

# Organelle Studies and Proteome Analyses of Mitochondria and Plastids Fractions from the Diatom *Thalassiosira pseudonana*

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(Received March 1, 2019; Accepted May 14, 2019)

Diatoms are unicellular algae and evolved by secondary endosymbiosis, a process in which a red alga-like eukaryote was engulfed by a heterotrophic eukaryotic cell. This gave rise to plastids of remarkable complex architecture and ultrastructure that require elaborate protein importing, trafficking, signaling and intracellular cross-talk pathways. Studying both plastids and mitochondria and their distinctive physiological pathways *in organello* may greatly contribute to our understanding of photosynthesis, mitochondrial respiration and diatom evolution. The isolation of such complex organelles, however, is still demanding, and existing protocols are either limited to a few species (for plastids) or have not been reported for diatoms so far (for mitochondria). In this work, we present the first isolation protocol for mitochondria from the model diatom *Thalassiosira pseudonana*. Apart from that, we extended the protocol so that it is also applicable for the purification of a high-quality plastids fraction, and provide detailed structural and physiological characterizations of the resulting organelles. Isolated mitochondria were structurally intact, showed clear evidence of mitochondrial respiration, but the fractions still contained residual cell fragments. In contrast, plastid isolates were virtually free of cellular contaminants, featured structurally preserved thylakoids performing electron transport, but lost most of their stromal components as concluded from Western blots and mass spectrometry. Liquid chromatography electrospray-ionization mass spectrometry studies on mitochondria and thylakoids, moreover, allowed detailed proteome analyses which resulted in extensive proteome maps for both plastids and mitochondria thus helping us to broaden our understanding of organelle metabolism and functionality in diatoms.

**Keywords:** Chloroplast • Organelle isolation • Photosynthesis • Proteomics • Respiration • Thylakoids.

## Introduction

Diatoms (Bacillariophyceae) are unicellular, photosynthetic algae that represent one of the most predominant and diverse phytoplankton groups in marine and freshwater ecosystems,

making them equally relevant for aquatic biomass production and marine carbon fixation (Round et al. 2007). The complex architecture of diatom plastids reflects their convoluted evolution by secondary endosymbiosis, in which a eukaryotic red alga progenitor, that already possessed plastids, was taken up by a eukaryotic host cell. Such secondary plastids of diatoms strongly differ from primary plastids of green algae, land plants, red algae and glaucophytes, because they possess four instead of two plastid envelope membranes, with the outermost being connected to the endoplasmic reticulum (Cavalier-Smith 2000). Depending on the species, plastids of diatoms can be highly diverse in number and size. Centric diatoms possess plastids ranging from 2 to 3 per cell (like in *Thalassiosira pseudonana*) up to several hundreds (as in *Odontella sinensis*) (Round et al. 2007). The thylakoids of diatoms are typically organized in membrane stacks of three that are arranged in parallel in a highly ordered manner, usually surrounding a pyrenoid (Cavalier-Smith 2000). Diatom thylakoids also do not show the spatial separation of grana and stroma lamellae that is characteristic for primary plastids of the green lineage (Andersson and Anderson 1980). Furthermore, each plastid possesses a so-called 'girdle lamella', a triple thylakoid structure that encircles the center thylakoids being located close to the four plastid envelope membranes (Cavalier-Smith 2000).

Diatom mitochondria, in contrast, derived directly from the secondary host cell (Martin et al. 2015, Roger et al. 2017). Prevailing in all eukaryotes, mitochondria are ascribed to a single endosymbiotic event, in which an  $\alpha$ -proteobacterial endosymbiont may have been integrated into an archaeal host that is also the progenitor of eukaryotes (Martin et al. 2015, Roger et al. 2017). Typically, diatom mitochondria sizes range from approximately 0.5 to 1  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter and they feature tubular-type cristae (Werner 1977). The absolute number per cell, however, differs between diatom groups and species. Thus, *T. pseudonana*, like other centric diatoms, possesses few oval mitochondria per cell, while pennate diatoms like *Phaeodactylum tricorutum* have tubular-like mitochondria of variable shape (e.g. visible in Río Bártulos et al. 2018). Interestingly, the mitochondria of diatoms possess some unique metabolic features, like a partial mitochondrial glycolysis, that is only found in stramenopiles (Río Bártulos et al. 2018),

and the bacterial Entner–Doudoroff pathway (Fabris et al. 2012). Along with their conventional role in energy maintenance, diatom mitochondria are believed to play an important role in the regulation of the carbon flux. Apparently, mitochondria and plastids are tightly coupled metabolically by constantly shuttling energy and reducing equivalents between both organelles (Bailleul et al. 2015), which may be facilitated by some spatial interconnections between diatom mitochondria and plastids (Flori et al. 2017).

