

1 **Systematic identification and characterization of novel genes in the regulation and**
2 **biogenesis of photosynthetic machinery**

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18 **Highlights**

- 19 • High-confidence identification of 70 previously-uncharacterized genes required for
20 photosynthesis
- 21 • Proteomic analysis of mutants allows assignment of function to novel genes
- 22 • Characterization of 5 novel Photosystem I mRNA maturation factors validates this
23 resource
- 24 • MTF1 and PMR1 identified as master regulators of photosynthesis

25

26 **SUMMARY**

27 Photosynthesis is central to food production and the Earth's biogeochemistry, yet the molecular
28 basis for its regulation remains poorly understood. Here, using high-throughput genetics in the
29 model eukaryotic alga *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii*, we identify with high confidence (FDR<0.11)
30 70 previously-uncharacterized genes required for photosynthesis. We then provide a resource
31 of mutant proteomes that enables functional characterization of these novel genes by revealing
32 their relationship to known genes. The data allow assignment of 34 novel genes to the
33 biogenesis or regulation of one or more specific photosynthetic complexes. Additional analysis
34 uncovers at least seven novel critical regulatory proteins, including five Photosystem I mRNA
35 maturation factors and two master regulators: MTF1, which impacts chloroplast gene
36 expression directly; and PMR1, which impacts expression via nuclear-expressed factors. Our
37 work provides a rich resource identifying novel regulatory and functional genes and placing
38 them into pathways, thereby opening the door to a system-level understanding of
39 photosynthesis.

40

41 Keywords:

42 Photosynthesis, Photosystem I maturation factors, methionyl-tRNA formyltransferase,
43 retrograde regulation, genetics, protein profiling, RNA-sequencing, protein localization.

44 INTRODUCTION

45 The evolution of oxygenic photosynthesis in cyanobacteria ~2.5 billion years ago
46 fundamentally changed life on Earth (Lyons et al., 2014). Photosynthesis led to a rise in
47 atmospheric oxygen level, enabling the evolution of aerobic respiration and ultimately of the
48 eukaryotic cell (Hedges et al., 2004). One such eukaryotic cell is thought to have then engulfed
49 a cyanobacterium, which then evolved into the organelle known as the chloroplast. In allowing
50 the eukaryotic cell to convert light into energy, this engulfment eventually gave rise to the great
51 diversity of photosynthetic eukaryotes present today (Yoon et al., 2004).

52 In photosynthetic eukaryotes, the photosynthetic apparatus consists of a series of
53 protein complexes in the chloroplast thylakoid membrane that use light energy to produce
54 NADPH and ATP (Blankenship, 2008). NADPH and ATP, in turn, power CO₂ assimilation into
55 sugar by the Calvin-Benson-Bassham metabolic cycle (Figure 1A)(Michelet et al., 2013). As a
56 sophisticated system central to cellular fitness, hundreds of genes are required to generate
57 these complexes and regulate their assembly and activity (Rast et al., 2015). Furthermore,
58 photosynthetic complexes are assembled from components encoded in both the nucleus and
59 chloroplast, which requires extensive coordination under the control of the nucleus
60 (Goldschmidt-Clermont, 1998). In plants and green algae, this coordination is known to involve
61 a range of different mechanisms, including posttranscriptional regulation of chloroplast-
62 expressed genes by nuclear-encoded proteins (Choquet and Wollman, 2002), translational
63 regulation of chloroplast-expressed subunits by assembly intermediates of photosynthetic
64 complexes (Choquet and Wollman, 2009), and degradation of unassembled subunits by
65 proteases (Majeran et al., 2000).

66 Although photosynthesis and its regulation have been extensively studied for 70 years
67 (Bassham et al., 1950; Fromme and Mathis, 2004), phylogenetics suggests that hundreds of
68 genes participating in photosynthesis remain to be identified and characterized. Indeed,
69 approximately half of the GreenCut2 genes—a set of 597 genes that are conserved only in the

70 green photosynthetic eukaryotic lineage, and are therefore likely to be involved in
71 photosynthesis (Karpowicz et al., 2011)— have not been functionally characterized.

72 Genetic screens have been done in land plants and algae to identify the missing genes
73 participating in photosynthesis. Photosynthesis-deficient mutants have been identified in land
74 plants (primarily *Arabidopsis thaliana* and maize) by screening for leaf coloration (Wilson-
75 Sánchez et al., 2014; Zhao et al., 2020), seedling lethality (Budziszewski et al., 2001), and
76 chlorophyll fluorescence (Meurer et al., 1996; Shikanai et al., 1999). In addition to land plants,
77 the leading unicellular model eukaryotic alga *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* (*Chlamydomonas*) is a
78 complementary system that provides advantages of higher throughput and physiology that
79 facilitates the identification and characterization of genes essential to photosynthesis (Rochaix,
80 2002). Specifically, unlike most plants, *Chlamydomonas* assembles a functional photosynthetic
81 apparatus in the dark, and mutants with defects in photosynthesis typically grow well in the dark
82 when provided with a source of carbon and energy such as acetate (Levine, 1960). These
83 characteristics have been leveraged for over 50 years to identify and characterize mutants with
84 defects in photosynthesis, including in many core components of the photosynthetic electron
85 transport chain (Gorman and Levine, 1965, 1966; Lu et al., 2020).

86 In the past decade, several hundred candidates for novel genes involved in
87 photosynthesis have been uncovered by screens of two large *Chlamydomonas* mutant
88 collections, Niyogi CAL (Dent et al., 2005, 2015; Wakao et al., 2021) and CLiP (Fauser et al.,
89 2022; Li et al., 2019). However, these screens had many false positives and there are
90 indications that fewer than half of these candidates are actually involved in photosynthesis (Li et
91 al., 2019). Current challenges facing the field include 1) determining which of these candidates
92 are genuinely involved in photosynthesis and 2) determining the functions of validated novel
93 photosynthesis genes. The absence of global approaches to validation and functional
94 characterization previously meant that such analyses were done on a slow, painstaking, gene-
95 by-gene basis.

96 Here, we address these two challenges by combining genetics and proteomics to
97 identify and functionally characterize novel genes required for photosynthesis with high
98 confidence on a global scale. We first identified with high confidence (FDR <0.11) 70 novel and
99 45 previously-characterized genes required for photosynthesis by confirming linkage of each
100 mutation with the observed photosynthetic defect and validating insertion site mappings. We
101 then determined the proteomic profiles of mutants representing nearly all of these genes to
102 allow their functional characterization, including assigning 34 of them to specific photosynthetic
103 pathways. As proof of principle for the utility of our resource, we performed additional analyses
104 to discover novel factors that advance the understanding of the regulation of the photosynthetic
105 apparatus. We determined how five of these novel factors work with known factors to regulate
106 the mRNA maturation of key Photosystem I subunit PsaA. We also discovered and
107 characterized two posttranscriptional master regulators of photosynthetic apparatus biogenesis,
108 providing insights into how cells leverage chloroplast translational machinery and the regulation
109 of nuclear gene expression to control photosynthetic complex abundance. Together, our dataset
110 opens the door to rapid characterization of novel photosynthesis genes and provides systems-
111 level insights into photosynthesis regulation.

112 **RESULTS**

113 **A framework for high-confidence identification of genes with roles in photosynthesis.**

114 The biggest limit to confidence in previous large-scale *Chlamydomonas* screens for
115 genes with roles in photosynthesis was that most mutant strains carried disruptions in multiple
116 genes (Li et al., 2019; Wakao et al., 2021). Thus, while a photosynthetic defect could be
117 observed in a mutant, the defect could not be connected with high confidence to a single gene
118 unless many independent mutants in the same gene showed the photosynthetic defect (Fauser
119 et al., 2022; Li et al., 2019).

120 In the first portion of this work, we overcame this challenge by developing and adapting
121 genetic tools to dramatically improve confidence in the genes responsible for photosynthetic
122 defects of mutants. Specifically, we developed a high-throughput implementation of traditional
123 genetic linkage analysis between a mutation and an observed photosynthetic defect, which
124 allowed us to identify the specific mutation likely responsible for the defect.

125

126 **Pooled backcrossing and mapping validation of 70 novel genes in photosynthesis.**

127 We started with a set of 1,781 mutants from the CLiP library of *Chlamydomonas* mutants
128 that we previously identified to have a photosynthetic growth defect (Li et al., 2019). We
129 individually validated each strain's photosynthetic phenotype using an automated spot test on
130 agar (Figure 1B–1C and STAR Methods).

131 These mutants were generated by the random insertion of a DNA cassette and insertion
132 sites were mapped by high-throughput sequencing (Li et al., 2019). In addition to our mapped
133 insertion, most of our strains carry one or several additional mutations. We needed to determine
134 if the photosynthetic defect was caused by the mapped insertion or by another unknown
135 mutation. To determine if a given mapped insertion was the likely cause of the observed
136 photosynthetic defect, we determined if it was genetically linked to the defect using
137 backcrossing.

138 Backcrossing involves mating a mutant of interest with a wild-type strain and analyzing
139 the progeny. This process results in random segregation of the different mutations present in
140 the original mutant strain, thereby allowing the separation of the impact of each mutation on the
141 phenotype of interest — in our case, defective photosynthetic growth. If all progeny carrying a
142 particular insertion exhibit a defect in photosynthetic growth, we conclude that the insertion is
143 genetically linked to the defect, indicating that disruption of the gene likely caused the defect
144 (Figure 1D).

145 To overcome the limited throughput of traditional backcrossing of only ~10 mutants per
146 experiment, we developed a pooled backcrossing method that allowed us to backcross nearly
147 1,000 mutants in each experiment (Figure S2A, STAR Methods, and Breker et al., 2018). We
148 backcrossed pools of hundreds of mutants and then grew the pooled progeny under
149 photosynthetic and heterotrophic conditions. We determined the relative abundance of each
150 insertion after growth under each condition by sequencing the unique DNA barcode(s)
151 associated with that insertion (Figure 1E, Table S1, STAR Methods, and Li et al., 2019). If a
152 certain barcode was depleted in the photosynthetic condition pool, we considered the
153 corresponding insertion linked to the photosynthesis defect and concluded that the disrupted
154 gene is likely required for photosynthesis.

155 We sought to estimate the frequency of incorrect identification of causal genes in this
156 approach. Such errors could arise in rare cases where the insertion is not causal but merely in
157 the genomic vicinity of the causal mutation. We quantified the frequency of such cases with a
158 false discovery rate (FDR) metric. To calculate the FDR, we used a set of genes whose
159 disruption likely did not result in a photosynthesis defect, and measured their prevalence among
160 our hits (Figure 1E and S2B-S2D). This calculation identified 227 genes linked to a
161 photosynthetic defect with an FDR of 0.3. Using a stricter threshold, we identified 136 genes
162 with an FDR of 0.1 (Figures 1E, S2C-S2D and Table S2); we continued with this set for further

163 analysis. 27 of these 136 genes were represented by two or more independent linked insertions,
164 providing further support of their roles in photosynthesis.

165 It is known that some of the insertions from the starting collection of 1,781 mutants are
166 mapped to incorrect sites in the genome (Li et al., 2019). Therefore, we validated the mapping
167 of our linked insertions. We first checked for expected insertion sites using colony PCR (Figure
168 S3). In cases where this failed, we used whole-genome sequencing to validate insertions or
169 identify the actual insertion site (Figures 1F, S1, S3, Table S2, and STAR Methods). Altogether,
170 we identified with high fidelity 115 genes required for photosynthesis from our initial set of
171 ~1,800 photosynthesis-deficient mutants (Figure S1 and Table S2).

172 Approximately 40% of the 115 genes have a known role in photosynthesis in
173 *Chlamydomonas* (29 genes) or in land plants (16 genes) (Figure 1G and Table S2), a
174 substantial enrichment compared to ~6% of the genes in the initial ~1,800 mutants. The 115
175 genes are also enriched in metrics associated with photosynthesis: they show a 2.5-fold
176 enrichment in predicted localization to the chloroplast (Predalgo - Tardif et al., 2012) and a 4-
177 fold enrichment in genes conserved specifically in the green lineage (Karpowicz et al., 2011)
178 (Figure 1H).

179 A subset of our data provides orthogonal validation of previously-identified candidate
180 photosynthesis genes. Our 115 genes required for photosynthesis include 41 of the 51 genes
181 identified with high-confidence (FDR<0.05 and FDR<0.3) in previous large-scale photosynthesis
182 screens based on the CLiP mutant collection (Fauser et al., 2022; Li et al., 2019) (Figure 1I).
183 This high overlap shows the quality of both datasets. Our 115 genes additionally include 31/219
184 genes that were previously low-confidence candidates (no FDR was calculated) in the CLiP and
185 Niyogi CAL collections (Figure 1I), increasing the confidence that these 31 uncharacterized
186 genes do indeed participate in photosynthesis. Of the remaining 43 genes, 38 had not
187 previously been identified as being required for photosynthesis in any organism.

188 Altogether, our 115 genes included 70 novel genes whose molecular function in
189 photosynthesis had not been previously characterized in any organism. Given the novelty of
190 these genes, we have noted in Table S2 additional information from other sources that further
191 supports or weakens our confidence in their involvement in photosynthesis. The study of these
192 novel genes represents a new frontier for photosynthesis research.

193

194 **Hit validation and protein localization demonstrates the value of our gene list.**

195 To experimentally validate the involvement of our novel genes in photosynthesis, we
196 sought to genetically rescue the photosynthetic defect of mutants with insertions in novel genes.
197 Gene rescue involves testing whether transforming a mutant with a wildtype copy of the gene
198 alleviates the phenotype (Figure 2A). Gene rescue is notoriously challenging in
199 *Chlamydomonas* due to difficulties with PCR amplification and expression of heterologous
200 genes (Mackinder et al., 2017; Neupert et al., 2020; Zhang et al., 2014). Despite these
201 challenges, we managed to rescue mutants in 16 genes out of the 36 genes for which a
202 transformation was attempted. This success rate is close to the maximum that would be
203 expected even if all 36 genes were required for photosynthesis, considering that only 30-50% of
204 transformed constructs express in medium-throughput efforts of this nature in *Chlamydomonas*
205 (Mackinder et al., 2017; Wang et al., 2022). The photosynthesis genes validated by mutant
206 rescue included 12 genes that had not previously been implicated in photosynthesis in any
207 organism (Table 1, Figure 2, 6B and 6J) and two photosynthesis genes that had not previously
208 been characterized in *Chlamydomonas* (Figure 2 and Table S3).

209 Our constructs used for the rescue attempts included a C-terminal fluorescent Venus
210 tag, which allowed us to attempt to experimentally determine protein localizations. Nine of the
211 sixteen proteins showed sufficient expression to allow determination of their localization (Figure
212 2O-2U, 6F and 6R). While two of the proteins exhibited dual localizations (Figure 2T and 6R), in

213 every case a significant portion of the protein localized to the chloroplast, consistent with the
214 central role of the chloroplast in photosynthesis.

215 Based on the literature and our data (Table 1), we suggest that of the 12 rescued novel
216 genes, at least four are posttranscriptional regulation factors (RAA17, RAA15, PMR1, and
217 MTF1), four are biogenesis or repair factors for the photosynthetic apparatus (CPLD64, PIR9,
218 CPL6, and CGL54), and three play roles in metabolism (PSR1, CPL12, and TPK1). The
219 validation of these novel genes illustrates how much remains to be learned about
220 photosynthesis and underscores the quality and value of our high-confidence list of novel genes
221 as a starting point for studying the lesser-known areas of photosynthesis.

222

223 **One hundred mutant proteomes inform gene functions.**

224 To expand our understanding of the 115 genes we identified as required for
225 photosynthesis and to elucidate the specific roles of uncharacterized genes within this set, we
226 sought to use proteome profiling (Figure 3A). Proteome profiling uses mass spectrometry to
227 determine the impact of the loss of a specific gene on the proteome. We reasoned that this
228 would be an informative approach to characterize mutants deficient in photosynthesis because
229 the core activities of photosynthesis are mediated by a series of highly-expressed protein
230 complexes whose abundance is affected by photosynthetic activity, regulation, and biogenesis.
231 Indeed, many known photosynthesis-deficient mutants show differences in protein complex
232 abundance (Johnson et al., 2010; Peng et al., 2006; Westrich et al., 2021). Much of the
233 regulation of the photosynthetic apparatus is thought to occur post-transcriptionally, making
234 protein levels a more informative readout than mRNA (Choquet and Wollman, 2002).

235 Our strains exhibit growth defects when grown in light, which could confound results with
236 downstream proteomic signatures originating from slow growth or stress. To minimize such
237 issues, we grew cells in the dark with acetate as carbon and energy source, taking advantage of
238 the facts that under this condition *Chlamydomonas* photosynthesis-deficient mutant growth

239 defects are in most cases eliminated, and wild-type cells assemble a functional photosynthetic
240 apparatus (Rochaix, 2002). We obtained proteome profiles of mutants each disrupted for one of
241 100 genes (Figure S1 and Table S4), with at least two experimental repeats for each gene
242 (Figure 3A and STAR Methods).

243 Our profiling dataset captured known co-depletion of proteins that form complexes and
244 known regulatory effects. As an example of co-depletion of proteins that form a complex, the
245 mutant lacking the carbonic anhydrase LCIB was also depleted in its known binding partner
246 LCIC (Yamano et al., 2010, Figure 3B). As an example of regulatory effects, we observed
247 depletion of the cytochrome *b₆f* core protein *petA* in the mutant lacking TCA1, a known trans-
248 acting factor required for *petA* translation (Wostrikoff et al., 2001). Furthermore, we see that the
249 mutant lacking TCA1 also has lower levels of all other known *b₆f* complex components (Figure
250 3C), as expected from previous work (Kuras and Wollman, 1994; Wostrikoff et al., 2001).

251 In addition to recapitulating known phenotypes, our data also illustrated that, in most
252 cases, *Chlamydomonas* genes behave similarly to their characterized land plant homologs. For
253 example, based on their homology to *Arabidopsis* proteins, the algal proteins PDH2 and PDC2
254 are predicted to be the two subunits of pyruvate dehydrogenase E1; indeed, PDH2 and PDC2
255 are co-depleted in the *pdc2* mutant (Figure 3D). Another example is CrHCF173, a homolog of
256 the *Arabidopsis* translation initiation factor AtHCF173 that is required for *PsbA* translation
257 initiation (Schult et al., 2007). As was shown for AtHCF173, we observe that mutation of
258 CrHCF173 leads to the downregulation of *psbA* and the entire PSII complex (Figure 3E, Minai et
259 al., 2006; de Vitry et al., 1989). The similar behavior of *Chlamydomonas* mutants compared to
260 their land plant homologs suggests that lessons we learn in *Chlamydomonas* will also inform our
261 understanding of photosynthesis across the green lineage.

262

263 **23 novel genes impact biogenesis or regulation of individual chloroplast protein**
264 **complexes.**

265 Altogether, ~2,000 proteins were observable in most of the 100 mutant proteomes
266 (Figure S5C and Table S5), enabling extensive opportunities for analysis. Here, we focus on the
267 major photosynthetic protein complexes (Figure 4).

268 While we observed many cases of mutants that impacted individual components of
269 protein complexes, such as mutants that lack the PSI core subunits PSAE and PSAF (Figure
270 4A), a striking feature of the dataset was that more than half of our mutants showed proteomic
271 defects in one or more entire complexes (Figure 4B-4I). Forty-one mutants led to the primary
272 depletion of just one of the eight chloroplast protein complexes (Figure 4B-4H). These data
273 allowed us to immediately assign 23 novel genes to a role in the biogenesis or regulation of
274 Photosystem II, cytochrome *b₆f*, Photosystem I, the light-harvesting complexes, or the
275 chloroplast ribosome.

276 **Photosystem II:** Photosystem II uses light energy to extract electrons from water in the first
277 step of the photosynthetic electron transport chain. In our dataset, mutations in seven genes led
278 to the depletion of the entire Photosystem II complex (Figure 4B). Three of these genes were
279 not previously associated with Photosystem II in any organism. One of these novel genes, *PIIR1*
280 (*Cre16.g658950*), encodes a protein that is predicted to localize to the chloroplast (Tardif et al.,
281 2012) and has 6-fold higher transcript levels in light as compared to in the dark (Duanmu et al.,
282 2013), so it may participate in the regulation of PSII in response to light. Another novel protein,
283 TRX21 (*Cre01.g037800*), is conserved in land plants and contains a domain with thioredoxin
284 homology. We found that mutation of TRX21 led to depletion of the chloroplast-expressed PSII
285 subunits, suggesting that TRX21 plays a regulatory role in the biogenesis of this complex.

286 **Cytochrome *b₆f*:** Cytochrome *b₆f* pumps protons into the thylakoid lumen powered by
287 photosynthetic electron flow. In our dataset, mutation of four genes led to the depletion of the
288 entire cytochrome *b₆f* complex (Figure 4C). Of these four genes, two novel ones, *CPLD64*
289 (*Cre12.g485850*) and *CBR1* (*Cre12.g501550*), are conserved in land plants (Table S2) and
290 were predicted to localize to the chloroplast (Tardif et al., 2012). We successfully used genetic

291 rescue to validate the role in photosynthesis of CPLD64 (Figure 2E, Table 1), which contains a
292 predicted transmembrane domain. Given their proteomic phenotypes and chloroplast
293 localizations, we speculate that CPLD64 and CBR1 participate in the biogenesis or stability of
294 the cytochrome *b₆f* complex in the thylakoid membrane.

295 **Photosystem I:** Photosystem I uses light energy to energize electrons, enabling the reduction
296 of NADP to NADPH. In our dataset, mutations in 18 genes led to the depletion of the entire
297 Photosystem I complex (Figure 4D). Twelve of these genes were novel, including *RAA12*,
298 *RAA15*, *RAA17-18*, *HEL5/CPLD46*, *PIR1*, and *PIR2*, which we describe in detail in later
299 sections. Other interesting novel genes included *RMT2* (*Cre12.g524500*), and *PIR3*
300 (*Cre01.g012200*). *RMT2* was named based on sequence homology to *r*ibulose-1,5
301 bisphosphate carboxylase/oxygenase (Rubisco) large subunit N-*m*ethyl*t*ransferase
302 (enzyme:EC:2.1.1.127), but we observed that the *rmt2* mutation did not affect Rubisco stability.
303 Rather, it led to the depletion of Photosystem I (Figure 4D), suggesting that RMT2 actually
304 participates in Photosystem I biogenesis. PIR3 is conserved to land plants, has a predicted
305 basic leucine zipper (bZIP) transcription factor domain, and is predicted to localize to the cytosol
306 or nucleus, suggesting that it regulates the transcription of nuclear-expressed Photosystem I
307 genes.

