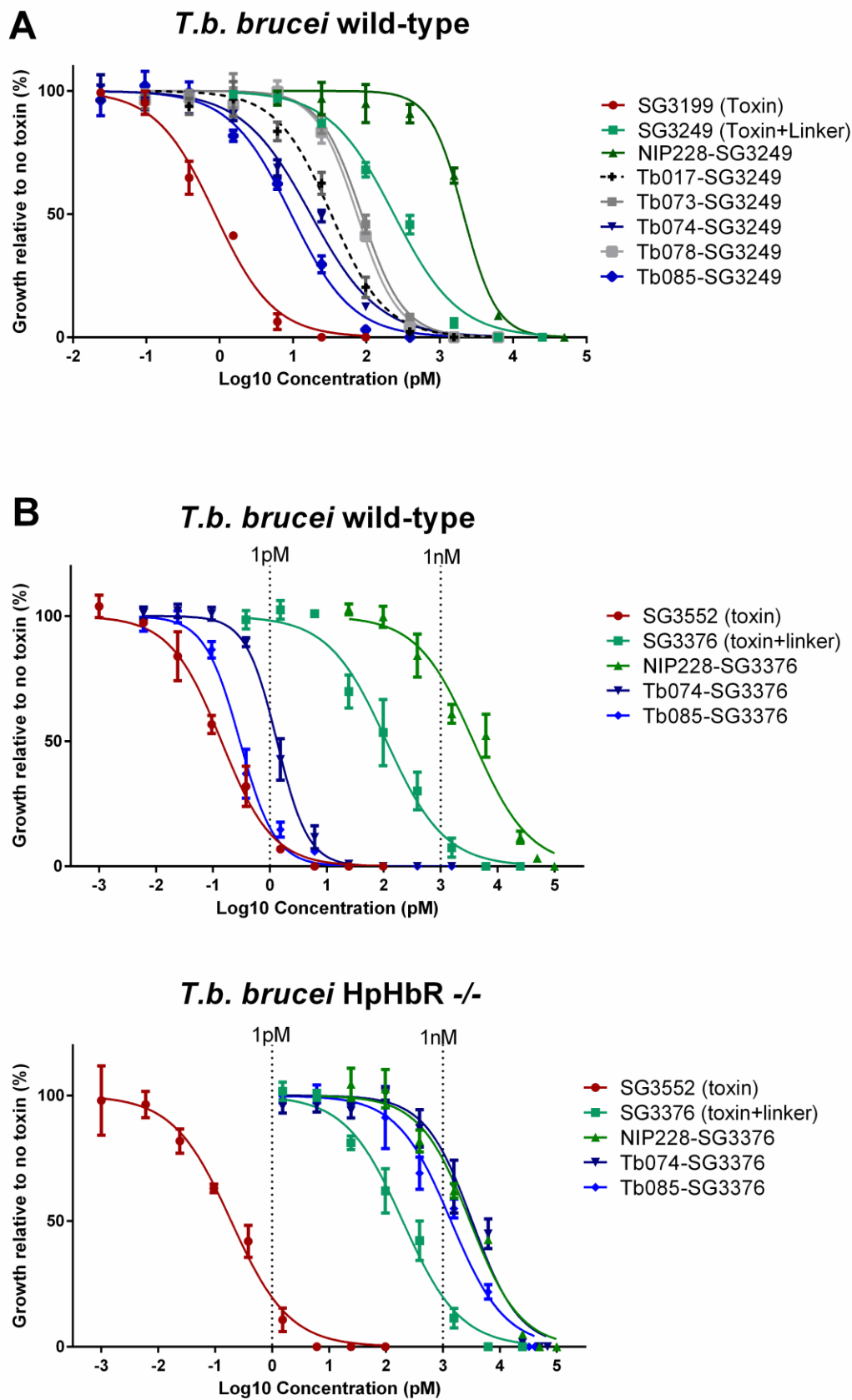
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