Albeit the first diatom genome was sequenced in 2004 (Armbrust et al. 2004), and numerous elaborate biochemical and molecular studies on diatoms have been performed (Kroth et al. 2008, Prihoda et al. 2012), diatom plastids and mitochondria are still poorly understood, not least because of a lack of methods to study isolated organelles. Therefore, isolation or enrichment of organelles is one missing tool to broaden our understanding of diatom photosynthesis, mitochondrial respiration, organellar metabolic pathways, metabolite shuttling, organellar DNA and RNA as well as protein import. Additionally, organelle fractionation techniques may render possible potential ‘-omics’ approaches such as metabolomics, lipidomics, glycomics or proteomics that may lead to a more conclusive picture when performed on organelles instead of on complex cellular systems.

In this article, we report the first organelle isolation protocol, which is applicable for the isolation of high-quality plastids and mitochondria fractions from the model diatom *T. pseudonana*. Obtained fractions were analyzed thoroughly by selected physiological and molecular methods in order to assess the quality of the isolates. We further provide refined sets of proteome data that might serve as references for further studies on diatom physiology and evolution and add experimental evidence for the existing organelle targeting prediction pipelines.

## Results

### Mitochondria and plastids isolation from *T. pseudonana*

The protocol presented here is modified from a plastid isolation technique published previously (Schober et al. 2018). By utilizing the mutant line TIG19 (preTPI-GAPDH::GFP; see Supplementary Fig. S1 and Materials and Methods section) that expresses and targets GFP to the mitochondria, we were able to discriminate mitochondria, plastids and other organelles based both on mitochondria-targeted GFP and plastid derived chlorophyll fluorescence. This allowed us to establish a routine workflow that assures high and reproducible fraction purities (Fig. 1).

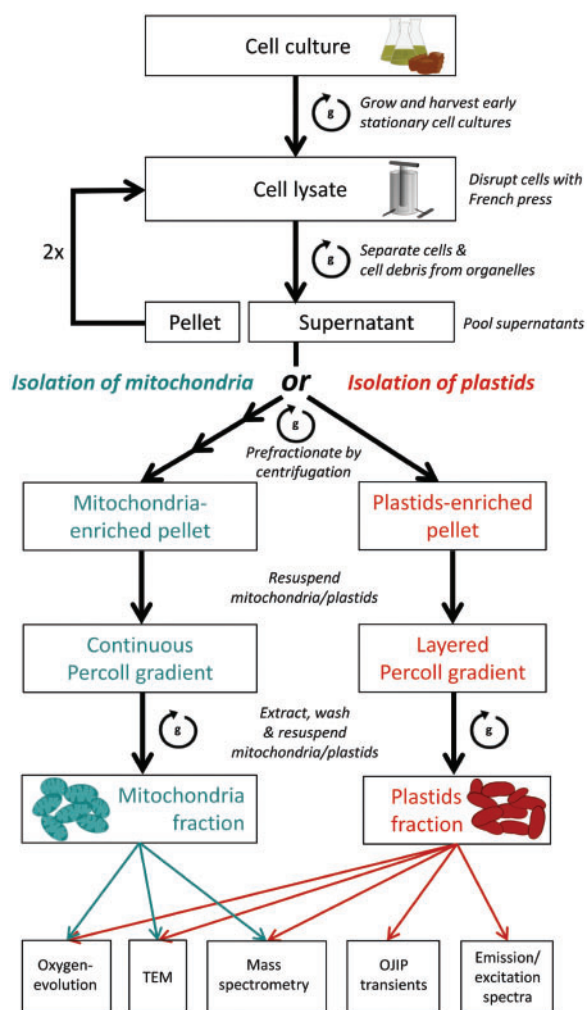
Based on our experience, best organelle separation and highest metabolic rates were achieved when early-stationary phase cultures of *T. pseudonana* with  $5\text{--}7 \times 10^6$  cells/ml and an electrical volume diameter of  $4.7\text{--}5.3 \mu\text{m}$  (Coulter Counter) were used (best working culture parameters are given in the Methods section and Supplementary Fig. S1). These culture parameters in combination with a constant French Press working pressure of 90 MPa during cell rupture were found to be