308 **Light-harvesting complexes:** Light-harvesting complexes channel light excitation energy to
309 the photosystems (Figure 4F). In our dataset, mutations in five genes affected the light-
310 harvesting complexes — these genes include *LHR1* (*Cre02.g142266*), whose Arabidopsis
311 homolog *CYP97A3* is known to be required for light-harvesting complex II biogenesis (Kim and
312 DellaPenna, 2006), and four novel genes. Two of the novel genes, *LHR4* (*Cre01.g016350*) and
313 *LHR5* (*Cre01.g001000*), were required for normal levels of light-harvesting complex I; and the
314 two other novel genes, including *LHR2* (*Cre14.g616700*), affected the LHCBM proteins, the core
315 complex of light-harvesting complex II. Interestingly, decreased levels of light-harvesting
316 complex I in the *lhr4* and *lhr5* mutants were associated with a mild depletion of Photosystem I,

317 with which light-harvesting complex I is associated, but the decreased levels of light-harvesting
318 complex II proteins in the *lhr1* and *lhr2* mutants were not accompanied by a depletion of either
319 photosystem. These results suggest that light-harvesting complex I affects the stability of
320 Photosystem I, whereas mutants in light-harvesting complex II do not affect the stability of
321 Photosystem II.

322 **Chloroplast ribosome:** Mutations in three genes, *PSR26* (*Cre50.g761497*), *HEL41*
323 (*Cre07.g349300*), and *PSR8* (*Cre02.g110500*), led primarily to the depletion of chloroplast
324 ribosomal proteins (Figure 4H). This depletion could be a direct or indirect effect, as ribosome
325 abundance responds to the translational needs of the chloroplast (e.g., *PRPL17–19* expression
326 is ~2-fold higher in light vs dark (Duanmu et al., 2013)). The helicase *HEL41* was previously
327 found to physically associate with the chloroplast ribosomal large subunit (Westrich et al., 2021)
328 and in our dataset had a particularly strong effect on the abundance of the large subunit,
329 suggesting that *HEL41* directly affects the levels of ribosomal proteins by contributing to the
330 biogenesis or stability of the large ribosomal subunit.

331

332 **11 novel genes impact biogenesis or regulation of multiple photosynthetic complexes.**

333 Mutations in seven known and eleven novel genes led to the depletion of multiple
334 complexes (Figure 4I). The known genes illustrate how the depletion of multiple complexes can
335 result from different mechanisms. For example, cells lacking *CHLD* (*Cre05.g242000*) or *CHLM*
336 (*Cre12.g498550*) show a depletion of both Photosystem I and II complexes (Figure 4I). *CHLD*
337 and *CHLM* participate in chlorophyll biogenesis (Meinecke et al., 2010; Walker and Willows,
338 1997), so their disruption leads to the depletion of the chlorophyll-binding proteins, including
339 subunits of Photosystems I and II, which then result in downregulation of the entire complexes
340 (Figure 4I). Other known mutants are in regulatory genes, for example, the kinase *CPL3*
341 (*Cre03.g185200*) (Li et al., 2019).

342 The novel genes affecting multiple complexes included the conserved predicted xanthine
343 dehydrogenase/oxidase *XDH1* (*Cre12.g545101*), whose mutation led to decreased levels of
344 Photosystems I and II and their light-harvesting complexes similarly to mutants lacking the
345 CHLD and CHLM chlorophyll biosynthesis enzymes. These observations suggest a role for
346 *XDH1* in pigment metabolism, possibly by preventing the activation of chlorophyll degradation
347 by xanthine (Yi et al., 2021). The novel genes also included the conserved predicted
348 chloroplast-localized protein *MSR8* (*Cre09.g400312*), which impacted both Photosystem II and
349 light-harvesting complex II when disrupted. *MSR8* contains predicted WD-40 repeats (interpro:
350 IPR001680), which are known to serve as platforms for the assembly of protein complexes, and
351 so we speculate that *MSR8* may mediate interactions between Photosystem II and light-
352 harvesting complex II. We also observed that the novel genes *PMR1* (*Cre10.g448950*) and
353 *MTF1* (*Cre12.g560550*) led to the depletion of the entire photosynthetic apparatus and will
354 discuss their further characterization below.

355

356 **Characterization of novel factors that regulate photosynthetic apparatus biogenesis.**

357 Our screen and proteomics data provide a high-quality set of novel photosynthesis
358 genes and facilitate the placement of many into specific pathways. The dataset can be used to
359 identify functional relationships between proteins, to characterize the biogenesis of the
360 photosynthetic apparatus, and to study protein regulation. Below, we illustrate how our data can
361 serve as a launching point to advance our understanding of the regulation of the biogenesis of
362 the photosynthetic apparatus.

363 We hypothesized that many of the novel genes encode proteins that regulate the
364 photosynthetic machinery because many (14/24) of the known genes whose disruption led to
365 strong depletion of the photosynthetic complexes in our proteomic experiment encode
366 regulatory proteins (Figure 4B-4I). While different definitions for “regulatory” genes exist, for the
367 purpose of the high-level analysis presented here, we consider a gene “regulatory” if its

368 abundance changes under different conditions and its presence impacts the levels of one or
369 more complexes. In our search for novel regulators of photosynthetic apparatus biogenesis, we
370 focused on two subsets of our novel genes: ones whose disruption specifically impacted
371 Photosystem I levels and ones whose disruption had broad effects on most or all of the
372 photosynthetic apparatus.

373

374 **Novel components regulating Photosystem I *psaA* mRNA maturation.**

375 The mRNAs encoding chloroplast-expressed proteins are constitutively expressed, and
376 their protein abundance is primarily regulated post-transcriptionally (Choquet and Wollman,
377 2002). A central mechanism for this post-transcriptional regulation involves the Regulators of
378 Organelle Gene Expression (ROGE), nuclear-encoded factors that each promote mRNA
379 stability/maturation (M factors) or translation (T factors) of a specific chloroplast-encoded
380 subunit of a photosynthetic complex (Wang et al., 2015). In the absence of a T or M factor, the
381 abundance of the regulated subunit drops, translation of other subunits decreases, and
382 unassembled subunits are degraded, leading to depletion of the entire complex (Choquet and
383 Wollman, 2009).

384 We identified six known M factors among the genes required for accumulating the entire
385 Photosystem I complex in our proteomics (Figure 4D). One of these M factors, MAC1, is
386 required for *psaC* mRNA stability (Douchi et al., 2016). The other five, RAA1, RAA3, RAA4,
387 RAA6 and RAA8, participate in the maturation of *psaA* mRNA (Glanz et al., 2012; Marx et al.,
388 2015; Merendino et al., 2006; Reifschneider et al., 2016; Rivier et al., 2001). We hypothesized
389 that other genes with similar proteomic patterns might also be M factors. We focused on seven
390 novel genes (*HEL5*, *RAA17*, *RAA18*, *RAA12*, *RAA15*, *PIR1*, and *PIR2*), of which we validated
391 three (*RAA17*, *RAA15*, and *PIR1*) by gene rescue (Table 1), whose mutants exhibited strong
392 and specific depletion of the Photosystem I complex (Figure 5A and S7).

393 We profiled the chloroplast transcriptome in the seven mutants of interest and reference
394 mutants representing known factors to look for M factors among these novel genes. We did not
395 observe defects in *psaB* or *psaC* mRNA levels in any of the mutants (Figure S7E), and neither
396 *pir1* nor *pir2* (*Cre12.g553800*) affected levels of mature *psaA* mRNA, suggesting that PIR1 and
397 PIR2 play roles in other aspects of Photosystem I biogenesis. However, we observed that
398 mutations in five of the novel genes, *HEL5*, *RAA17*, *RAA18*, *RAA12*, and *RAA15*, result in less
399 than 15% of the wild-type levels of mature *psaA* mRNA, similar to the mutants of known *psaA*
400 mRNA maturation factors in our dataset (Figure 5B and 5C). These results suggest that we
401 identified five novel *psaA* maturation factors.

402 PsaA is one of the two central chloroplast-encoded components of Photosystem I
403 (Rochaix, 2002). In *Chlamydomonas*, its maturation involves a sophisticated mRNA splicing
404 mechanism (Goldschmidt-Clermont et al., 1990). PsaA mRNA starts as four separate transcripts
405 that hybridize to form a structure containing two introns, which are spliced out to generate the
406 mature mRNA (Figure 5B). This process is mediated by a ribonucleoprotein complex that
407 includes at least 14 splicing factors (Goldschmidt-Clermont et al., 1990). These splicing factors
408 are classified into three groups based on their impact on the splicing of the two introns. By
409 evaluating the relative splicing of each intron in the mutants using paired-end RNAseq, we were
410 able to classify novel factor *HEL5* as impacting intron 1, novel factors *RAA15* and *RAA18* as
411 impacting intron 2, and novel factor *RAA12* as impacting both introns 1 and 2 (Figure 5D). Novel
412 factor *RAA17* appears to represent a new maturation group, which we propose directly affects
413 exon 3 stability (Figure 5B-5E).

414 ***HEL5 is required for splicing psaA intron 1:*** *HEL5* (*Cre01.g027150*) belongs to the DEAD-
415 box helicase superfamily (Interpro: IPR011545). Its *Arabidopsis* reciprocal best BLAST hit ISE2
416 appears to be a general splicing factor that participates in the mRNA processing of chloroplast
417 ribosome subunits, ATP synthase subunit AtpF, and protease ClpP1 (Bobik et al., 2017). While
418 *Chlamydomonas* *HEL5* appears to contribute to the biogenesis of the chloroplast ribosome

419 (Figure S7D), it does not affect ATP synthase or the Clp protease. Instead, we observe that the
420 primary function of HEL5 seems to be the splicing of *psaA* intron 1 (Figure 5C-5D and S7D),
421 illustrating how the specificity of a splicing factor can change across evolution.

422 ***RAA15 and RAA18 are required for splicing psaA intron 2:*** Our data suggest that *RAA15*
423 (*Cre17.g728850*) and the predicted protein kinase *RAA18* (*Cre07.g351825*) are novel genes
424 required for photosynthesis and normal levels of Photosystem I (Figure 4D, 5A, and S7). In
425 mutants lacking *RAA15* and *RAA18*, we observed a 96% decrease in mature *psaA* intron 2
426 compared to wild type, suggesting that these genes encode intron 2 splicing factors (Figure 5D).
427 We caution the reader that *RAA18* is predicted to localize to the secretory pathway and thus we
428 are less confident that a mutation in this gene causes the observed photosynthesis phenotypes.
429 Transforming the wild type allele of *RAA15* into the corresponding mutant alleviated the
430 mutant's growth defects to almost-wildtype levels (Figure 2C), providing confidence that a
431 mutation in this gene causes the observed photosynthesis phenotype. *RAA15* was previously
432 pulled down with known intron 2 splicing factors *RAA2* and *RAA7* (Lefebvre-Legendre et al.,
433 2016; Reifschneider et al., 2016), suggesting that these three factors function together.

434 ***RAA12 is required for splicing psaA introns 1 and 2:*** *RAA12* (*Cre17.g698750*) is a member
435 of the OctotricoPeptide Repeat (OPR) family of regulatory RNA-binding proteins (Wang et al.,
436 2015) required for photosynthesis (Table S2), whose two mutant alleles showed depletion of
437 Photosystem I (Figure 4D and S6A). Its transcriptomic profile was similar to that of *RAA1*, a
438 known M factor required for *psaA* intron 1 and 2 splicing (Merendino et al., 2006) (Figure 5D
439 and 5E). Much like *RAA1*, we observed that *RAA12* mutation leads to the depletion of mature
440 forms of both introns 1 and 2 (Figure 5D). Furthermore, similarly to *RAA1*, *RAA12* was
441 previously co-precipitated with known M factors that regulate splicing of both introns 1 and 2:
442 known intron 1 splicing factors *RAA4* and *RAT2* (Jacobs et al., 2013; Reifschneider et al.,
443 2016), and known intron 2 splicing factor *RAA7* (Lefebvre-Legendre et al., 2016). These results
444 suggest that *RAA12* is required for the maturation of both introns 1 and 2.

445 ***RAA17 regulates psaA exon 3 stability:*** *RAA17* (*Cre13.g566400*) is a gene required for
446 photosynthesis and for normal levels of Photosystem I (Figure 5A). Transforming the wild-type
447 *RAA17* allele into the *RAA17* mutant rescues the mutant's growth to wildtype-like levels even
448 under high-light conditions (Figure 2D), confirming that *RAA17* is required for photosynthesis.
449 The *RAA17* mutant exhibits almost complete depletion of exon 3 (< 2% of WT levels), a
450 phenotype not exhibited by any of the other mutants of known factors in our dataset, suggesting
451 that *RAA17* is a novel kind of maturation factor that specifically protects the third exon. *RAA17*
452 is a member of the OPR family of RNA-binding proteins; thus, it is possible that it could directly
453 bind the third exon of *psaA* and protect it. The decreased level of exon 3 is likely the cause of
454 the decreased level of the mature form of intron 2 observed in the *raa17* mutant. *RAA17*
455 expression is light-dependent: its expression level is 5-fold higher in light compared to dark
456 (Duanmu et al., 2013), suggesting that it participates in *psaA* dark-to-light acclimation.

457 ***RAT2 is required for psaA maturation but is not a limiting factor in the dark:*** *RAT2* is a
458 previously known *psaA* maturation factor that participates in processing the intron 1 RNA
459 component *tscA* ((Balczun et al., 2005), Figure 5B and S7F). As expected, a mutant strain
460 lacking *RAT2* showed photosynthetic defects in our screen, but surprisingly, it did not lead to the
461 depletion of PSI in our protein profiling (Figure 4K). Analysis of the cells by RNA-seq provided a
462 potential explanation for this discrepancy: the *rat2* mutant has approximately 30% of the WT
463 mature *psaA* reads (Figure 5C-5E), which is more than two-fold more than we see in any other
464 maturation factor mutant in our dataset. We propose that this level of mature *psaA* mRNA is
465 sufficient for Photosystem I production in the dark, conditions under which materials were
466 collected for our proteomic analysis, as there is a lower demand on the level of the protein
467 complex and thereby a lower rate of translation as controlled by the T factor TAA1 (Lefebvre-
468 Legendre et al., 2015; Young and Purton, 2014). Under light conditions requiring active
469 photosynthesis, relatively low levels of *psaA* mRNA would not meet the higher demand for PSI
470 production, thereby contributing to the photosynthesis defect.

471 ***Additional insights into psaA mRNA maturation:*** In addition to characterizing five novel M
472 factors, our RNA profiling provides new insights into the overall maturation process of *psaA*. In
473 nearly all mutants that primarily impact one intron (with *raa15* being the only exception), we
474 observed that splicing of the other intron is also impacted (Figure 5D), suggesting that each
475 splicing site requires integrity of the other for maximal activity. In all mutants except for *hel5*,
476 exon 1 levels are higher than in WT, suggesting that unspliced exon 1 is more stable than the
477 mature mRNA (Figure 5E).

478 Together, the above findings broaden our understanding of Photosystem I maturation
479 and regulation and illustrate how our data can be used to rapidly functionally characterize novel
480 factors with roles in photosynthesis.

481

482 **Identification of master regulators of photosynthesis.**

483 One of the most striking observations from our data was the identification of three genes
484 whose mutants exhibited decreased levels of all four electron transport chain complexes without
485 affecting the abundance of other chloroplast complexes such as the chloroplast RNA
486 polymerase. One of these three genes, PMR1, behaves as a classical “master regulator,” as we
487 show below that it regulates multiple nuclear-expressed factors that, in turn, each regulate one
488 or two chloroplast genes. By contrast, the other two genes, CIF2 and MTF1, may appear at first
489 glance to be housekeeping genes required for chloroplast translation initiation. For example,
490 CIF2 (*Cre07.g341850*) likely functions as the chloroplast translation initiation factor 2 (IF2),
491 which attaches the fMet-tRNA to the translation initiation complex, based on its homology to the
492 characterized Arabidopsis IF2, *FUG1* (Miura et al., 2007), and CIF2’s physical interaction with
493 the Chlamydomonas chloroplast ribosome (Westrich et al., 2021). However, as we show below,
494 CIF2 and MTF1 may also play regulatory roles.

495 ***MTF1 is the chloroplast’s methionyl-tRNA formyltransferase (MTF) and is required for***
496 ***translation of nearly all chloroplast-encoded proteins. MTF1 (Cre12.g560550) is a***

497 conserved gene whose mutant shows a severe photosynthetic phenotype. In our proteomic
498 experiments, loss of *MTF1* expression had the strongest phenotype — the disruption of this
499 gene resulted in the depletion of the entire photosynthetic apparatus and nearly all chloroplast-
500 expressed proteins (Figure 4I and 6A). We validated this phenotype by genetic rescue, which
501 alleviated the observed growth defect in the mutant to nearly WT growth under high light
502 conditions (Figure 6B), and recovered WT levels of chloroplast-expressed proteins (Figure 6C).

503 MTF1 was previously annotated as a putative methionyl-tRNA formyltransferase (MTF)
504 based on sequence similarity to known enzymes. Methionyl-tRNA formyltransferases generate
505 fMet-tRNA, which is the tRNA needed for translation initiation in bacteria (Kaledhonkar et al.,
506 2019). In contrast to bacteria, eukaryotes do not use fMet-tRNA for cytosolic translation, but the
507 chloroplast and mitochondria within eukaryotic cells require this tRNA for translation initiation.
508 Indeed, we found that MTF1 has a similar AlphaFold-predicted structure to the known *E. coli*
509 enzyme MTF, with the active site key residues and hydrophobic pocket conserved (Figure 6D-
510 6E) (Jumper et al., 2021)(Schmitt et al., 1998). These similarities validate the annotation of
511 MTF1 as a methionyl-tRNA formyltransferase.

512 In theory, MTF1 could provide fMet-tRNA for the chloroplast or the mitochondria. We
513 found that Venus-tagged MTF1 localized exclusively to the chloroplast (Figure 6F). The strong
514 effect of *mtf1* mutants on chloroplast-expressed proteins also suggest that it is active in the
515 chloroplast. Consistent with the idea that MTF1 primarily affects chloroplast-encoded
516 photosynthetic subunits, we observed that in the *mtf1* mutant, chloroplast-expressed subunits
517 tended to be more depleted than their nuclear-expressed counterparts (Figure 6G), suggesting
518 that the depletion of the nuclear-expressed subunits was a secondary effect due to degradation
519 of incompletely assembled complexes. Together, our results strongly suggest that MTF1 is the
520 methionyl-tRNA formyltransferase that mediates chloroplast translation initiation.

521 ***Factors required for chloroplast translation initiation mediate differential photosynthetic***
522 ***complex regulation.*** Traditionally, core machinery components such as Clp2 and MTF1 would

523 be considered housekeeping genes that are required for translation but do not play a regulatory
524 role. However, two lines of evidence suggest that CIF2 and MTF1 act as photosynthetic master
525 regulators: first, they each are required for production of a different subset of chloroplast-
526 expressed proteins; and second, their expression is not constitutive and reflects the cell's
527 regulatory needs.

528 If MTF1 and CIF2 were simply constitutive parts of the core translation machinery as
529 their *E. coli* homologs are assumed to be (Marzi et al., 2003), we would have expected that
530 MTF1 and CIF2 would be required for translation of all chloroplast-expressed proteins.
531 Surprisingly, we found that MTF1 and CIF2 were not required for normal levels of several
532 chloroplast-expressed proteins. For example, *mtf1* and *cif2* mutations did not affect levels of the
533 two chloroplast-expressed proteins required for chlorophyll biosynthesis in the dark, chlB and
534 chlL (Figure 6A). Consistent with this observation, *mtf1* and *cif2* mutants were green when
535 grown in the dark (Figure S8A), whereas strains without the chlB/L/N complex are yellow in the
536 dark (Cahoon and Timko, 2000). *mtf1* and *cif2* mutants also did not show downregulation of
537 chloroplast-expressed RNA polymerase (Figure 6A, *Rpo* genes). Notably, MTF1 and CIF2
538 affected different subsets of genes: CIF2 was only required for the photosynthetic machinery
539 (less than half of all chloroplast-expressed proteins), whereas MTF1 also affected ribosomal
540 large subunits (Figure 6H). These observations indicate that MTF1 and CIF2 promote the
541 translation of specific subsets of proteins, a property associated with regulatory factors
542 (Macedo-Osorio et al., 2021).

543 Further consistent with regulatory roles, MTF1 and CIF2 are themselves differentially
544 regulated. MTF1 is downregulated under nitrogen starvation but not in the dark, whereas CIF2
545 is downregulated under both nitrogen starvation and in the dark (Figure 6I. Data from: Boyle et
546 al., 2012; Duanmu et al., 2013). These different expression patterns may reflect differential
547 regulatory needs: under nitrogen starvation, downregulating MTF1 and CIF2 allows the cell to
548 downregulate most chloroplast translation to conserve nitrogen. In contrast, in the dark,

549 downregulating only CIF2 allows the cell to downregulate the photosynthesis machinery but not
550 the ribosome, retaining translation capacity for non-photosynthetic functions.

551 Together, these observations suggest that CIF2 and MTF1 participate in the regulation
552 of chloroplast-expressed genes and illustrate how translation initiation machinery can be
553 leveraged to co-regulate multiple protein complexes.

554 ***CCR4-NOT family member PMR1 regulates photosynthesis through ROGE mRNA levels.***

555 Parallel to our discovery that CIF2 and MTF1 likely regulate the chloroplast translation of
556 multiple photosynthetic complexes, we also identified the novel protein PMR1 as a master
557 regulator of multiple photosynthetic complexes acting at the level of nuclear gene expression
558 control. The mutant deficient in *PMR1* (*Cre10.g448950*) showed severe photosynthetic growth
559 deficiency and depletion of all electron transport chain components, most significantly
560 Photosystems I and II, and light-harvesting complex I (Figures 4I, 6A, and S8B). These defects
561 were all rescued by transforming the mutant strain with the wild-type allele (Figure 6J-K).

562 PMR1 is a member of the CCR4-NOT family and shows the highest sequence homology
563 (Figure S9C) and a similar predicted structure (Figure 6L-M) to Nocturnin (KEGG K18764), a
564 protein that has been identified as a circadian-controlled master regulator that affects
565 metabolism and hundreds of transcripts in animals (Abshire et al., 2020; Green et al., 2007;
566 Kawai et al., 2010). Consistent with Nocturnin-like characteristics, we observed that PMR1 has
567 periodic expression (Figure S8C, data from Strenkert et al., 2019), and the disruption of its
568 expression affects protein levels of most of the photosynthetic complexes (Figure 6A, Figure
569 S8B) and influences the levels of thousands of mRNAs (Figure S8D).

570 Members of the CCR4-NOT family regulate mRNA post-transcriptionally (Miller and
571 Reese, 2012). Nocturnin was originally proposed to directly regulate mRNAs (Abshire et al.,
572 2018) by affecting stability (Baggs and Green, 2003) and/or export from the nucleus (Kawai et
573 al., 2010). Moreover, its active site is very similar to known deadenylases (CNOT6L and
574 PDE12), which directly regulate mRNA stability. Furthermore, a recent paper showed that

575 human and fly Nocturnin act as phosphatases that convert NADP(H) to NAD(H) (Estrella et al.,
576 2019), which then has secondary effects on the transcriptome.

577 In order to determine if PMR1 acts as a NADP(H) phosphatase similar to the human
578 Nocturnin, we metabolically analyzed the *pmr1* mutant. If PMR1 is NADP(H) phosphatase, we
579 would expect the mutant to show an increase in the ratio of NADP(H) to NAD(H). Instead, we
580 observed that the *pmr1* mutant showed a slight decrease in this ratio (Figure 6N). This effect
581 was likely nonspecific, as the *mtf1* mutant showed a similar decrease (Figure 6N). These results
582 suggest that PMR1 does not act as NADP(H) phosphatase *in vivo* and more likely regulates
583 mRNA levels directly, similarly to other members of the CCR4-NOT family (Mittal et al., 2011).