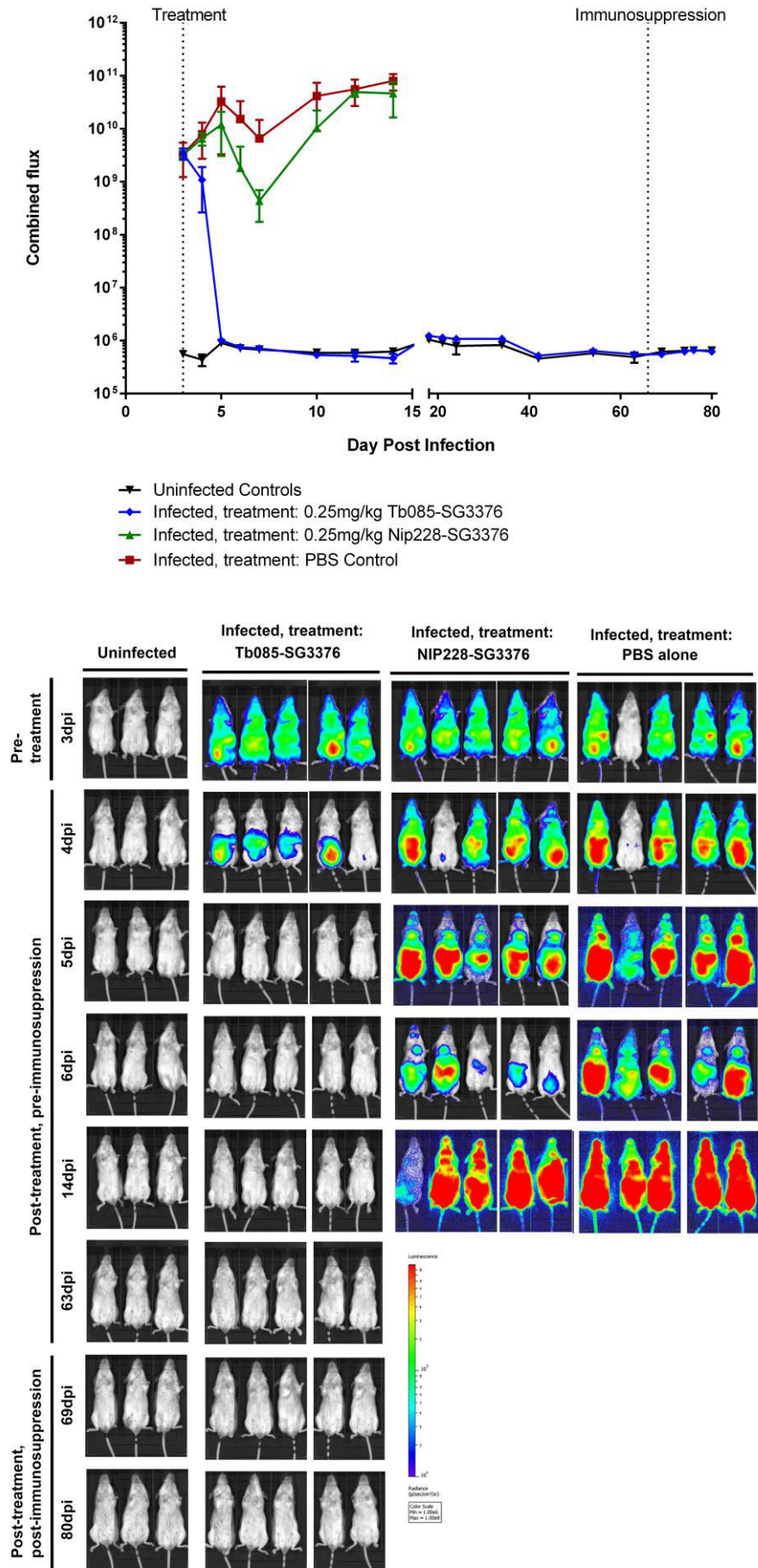
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927 **Figure 3**