crucial for preserving the structural integrity of the organelles (Fig. 2A, B).

The majority of plastids in Fig. 2A (e.g. plastid P1) still looked vital, while plastids like P2 seem to be ruptured. All stages of plastid damages can be seen in Fig. 2B. The consistent dark color of P3 (Fig. 2B) suggests that the plastid contained its stroma. Some plastids (Fig. 2B, P4), in contrast, lost stroma and pyrenoids, whereas the plastid P5 (Fig. 2B) completely broke apart (arrow). To remove residual cellular debris and to further separate intact from fractured organelles, mitochondria were loaded onto a continuous Percoll gradient, while plastids were separated on a three-phased layered Percoll gradient, respectively. After centrifugation, a typical band pattern harboring different organelle populations, as shown in Fig. 3 (left) for mitochondria and Fig. 3 (right) for plastids, had formed. The upper fraction of both gradients mainly harbored fragmented thylakoid membranes and tiny, mostly ruptured plastids (Fig. 3A, B and K, L), whereas the pellet predominantly consisted of residual cells and cell debris (Fig. 3G, H and Q, R). Therefore, these fractions were discarded. The middle fractions contained organelles of medium size and variable shape (Fig. 3C, D and M, N), while plastids or mitochondria of the highest homogeneity and largest size accumulated in the bottom fractions (Fig. 3E, F and O, P). The bottom fractions therefore were extracted from the gradient and were washed in order to remove residual Percoll. Fluorescence microscopy images of the resulting final fractions are shown in Fig. 3I, J (mitochondria) and Fig. 3S, T (plastids), respectively. Obviously, the final mitochondrial fraction (MF) still contained a large proportion of thylakoid fragments, as visible by the emitted chlorophyll autofluorescence (Fig. 3I, J). Separation efficiency, however, was limited by the nature of the organelle sample and could not be improved further by tested protocol modifications or purification strategies (such as different density gradient media, osmotic conditions or separation strategies).

Transmission electron microscopy (TEM) of the final MF (Fig. 2C, D) and of TIG19 cells (Supplementary Fig. S2A, B) indicates that the outer and the inner mitochondrial membrane as well as the mitochondrial matrix remained structurally intact. The Western blot of the MF showed a strong signal of the D1 protein ( $\alpha$ -PsbA, Fig. 4), which is in line with the chlorophyll autofluorescence signal (Fig. 3I, J). However, no such large and stacked thylakoid structures as in the PF fraction (Fig. 2E) could be observed in the MF fraction by TEM (Fig. 2C) indicating, that thylakoid fragments co-isolated with the mitochondria are only small and strongly disrupted parts of the thylakoid system.

The final plastids fraction (PF) contains only low amounts of mitochondrial or cellular contaminations (cell wall fragments, lipid bodies or peroxisomes) as illustrated by TEM (Fig. 2E) as well as a low emission of mitochondrial GFP fluorescence (Fig. 3S, T). Accordingly, in Western blot analyses we could not detect GFP ( $\alpha$ -GFP, refer Fig. 4) in the PF. TEM further shows that the thylakoid membrane organization remained intact. Most plastid envelopes, though, were lost during the isolation process, while some plastids show residual parts of ruptured envelopes (Env, Fig. 2F) that remained attached to