584 Our RNA-seq analysis suggests that PMR1 regulates the levels of photosynthetic
585 complexes through broad control of the Regulators of Organelle Gene Expression (ROGE),
586 nuclear-encoded factors that each regulate the mRNA stability or translation of one or two
587 chloroplast-expressed genes (Wang et al., 2015). The *pmr1* mutant did not show significant
588 depletion of nuclear-encoded subunits of photosynthetic complexes (Figure 6O). Instead, the
589 *pmr1* mutant exhibited strong depletion of 22 ROGEs that together regulate all major
590 photosynthetic complexes, most notably ROGEs required for biogenesis of Photosystems I and
591 II (Figure 6P; $u = 0.01$, Wilcoxon rank sum test comparing the ROGE mRNA distribution to the
592 distribution of all measured mRNAs). Since the depletion of even one ROGE can lead to the
593 depletion of an entire photosynthetic complex, we propose that this downregulation of ROGEs
594 explains the observed broad downregulation of all photosynthetic complexes in the *pmr1* mutant
595 (Figure 6Q).

596 If PMR1 directly regulates the mRNA of nuclear-expressed genes, we would expect it to
597 localize to the cytosol and/or nucleus. Consistent with this idea, fluorescently-tagged PMR1
598 localized to the cytosol and nuclear periphery (Figure 6R). Intriguingly, a substantial fraction of
599 the protein also localizes to the chloroplast. This additional site of localization suggests the

600 possibility that PMR1 participates in retrograde regulation — signaling from the chloroplast to
601 the nucleus and cytosol to regulate nuclear-expressed genes (Chan et al., 2016).

602 **DISCUSSION**

603 Even though photosynthesis is central to life on Earth, many of the genes required for it
604 remain uncharacterized or even unknown. In this study, we identified with high confidence (FDR
605 < 0.11) 115 genes required for photosynthesis, including 70 whose functions in photosynthesis
606 had not been characterized in any organism. Our confidence in the identification of these genes
607 is supported by a statistical framework as well as gene rescue of mutants representing 12 novel
608 genes.

609 We then showed that mutant proteomes provide key insights into the functions of these
610 genes in photosynthesis, in many cases allowing the assignment of novel genes to specific
611 pathways. The quality of the proteomic data is supported by the recapitulation of many known
612 phenotypes, and the specificity of protein depletion has guided our follow-up studies reported
613 here. While we focused on mutants that entirely lacked core photosynthetic complexes, we note
614 that the proteomes are also useful for mutants where core complexes were not depleted. For
615 example, although mutations in CO₂-concentrating mechanism-associated genes such as LCIB
616 (Wang and Spalding, 2006), SAGA1 (Itakura et al., 2019), SAGA3 (Fauser et al., 2022), CAS1
617 (Wang et al., 2016), and LC19 (Mackinder et al., 2017) do not affect the core photosynthesis
618 complexes, each mutant proteome shows a distinctive pattern that may aid in the understanding
619 of their contribution to the biogenesis and regulation of the CO₂-concentrating mechanism.

620 We illustrated here the value of this resource by employing transcriptomics, protein
621 localization, and metabolomics to further characterize seven novel genes, yielding insights that
622 contribute to the basic understanding of photosynthesis regulation.

623

624 **Master regulators MTF1, CIF1 and PMR1 coordinate photosynthetic complex expression.**

625 To date, many individual nuclear-encoded factors have been identified that each regulate one or
626 two chloroplast-encoded proteins post-transcriptionally (Choquet and Wollman, 2002). However,
627 in order to respond effectively to changing conditions, the cell must simultaneously regulate

628 multiple photosynthetic complexes. Our results suggest that MTF1, CIF2, and PMR1 are master
629 regulators that contribute to these responses by coregulating multiple complexes.

630 MTF1 and CIF2 are part of the chloroplast translation machinery, and our data suggest
631 that the cell can use variations on this machinery to differentially regulate multiple complexes.
632 The observation that not all chloroplast-expressed proteins are dependent on MTF1 and CIF2
633 also raises intriguing questions for future studies about how the remaining proteins are
634 translated. For example, the *E. coli* CIF2 homolog IF2 is thought to be essential for initiation of
635 all translation (Madison et al., 2012), and it remains unclear how translation of chloroplast
636 ribosomal proteins in *Chlamydomonas* is initiated in the absence of CIF2.

637 Our data suggest that PMR1 is a master regulator that operates on a different principle:
638 it regulates the mRNA levels of 22 nuclear-encoded Regulators of Organelle Gene Expression,
639 which then each regulate the mRNA stability or translation of one or two chloroplast-encoded
640 subunits of photosynthetic complexes (Figure 6Q). Furthermore, its multiple localization to the
641 chloroplast, cytosol, and nucleus suggests that PMR1 might participate in retrograde regulation,
642 where it could sense signals in the chloroplast that regulate its activity in the cytosol and
643 nucleus.

644

645 **Our data support a regulatory role for ROGEs.**

646 We identified five novel Regulators of Organelle Gene Expression (ROGEs) that are
647 essential for the biogenesis of Photosystem I. Including these novel genes, 75% (16/21) of
648 genes with known functions in our dataset that lead to the depletion of an entire complex are
649 ROGEs (Figure 4), demonstrating their significant impact on the biogenesis of photosynthetic
650 complexes.

651 It is currently debated whether ROGEs play a regulatory role or are merely required for
652 complex biogenesis (Wang et al., 2015). Existing evidence supporting a regulatory role includes
653 1) Different ROGEs affect different chloroplast-encoded genes (Choquet and Wollman, 2002);

654 2) ROGEs are differentially transcriptionally regulated (Lefebvre-Legendre et al., 2015); 3)
655 several ROGEs can co-regulate the same protein (Table S6, (Boulouis et al., 2011; Lefebvre-
656 Legendre et al., 2016)); 4) proteins with a stronger effect on growth, including the largest
657 subunit of each complex, tend to be regulated by more ROGEs (Table S6); and 5) ROGEs
658 participate in feedback loops (Boulouis et al., 2011; Choquet and Wollman, 2009), a classical
659 transcription network motif (Milo et al., 2002).

660 Our data now add two new observations that further support a regulatory role for
661 ROGEs. The first is that different ROGEs can be limiting factors in different conditions, e.g.,
662 RAT2 is not a limiting factor for *psaA* expression in the dark but is in the light (Figure 4K and
663 5C-5E). The second is that a master regulator, PMR1, appears to use ROGEs to coregulate the
664 abundance of multiple complexes.

665 Together, these points raise the intriguing possibility that during the endosymbiosis
666 process, as transcriptional regulation in the chloroplast was lost (Choquet and Wollman, 2002)
667 the ROGEs evolved to generate a regulatory network quantitatively regulating chloroplast
668 expressed proteins, in a condition-dependent manner, under the control of master regulators.

669 Interestingly, while ROGEs are important regulatory factors for chloroplast-expressed
670 genes in both algae and land plants, there are more characterized ROGEs in algae. This
671 difference could be due to convergent evolution; a similar number of ROGEs may regulate *psaA*
672 in *Arabidopsis*, but they have not yet been identified because they do not have sequence
673 homology to the *Chlamydomonas* factors (Ozawa et al., 2020). Alternatively, the regulatory
674 needs of unicellular algae may be different from the regulatory needs of plants. For example,
675 because the photosynthetic machinery in unicellular algae is in growing cells, algae may have a
676 higher need for regulation of protein allocation to the photosynthetic apparatus vs. the rest of the
677 cell. Plants, where the photosynthetic cells are differentiated and not growing, may in turn need
678 more regulation of other processes such as plastid differentiation.

679

680 **Much fundamental biology in photosynthesis remains to be discovered.**

681 In this study, we identified with high confidence 115 genes required for photosynthesis,
682 70 of which had not previously been characterized in any organism. More than 65% of these
683 115 genes have homologs in land plants. In most cases, the functions of these conserved
684 genes appear to be similar in *Chlamydomonas* and land plants, supporting the value of
685 *Chlamydomonas* as a model system and expanding the significance of our findings. In several
686 cases, homologous genes appear to have evolved different functions: we identified two such
687 cases, CGL54 (Table 1) and RMT2 (Figure 4D). Approximately 35% of the hits have no clear
688 homologs, which could reflect homolog search failure due to sequence divergence (Vakirlis et
689 al., 2020; Weisman et al., 2020) and/or different evolutionary innovations in the algal lineage
690 such as the algal-specific CO₂-concentrating mechanism, the study of which has the potential to
691 enhance crop yields (Mackinder, 2018). Thus, much remains to be discovered, and we
692 anticipate that future studies of the previously uncharacterized genes identified here and
693 explored in our proteomics dataset will contribute to further fundamental discoveries in
694 photosynthesis.

695 STAR ★ METHODS

696 KEY RESOURCES TABLE

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Chemicals, Peptides, and Recombinant proteins		
UltraPure Low-Melting Point Agarose	Invitrogen	Cat# 16500100
TRIzol™ Reagent	Invitrogen	Cat# 15596026
Guanidine hydrochloride	Sigma	Cat# 369080-1KG
Cetyltrimethylammonium bromide	Sigma	Cat# 57-09-0
HEPES	Sigma	Cat# H3375-25G
NEM	Sigma	Cat# 128-53-0
DTT	Sigma	Cat# 3483-12-3
EPPS	Sigma	Cat# 000010
Methanol	Fisher scientific	Cat# A456-4
Acetonitrile	Fisher scientific	Cat# A955-4
Chloroform	VWR	Cat# BDH83626.400
H ₂ O	VWR	Cat# 87003-652
Formic acid	Sigma	Cat# F0507
NH ₄ HCO ₃	Sigma	Cat# 09830
MAX efficiency transformation Reagent for Algae	Invitrogen	Cat# A24229
Critical Commercial Assays		
Phusion High-Fidelity DNA polymerase	New England BioLabs	Cat# M0530L
MinElute Gel Extraction Kit	QIAGEN	Cat# 28606
Gibson Assembly Master Mix	NEB	Cat# E2611L
MT10plex Isobaric Label Reagent Set plus TMT11-131C Label Reagent	Thermo	Cat# A34808
QIAprep Spin Miniprep Kit	QIAGEN	Cat# 27106
Experimental Models: Organisms/Strains		
<i>C.reinhardtii</i> : wild-type CC-4453	Chlamydomonas Resource Center	CC-4533 cw15
<i>C.reinhardtii</i> : wild-type CC-1690	Chlamydomonas Resource Center	CC-1690
CLiP library mutants in table S1	(Li et al., 2019); Chlamydomonas Resource Center	https://www.chlamycollection.org/
<i>E.coli</i> Stellar Competent Cells	Takara	Cat# 636763
Chlamydomonas rescued strains listed in Table S7	This paper, Chlamydomonas Resource	https://www.chlamycollection.org/
Oligonucleotides and Recombinant DNA		
pLM005	(Mackinder et al., 2016); GenBank	KX077945.1
pRAM118	(Itakura et al., 2019); GenBank	MK357711
Plasmid constructs generated and listed in Table S7	This paper, Chlamydomonas Resource Center	https://www.chlamycollection.org/
Software and Algorithms		
MATLAB	MathWorks	
python		
Bowtie 2	Bowtie	http://bowtie-bio.sourceforge.net/bowtie2/manual.shtml
Cutadapt 1.18.	cutadapt	https://cutadapt.readthedocs.io/en/v1.18/
Fiji	(Schindelin et al., 2012)	https://imagej.net/software/fiji/downloads
El-MAVEN software	Elucidata	https://www.elucidata.io/el-maven
other		

Electroporation Cuvette, 2mm gap	Bulldog Bio.	Cat# 12358-346
Ibidi USA μ -Slide 8 well, Glass bottom	Ibidi	Cat# NC0704855
Poly-L-lysine coated glass slides	Sigma	Cat# P0425
Lumigrow Lumibar lights	Lumigrow Lumibar	Cat# 8100-5502
Vacuum filter flask, with a fritted glass support base.	Wilmad Labglass	Cat# BP-1752-001
Nylon membrane filters (0.5 μ m pore size)	GVS Magna™	Cat# 1213776
Oasis HLB 96-well μ Elution Plate, 2 mg Sorbent per Well, 30 μ m, 1/pk	Waters	Cat# 186001828BA
Electroporator	NEPA GENE	NEPA21 type II
SP5 Confocal Microscope	Leica	TCS SP5
Singer Rotor HAD	Singer Instruments	Cat# ROT-001
PhenoBooth imager	Singer Instruments	N/A
Typhoon FLA9500 fluorescence scanner	GE Healthcare	N/A

697

698 CONTACT FOR REAGENT AND RESOURCE SHARING

699 Further information and requests for resources and reagents should be directed to and will be
700 fulfilled by the Lead Contact, Martin C. Jonikas (mjonikas@princeton.edu)

701

702 EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND SUBJECT DETAILS

703 Strains and culture conditions

704 We performed all experiments on Tris Acetate Phosphate (TAP) TAP or Tris Phosphate (TP)
705 media with revised trace elements (Kropat et al., 2011). TP media had the same recipe as TAP,
706 but the acetic acid was omitted and HCl was added instead to adjust the pH to 7.5. We
707 propagated strains robotically on TAP agar as previously described (Zhang et al., 2014).
708 All mutants used in this study were from the CLiP library (Li et al., 2019). We used the library's
709 parental strain, CC-4533, as wild-type. We backcrossed mutants to a CC-1690 mt+
710 transformant carrying a hygromycin resistance cassette (WT-hyg), which has high mating
711 efficiency with the CLiP strains.

712 We performed spot tests and back-crossing with a subset of 1,781 out of the 3,109
713 mutants deficient in photosynthetic growth identified previously (Li et al., 2019). This subset had

714 been propagated in the laboratory as colony arrays in 96-colony format since the library's
715 original construction; whereas propagation of the remaining strains had stopped by the time this
716 study began.

717 We focused our efforts on characterizing insertions with mapping confidence levels of 1-3 (Li et
718 al., 2019). The 1,781 mutants carried insertions into 1,616 genes mapped with confidence levels
719 1-3.

720

721 METHOD DETAILS

722 Automated spot tests

723 We used a RoToR robot (Singer) to replicate colony arrays in 384-colony format from the TAP
724 agar plates on which the 1,781 mutants were propagated onto three agar plates: one TAP, and
725 two TP. We grew the TAP plate in the dark for about a week before imaging; and we acclimated
726 the two TP plates overnight at $\sim 100 \mu\text{E}/\text{m}^2/\text{s}$, and then moved them to high light $\sim 750 \mu\text{E}/\text{m}^2/\text{s}$
727 for 2-3 days before imaging (using Lumigrow Lumibar lights, catalog number 8100-5502; equal
728 levels of red, blue, and white light). We photographed the plates using a PhenoBooth imager
729 (Singer). We performed the experiment in four replicates: two independent experiments with a
730 technical replicate in each experiment.

731 To calculate the “normalized colony photosynthetic growth” we analyzed the pictures
732 using MATLAB. We used a MATLAB script to identify and remove the background and to
733 calculate colony size (each green pixel of a colony was given a value 0.5-1 depending on its
734 intensity; and these values were added to obtain the colony size). We then normalized the
735 colony size in each plate by the median size of the 10 largest colonies. We then normalized the
736 size of each colony on the high light plates by the size of the corresponding colony on the
737 corresponding TAP dark plate. We performed the second normalization to rule out mutants with
738 a slow growth phenotype that is not specific to photosynthesis.

739

740 Pooled backcrossing

741 We performed initial backcrossing experiments with two subsets of mutants labeled MK (26
742 plates) and AB (10 plates), which together contained the 1,781 mutants, with some mutants
743 being present in both subsets. After obtaining initial results with these subsets, we re-arrayed
744 the most promising mutants in 96-colony format onto four plates labeled NP. The NP plates
745 included 1) mutants containing insertions linked to photosynthetic defects in the initial
746 backcrosses, 2) insertions in genes that were identified as high-confidence hits in our previous
747 study (Li et al., 2019), and 3) mutants that were yellow or brown. Additionally, to check the
748 method's replicability, we generated a control plate which contained mutations in genes that
749 were not hits and carried insertions whose disruption likely did not result in a photosynthesis
750 defect. The genes disrupted in mutants on the control plate included 1) known flagellar genes
751 and 2) genes that were represented by more than 35 barcodes, no more than 2 of which were
752 hits in our original pooled photosynthesis screen (Li et al., 2019) (in other words, many mutants
753 were available for these genes and the vast majority of these mutants did not exhibit a
754 photosynthesis defect). Using the NP and control plates, we performed a final backcrossing
755 experiment that included two biological repeats of the NP plates and one biological repeat of the
756 control plate.

757 The backcrossing approach was adapted from the pooled mating (Multiplexed Bulk-
758 Segregant Pool) protocol described previously (Breker et al., 2018). Our protocol is illustrated in
759 Figure S2. Each experimental replicate consisted of the following steps:

760 1) Mating: We scraped and pooled mt- mutant strains from 96-colony format arrays into
761 flasks containing low-nitrogen gamete-induction medium (Breker et al., 2018). 60-150 colonies
762 were pooled into each 250 ml flask containing 50 ml of gamete-induction medium. We
763 resuspended a similar quantity of WT-hyg into separate flasks containing the same media. We
764 used a cell counter to verify that the strains and the WT-hyg cells were at a similar
765 concentration. Flasks were shaken at 90 RPM for 5-7h in low light (~40 μ E) for mating induction.

766 Then for each flask of mutant strains, 700ul of mutant strains (mt-) and 700ul of WT-hyg were
767 mixed in a 1.5 ml Eppendorf tube, incubated at low light (~40 μE) without shaking for one hour,
768 then gently spread on two TAP agar plates. The plates were incubated overnight in very low
769 light (~30 μE). In the morning, the plates were wrapped in aluminum foil and kept in the dark for
770 7 days.

771 2) Meiosis: Most of the unmated cells were removed by scraping the agar surface using
772 a sharp razor, and the plates were moved to low light (~30 μE) for meiosis induction and initial
773 proliferation for ~5 days. A light microscope was used to check the sporulation efficiency (Jiang
774 and Stern, 2009). The strains were pooled into liquid media (TP) for competitive growth.

775 3) Light and cassette selections (competitive growth): We added hygromycin to our
776 media to ensure that only backcrossed strains were measured. The mutant library does not
777 have hygromycin resistance, so the original CLiP mutants cannot grow on this media. The WT-
778 hyg strain has hygromycin resistance but does not have barcodes, so it will not affect the
779 barcode counting. We inoculated pooled strains at $\sim 2 \times 10^4$ cells ml^{-1} into TAP + hygromycin
780 (15 $\mu\text{g/ml}$) 1L bottles for dark growth (3 replicates) and TP + hygromycin (15 $\mu\text{g/ml}$) 1L bottles
781 for high light growth (3 replicates; except of the 1st experiment where we also did hygromycin
782 (15 $\mu\text{g/ml}$)+ paromomycin (5 $\mu\text{g/ml}$) conditions). We bubbled air into the bottles and stirred them
783 using magnetic stirrers at 200 rpm. We exposed the TP cultures to 100 μE for overnight light
784 acclimation, then to 750 μE for the remainder of the growth (using Lumigrow Lumibar lights,
785 catalog number 8100-5502; equal levels of red, blue, and white light). When the cells reached a
786 concentration of approximately 2×10^6 cells ml^{-1} , we harvested 10^8 cells for DNA extraction by
787 centrifugation and flash-freezing the pellet in liquid nitrogen.

788

Name	Plates in backcrossing	Competition experiments
------	------------------------	-------------------------

Exp1 (AB replicate 1)	AB set (10 plates)	2 TAP Hygromycin dark and 2 TP Hygromycin light; 1 TAP hygromycin + paromomycin dark and 2 TP hygromycin + paromomycin light
Exp2A (MK 1-12 replicate 1)	1 st half of MK set (12 plates)	3 TAP hygromycin dark and 3 TP hygromycin light
Exp2B (MK 13-26 replicate 1)	2nd half of MK set (14 plates)	3 TAP hygromycin dark and 3 TP hygromycin light
Exp3A (MK 1-12 replicate 2)	1 st half of MK set (12 plates)	3 TAP hygromycin dark and 3 TP hygromycin light
Exp3B (MK 13-26 replicate 2)	2nd half of MK set (14 plates)	3 TAP Hygromycin dark and 3 TP Hygromycin light
Exp4 (AB replicate 2)	AB set (10 plates) + 3 plates from MK set.	3 TAP hygromycin dark and 3 TP hygromycin light
NP plates	2 biological replicates of NP set (4 plates) + 1 biological repeats of control set (1 plate).	For each biological replicate: 3 TAP hygromycin dark and 3 TP hygromycin light

789

790 Next, we extracted the DNA and prepared the barcode libraries as described (Fauser et
791 al., 2022), and sent the libraries for Illumina sequencing at the Princeton Genomics Core
792 Facility.

793 After demultiplexing the we trimmed the initial reads using cutadapt version 1.18.
794 Sequences were trimmed using the command "cutadapt -a <seq> -e 0 -q 33 -m 21 -M 23",
795 where <seq> is GGCAAG for 5' data and TAGCGC for 3' data. Next, The barcode read counts

796 for each dataset were calculated in python, filtered to only include barcodes present in the
797 original library (Li et al., 2019), and normalized to a total of 1 million.

798

799 Barcode normalization and growth score calculation

800 We calculated the “normalized light growth after backcrossing” metric as follows:

- 801 1) We used the correlation between the different experimental repeats of each condition to
802 check for swapped samples. Based on these results, we corrected 2 swapped sample pairs: (1)
803 TAP dark sample 3 from Exp3A (MK 1-12 rep2), with TP light sample 1 from Exp2B (MK13-26
804 rep1); (2) TAP dark sample 1 of NP biological replicate 1, with TAP dark sample 3 of NP
805 biological replicate 2.
- 806 2) We averaged the read count of each barcode across the different replicate samples for each
807 condition, using median if we had three replicates or geometric mean if we had only two.
- 808 3) To reduce the noise, we removed samples with very low read counts in the TAP condition (<7
809 in the first experiment and <10 in the rest).
- 810 4) We calculated the relative growth as \log_2 (averaged TP light reads / averaged TAP dark
811 reads). In the first experiment, we had two different conditions; one was grown in hygromycin
812 and paromomycin, and the other only in hygromycin; we analyzed them separately.
- 813 5) Normalizing of the NP experiment results – the overall distribution of relative growth rates in
814 the NP experiment was shifted because most of the strains in this competition have a
815 photosynthetic defect, so we scaled the results from this experiment by 0.6 to get a similar
816 distribution to the other experiments.
- 817 6) For the final “growth score,” we used the median of the five experiments with the strongest
818 photosynthetic growth defects (for all but 122 genes, it is the same as using all the data). We
819 used the five experiments with the photosynthetic growth defects because there are slightly
820 different conditions between experiments, which can affect the phenotype. Furthermore, in
821 some repeats, we were unable to see an effect because we did not manage to remove all the

822 diploid cells. Lastly, the possibility that the mutants will have a phenotype “by chance” in more
823 than five different experiments is very low, so even slightly lower effects for genes with many
824 experimental repeats can be tolerated. The growth score and the light/dark ratio of backcrossing
825 experiments for all the strains are shown in Table S1.