928 **Figure 4**

929 Supporting Information Figures and Tables

Heavy chain sequence

| | FW 1 | CDR 1 | FW 2 | CDR 2 |
|-------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------|-------|
| Tb017 | QVQLVQSGAEVKKPQSSVKVSKASGGTFS | SYAISWVRQAPGQGLEWMGGIIPFGTANYAQKFGG | | |
| Tb073 | QVQLVQSGAEVKKPQSSVKVSKASGGTFS | SYAISWVRQAPGQGLEWMGGIIPFGTANYAQKFGG | | |
| Tb074 | QVQLVQSGAEVKKPQSSVKVSKASGGTFS | SYAISWVRQAPGQGLEWMGGIIPFGTANYAQKFGG | | |
| Tb078 | QVQLVQSGAEVKKPQSSVKVSKASGGTFS | SYAISWVRQAPGQGLEWMGGIIPFGTANYAQKFGG | | |
| Tb085 | QVQLVQSGAEVKKPQSSVKVSKASGGTFS | SYAISWVRQAPGQGLEWMGGIIPFGTANYAQKFGG | | |
| Tb086 | QVQLVQSGAEVKKPQSSVKVSKASGGTFS | SYAISWVRQAPGQGLEWMGGIIPFGTANYAQKFGG | | |

| | FW 3 | CDR 3 | FW 4 |
|-------|---|-------|------|
| Tb017 | RVTITADESTSTAYMELSSLRSEDTAVYYCARGWYDLVFDYWGQGITLVTVSS | | |
| Tb073 | RVTITADESTSTAYMELSSLRSEDTAVYYCARGWYDMGDFDMWGQGITLVTVSS | | |
| Tb074 | RVTITADESTSTAYMELSSLRSEDTAVYYCARGWHEPFGFDYWGQGITLVTVSS | | |
| Tb078 | RVTITADESTSTAYMELSSLRSEDTAVYYCARGWIYEFIIIDAWGQGITLVTVSS | | |
| Tb085 | RVTITADESTSTAYMELSSLRSEDTAVYYCAREGWYGVWDFWQGITLVTVSS | | |
| Tb086 | RVTITADESTSTAYMELSSLRSEDTAVYYCARGWYHGGIDYWGQGITLVTVSS | | |

Light chain sequence

| | FW 1 | CDR 1 | FW 2 | CDR 2 |
|-------|---|-------|------|-------|
| Tb017 | QSVLTQPPSASGTPGQRVTISCSGSSSNIGSNTVNWYQQLPGTAPKLLIYSNNQRPS | | | |
| Tb073 | QSVLTQPPSASGTPGQRVTISCSGSSSNIGSNTVNWYQQLPGTAPKLLIYSNNQRPS | | | |
| Tb074 | QSVLTQPPSASGTPGQRVTISCSGSSSNIGSNTVNWYQQLPGTAPKLLIYSNNQRPS | | | |
| Tb078 | QSVLTQPPSASGTPGQRVTISCSGSSSNIGSNTVNWYQQLPGTAPKLLIYSNNQRPS | | | |
| Tb085 | QSVLTQPPSASGTPGQRVTISCSGSSSNIGSNTVNWYQQLPGTAPKLLIYSNNQRPS | | | |
| Tb086 | QSVLTQPPSASGTPGQRVTISCSGSSSNIGSNTVNWYQQLPGTAPKLLIYSNNQRPS | | | |

| | FW 3 | CDR 3 | FW 4 |
|-------|---|-------|------|
| Tb017 | GVPDFRFSGSKSGTSASLAISGLQSEDEADYYCAAWDEYPPDQ-VVFGGGTKLTVL | | |
| Tb073 | GVPDFRFSGSKSGTSASLAISGLQSEDEADYYCAAWDNHGHGVV-VVFGGGTKLTVL | | |
| Tb074 | GVPDFRFSGSKSGTSASLAISGLQSEDEADYYCAAWDEHVPPQ-VVFGGGTKLTVL | | |
| Tb078 | GVPDFRFSGSKSGTSASLAISGLQSEDEADYYCAAWDMEEEH-VVFGGGTKLTVL | | |
| Tb085 | GVPDFRFSGSKSGTSASLAISGLQSEDEADYYCAAWDVFNQNV-VVFGGGTKLTVL | | |
| Tb086 | GVPDFRFSGSKSGTSASLAISGLQSEDEADYYCAAWDEVMPDQ-VVFGGGTKLTVL | | |