**Fig. 1** Workflow of mitochondria or plastids isolation from *T. pseudonana*. *Thalassiosira pseudonana* Tig19 cells were harvested by centrifugation and disrupted at a constant working pressure of 90 MPa using a French Press. Unopened cells and large cell fragments were sedimented by a gentle centrifugation step at 300×g and again passed twice through the French Press. All resulting supernatants were pooled (= crude organelle suspensions) and purified from residual cells and large-sized contaminants by differential centrifugation. The crude organelle extract was then either loaded to a continuous (mitochondria isolation) or a layered Percoll density gradient (plastids isolation) in order to purify the organelles from persistent contaminants. Mitochondria or plastids of the highest quality, as assessed by epifluorescence microscopy, were extracted from the gradient and organelles were washed by centrifugation in a large volume of reaction buffer to remove residual Percoll. The quality of final mitochondria or PF were then assessed by the methods listed below.

the plastid. Also, the pyrenoid was not present (Fig. 2E, F). This is in line with Western blots showing a weaker signal of the stromal marker  $\alpha$ -Rbcl (Rubisco large subunit, Fig. 4, indicated by an arrow) in the PF than in the Tig19 cell extract (CE) fraction, indicating that only a small proportion of stromal and/or pyrenoidal proteins were preserved during the isolation process. The strong signal of the D1 subunit of PSII in the PF

immunoblot ( $\alpha$ -Psba) is in line with TEM, suggesting that the thylakoid membranes are still intact.

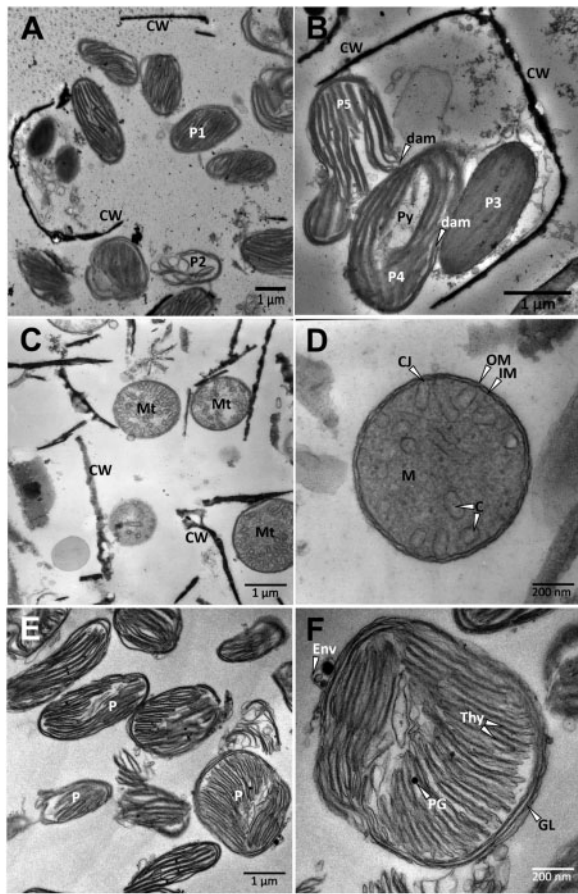
### Oxygen consumption of the MF

In order to assess the capacity of the MF to perform mitochondrial respiration, we measured oxygen evolution with a Clark-type oxygen electrode. To account for possible interfering oxygen production by thylakoid fragments (Fig. 3I, J), measurements were performed in complete darkness. We furthermore addressed the integrity and the coupling state of the mitochondria by estimating the respiratory control ratio (RCR) according to Chance and Williams (1955). The RCR is calculated as the ratio of active respiration (*State3*, not substrate-limited while ADP is available in excess) to respiration in which the ADP is exhausted (ADP-limited, *State4*) and rates the degree of coupling from 1 (uncoupled) to 10 (fully coupled; usually only observed in vivo) between respiration and phosphorylation (Chance and Williams 1955). In the representative RCR measurement (Fig. 5B), respiration rates were tripled from initially 22.12 nmol O<sub>2</sub> × (mg Prot × min)<sup>-1</sup> to 68.23 nmol O<sub>2</sub> × (mg Prot × min)<sup>-1</sup> (*State3*) when 0.1 mM ADP (first arrow) were added. At minute 13, most ADP was phosphorylated, leading to a drop in the oxygen rate to 13.35 nmol O<sub>2</sub> × (mg Prot × min)<sup>-1</sup> (*State4*). Generally, in six independent measurements, we obtained RCR values ranging from 1.4 to 5.1, agreeing with literature values of 2–4 obtained for *Aspergillus niger* (Watson and Smith 1967) or 1.1–1.4 for skunk cabbage (Storey and Bahr 1969) and suggesting that most preparations showed fairly intact mitochondrial respiration being coupled to phosphorylation.