826 We used the “growth score” to set the 0.34 threshold, to identify hits, and to calculate the FDR
827 (see below, and Figure S2). To reduce noise, we counted as hits only the strains that had reads
828 above the threshold in at least two experiments.

829 7) FDR calculation (see also Figure S2) – to calculate the False Discovery Rate (FDR) we first
830 estimated how many of the 1,616 mutated of genes in our starting set are required for
831 photosynthesis. We sampled 350 genes at random from the 1,616 and searched the literature
832 for genes among them that are required for photosynthesis. Approximately 6.25% of the genes
833 were known to be required for photosynthesis. Considering previous estimates indicating that
834 approximately half of the genes required for photosynthesis remain to be discovered (Li et al.,
835 2019), we estimate that an additional 6.25% of the genes in the initial set are also required for
836 photosynthesis; thus, we estimate that 12.5% of the initial genes are required for
837 photosynthesis, and the remaining 1,414 (87.5% of the initial 1,620 genes) in our starting set
838 are not required for photosynthesis. Next we defined a set of genes that we called “Genes
839 whose disruption likely did Not Result in a Photosynthesis Defect” (GNRPD). We assigned
840 genes from our set of 1,616 to GNRPD if they were represented by more than 20 insertions,
841 where at most two mutants showed a photosynthetic defect in the Li et al experiment. ~1% of
842 the GNRPDs (2/204) were among the 136 hit genes identified with a phenotype threshold of
843 0.34. We assume that the same percentage (~1%) of the 1,414 estimated genes in our starting
844 set that are not required for photosynthesis in the original mutant set, will go into the hits,
845 resulting in a calculated FDR < 0.11 when using a threshold of 0.34. With a threshold of 0.49,
846 the same calculation yields a FDR < 0.3.

847

848 Validating insertion sites by PCR

849 We adapted the check PCR protocol from the CLiP website
850 (<https://www.chlamylibrary.org/about>), where we used the G1 and G2 primers to validate the
851 existence of the expected insertion (Figure S3). We used the primers suggested for each strain
852 on the CLiP website. We considered the mapping validated if we got a larger PCR product for
853 the mutant than for the wild type, or if we obtained a PCR product for the wild type and not for
854 the mutant in at least 2 experiments (Figure S3).

855

856 Validating insertion sites by DNA sequencing

857 The strains were grown in the dark condition, and the DNA was extracted using the same
858 method as above. The DNAs were sent to Princeton Genomics Core Facility for library
859 preparation and whole genome sequencing.

860 The paired-end 150nt reads were aligned to a reference file that combined the v5.5
861 Chlamydomonas genome (from Phytozome), the chloroplast and mitochondrial genomes (from
862 NCBI: chloroplast_BK000554.2.gb and mitochondrion_U03843.1.gb) and our CIB1 cassette (Li
863 et al 2019), using the command “bowtie2 –sensitive-local -k 10 -l 100 -X 650 -S”. The resulting
864 SAM files were filtered to extract only read pairs indicating insertion junctions (where the
865 primary alignment was discordant with one side aligning to the CIB1 cassette and the other side
866 aligning to the genome). The resulting genomic positions corresponding to likely cassette
867 insertion positions were clustered (using `scipy.cluster.hierarchy.fclusterdata(t=3000,`
868 `criterion='distance', method='average')`). For each mutant, all clusters containing 4 or more
869 reads were plotted to show the detailed read locations and orientations, as well as the putative
870 insertion positions according to the original library data (Li et al 2019).

871 Additionally, for each such plot, the concordant read pairs spanning each genomic
872 position were counted and plotted. The resulting plots were evaluated manually to determine the
873 most likely insertion position(s), based on the numbers of matching reads, whether the reads

874 originated from both sides of the insertion position (much less likely for junk fragments), and
875 whether there were concordant read pairs spanning the position (real cassette insertions should
876 not have concordant read pairs spanning them, since the cassette is much longer than the
877 sequenced fragment size).

878

879 Selection of 115 high-confidence hits

880 In our experiment, 148 mutants in 136 genes showed normalized light growth after backcrossing
881 that fell below the 0.34 threshold (FDR = 0.1).

882 First, we validated that the insertions were mapped to the correct genes. We validated
883 the mapping for 119/136 of those genes (87.5%) by PCR and DNA sequencing (Figure 1F and
884 Table S2). The 19 unvalidated genes were removed from the list.

885 Next, we removed some of the hits to improve the quality of the data set as described
886 below:

887 1) Six genes (*Cre06.g262900*, *Cre03.g158950*, *Cre12.g521450*, *Cre13.g578600*,
888 *Cre17.g728700*, *Cre02.g106950*) were represented by only one mutation that was in a strain
889 that also included a mutation in an established photosynthetic gene or in a gene with multiple
890 hits in our data set. In these cases, we assumed that the phenotype originated from the well-
891 established gene and removed the 2nd gene from the hit list.

892 2) Five strains had two hits in each (LMJ.RY0402.172741: *Cre13.g584250* + *Cre12.g554400*,
893 LMJ.RY0402.187220: *Cre11.g481115* + *Cre07.g326010*, LMJ.RY0402.210483: *Cre10.g458700*
894 + *Cre03.g211185*, LMJ.RY0402.166642: *Cre03.g155001* + *Cre16.g660390* & *Cre16.g660430*,
895 LMJ.RY0402.125697: *Cre01.g036400* + *Cre01.g015500*). While both genes may be required for
896 the photosynthetic growth, it is more probable that one is the real hit and the other is
897 piggybacking on its phenotype. Hence, we counted them as one and concentrated on the one
898 more likely to be connected to photosynthesis (*Cre13.g584250*, *Cre11.g481115*,

899 *Cre10.g458700*, *Cre03.g155001*, *Cre01.g015500*). In Table S2, we state the reason for the
900 choice and mention that the effect can be from the other gene.

901 3) We removed *Cre09.g407650* from the gene hits list because we observed in the proteomic
902 data that *Cre09.g407650* is not downregulated in the corresponding mutant (Figure S5). The
903 insertion in that mutant was in the 3' UTR, consistent with a mild effect on protein levels.

904 We then added nine genes as described below:

905 In our statistical analysis, we looked at genes with insertion mapping confidence levels
906 of 1-3 and excluded confidence level 4 insertions because only 58% of these mutants are
907 correctly mapped (Li et al., 2019). However, there were 3 cases where we did validate the
908 insertion of confidence level 4 hits (LMJ.RY0402.124891: *Cre16.g665750*,
909 LMJ.RY0402.207089: *Cre01.g040050*, LMJ.RY0402.097626: *Cre12.g501550*), so we added
910 those three genes to the hit list.

911 Last, we added six genes based on manual analysis of the data (LMJ.RY0402.176891:
912 *Cre01.g022681*, LMJ.RY0402.119871: *Cre06.g273700*, LMJ.RY0402.091258: *Cre09.g415500*,
913 LMJ.RY0402.174216: *Cre09.g415700*, LMJ.RY0402.049481: *Cre02.g091750*,
914 LMJ.RY0402.049829: *Cre11.g467573*). In most of these cases, the gene was not a hit in the
915 original analysis because it was not a hit in one replicate, but the replicate is not reliable due to
916 an obvious reason such as very low reads. After removing a problematic experiment, the gene
917 is a hit. In Table S2, we mention in each of these cases why the gene was included in the hit
918 list.

919 After these edits, our list contained 115 high-confidence genes.

920

921 **Comparison to hits from previous large-scale studies**

922 We compared our 155 high-confidence genes to two sets of hits: 1) previously-identified high-
923 confidence hits, and 2) previously low-confidence hits; which we obtained from three previous
924 large-scale studies (Fauser et al., 2022; Li et al., 2019; Wakao et al., 2021) .

925 **Previously-identified high-confidence hits** consisted of high-confidence hits from (Li et al.,
926 2019) and genes in the photosynthesis clusters in (Fauser et al., 2022). Fauser et al. clustered
927 mutants together based on their phenotype in over 100 different conditions. The work identified
928 two clusters of genes relevant to photosynthesis. The first cluster is the light-sensitive group,
929 where all the hits are relevant to our study; the second cluster is the photoautotrophic light-
930 insensitive. In this second cluster, the clustering is based on phenotypes across many
931 conditions; however, the only condition similar to our experiments is Photoautotrophic 1-3, so
932 we took only the genes whose mutants exhibited pronounced phenotype in this condition:
933 *Cre14.g616600*, *Cre01.g016514*, *Cre03.g194200*, *Cre03.g188700*, *Cre10.g423500*,
934 *Cre06.g259100*, *Cre11.g467712*. We merged the hits from Li and Fauser. This procedure
935 yielded 51 high confidence hits, of which 41 were also high-confidence hits in our study.

936 **Previously low-confidence hits** consisted of a subset of the 260 low-confidence hits from Li et
937 al. (Li et al., 2019) and the 253 low-confidence hits from Wakao et al (Wakao et al., 2021) that
938 were represented in the collection of mutants we analyzed. Neither data set had FDR
939 calculations. While both datasets include genes truly required for photosynthesis,
940 methodological limitations of the studies mean that these datasets also include a substantial
941 number of false positives, making validation by our orthogonal method valuable. In low-
942 confidence hits from Li et al., many of the genes are represented by only one mutant, and
943 others are represented by several mutants but only a small fraction of these mutants shows a
944 photosynthetic phenotype. So, there is a high chance that the photosynthetic phenotype comes
945 from a second-site mutation. In the Wakao study, the authors showed that in most cases their
946 insertion is linked to the photosynthetic phenotype; however, their insertions typically were
947 associated with large deletions that affected several genes. Wakao et al. chose to assign the
948 phenotype to one of the disrupted genes in each of the mutants, primarily based on the
949 literature. Although this connection is often correct, it does not have an experimental/statistical
950 basis.

951 To create the low-confidence data sets, we first merged the Li and Wakao datasets with
952 260 and 253 hits respectively. We then took the subset of this merged list of genes that overlaps
953 with the ~1,616 genes that were included in our initial data set. If a gene was also in the
954 previously-identified high-confidence hits, it was removed from this list. This procedure yielded
955 219 previously low-confidence hits, of which 31 were high-confidence hits in our study.

956

957 **Mutant gene rescue protocol**

958 The plasmids for complementation were generated as described previously (Wang et al., 2022).
959 4 of the 16 plasmids were based on the pLM005 backbone, and the remaining 12 were based
960 on the pRAM118 plasmid where the paromomycin resistance cassette was replaced with a
961 hygromycin resistance cassette (Itakura et al., 2019). All plasmids expressed the gene of
962 interest from a PSAD promoter and appended a Venus-3xFLAG tag to the protein sequence.

963 In the gene rescue protocol, we transformed mutant cells with the linearized plasmid
964 expressing the gene disrupted in the mutant. The linearization and transformation process was
965 carried out as previously described (Wang et al., 2022), until the selection, which was carried
966 out as follows. For plasmids with hygromycin resistance cassette, we used hygromycin-based
967 selection. The cells were plated on 1.5% agar TAP plates with hygromycin (20 $\mu\text{g/ml}$) and
968 paromomycin ($\mu\text{g/ml}$) and placed under very dim light for five days, then transferred to light
969 (~100 μE) for 1-2 weeks until colonies of a sufficient size for picking appeared. For plasmids
970 with paromomycin resistance cassette, we could not use drug selection because CLiP strains
971 already have paromomycin resistance, so we used light selection instead. This selection could
972 be used only for mutants that grow poorly under light conditions. For each of these strains, we
973 included a control where we transformed the mutant with a different plasmid of similar size to
974 determine if transformation with any plasmid could reverse the phenotype, e.g. by creating a
975 second-site suppressor mutation. We only considered a rescue successful when the

976 transformation of the correct gene led to growth under light conditions and the control
977 transformation did not. We plated the cells on 1.5% agar TP plates with paromomycin (20
978 $\mu\text{g/ml}$). We gradually increased the light intensity to allow for light acclimation. We left the plate
979 on the shelf overnight for five days under 30 μE , three days under $\sim 100 \mu\text{E}$, and finally 3-4 days
980 under $\sim 600\text{-}700 \mu\text{E}$ light.

981 Next, we validated the rescues by robotic spot tests. After the rescue, we picked ~ 40
982 transformants from each rescued mutant to check their photosynthetic phenotype. We used
983 RoToR robot (Singer) to replicate plate with transformants, wild type and mutants to TP and
984 TAP plates, in order to check their growth under TP highlight ($800\text{-}1100\mu\text{E}$) compared to their
985 growth under TAP dark conditions. Then we took 2-4 promising colonies (3 replicates for each)
986 into the plate with wild type and the original mutants (RP 1-4 plates). We used those plates to
987 validate our rescued phenotype. We have at least two independent experiments for each RP
988 plate.

989 Gene rescue is notoriously challenging in *Chlamydomonas* due to difficulties with PCR
990 amplification and expression of heterologous genes (Mackinder et al., 2017; Neupert et al.,
991 2020; Zhang et al., 2014), so we perform this part as a “screen”. We used plasmids with the 36
992 genes we managed to clone (Cre01.g014000, Cre01.g015500, Cre01.g016350,
993 Cre01.g022681, Cre01.g040050, Cre02.g073850, Cre02.g106950, Cre02.g142266,
994 Cre03.g158950, Cre03.g188700, Cre05.g243800, Cre05.g248600, Cre06.g258566,
995 Cre06.g262900, Cre06.g279500, Cre07.g350700, Cre09.g396920, Cre10.g420561,
996 Cre10.g433400, Cre10.g448950, Cre10.g466500, Cre11.g467682, Cre12.g485850,
997 Cre12.g498550, Cre12.g521450, Cre12.g524250, Cre13.g566400, Cre13.g578650,
998 Cre13.g584250, Cre13.g608000, Cre16.g658950, Cre16.g675246, Cre17.g728850,
999 Cre12.g560550, Cre09.g396250, Cre16.g687294), to try a rescue its mutant strain once, and
1000 continued with the strains that we managed to rescue. Our success rate of $\sim 44\%$ is close to the

1001 maximum expected even if all were real hits, considering that only 30-50% of transformed
1002 constructs express in medium-throughput efforts (Wang et al., 2022). Many of the failed rescues
1003 are likely due to challenges with transformation into *Chlamydomonas* (Mackinder et al., 2017;
1004 Neupert et al., 2020; Wang et al., 2022; Zhang et al., 2014), detrimental effects of the GFP tag
1005 or the constitutive promoter with some of the genes, and the inherent limitations of our
1006 approach, including that rescue of each mutant was only attempted once.

1007 For the rescued mutants, the plasmid used for the rescue, and the Antibiotic resistance,
1008 see Table S7.

1009

1010 Confocal microscopy

1011 We performed confocal imaging as described previously (Wang et al., 2022). Colonies were
1012 transferred to a 96-well microtiter plate with 100 μ L TP liquid medium in each well and then pre-
1013 cultured in air under 150 μ mol photons $m^{-2} s^{-1}$ on an orbital shaker. After ~16 hr of growth, 10
1014 μ L cells were transferred onto an μ -Slide 8-well glass-bottom plate (Ibidi) and 200 μ L of 1% TP
1015 low-melting-point agarose at ~35 °C was overlaid to restrict cell movement. Cell samples were
1016 imaged using a Leica SP5 confocal microscope with the following settings: Venus, 514 nm
1017 excitation with 530/10 nm emission; and chlorophyll, 514 excitation with 685/40 nm emission. All
1018 confocal microscopy images were analyzed using Fiji (Schindelin et al., 2012). For each strain,
1019 a confocal section through a cell showing the predominant localization pattern was captured and
1020 analyzed.

1021

1022 Proteomic analysis

1023 Based on our screen results we chose mutants in 100 genes for proteomic profiling (Figure S1
1024 and Table S4). The list includes 3 novel genes that were not in the final hits but are hits in other
1025 data sets: *PSR23* and *PIIR2* are high confidence genes in (Li et al., 2019), and *PSR24* is a hit in
1026 2 hit lists: low confidence in (Li et al., 2019) and in (Wakao et al., 2021).

1027 We grew starter cultures in TAP dark for about a week, then moved them to ~700 ml of
1028 TAP (initial concentration ~ 10^5 per ml) in 1L bottles and continued growth in the dark. We
1029 bubbled air into the bottles and stirred them (using a magnetic stirrer) set to 200 RPM until they
1030 reached $\sim 2 \times 10^6$ cells ml^{-1} . We pelleted $\sim 5 \times 10^7$ cells in 50 ml falcons, transferred the pellets to
1031 1.5 ml tubes, pelleted them again, froze them on dry ice, and stored them at -80°C .

1032 For each proteomic 11-plex, we prepared 10 samples + a wild-type control. The wild-
1033 type control we used in most 11-plexes had been previously harvested in one experiment and
1034 frozen in aliquots to reduce the noise between the experiments.

1035

1036 Sample processing and mass spectrometry

1037 TMT-labeled (11plex) peptides were prepared mostly as previously described (Gupta et al.,
1038 2018). Frozen cell pellets were resuspended in 6 M guanidine hydrochloride (GdCl), 2%
1039 cetyltrimethylammonium bromide (CTAB), 50 mM HEPES, 1mM EDTA, and 5mM dithiothreitol
1040 (DTT) (pH 7.4). The resuspension lyses the algae to visual homogeneity. Mutant algae cultures
1041 grow to different densities and generate pellets of different mass. Diversity in pellet mass was
1042 normalized by diluting cells to that of the least dense culture by visual inspection. The final
1043 volume ranged from 200-1200 μL . 200 μL of each resuspension was removed to a new
1044 Eppendorf prechilled on ice. The lysed algae were sonicated at 20% power for 25 s. Proteins
1045 were denatured further at 60°C for 20 min. After cooling, cysteines were alkylated by the
1046 addition of 20 mM N-ethylmaleimide for 30 min, followed by quenching with DTT (10 mM).
1047 The protein solutions (200 μL) were charged with 800 μL MeOH, vortexed for 1 min,
1048 supplemented with 400 μL chloroform, vortexed for 1 min, followed by addition of 600 μL water
1049 and vortexing (1 min). The precipitated proteins were brought to the extraction interface by
1050 centrifugation (2 min, $20,800 \times g$), followed by removal of the upper layer. The protein interface
1051 was washed and pelleted from the chloroform phase by the addition of 600 μL MeOH, followed
1052 by vortexing (1 min) and centrifugation as described above. The wash solution was removed,

1053 and the pellet was washed with 1 ml MeOH. After the removal of MeOH, the pellets were
1054 resuspended in 50uL of 6 M GdCl and 10 mM EPPS (3-[4-(2- hydroxyethyl)-1-
1055 piperazinyl]propane sulfonic acid) (pH 8.5). The resuspended pellets were frozen.

1056 Pellets were thawed and their protein concentrations quantified using the BCA assay
1057 from Pierce with the BSA standard curve diluted in 10 mM EPPS pH 8.5 6M GdCl. 30 ug of
1058 each pellet was diluted to 15uL with 10mM EPPS pH 8.5 in 6M GdCl. The 15 uL of 2 µg/µL
1059 denatured protein solution was diluted with 75 uL 20 ng/µL LyseC in 10mM EPPS pH8.5,
1060 vortexed and allowed to digest overnight at room temperature. A second round of digestion
1061 followed with the addition of 270 µL of 20 ng/µL each LyseC and Trypsin in 10 mM EPPS pH
1062 8.5, vortexing and overnight incubation at 37C. The solvent was removed under reduced
1063 pressure in a SpeedVac and resuspended in 30 ul of 200 mM EPPS (pH 8.0) to a concentration
1064 of 1 g/L. Ten microliters were removed from each resuspension and charged with 2µl of
1065 different TMT-isobaric mass tag N-hydroxysuccinimide (NHS) ester (20 g/liter). The acylation
1066 proceeded overnight at RT and was quenched at RT with 0.5 uL of 5% hydroxylamine for 20
1067 min, followed by 1 uL of 5% phosphoric acid.

1068 Peptides were enriched from the acidified TMT labeling reactions by solid-phase
1069 extraction using a Waters Oasis HLB Elution 96-well plate (3 mg/well). One well per multiplexed
1070 quantitative proteomics experiment was wetted with 400uL MeOH and then hydrated with 200uL
1071 water. The 11 labeling reactions are pooled and diluted into 400ul and allowed to adsorb HLB
1072 resin under gravity flow. The adsorbed peptides were washed with 100 µL water, followed by
1073 centrifugation for 1 min at 180 rpm. The peptides were eluted with sequential additions of 100 µl
1074 of 35% acetonitrile (1% formic acid [FA]) and 100 µl of 70% acetonitrile (0.1% FA). Eluent
1075 solvent was removed under reduced pressure in in a SpeedVac. The peptides were
1076 resuspended in 20 uL of 1% FA and subjected to quantitative multiplexed proteomics by nano-
1077 ultraperformance liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (nanoUPLC-MS/MS).

1078 Peptides were separated on a 75 μm inner diameter microcapillary column. The tip for
1079 the column was pulled inhouse and the column was packed with approximately 0.5 cm (5 μm ,
1080 100 \AA , Michrom Bioresources) followed by 40 cm of Waters BEH resin (1.7 μm , 120 \AA).
1081 Separation was achieved by applying a 3–22% Acetonitrile gradient in 0.125%, formic acid with
1082 2% DMSO over 165 min at \sim 300 nL/min. Electrospray ionization was enabled by applying a
1083 voltage of 2.0 kV through an IDEX high-pressure fitting at the inlet of the microcapillary column.
1084 TMT3 data collection was performed as previously described (Gupta et al., 2018). The
1085 instrument was operated in data-dependent mode (10 ions/scan) with an MS1 survey scan
1086 performed at a resolution setting of 120k (m/z 200) with a scan range of m/z 350 to 1,350, an
1087 RF (radio frequency) lens of 60%, automatic gain control (AGC) target of 106, and a maximum
1088 injection time of 100 ms. Ions with charge states 2-6 were filtered by intensity with a threshold
1089 of 5e3. A dynamic exclusion window of \pm 10ppm for 90s was used. MS2 quadrupole isolated
1090 ions (0.5 isolation window) were activated with CID at 35% collision energy and Q 0.25 and
1091 analyzed in the ion trap with an AGC target of 1.5e4 and 75ms maximum injection time. 10 data
1092 dependent MS3 synchronous precursor selections (2 isolation window) were selected from
1093 range 400-2000 m/z. The MS3 activation is HCD with 55% collision energy. The ions are
1094 analyzed in the orbitrap at 50,000 resolution with an AGC of 1.5e5 and an maximum injection
1095 time of 100 ms.

1096

1097 Mass spectrometry data analysis

1098 Mass spectrometry raw data was analyzed using GFY software licensed from Harvard
1099 (Nusinow et al., 2020) to quantified proteins relative abundance.

1100 We normalized each protein's abundance in each sample by that protein's abundance in
1101 the corresponding wild type sample, then normalized the protein's abundance in the sample by
1102 the sample's median to account for systematic difference likely coming from technical difference
1103 in the amounts of proteins entered into the TMT labeling. To decrease the noise between the

1104 different 11-plexes (Figure S5A-S5B) we normalized each protein by its median in the 11-plex.