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931 S1 Figure

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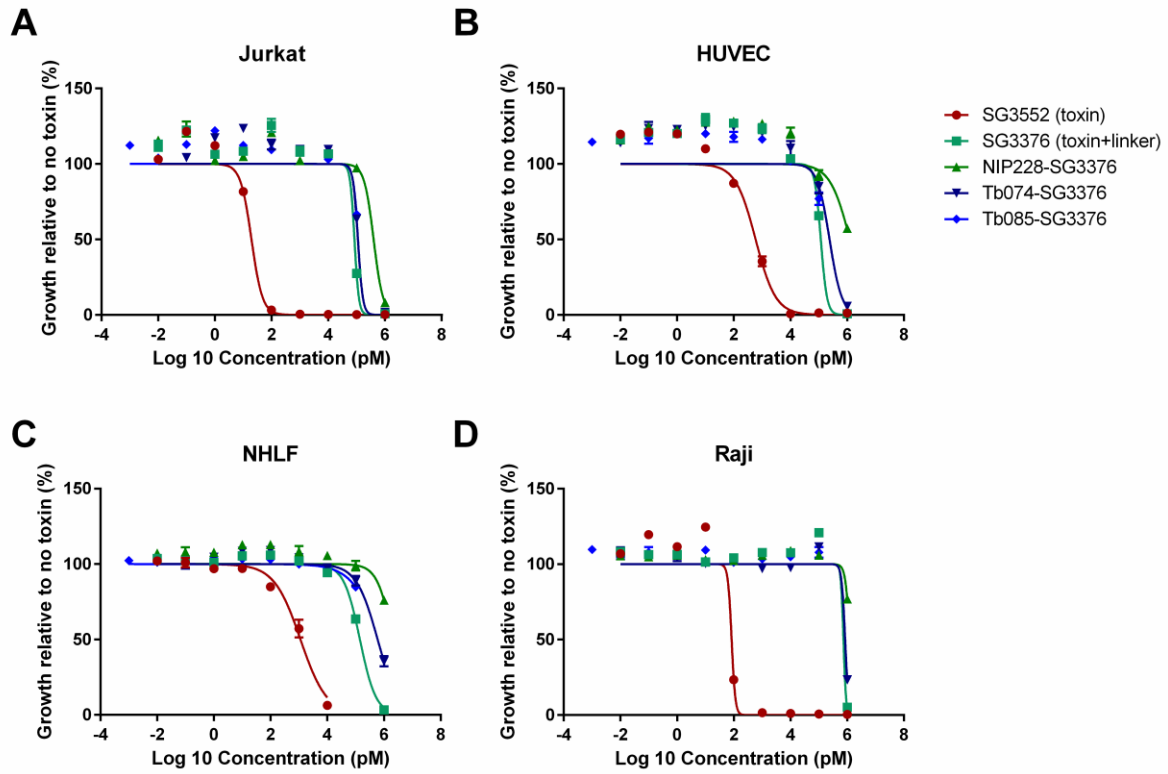
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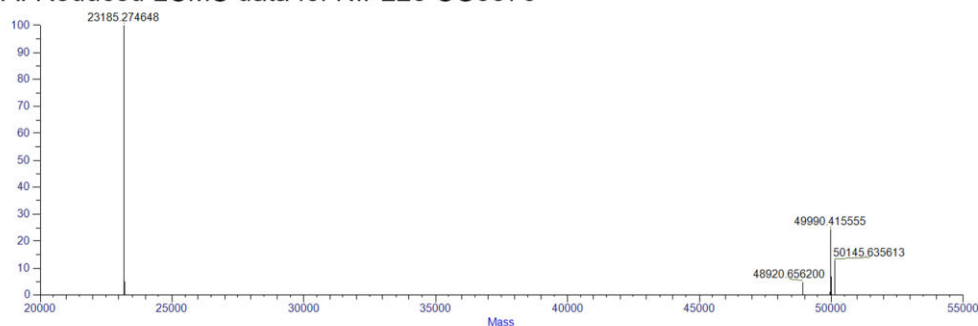
945 **S2 Figure**

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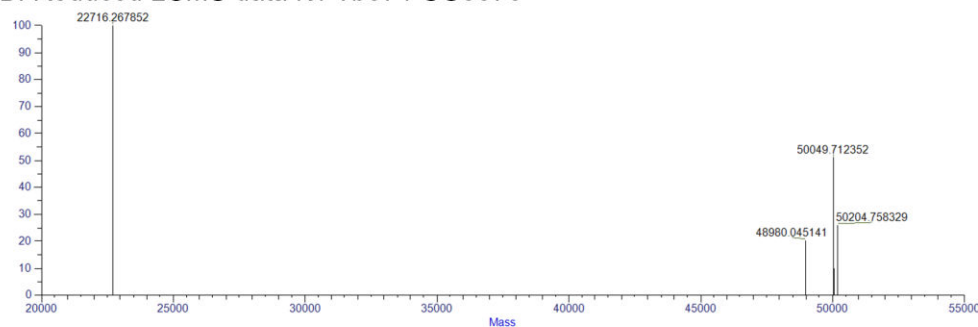
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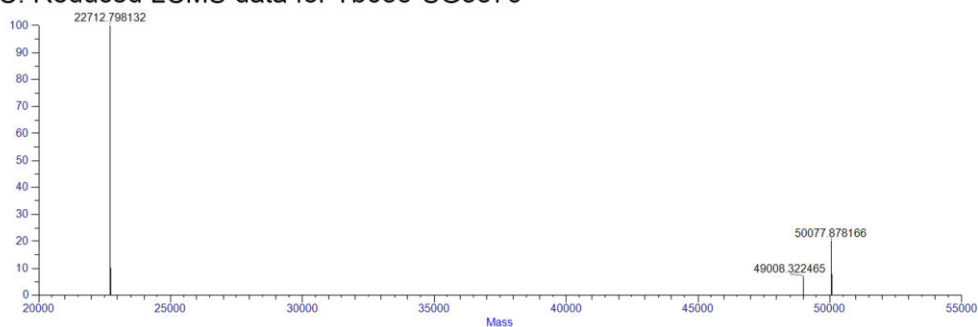
A. Reduced LCMS data for NIP228-SG3376



B. Reduced LCMS data for Tb074-SG3376



C. Reduced LCMS data for Tb085-SG3376



D. Summarised mass spectrometry analysis of reduced ADCs

| ADC | L0 (Da) | | H0 (Da) | | H1 (Da) | |
|---------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | Theor. | Found | Theor. | Found | Theor. | Found |
| NIP228-SG3376 | 23187.8 | 23185.3 | 48923.1 | 48920.7 | 49993.3 | 49990.4 |
| Tb074-SG3376 | 22717.1 | 22716.3 | 48982.3 | 48980 | 50052.5 | 50049.7 |
| Tb085-SG3376 | 22714.1 | 22712.8 | 49010.3 | 49008.3 | 50080.5 | 50077.9 |