1105 This dramatically decreased the noise while maintaining most of the signal (Figure S5C).

1106

1107 Chloroplast RNAseq

1108 The RNA seq experiments were split into two experiments; each experiment had its own wild

1109 type. In each experiment, we had 2-3 replicates for each mutant strain and 2-4 replicates for the

1110 wild type.

1111 The strains were grown in the same conditions as for the proteomic analysis. When the

1112 cultures reached $\sim 2 \times 10^6$ cells/ml, we pelleted 13 ml of culture in 15 ml round Falcon tubes. We

1113 then used TRIzol extraction (following manufacturer's protocol) to obtain the total RNA. The

1114 RNA was sent to Princeton Genomics Core Facility for RNAseq and Next Generation

1115 Sequencing. The chloroplast mRNA does not have polyA, so they used the Qiagen FastSelect –

1116 rRNA Plant Kit for rRNA depletion. Then generated libraries using PrepX™ RNA-Seq for

1117 Illumina Library kit to generate the library for RNAseq.

1118 mRNA analysis: First non-coding RNA sequence was filtered out: each dataset was

1119 aligned (using the bowtie2 –fast command) against the dataset of non-coding RNAs (Gallaher et

1120 al., 2018), and only unaligned reads were included in the rest of the analysis. Next the reads

1121 were aligned against a reference file containing the updated chloroplast and mitochondrial

1122 genomes (Gallaher et al., 2018), a set of Chlamydomonas rRNA sequences (downloaded from

1123 <https://www.arb-silva.de/>), and Chlamydomonas nuclear coding sequences (v5.5 from

1124 Phytozome, file Creinhardtii_281_v5.5.cds_primaryTranscriptOnly.fa), using the bowtie2 --fast

1125 option. For each sample, the number of reads in each chloroplast gene was calculated in

1126 python, with each side of each read considered separately, and with gene positions based on

1127 the chloroplast gff3 file from (Gallaher et al., 2018).

1128 The reads were used to estimate the mRNA levels of the different chloroplast-expressed

1129 photosynthetic genes. The reads were normalized by the total chloroplast gene reads.

1130 Our RNA seq reads were Paired-end, allowing us to create a second analysis of where each
1131 side maps on the genome. For example, this allowed us to count the number of mRNAs where
1132 one side is in exon 1 and the other in exon 3. The overall coverage was much higher in our
1133 second experiment, so we normalized the 1st experiment using the wild-type ratio between the
1134 experiments, allowing us to present them together.

1135

1136 Nuclear RNAseq

1137 The mRNA of *pmr1* (2 independent experiments) and wild type (2 independent experiments)
1138 was also used for polyA-based RNAseq. The library preparation and Next Generation
1139 Sequencing were done at Princeton Genomics Core Facility.

1140 The paired-end reads were aligned against the primary transcriptome (v5.5, from
1141 Phytozome) using the bowtie2 --fast command, and the number of reads aligning to each
1142 transcript were counted in python for each sample.

1143 We normalized the number of reads to 50M then we averaged (using geomean) the 2
1144 experimental repeats of *pmr1* and the 2 experimental repeats of wild type, and then calculated
1145 the relative reads by $\log_2(\text{pmr1}/\text{wild type})$.

1146

1147 Metabolomics analysis

1148 The protocol was adapted from (Yuan et al., 2008). In short, we grew starter cultures at TAP
1149 dark for about a week, then moved to ~700ml of TAP (initial concentration ~ 10^5 per ml) in 1L
1150 bottles kept in the dark. We bubbled air into the bottles and stirred them (using a magnetic
1151 stirrer) set to 200 RPM until they reached $\sim 2 \times 10^6$ cells ml^{-1} . We harvested $\sim 10^7$ cells using
1152 vacuum filter, and immediately dunked the filter's membrane into 1.5 ml of 40:40:20 (v/v/v)
1153 methanol:acetonitrile:H₂O solution with 0.5% formic acid to extract the metabolites. All
1154 reagents were precooled to -20C and the protocol was done on ice. After neutralizing by
1155 NH₄HCO₃ (132 μL) and pelleting, we took 100ul supernatant for LC-MS.

1156 The LC-MS method was modified from (Yang et al., 2022). Water-soluble metabolite
1157 measurements were obtained by running samples on the Orbitrap Exploris 480 mass
1158 spectrometer (Thermo Scientific) coupled with hydrophilic interaction chromatography (HILIC).
1159 An XBridge BEH Amide column (150mm X 2.1 mm, 2.5 μ M particle size, Waters, Milford, MA)
1160 was used. The gradient was solvent A (95%:5% H₂O:acetonitrile with 20 mM ammonium
1161 acetate, 20 mM ammonium hydroxide, pH 9.4) and solvent B (100% acetonitrile) 0min,90% B;
1162 2min,90% B; 3min,75% B; 7min,75% B; 8min,70% B; 9min, 70%B; 10 min, 50% B; 12 min, 50%
1163 B; 13 min, 25% B; 14 min, 25% B; 16 min, 0.5% B, 20.5 min, 0.5% B; 21 min, 90% B; 25 min,
1164 90% B. The flow rate was 150 mL/min with an injection volume of 5 mL and a column
1165 temperature of 25 °C. The MS scans were in polarity switching mode to enable both positive
1166 and negative ions across a mass range of 70–1000 m/z, with a resolution of 120,000. Data were
1167 analyzed using the EI-MAVEN software (v 0.12.0, Elucidata).

1168 We included a total of 3 replicates from each strain from 2 independent experiments.

1169

1170 **SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

1171 Supplemental Information includes 9 figures and 7 tables.

1172 **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

1173 M.K. and M.C.J. conceived the project. M.K and W.P. performed data analysis. M.K. grew
1174 strains for mass spectrometry. L.M. and M.W. prepared samples, performed mass
1175 spectrometry, and established the protein quantification pipeline. M.K. and A.G performed spot
1176 tests. M.B., F.R.C. and M.K. established the pooled backcrossing method. M.K. performed the
1177 pooled backcrossing experiments. M.K., G.G. and A.G. performed insertion mapping validation
1178 by colony PCR and sequencing. L.W., M.K., A.K.S., S.E.G. and A.T.W. performed mutant
1179 rescue and protein localization by confocal microscopy. M.K., A.R., and J.D.R. performed and
1180 analyzed the metabolomic experiments. C.D.M conducted the prediction of protein structure.
1181 M.K. and M.C.J. wrote the manuscript with input from all authors.

1182

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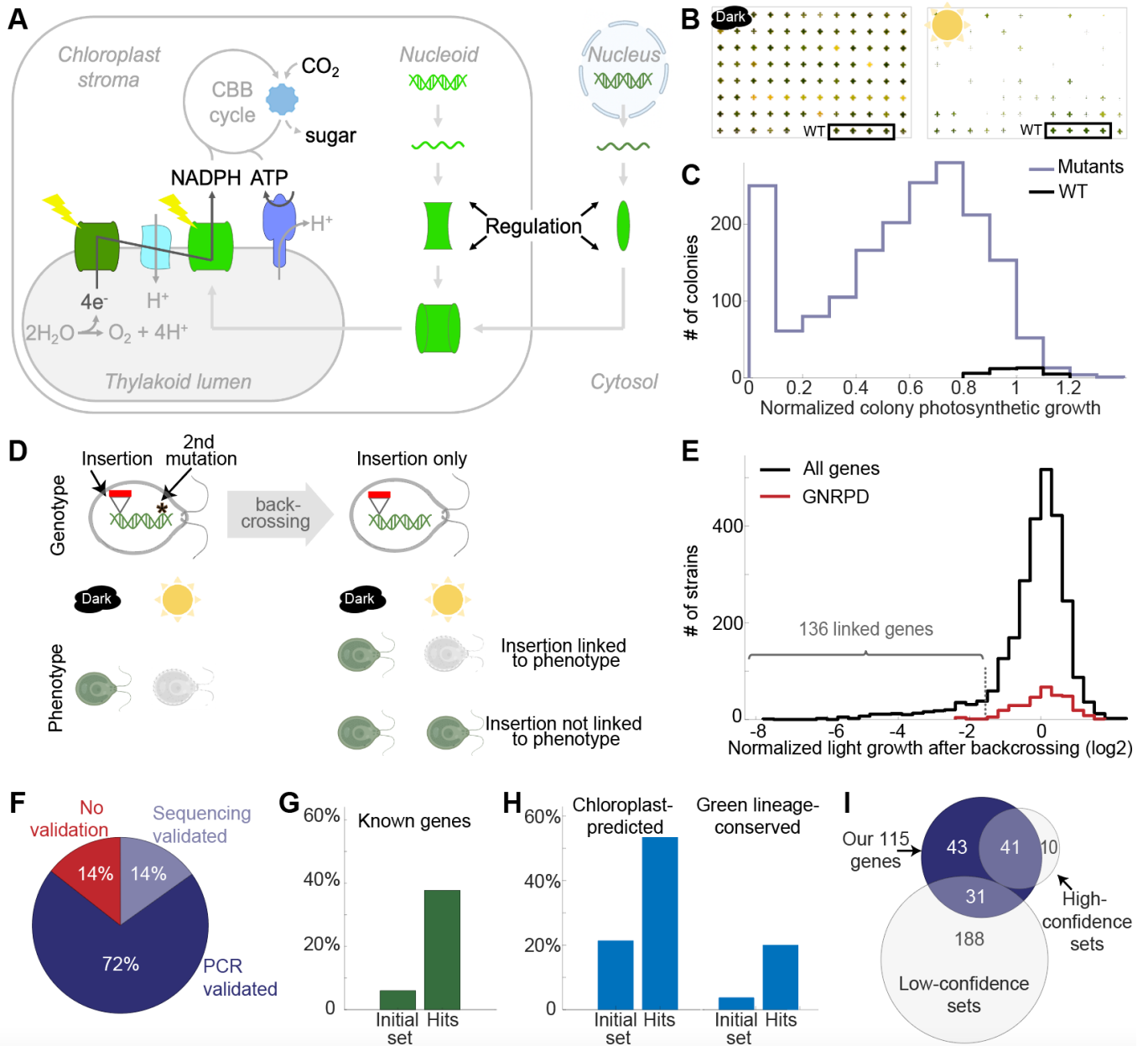
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- 1533

1535 **FIGURES**



1536

1537 **Figure 1. We identified 115 genes required for photosynthesis.**

1538 (A) In eukaryotic photosynthesis, protein complexes in the thylakoid membranes produce ATP
 1539 and NADPH to power the CO₂-fixing Calvin-Benson-Bassham (CBB) Cycle. The complexes are
 1540 assembled from subunits encoded in the chloroplast and nuclear genomes, under the control of
 1541 the nucleus.

1542 (B) We validated the photosynthetic growth phenotypes of 1,781 previously identified
1543 photosynthesis-deficient *Chlamydomonas* mutants (Li et al., 2019). Photosynthesis-deficient
1544 mutants can grow in the dark with acetate supplementation, but have growth defects in light
1545 without acetate (WT, wild type). Images of a mutant plate are shown after background removal
1546 in MATLAB (original photograph in Figure S4A).

1547 (C) Colony size distribution of different mutants (blue) or WT (black). The colony size is the
1548 median of 4 replicates (2 independent experiments with two duplicates in each, see STAR
1549 Methods). Approximately 76% of the mutants showed a pronounced photosynthetic phenotype
1550 (normalized colony size <0.8).

1551 (D) Most of the mutant strains have additional (second-site) mutations, and the photosynthetic
1552 phenotype could originate from them. To evaluate whether our insertion is genetically linked to
1553 the photosynthetic phenotype, we used backcrossing to allow segregation between the insertion
1554 and the second-site mutation. For higher throughput, we developed and employed a pooled
1555 backcrossing method. For details, see Figure S2 and the STAR Methods.

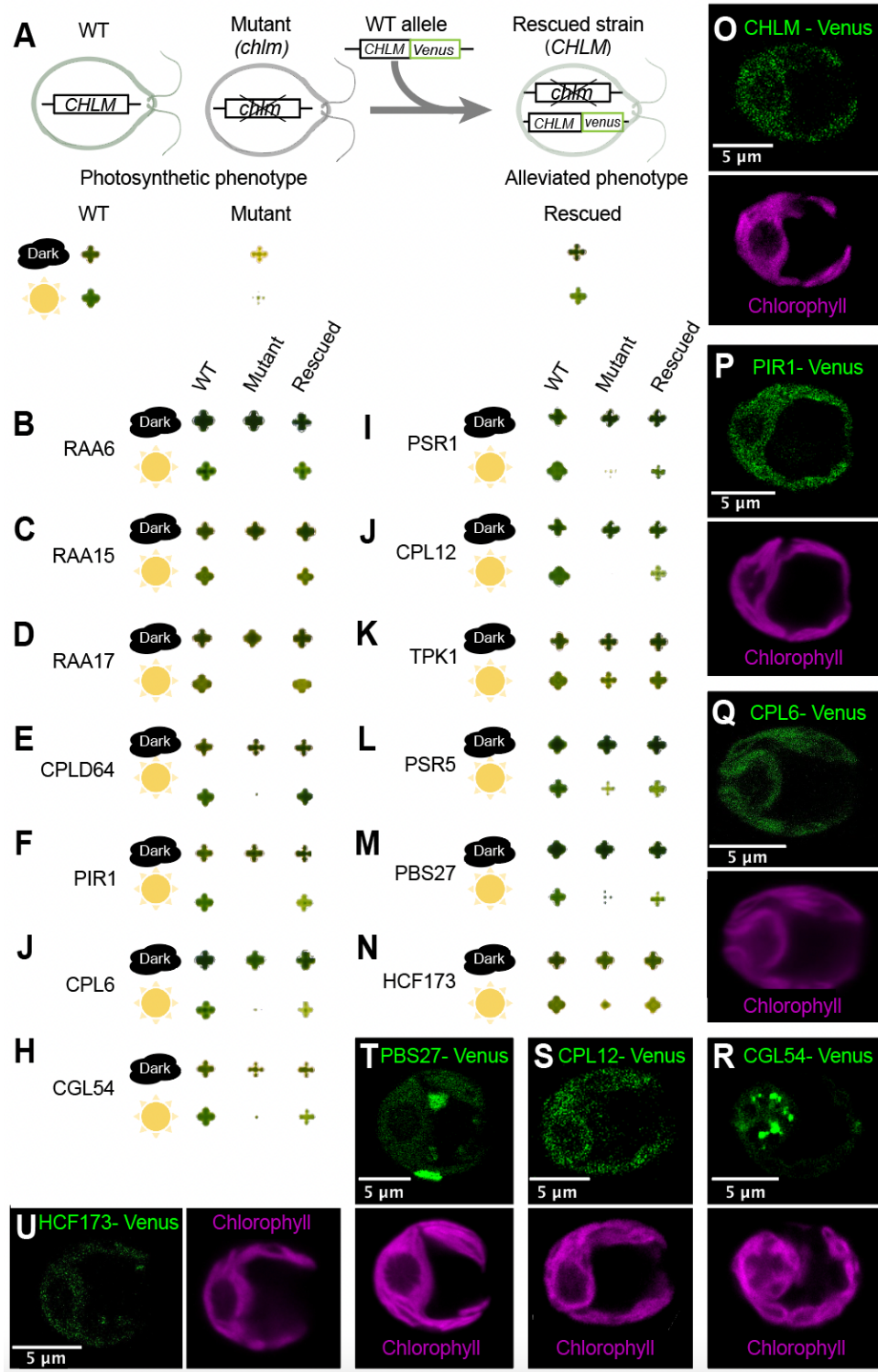
1556 (E) Histogram of normalized light growth after backcrossing (\log_2 scale) for all strains (black)
1557 and for strains disrupted in Genes whose disruption likely did Not Result in a Photosynthesis
1558 Defect” (GNRPD - red). When using a threshold of -1.55, we obtained 136 candidates with an
1559 FDR < 0.11 (Figure S2).

1560 (F) We validated the insertion mapping of ~86% of the candidates using PCR and sequencing
1561 (Figure S3, STAR Methods).

1562 (G) Approximately 39% of our hits had a previously-known role in photosynthesis (29 in
1563 *Chlamydomonas* and 16 in land plant homologs), compared to 6% in the initial set.

1564 (H) Our photosynthetic hits are enriched in chloroplast-predicted genes (by PredAlgo: Tardif et
1565 al., 2012) and green lineage-conserved genes (GreenCut2 genes: Karpowicz et al., 2011).

1566 (l) Our 115 photosynthetic hits captured most of the previously-shown high-confidence hits (41
1567 of 51) and increased the confidence of ~ 12% of the previously low-confidence hits (31 of 219)
1568 (see STAR Methods).



1569

1570 **Figure 2. We rescued novel genes and localized their protein products.**

1571 (A) Illustration of the genetic rescue procedure for the known chlorophyll biosynthesis gene

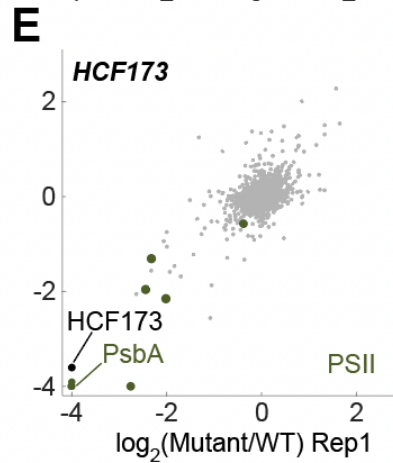
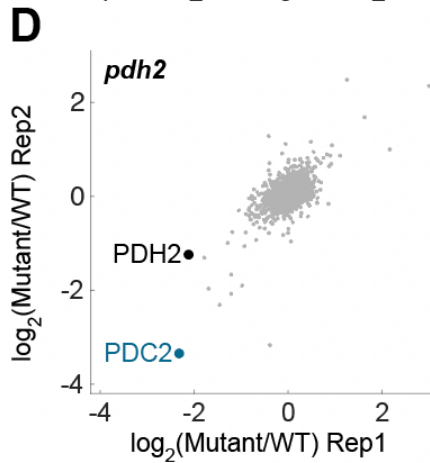
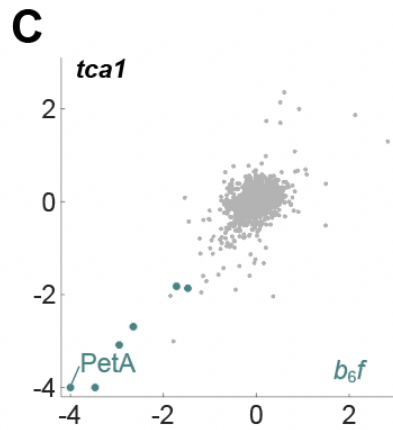
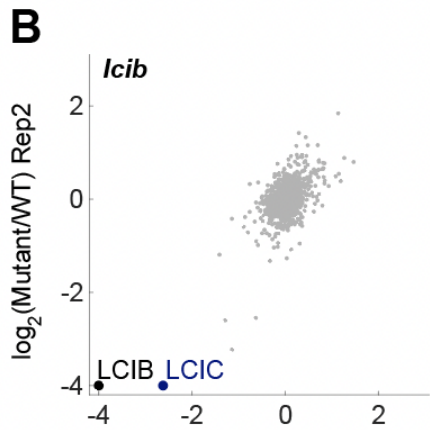
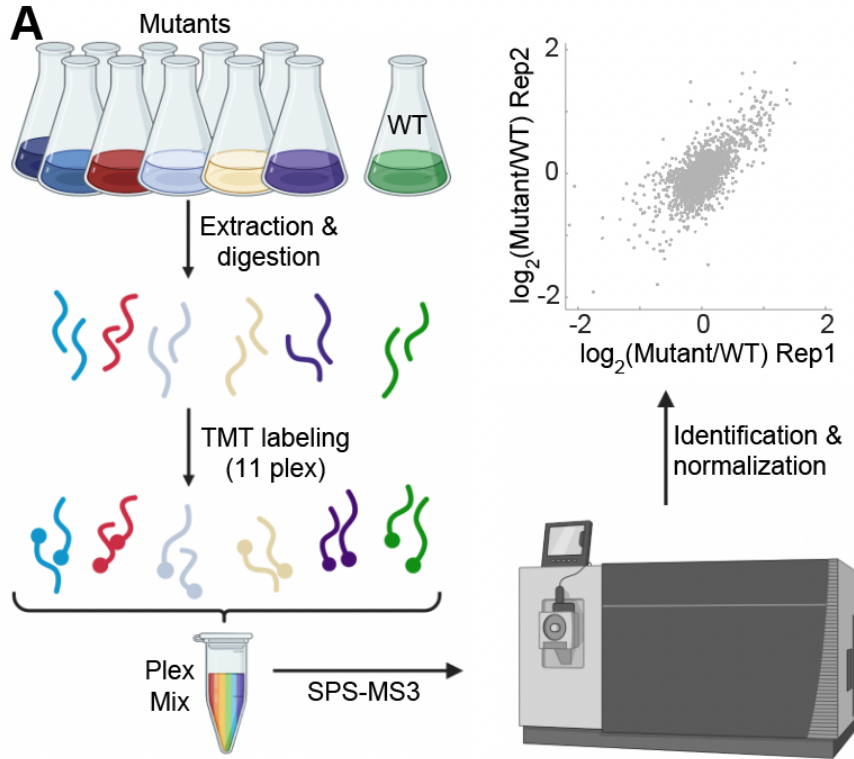
1572 *CHLM*. In the dark with acetate, the *chlm* mutant grows almost as well as wild type but is yellow

1573 (Meinecke et al., 2010); under high light, the mutant has a severe growth defect. Transformation
1574 of the mutant with a Venus-tagged *CHLM* alleviates both the color and growth phenotypes.
1575 (B - N) The colony growth of wild type, mutants, and the mutants we rescued by transforming
1576 the wild-type genes. The images were edited for background removal using a MATLAB script
1577 (see Figure S4B for the original images).
1578 (O) Localization of CHLM-Venus in the wild-type background. A similar localization was
1579 observed in the rescued strain.
1580 (P-U) localizations of Venus- tagged proteins are shown. CPL6, CGL54, and HCF173 are in the
1581 mutant background; PIR1, CPL12, and PBS27 are in the wild-type background due to
1582 insufficient expression in the rescued mutant strain.
1583
1584

1585 **Table 1: Protein localizations and suggested functions of the rescued novel genes.**

Systematic ID	Name	Figures	Localization	Suggested function
<i>Cre17.g728850</i>	RAA15	Figure 2C Figure 4 Figure 5	Predicted mitochondrion	Our proteomics and transcriptomics data suggest that this protein participates in splicing of the 2 nd intron of <i>psaA</i> mRNA (see main text).
<i>Cre13.g566400</i>	RAA17	Figure 2D Figure 4 Figure 5	Predicted mitochondrion	Our proteomics and transcriptomics data suggest that RAA17 stabilizes the 3 rd exon of <i>psaA</i> (see main text).
<i>Cre10.g448950</i>	PMR1	Figure 6 Figure 4	Chloroplast, cytosol, nucleus	Photosynthesis Master Regulator 1 – our proteomics and metabolomics data suggest that PMR1, a Nocturnin homolog (Figure S8), participates in retrograde regulation and affects mRNA levels of ROGEs (see main text).
<i>Cre12.g560550</i>	MTF1	Figure 6 Figure 4	Chloroplast	Methionyl-tRNA formyltransferase 1 – our data indicate that MTF1 is the chloroplast methionyl-tRNA formyltransferase and suggest that it participates in the regulation of the chloroplast-expressed genes (see main text).
<i>Cre12.g485850</i>	CPLD64	Figure 2E Figure 4	Predicted chloroplast	In our data the <i>cp/d64</i> mutant showed depletion of the cytochrome <i>b6f</i> complex. CPLD64 has a predicted transmembrane motif (InterPro: IPR009688). These observations suggest that CPLD64 participates in the biogenesis or stability of the cytochrome <i>b6f</i> complex in the thylakoid membrane.
<i>Cre01.g014000</i>	PIR1	Figure 2F, 2P Figure 4 Figure 5	Chloroplast	Photosystem I required 1 - in our proteomics data, the <i>pir1</i> mutant showed depletion of PSI. Our RNA-seq data suggest that PIR1 does not participate in the <i>psaA</i> mRNA maturation process; it may participate in PsaA or PsaB translation.
<i>Cre06.g279500</i>	CPL6	Figure 2J, 2Q Figure 4	Chloroplast	CPL6 contains a DnaJ heat shock protein domain. We observed that the <i>cp/6</i> mutant did not exhibit depletion of any photosynthetic complex, suggesting that its chaperone activity is not needed for complex formation in the dark. <i>cp/6</i> cannot grow under high light conditions even when supplied with a carbon source (acetate), indicating that CPL6 may contribute to repairing light damage to the photosynthetic machinery.
<i>Cre02.g073850</i>	CGL54	Figure 2H, 2R Figure 4	Pyrenoid periphery	CGL54 is in the same protein superfamily as cyanobacterial Psb27 (Figure S9), which is involved in PSII biogenesis (Huang et al., 2021); however, a different gene, PSB27, shows higher homology to Psb27 (Figure S9) and the <i>cg/54</i> mutant did not lead to the depletion of PSII, suggesting that CGL54 has a different function. CGL54 localized to the pyrenoid periphery, similarly to the PSI-interacting protein PSBP4 (Mackinder et al., 2017), suggesting that CGL54 may interact with PSI.