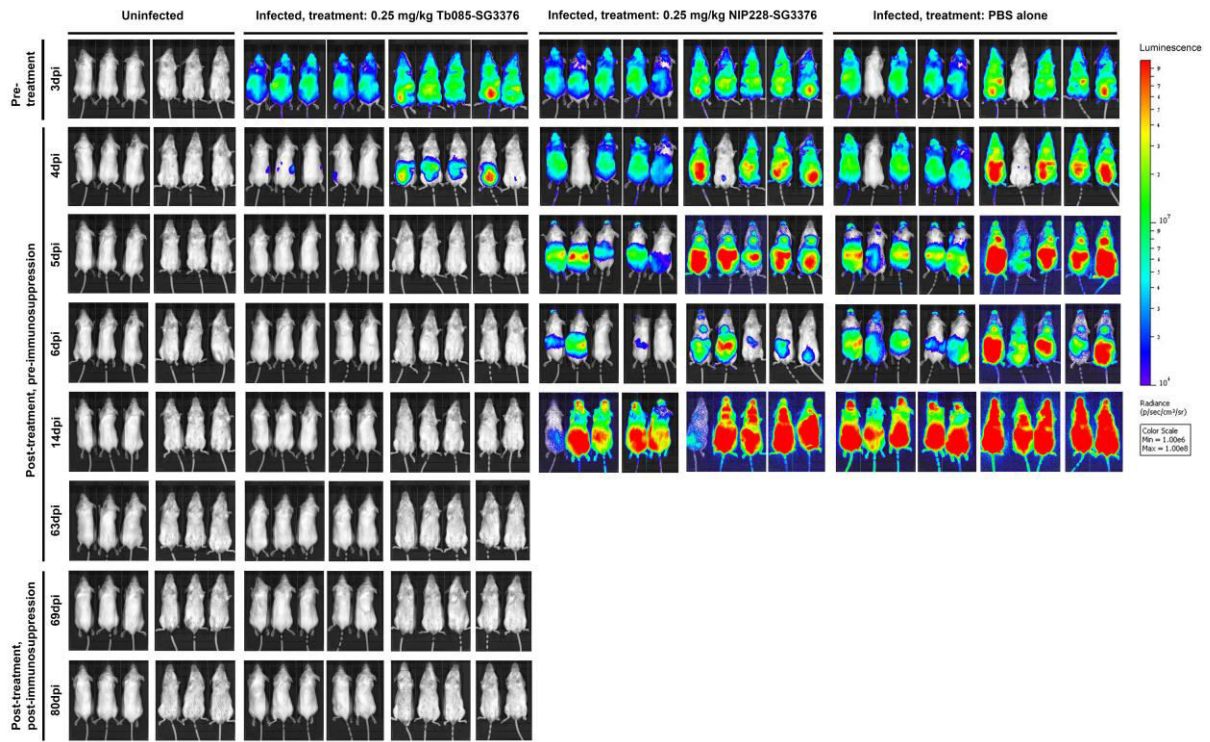
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950 **S3 Figure**

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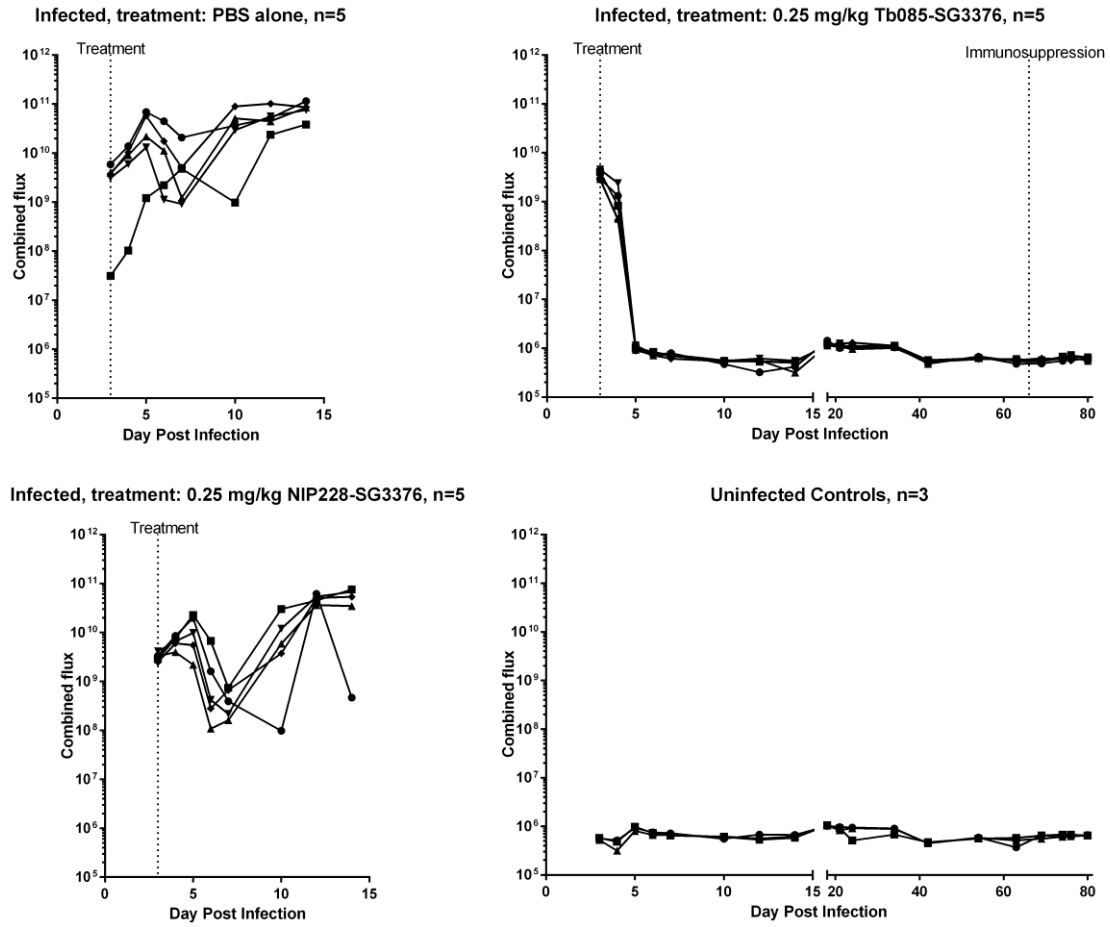
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955 **S4 Figure**

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960 **S5 Figure**

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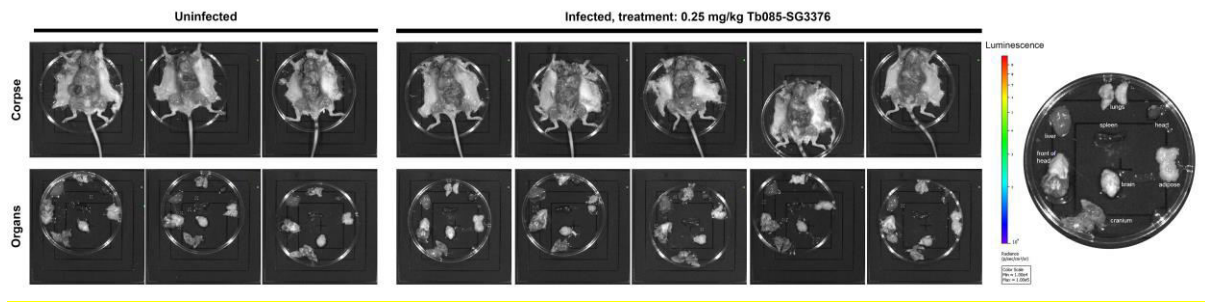
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970 **S6 Figure**

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991 **Supporting Information Tables**

| IC50 (pM) | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | <i>T. b. brucei</i> |
| SG3199 Toxin | 0.86 (0.69-1.08) |
| SG3249 Toxin plus Linker | 236 (196-284) |
| NIP228-SG3249 Control | 2100 (1760-2500) |
| Tb017-SG3249 | 32.9 (26.8-40.3) |
| Tb073-SG3249 | 85.7 (74.6-98.6) |
| Tb074-SG3249 | 17.3 (14.3-21.1) |
| Tb078-SG3249 | 74.2 (64.3-85.7) |
| Tb085-SG3249 | 9.35 (7.59-11.5) |

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993 **S1 Table**

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| Antibody toxin conjugate | SEC | | | DAR |
|---------------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|------------|
| | % HMW | % Monomer | % LMW | |
| NIP228-SG3376 | 3.2 | 90.1 | 6.7 | 1.77 |
| Tb074-SG3376 | 5.4 | 92.1 | 2.5 | 1.80 |
| Tb085-SG3376 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 1.79 |

1001

1002 **S2 Table**

1003