<i>Cre10.g433400</i>	PSR1	Figure 2L Figure 4	Predicted other	<u>Photosynthesis required 1</u> is a homolog of the mitochondrial pyruvate carrier (InterPro: IPR005336). Interestingly, the photosynthetic defect of the <i>psr1</i> mutant was alleviated under high CO ₂ (Fauser et al., 2022), suggesting that PSR1 participates in the CO ₂ -concentrating mechanism (CCM).
<i>Cre10.g466500</i>	CPL12	Figure 2J, 2S Figure 4	Chloroplast	CPL12 belongs to the Glyoxalase I family (Kegg: K08234). It may participate in the detoxification process of methylglyoxal, a byproduct of photosynthesis (Takagi et al., 2014).
<i>Cre01.g040050</i>	TPK1	Figure 2K	Predicted other	TPK1 is the <i>Chlamydomonas</i> homolog of thiamine pyrophosphokinase (Kegg: K00949). TPK1's photosynthetic effect is likely due to the participation of TPK1 in the chloroplast pentose phosphate pathway.
<i>Cre01.g022681</i>	PSR5	Figure 2L	Predicted other	PSR5 is a small protein and its expression is light inhibited (Duanmu et al., 2013).



1587 **Figure 3. Our proteomic data reproduces known phenotypes and validate predicted**
1588 **phenotypes.**

1589 (A) In each experiment, ten strains and a wild-type control were grown under dark conditions.

1590 After extraction and digestion, we labeled peptides with Tandem Mass Tags (TMT) and

1591 analyzed them using SPS-MS3 mass spectrometry. At least two independent experiments were

1592 carried out for each mutant (STAR Methods).

1593 (B-C) Our data set recaptures known phenotypes.

1594 (B) LCIB and LCIC are known to form a complex, and indeed, LCIC is depleted in the *lcib*

1595 mutant.

1596 (C) As expected, the *tca1* mutant leads to the depletion of the cytochrome *b₆f*. Its strongest

1597 effect is on *petA*.

1598 (D-E) Proteome analysis revealed similarities in function between uncharacterized

1599 *Chlamydomonas* mutants and their previously characterized plant homologs.

1600 (D) Mutation in the *Chlamydomonas* homolog of pyruvate dehydrogenase E1 beta subunit

1601 PDH2 led to co-depletion of the alpha subunit PDC2.

1602 (E) Mutation in *Chlamydomonas* HCF173 (Cre13g57865), the homolog of AtHCF173, which is

1603 necessary for PsbA translation initiation in *Arabidopsis*, led to PsbA depletion together with the

1604 rest of the PSII complex.

1605 The data represent normalized \log_2 of mutant/WT protein abundance.

1607 **Figure 4. More than half of the genes we profiled are required for accumulation of one or**
1608 **more photosynthetic complexes.**

1609 Relative abundances of photosynthetic complex and chloroplast ribosomal proteins (columns) in
1610 mutants representing 100 genes (rows). Mutants labeled in red corresponding to genes whose
1611 function in photosynthesis was not previously characterized. Each data point reflects the average
1612 normalized \log_2 (mutant/WT protein abundance) from two independent experiments (see STAR
1613 Methods).

1614 (A) Mutations in the two core Photosystem I proteins PSAE and PSAF have a local effect on
1615 Photosystem I.

1616 (B-H) Mutants were grouped according to their impact on photosynthetic complexes: (B)

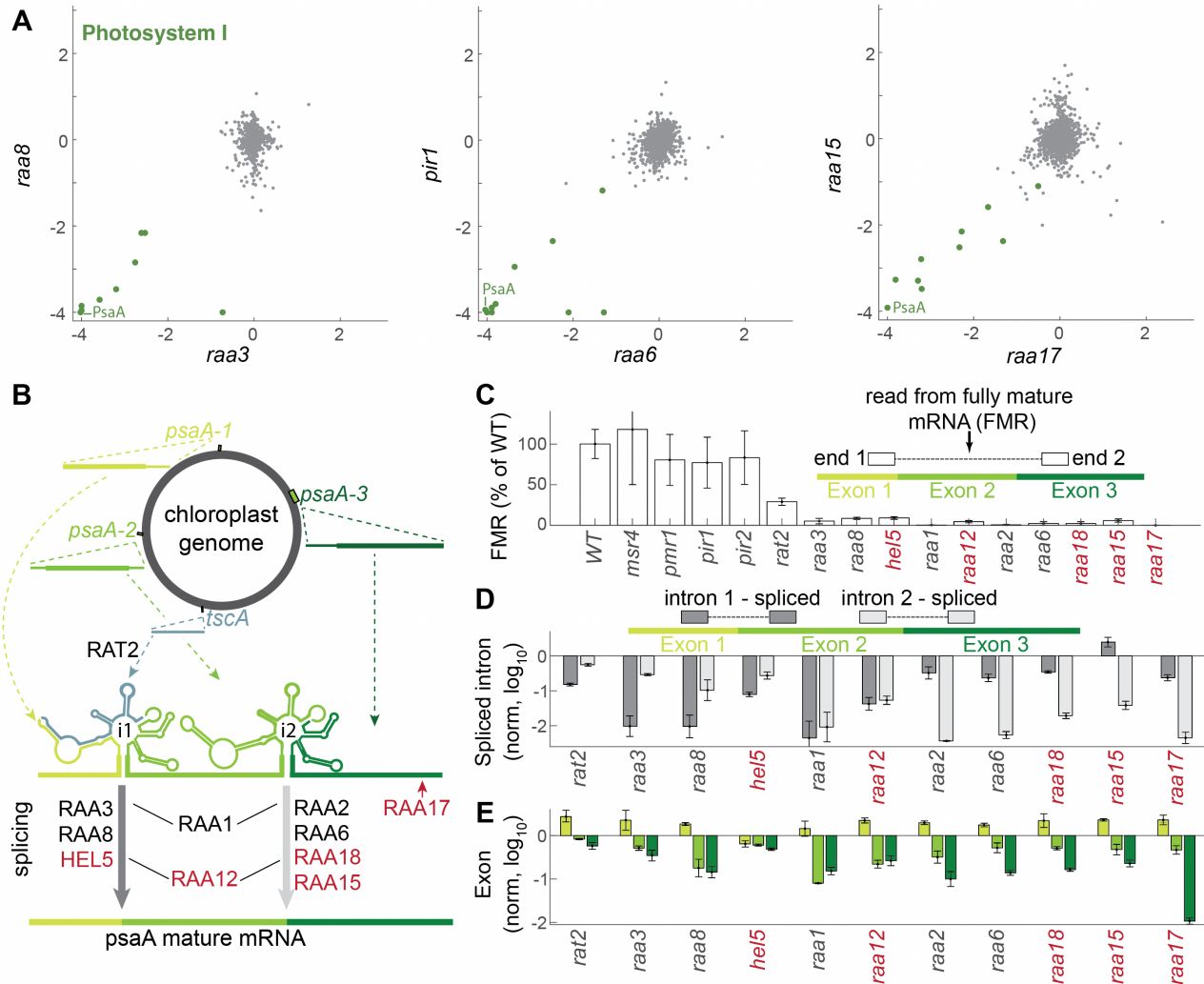
1617 Photosystem II, (C) cytochrome *b₆f*, (D) Photosystem I, (E) ATP synthase,

1618 (F) Light-harvesting complexes, (G) Rubisco, or (H) the chloroplast ribosomal proteins.

1619 (I) Mutations in 18 genes lead to the depletion of multiple complexes.

1620 (J) Mutant genes associated with the CO₂ concentrating mechanism.

1621 (K) Other mutant genes.



1622

1623 **Figure 5. Characterization of five novel *psaA* mRNA maturation factors.**

1624 (A) Scatterplots of proteomic data of mutants of known *psaA* maturation factors (RAA8, RAA3,
 1625 and RAA6) and mutants in novel genes with similar proteomic profiles (PIR1, RAA15, and
 1626 RAA17). For proteomic scatterplots of RAA1, RAA4, HEL5, RAA12, PIR2, and MAA18, see
 1627 Figure S7.

1628 (B) *psaA* mRNA maturation process. *psaA* mRNA starts as four separated RNAs expressed in
 1629 the chloroplast genome, *psaA1-3* each include an exon, and *tscA* forms part of intron 1. The
 1630 RNAs hybridize to form two introns that are spliced out (gray arrows) to produce the mature

1631 mRNA. This process is mediated by M factors. The known M factors from our transcriptomic

1632 dataset are shown in black; the novel factors are shown in red.

1633 (C) Fully mature *psaA* mRNA levels were determined using paired-end reads. If the read in one

1634 end was in exon 1 and the read in the second end was in exon 3, this mRNA was considered

1635 fully matured.

1636 (D) *psaA* maturation levels in M factor mutants. The reads are normalized to wild type and

1637 shown on a \log_{10} scale. When paired reads mapped to adjacent exons, the intron between them

1638 was considered spliced out.

1639 (E) Normalized reads for each exon in the indicated mutants are depicted.

1640 Error bars represent standard error of the mean.

1642 **Figure 6. Novel master regulators of photosynthetic complexes.**

1643 (A) Protein levels of chloroplast-expressed genes in *mtf1*, *cif2*, and *pmr1* mutants. The data
1644 represent the mean of two independent experiments.

1645 (B) Colony growth is shown for wild type (WT), the *mtf1* mutant, and the *mtf1* mutant rescued by
1646 transforming the wild-type allele under the same conditions as Figure 2A. The background of the
1647 images was removed using a MATLAB script (see Figure S4B for the original images).

1648 (C) Rescuing the *mtf1* mutant reverses its proteomic phenotype. The data represent the mean of
1649 four biological replicates for the *mtf1* mutant and two biological replicates for the rescued mutant.

1650 (D-E) Comparison between the AlphaFold-predicted MTF1 structure (D) and the crystal structure of
1651 *E. coli* MTF (E) (Schmitt et al., 1998). The conserved active site residues (Asn108, His110, and
1652 Asp146, (Schmitt et al., 1996); Asn160, His162, and Asp198 in MTF1) are shown in red and fMet in
1653 black. For a better comparison of the active sites, we used YRB (Hagemans et al., 2015), a script
1654 that displays the hydrophobic pockets (yellow) and negative charges (red) on a protein surface. In
1655 both active sites, we can see hydrophobic pockets below the fMet (to stabilize it) and a negative
1656 charge above it from the active site residues.

1657 (F) Localization of Venus-tagged MTF1 (green) and chlorophyll autofluorescence (magenta).

1658 (G) Comparison of chloroplast-expressed protein levels (blue) to nucleus-expressed protein levels
1659 (red) for photosynthetic complexes in the *mtf1* mutant. Each dot represents a protein, and the bar
1660 represents the median.

1661 (H) Comparison of *mtf1* and *cif2* proteomic data. The data represent the mean of four biological
1662 replicates.

1663 (I) Expression data (Boyle et al., 2012; Duanmu et al., 2013) for *MTF1*, *CIF2*, and *Cre09.g392729*
1664 (encoding the MTF1 ortholog, which is predicted localize to the mitochondria).

1665 (J) Colony growth is shown for wild type, *pmr1* mutant, and rescued *pmr1* mutant, as described in
1666 panel B.

1667 (K) Rescuing the *pmr1* mutant reverses its proteomic phenotype. The data represent the mean of
1668 four biological replicates for *pmr1* mutant and two biological replicates for the rescued mutant.

1669 (L-M) Comparison between the AlphaFold-predicted PMR1 structure (L) and the crystal structure of
1670 human Nocturnin (M) (Abshire et al., 2018).

1671 (N) NADP(H) and NAD(H) levels were measured (using LC-MS) in wild type, *mtf1*, and *pmr1*. The
1672 data represent three biological replicates \pm SE.

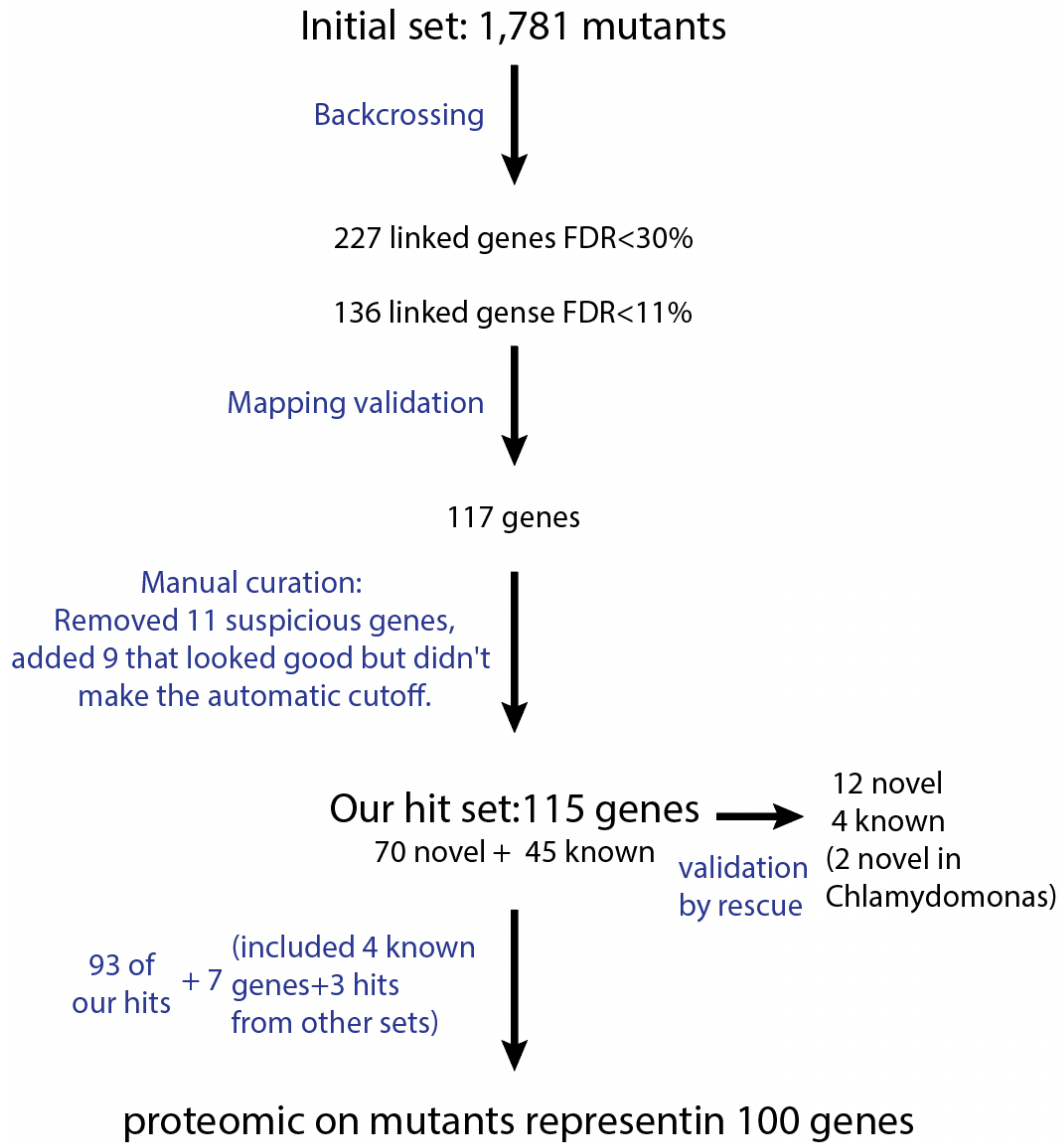
1673 (O) mRNA levels of nucleus-expressed photosynthetic subunits in *pmr1* relative to wild type.

1674 (P) mRNA levels of Regulators of Organelle Gene Expression (ROGEs) in *pmr1* relative to wild
1675 type. The data in (P-Q) represent two biological replicates.

1676 (Q) Master regulator model. PMR1 regulates mRNA levels of Regulators of Organelle Gene
1677 Expression (ROGEs), which are necessary for biogenesis of the chloroplast-expressed subunits of
1678 the photosynthetic machinery. CIF2 and MTF1 directly affect the translation of different groups of
1679 chloroplast-expressed genes: CIF2 primarily affects photosynthesis genes, whereas MTF1 also
1680 affects the ribosomal proteins.

1681 (R) Localization of PMR1-Venus (green) and chlorophyll autofluorescence (magenta).

1682 **SUPPLEMENTAL FIGURES**



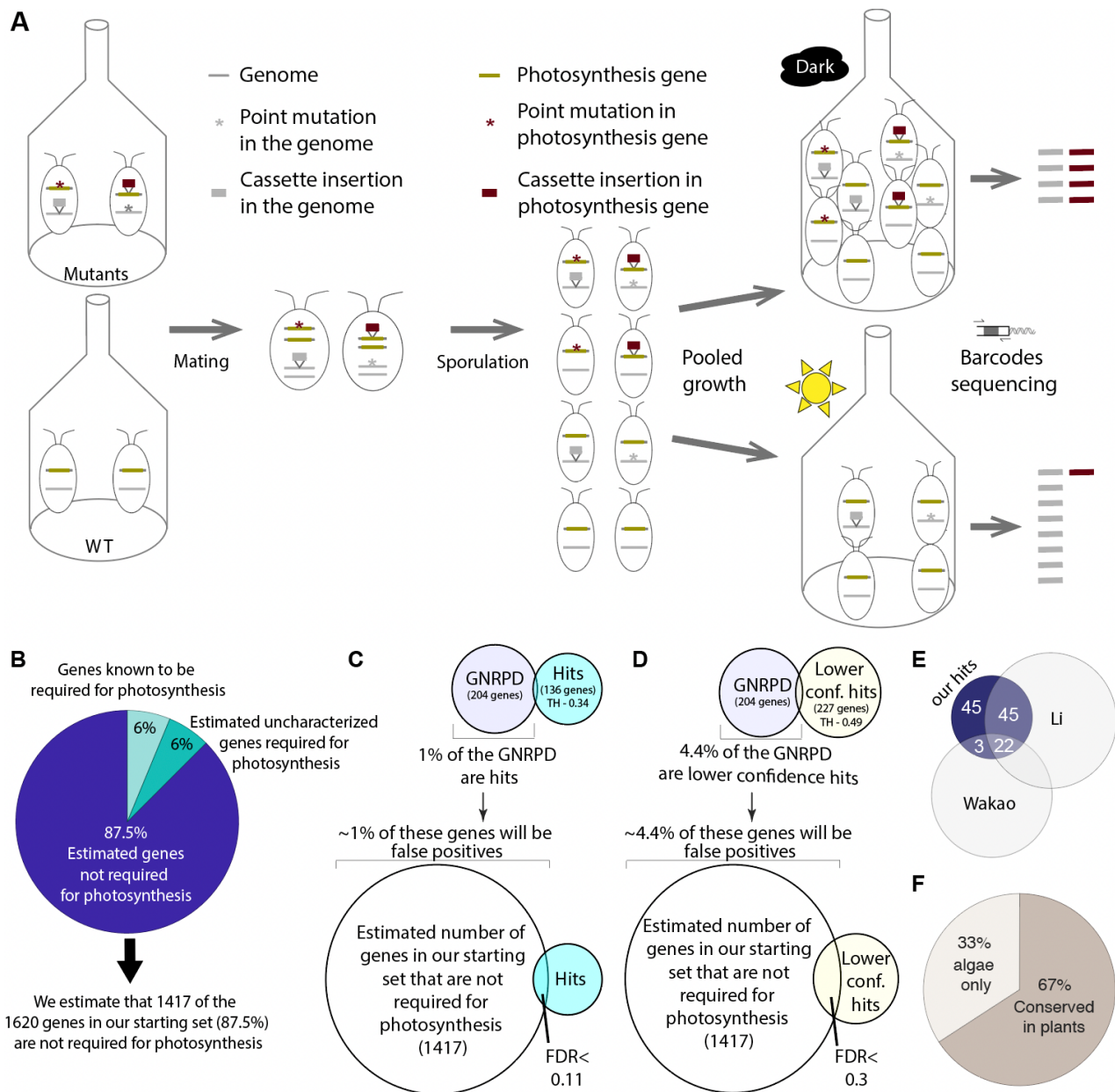
1683

1684 **Figure S1: Summary of mutant and gene numbers at different stages of this project,**

1685 **related to Figures 1-6**

1686 For a detailed description of the process, please see the main text and STAR Methods. Mutant

1687 and gene IDs are provided in Supplementary Table S1.



1688

1689 **Figure S2. Pooled backcrossing and False Discovery Rate calculation, related to Figure 1**

1690 **(A)** We mated paromomycin-resistant mt- mutants with a hygromycin-resistant mt+ strain. **The**

1691 **mutants carried cassette insertions and additional mutations.** The resulting progeny

1692 included mixed genotypes where the insertions and the second site mutations were separated.

1693 We grew the progeny under a dark control condition, where all viable strains grew; and

1694 photoautotrophically, where mutants in genes required for photosynthesis were depleted. By

1695 sequencing the pools of barcodes associated with insertions, we could identify barcodes that

1696 were depleted under the photoautotrophic condition, and thus were genetically linked to genes
1697 required for photosynthesis.

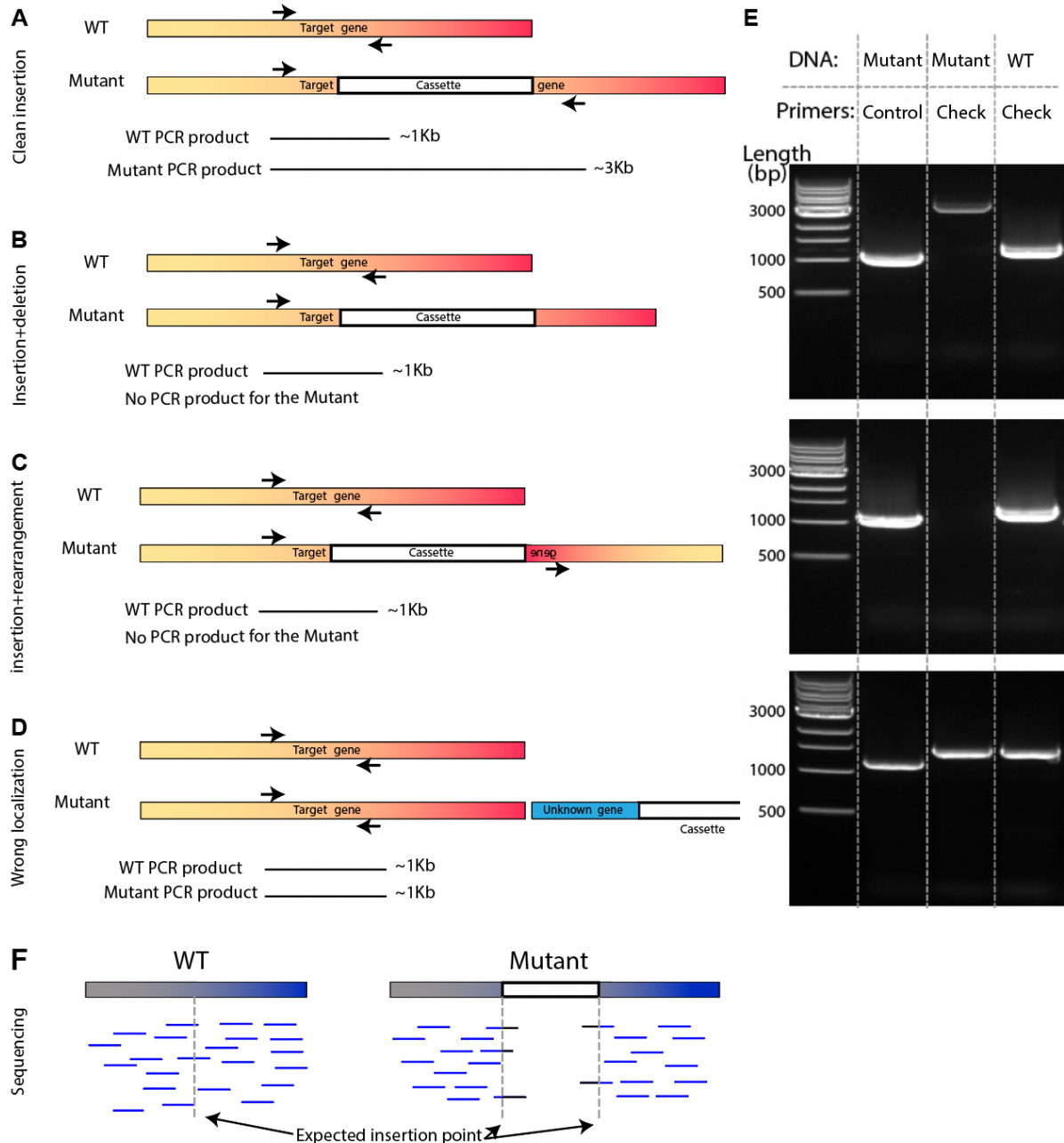
1698 (B) Calculation of the "estimated number of genes in our starting set that are not required for
1699 photosynthesis". Our dataset included 1,616 genes with confidence level <4 . We sampled 350
1700 genes at random from the 1,616 and screened the literature for genes among them that are
1701 required for photosynthesis. 6.25% of the genes were known to be required for photosynthesis.
1702 Considering previous estimates indicating that approximately half of the genes required for
1703 photosynthesis remain to be discovered (Li et al., 2019), we estimate that an additional 6.25%
1704 of the genes in the initial set are also required for photosynthesis; thus, we estimate that 87.5%
1705 of the genes in our starting set are not required for photosynthesis. Given these numbers, the
1706 "estimated number of genes in our starting set that are not required for photosynthesis" is 1414
1707 (87.5% of the initial 1,616 genes).

1708 (C) The False Discovery Rate (FDR) calculation is based on a set of specific genes that we
1709 called "Genes whose disruption likely did Not Result in a Photosynthesis Defect" (GNRPD).
1710 Genes from our set of 1620 genes were assigned to GNRPD if they were represented by more
1711 than 20 insertions in Li et al experiment and at most two mutants showed a photosynthetic
1712 defect. ~1% of the GNRPDs were among the 136 hit genes identified with a phenotype
1713 threshold of 0.34. We assume that the same ratio (~1%) of the "estimated number of genes in
1714 our starting set that are not required for photosynthesis" (see B) in the original mutant set will go
1715 into the hits, resulting in $FDR < 0.11$.

1716 (D) The same calculation as (C) only for lower-confidence hits (threshold of 0.49). Those genes
1717 have a higher false-discovery rate, but they still include many genes genuinely required for
1718 photosynthesis.

1719 (E) 25 of our 115 hits (22%) were also hits in (Wakao et al., 2021), and 70 of the 115 (61%)
1720 were also hits in (Li et al., 2019)

1721 (F) More than 65% of our hits are conserved in land plants.



1722

1723 **Figure S3. Mapping validation by colony PCR and sequencing, related to Figure 1**

1724 (A-D) Four options of cassette insertion and the expected PCR product.

1725 (A) Clean insertion – the cassette integrates into the genome cleanly; in this situation, the PCR

1726 product of the mutant will be about 2Kb longer than the WT product.

1727 (B) Insertion with significant deletion – in this case, the deletion associated with the insertion
1728 removed one of the PCR primers, so we will get the PCR product for WT but not from the
1729 mutants.

1730 (C) Insertion with rearrangement – in this case, the primer sequence is there but lost its
1731 orientation, so again we will get PCR products for WT but not for the mutant.

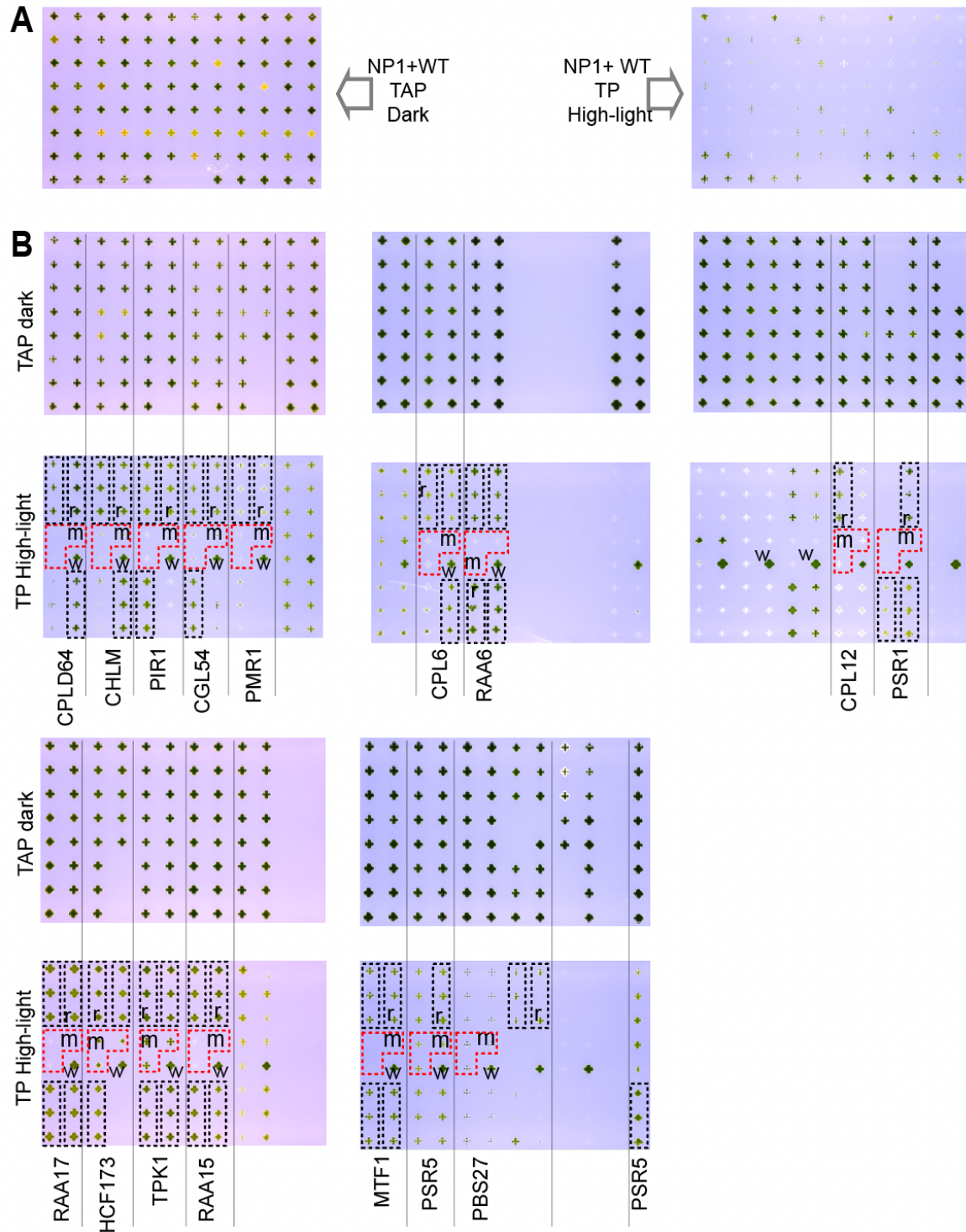
1732 (D) When the insertion isn't in our expected gene, we will get the same length of PCR product
1733 from the WT and the mutants. (Note that we can get this pattern also if the insertion is
1734 associated with a deletion of a similar size).

1735 (E) Example of colony PCR results. The control lane is amplified mutant DNA using control
1736 primers to verify the mutant DNA quality.

1737 In the upper example, the mutant is ~2Kb longer than the WT, as expected from a clean
1738 insertion (A). In the middle example, we have a band for the WT but not for the mutants. Such a
1739 result was taken to validate an insertion site if it was reproduced at least twice, and is expected
1740 for scenarios (B) and (C). The lower example was counted as a failure to validate the mapping
1741 and is expected for (D).

1742 Note that when we fail to get a product with WT we used different primers or the sequencing
1743 method.

1744 (F) Mapping validation by sequencing (The paired-end 150nt reads). A positive mapping is
1745 where we found in the expected area a chimera reads (one side mapped to the genome and
1746 another to the cassette) and a “hole” in the genome coverage. For more details see STAR
1747 Methods.



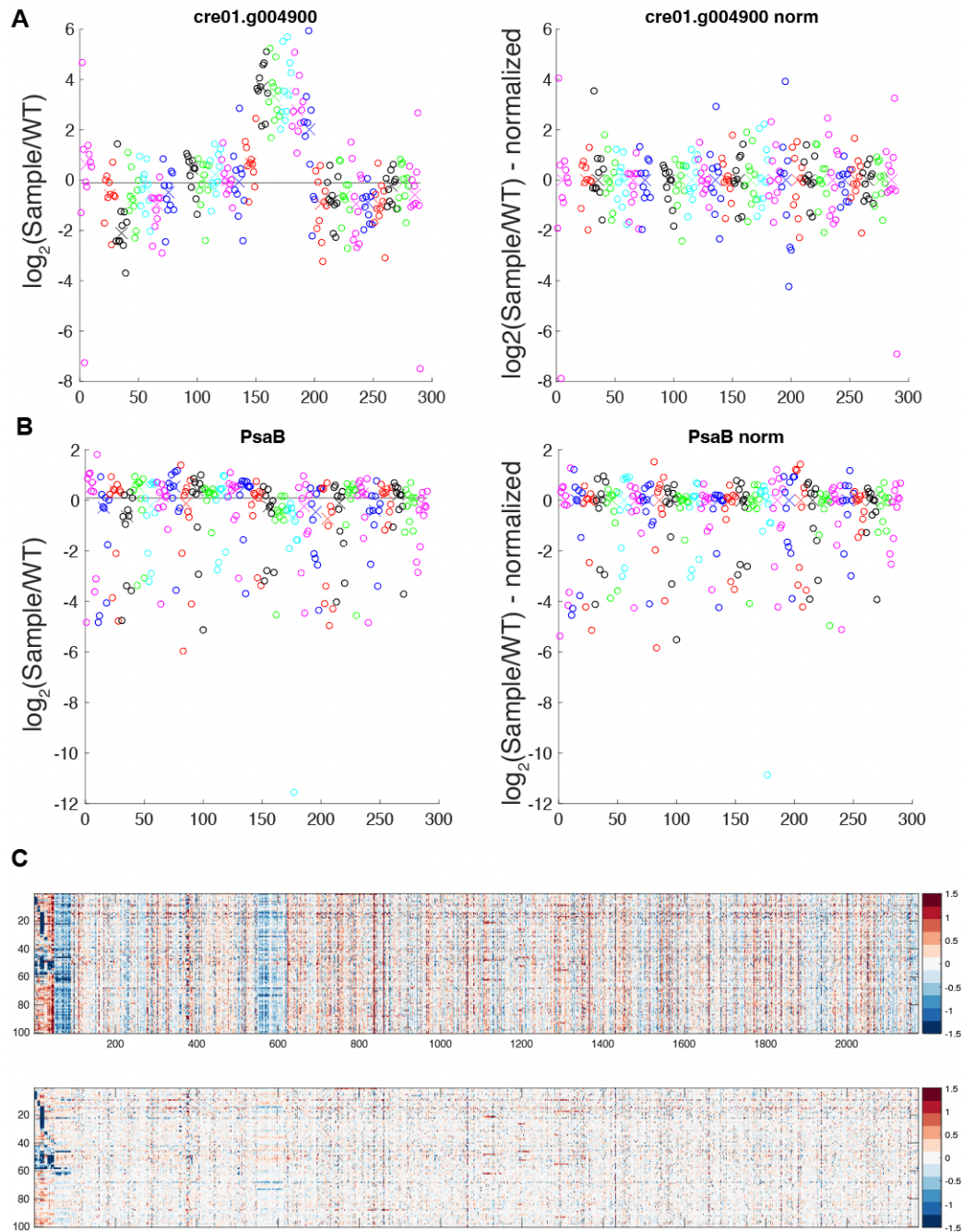
1748

1749 **Figure S4. Unprocessed images for Figures 1, 2, and 6, related to Figures 1, 2, and 6**

1750 (A) The unprocessed image for Figure 1B.

1751 (B) The unprocessed image for Figures 2 and 6. In each high-light plate, the three copies of the

1752 original mutants are outlined in dashed red and every triplicate of the rescued strains is outlined
1753 in dashed black. To reduce the effect of location on the plate, we put one WT next to each
1754 mutant trio. the “r” indicates the rescued strain used in the main figure. Similarly, “m” indicates
1755 the mutants and “w” the WT used in the main figure. There are differences in the rescue
1756 efficiency between the different rescued strains, even in the same mutant. Many parameters
1757 could contribute to those differences, including insertion site and expression level.

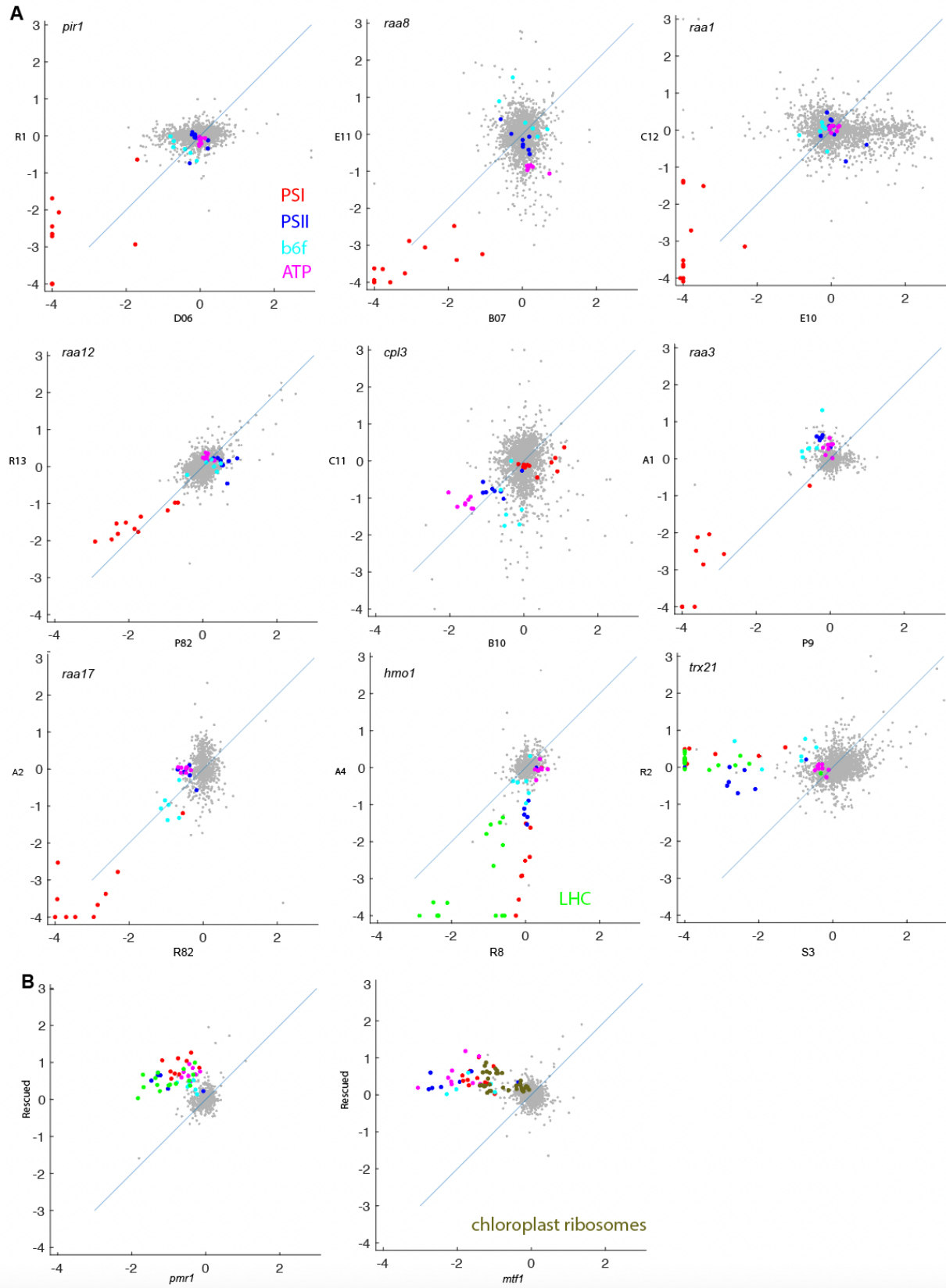


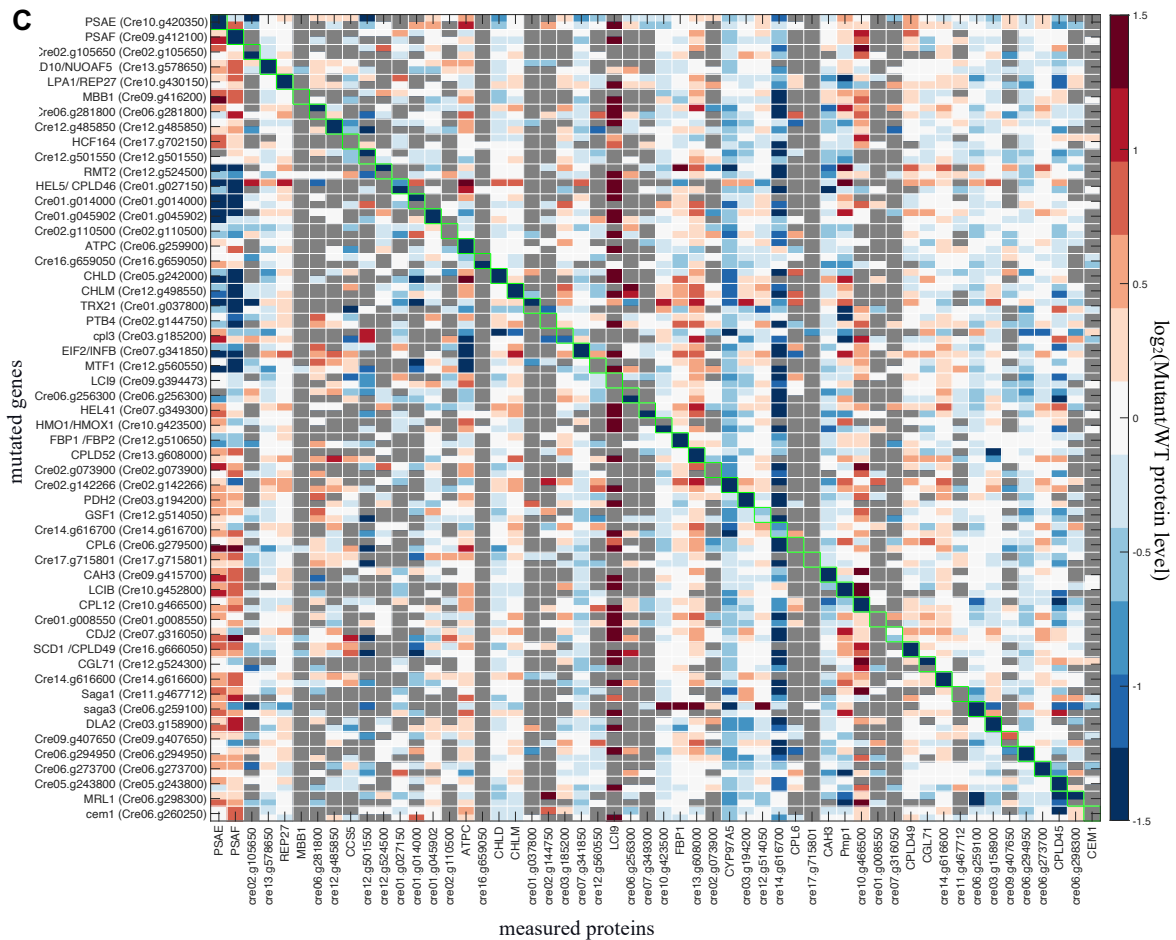
1758

1759 **Figure S5. Normalization of the proteomic data, related to Figures 3-4**

1760 (A-B) Example of the data of two proteins (Cre01.g004900 (A) and PsaB (B)) before and
1761 11-plex-median-based normalization. Each group (10 samples, grouped by color, and the group
1762 median shown as x in the same color) is the data from one proteomic 11-plex (10 samples and
1763 WT). We can see a difference between the groups (11-plexes), which we removed by

1764 normalizing using the group median. The black lines represent the median of all the samples.
1765 (C) The normalization reduces the noise of the data. Protein levels are shown for proteins
1766 measured at least at 65% of the experiments in the 100 mutants. The data is the average of two
1767 repeats on the \log_2 scale. The upper panel is before and the lower panel is after the 11-plex-
1768 median-based normalization. We can see that the normalization removes much of the noise and
1769 maintains most of the signal. The first ~90 proteins are the ones shown in Figure 4.





1771

1772 **Figure S6. Proteomic controls, related to Figure 4**

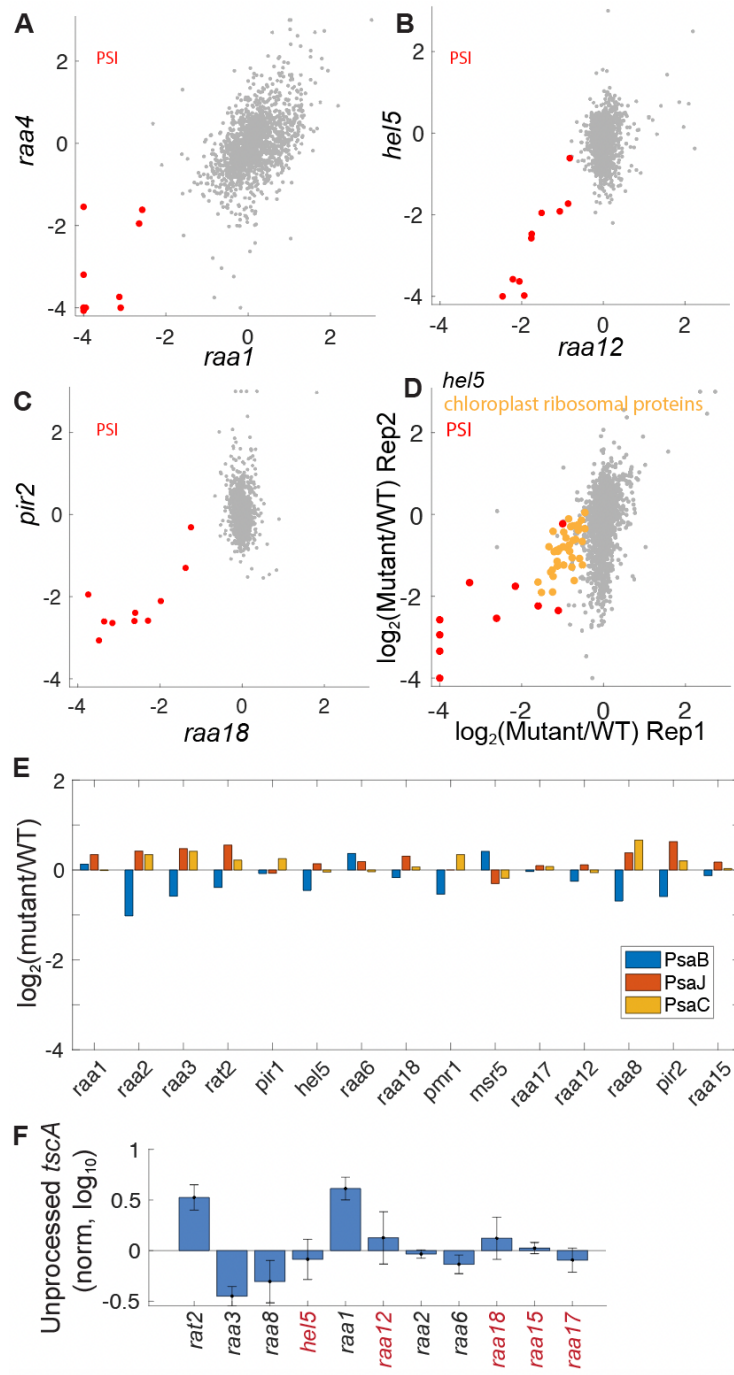
1773 (A) Genes for which have 2 mutant alleles in our hit set, and we collected (meaningful)
1774 proteomics data for both mutant alleles. Each axis represents one allele's $\log_2(\text{mutant/WT})$
1775 proteomic data. The sample name is shown near each axis.

1776 (B) Genes for which we rescued their mutants and collected proteomics data for both the
1777 mutants and the rescued strains.

1778 In all cases, our data suggest that the impact on the photosynthetic complexes is from our
1779 mutant gene, except in the case of TRX21. The two mutants have different phenotypes: one
1780 was yellow and had a decreased abundance of chlorophyll-binding proteins (including PSII),
1781 and the other was green and only affected PSII-suggesting that the yellow mutant has an

1782 additional mutation leading to the additional proteomic phenotype. Additionally, 5 genes
1783 (HCF173, CPLD64, CHLM, RAA6, RAA17) showed strong proteomic and photosynthetic
1784 phenotypes, and their rescue restored the mutant to WT-like growth. This demonstrates that
1785 only in rare cases (1/16) does the prominent proteomic phenotype come from a second
1786 mutation.

1787 (C) Validation that the protein is absent from its mutant. We can see downregulation of the
1788 proteins in all the samples (when we have protein in our data set) except for Cre09.g407650,
1789 suggesting that Cre09.g407650 is a false positive. The insertion in Cre09.g407650 is in the 3'
1790 UTR and was linked to the phenotype; this insertion is likely not the reason for the
1791 photosynthetic phenotype, demonstrating how proteomics can help identify false positives.



1792

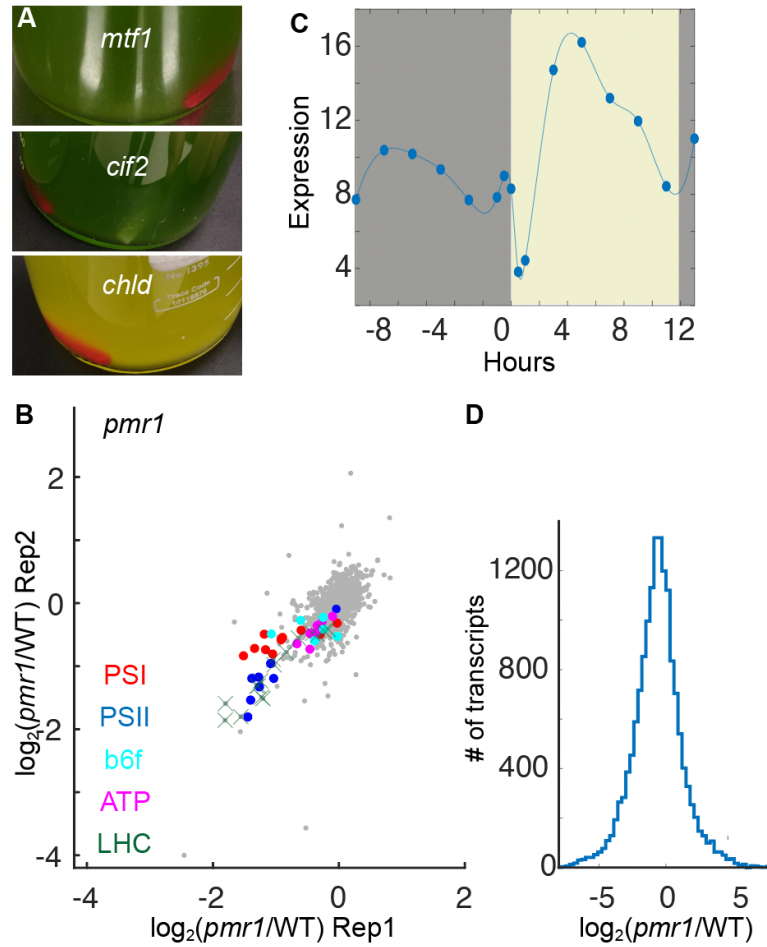
1793 **Figure S7. Supplemental data for PSI regulators, related to Figure 5**

1794 (A-C) Scatterplots of proteomic data in mutants in known *psaA* maturation factors (RAA1,
 1795 RAA4) and mutants in novel genes with similar proteomic profiles (HEL5, RAA12, PIR2 and
 1796 RAA18). The data reflect the average normalized \log_2 (mutant/WT protein abundance) from two
 1797 independent experiments.

1798 (D) The proteomic data of *hel5* mutants.

1799 (E) The mRNA levels (normalized to WT) of *psaB,J,C* in the different mutants. The only effect is
1800 on *psaB* levels and it is less than two-fold, which should not affect translation levels (Choquet
1801 and Wollman, 2002).

1802 (F) RAT2 and RAA1 are required for *tscA* processing. This requirement (Balczun et al., 2005;
1803 Merendino et al., 2006) suggests that *tscA* processing is carried out in conjunction with the
1804 splicing complex organized around RAA1. Error bars represent standard error of the mean.



1805

1806 **Figure S8. Supplemental data for the master regulators, related to Figure 6**

1807 (A) Images of strains grown in the TAP dark condition. Note that *mtf1* and *cif2* are green,
1808 whereas *chld* (mutant in chlorophyll formation) is yellow.

1809 (B) *pmr1* mutant proteomic effect.

1810 (C) PMR1 periodic expression. The light period is shown in yellow, and the dark period is shown
1811 in gray. The data are from (Strenkert et al., 2019).

1812 (D) A histogram of *pmr1* transcriptome.

1813 **Figure S9. Sequence homology.**

1814

1815 (A) *Chlamydomonas* MTF1 (*C_reinhardtii*) vs *E.coli* MTF (*e_coli*).

1816

1817 #####

1818 # Program: needle

1819 # Runday: Thu 10 Mar 2022 21:59:33

1820 # Commandline: needle

1821 # -auto

1822 # -stdout

1823 # -asequence emboss_needle-I20220310-220254-0632-2784368-plm.asequence

1824 # -bsequence emboss_needle-I20220310-220254-0632-2784368-plm.bsequence

1825 # -datafile EBLOSUM62

1826 # -gapopen 10.0

1827 # -gapextend 0.5

1828 # -endopen 10.0

1829 # -endextend 0.5

1830 # -aformat3 pair

1831 # -sprotein1

1832 # -sprotein2

1833 # Align_format: pair

1834 # Report_file: stdout

1835 #####

1836

1837 #=====

1838 #

1839 # Aligned_sequences: 2

1840 # 1: e_coli

1841 # 2: C_reinhardtii

1842 # Matrix: EBLOSUM62

1843 # Gap_penalty: 10.0

1844 # Extend_penalty: 0.5

1845 #

1846 # Length: 407

1847 # Identity: 119/407 (29.2%)

1848 # Similarity: 178/407 (43.7%)

1849 # Gaps: 100/407 (24.6%)

1850 # Score: 441.0

1851 #

1852 #

1853 #=====

1854

1855

1856 e_coli 1 -----mseslriifag 11

1857|::|.|

1858 C_reinhardtii 1 MLVGKQWRPFTAARAPTGRHAGHGACSRRLVVTAQASANGDRKQRVVFLG 50

1859

1860 e_coli 12 tpdfaarhldallssgh-----nvvgvftqdrpagrgkklm--pspvk 53

1861 |||.|||.|||.||:.. .|..|:|.|.|||.::: |||:

1862 C_reinhardtii 51 TPDVAAGVLQQLLTASQQPGAQFEVAMVVSQPGKPRGRGNRAVAQSPVE 100

1863

1864 e_coli 54 vlaeekgl---pvfqvslrpqesqqlvadlqadvmvvayglilpkav 99

1865 .||:|.|| .:..|.....:|.|.:.|..|..|..|:|:..

1866 C_reinhardtii 101 ALARDSGLLAPEAILCPARAKEESFLAALSELQPD LAVTAAYGNMLPQRF 150

1867

1868 e_coli 100 lemprlgcinvhgslprwrgaapiqrslwagdaetgvtimqmdvgltdg 149

1925 #
1926 # Length: 1075
1927 # Identity: 414/1075 (38.5%)
1928 # Similarity: 569/1075 (52.9%)
1929 # Gaps: 156/1075 (14.5%)
1930 # Score: 1642.5
1931 #
1932 #=====

1933					
1934	C.reinhardtii	1	-----MVAHTLIAGAASTQSVI STSQAASKAAMVAGSGSR--		35
1935			:..... : : . . : : .		
1936	A.thaliana	1	MPSMLVLVGTMP SLASLVSLGGACASVSGTSSSD-ASYALVKRVSLRRS		49
1937					
1938	C.reinhardtii	36	-----ARRNVAAGPGPAG-----PGSLTK		56
1939			. : : : :		
1940	A.thaliana	50	VKGTKKWLCRYSVSSSTTTTADFIADQNNNSVSI DNSFRGSKDGDSE		99
1941					
1942	C.reinhardtii	57	PAMPPSRPSAPPPPAQLSRPPAPAGGNGA-----LSRPG-----		91
1943			. : : : : : . . . : : 		
1944	A.thaliana	100	VVLKQTPKPVLPVARVER---GLGVNTAPWSKDL SNGGKFDGEEERNK		146
1945					
1946	C.reinhardtii	92	-----PPPPARPTGPAAPPPLRNAPAPAQQGAGNGA-G		123
1947			. . : : . . . : : : : . : : : : .		
1948	A.thaliana	147	VIESLGEVLDKAEKLEIPKPGNKEGGEAVKP---SQPSANSSNSRNGSYA		193
1949					
1950	C.reinhardtii	124	PAAPAPPRPAMTPPRPAMTPPPAPPAQQPLTR--PAVSNPFANLPPVSAP		171
1951			. : : : : : : : . .		
1952	A.thaliana	194	NASDGGTRKTKT-MKSVWRKGDAAVAQVVKESPKIFNRGVQTEPRTRE		242
1953					
1954	C.reinhardtii	172	----NAAASTAPAPLTAAPPPRPAPP-KPAPPPPARPMRPPPPRPTGGP		216
1955		 : . . . : . : :		
1956	A.thaliana	243	EGEVNAKAGT---PLAPPQPPFRPQPPVRPQPM LQGKPMVAPPVKKS---		286
1957					
1958	C.reinhardtii	217	NAAQSAPPPRSFGAPPRPGAPASGAAAAPSAASGTSSVPLSRPPSRPDL		266
1959		 : : .		
1960	A.thaliana	287	-----PILKDLGMAAKPLVSEEVDS SVKSK-ERKPIL		317
1961					
1962	C.reinhardtii	267	LPRQPATSAPTTLAADAAAAGGSQ LVRP--DPPS--LRVLEPLMGRGGR		312
1963			: : : : : :		
1964	A.thaliana	318	VDK----FASKKKGVDPAASQAVLAPT KPGKGPPSNKFRVEH----RNKK		359
1965					
1966	C.reinhardtii	313	GSMDIERKEKVT-----AEMKREARRQREASRMEKAALR---RRD---		349
1967			. : . . . : . . : . . : : : : : : . : . :		
1968	A.thaliana	360	NASASPRRRIVAEDDGD D D D A S I S R S G R K G R K W S K A S R K A V R L Q A A K D A A P		409
1969					
1970	C.reinhardtii	350	-KEEIFEVGDEGMSLHDLAQLLQVDES DIVRSLFMKGIAMSMGQQLDKNT		398
1971			. . : : : : . .		
1972	A.thaliana	410	VKAEILEVEEEGMSIEDLAYNLAIGEGDILGYLYSKGIRPDGVHTLDREM		459
1973					
1974	C.reinhardtii	399	VKVVAEYEVVVVDKEATSVTDAKKRTEFVTEEDIEDLAPRPVVTVMG		448
1975			: : . . : : : : : : . . : :		
1976	A.thaliana	460	VKMICRDYDVEVL D A D S V K V E E M A K K R Q T F - D E E D L D K L E D R P P V I T I M G		508
1977					
1978	C.reinhardtii	449	HVDHGKTSLLDYIRKARVAAGEAGGITQAIGAYNTEVEVEGEVKTICFLD		498
1979			: : : : : . . .		
1980	A.thaliana	509	HVDHGKTTLLDYIRKSKVAASEAGGITQGIGAYKVSVPVDGK LQSCVFLD		558
1981					


```
2039 # -endopen 10.0
2040 # -endextend 0.5
2041 # -aformat3 pair
2042 # -sprotein1
2043 # -sprotein2
2044 # Align_format: pair
2045 # Report_file: stdout
2046 #####
2047
2048 #=====
2049 #
2050 # Aligned_sequences: 2
2051 # 1: h
2052 # 2: c
2053 # Matrix: EBLOSUM62
2054 # Gap_penalty: 10.0
2055 # Extend_penalty: 0.5
2056 #
2057 # Length: 553
2058 # Identity:      127/553 (23.0%)
2059 # Similarity:   182/553 (32.9%)
2060 # Gaps:         225/553 (40.7%)
2061 # Score: 385.5
2062 #
2063 #
2064 #=====
2065
2066 h          1 MFHSPRRLCSALLQRDAPGLRRLPAPGLRRPLSPPAAVPRPASRLLAAA      50
2067
2068 c          1 -----                                0
2069
2070 h          51 SAASGAARSCSRTVCSMGTGTSRLYSALAKTLNSSAASQHPEYLVSPDPE    100
2071             .| | . . . . | . : | . . . . | . . . . | . : . : |
2072 c          1 -MASTGGPSEARPGASAAVSTSCITSKIKRT-----                30
2073
2074 h          101 HLEPIDPKELLEECRAVLHTRPPRFQRDFVDLRTDCPSTHPPPIRVMQWNI    150
2075             | :           : | :   | | |           . . | . . | . | : | | | :
2076 c          31 ---PV-----ILN--PPR-----QPPGAH--FRVLQWNV          52
2077
2078 h          151 LAQALGEGKDNFNVQCPVEALKWEERKCLILEEILAYQPDILCLQEVVDHYF      200
2079             | | . . | . . . . | | . : . . . : | | | | . | . : : | | : . . . . | | : | | | : | : .
2080 c          53 LADGLAQNGD-FCRVHPDHLKWEYRKPLLIQEIMEANADIICLQELNHFE      101
2081
2082 h          201 DTFQPLLSRLGYQGTFFPKPWSPCLDVEHNNGPDGCALFFLQNRFK----      246
2083             | . . | : | . . | | : | . . . . | . . . . | . . . . | . | | . | : : . . . . | .
2084 c          102 DLSQ-VLKELGYEGAFREKHASPALKYEF--PPDGMVAFYRSGRFTCSAG      148
2085
2086 h          247 LVNSANIRLTAMTLKTNQVAIAQTLECKESGRQFCIAVTHLKARTG--WE      294
2087             . | . . . . : : . . . . : : | . . . . . | . . . . . | | . . . . . | | | | | : . | . |
2088 c          149 AVEGRSFQDDSTGREQSQGYLQILLHDLVVGRDLLVVTTHLKAKDGAECE      198
2089
2090 h          295 RFRSAQGCDLLQN----LQNITQGA-----                        315
2091             . . | . . | . . . . | | : | . . . . . |
2092 c          199 DMRYQQAKQLLRNVSGTLERLEKAAQEASVAAGNGGAGSAAHAGGNGGS      248
2093
2094 h          316 -----KIPLIVCGDFNAEP      329
2095             : : | : : | . | | | . . |
```



```
2279 # -asequence emboss_needle-I20220707-015710-0806-61855551-p1m.asequence
2280 # -bsequence emboss_needle-I20220707-015710-0806-61855551-p1m.bsequence
2281 # -datafile EBLOSUM62
2282 # -gapopen 10.0
2283 # -gapextend 0.5
2284 # -endopen 10.0
2285 # -endextend 0.5
2286 # -aformat3 pair
2287 # -sprotein1
2288 # -sprotein2
2289 # Align_format: pair
2290 # Report_file: stdout
2291 #####
2292
2293 #=====
2294 #
2295 # Aligned_sequences: 2
2296 # 1: C.reinhardtii_CC-4532
2297 # 2: Synpcc7942_0343
2298 # Matrix: EBLOSUM62
2299 # Gap_penalty: 10.0
2300 # Extend_penalty: 0.5
2301 #
2302 # Length: 217
2303 # Identity: 32/217 (14.7%)
2304 # Similarity: 60/217 (27.6%)
2305 # Gaps: 92/217 (42.4%)
2306 # Score: 71.0
2307 #
2308 #
2309 #=====
2310 C.reinhardtii 1 MTLSQLAASKQSLASRALRSQPNVIRAPARATCYRQNAIYLTGSTGRTESG 50
2311
2312 Synpcc7942_03 1 ----- 0
2313
2314 C.reinhardtii 51 SLTSSSQPNASVSRRSALLSLVGTSIVLARPSAVGAVEEVKLPKEYRQ-- 98
2315 :|..|..|..:.....|:.....|..... :...|||
2316 Synpcc7942_03 1 -----MARPLARLFAIVLVAVIGLTACTGGGDSA-ISGNVYRQDT 38
2317
2318 C.reinhardtii 99 --LVKRLSEGLSESIETEASGASEAEVRRRAADPAKEVVREFVRKWRDNPR 146
2319 :|..|..:.....:.....|:| | :.....|.....|:..|
2320 Synpcc7942_03 39 LAVVTSLRNAITLPPDDAPEKSAAQAE-----ARQLINDFAARYRRDSR 81
2321
2322 C.reinhardtii 147 VSSDITHAEIKEALAEELGEFYLAYGQRTKLTTPPVRESVLRHL----KAAR 192
2323 ||...:.....:|..|..|..|:|..| |..|:.....| :...
2324 Synpcc7942_03 82 VSGLSSFTTMQTALNSLAGHYSSYPNR-----PVPEKLLKRLEKEFRMVE 126
2325
2326 C.reinhardtii 193 SALPEEEGSASKVLGLF 209
2327 .||..|.
2328 Synpcc7942_03 127 LALNREA----- 133
2329
2330 #-----
2331 #-----
2332 #-----
2333
2334
2335 (F) Chlamydomonas PSB27 (C.reinhardtii) vs cyanobacterial Psb27 (Synpcc7942_0343)
2336
2337 #####
2338 # Program: needle
2339 # Rundate: Thu 7 Jul 2022 16:02:11
2340 # Commandline: needle
2341 # -auto
```


- 2492 **Table S1 - Phenotypic data of mutants and barcodes and mutants in the initial set of**
2493 **1,781 mutants, related to Figure 1**
- 2494 **Table S2 - Hits from the pooled backcrossing experiments, related to Figure 1 and STAR**
2495 **Methods**
- 2496 **Table S3 - Protein localizations and suggested functions of other rescued genes, related**
2497 **to Figure 2**
- 2498 **Table S4 - Genes represented in the proteomic experiments, related to Figure 4**
- 2499 **Table S5 - Proteomic data, related to Figure 4**
- 2500 **Table S6 - ROGEs affecting chloroplast genes, from the literature and from our data set,**
2501 **related to discussion**
- 2502 **Table S7 - Rescued mutants, the rescued gene, and the plasmids used for the rescue**
2503 **process, related to STAR Methods**