For further functional assessment of the MF, classical electron transport chain inhibition experiments were performed (Fig. 5C, D). Inhibition of complex III with Antimycin A in the presence of succinate as a substrate (Fig. 5C; first arrow and Fig. 5D) lowered respiration rates slightly; this effect, however, could be intensified by addition of salicylhydroxamic acid (SHAM) to inhibit oxygen production by the alternative oxidases (AOX) (Fig. 5C; second arrow and Fig. 5D). Addition of ascorbate in combination with tetramethyl-p-phenylenediamine (TMPD) bypassed the inhibition, leading to a drastic increase of oxygen rates (Supplementary Fig. S4A). Respiration was also inhibited by Oligomycin A, an inhibitor of the ATP synthase (Fig. 5D), and Rotenone, inhibitor of complex I (Fig. 5D), when malate was used as a substrate. Accessory introduction of succinate, a substrate of complex II, abolished this effect (Supplementary Fig. S4B). The capability to perform mitochondrial respiration with malate as sole substrate moreover suggests the presence of a functional citric acid cycle and/or a malate/oxaloacetate shuttle, while stimulatory effects of ADP strongly suggest coupling between the respiratory chain and phosphorylation (Fig. 5E).

### Oxygen evolution of the PF

In order to test the capacity of the isolated thylakoids to perform electron transport, we investigated the light-dependent electron transport capacity (ETC) in the presence of the artificial Hill



**Fig. 2** Transmission electron micrographs of French Press eluate and the final mitochondria and PF. (A, B) Representative image of French Press eluate. (A) Eluate comprises residual cell debris and plastids of various qualities. (B) Representation of different plastid damages as resulted upon cell rupture with a French Press. P1–5, stages of plastid damages; Py, pyrenoid; CW, cell wall; dam, organelle damages. (C) Representative overview of the final mitochondria fraction. Mt, mitochondrion; CW, cell wall. (D) View of a single mitochondrion. C, cristae; CJ, cristae junction; IM, inner membrane; OM, outer membrane; M, matrix. (E) Representative overview of the final PF. P, plastid (F) View of a single isolated plastid. Env, envelope membrane; Thy, thylakoids; PG, plastoglobule; GL, girdle lamella.

electron acceptor potassium ferricyanide ( $K_3[Fe(CN)_6]$ ) (Fig. 6A). While the oxygen level remained stable in the dark, a rapid oxygen increase was observed when thylakoids were exposed to  $200 \mu E m^{-2} s^{-1}$  (Fig. 6A, solid line) with oxygen evolution rates of up to  $32 \mu mol O_2 \times (mg \text{ chlorophyll} \times h)^{-1}$ . To verify that the oxygen production measured here can exclusively be ascribed to the photosynthetic ETC,  $30 \mu M$  3-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-1,1-dimethylurea (DCMU) was added subsequently to the sample (Fig. 6A, black arrow). DCMU blocks the plastoquinone binding site of PSII, and we observed an immediate inhibition of oxygen production (Fig. 6A, solid line).

### Spectral and photophysiological characterization of the PF

The absorption spectrum of the PF in the visible light range (Fig. 6B, solid line) mimics well the curve characteristics

observed for Tig19 cells (dotted line). Slight deviations are likely due to altered scattering and self-shading properties in the PF. The absorption shoulder at 629 nm, indicating chlorophyll *c* bound to the peripheral light harvesting complexes (Lepetit et al. 2007), is not visible in the fluorescence emission spectrum (Fig. 6C), demonstrating an efficient energy transfer from chlorophyll *c* to chlorophyll *a* within the antennae. Similarly, chlorophyll *a* fluorescence peaking at only slightly shifted wavelengths compared to whole cells indicates energetic coupling between the light harvesting complexes and the photosystems.

### Photochemical activity of the PF

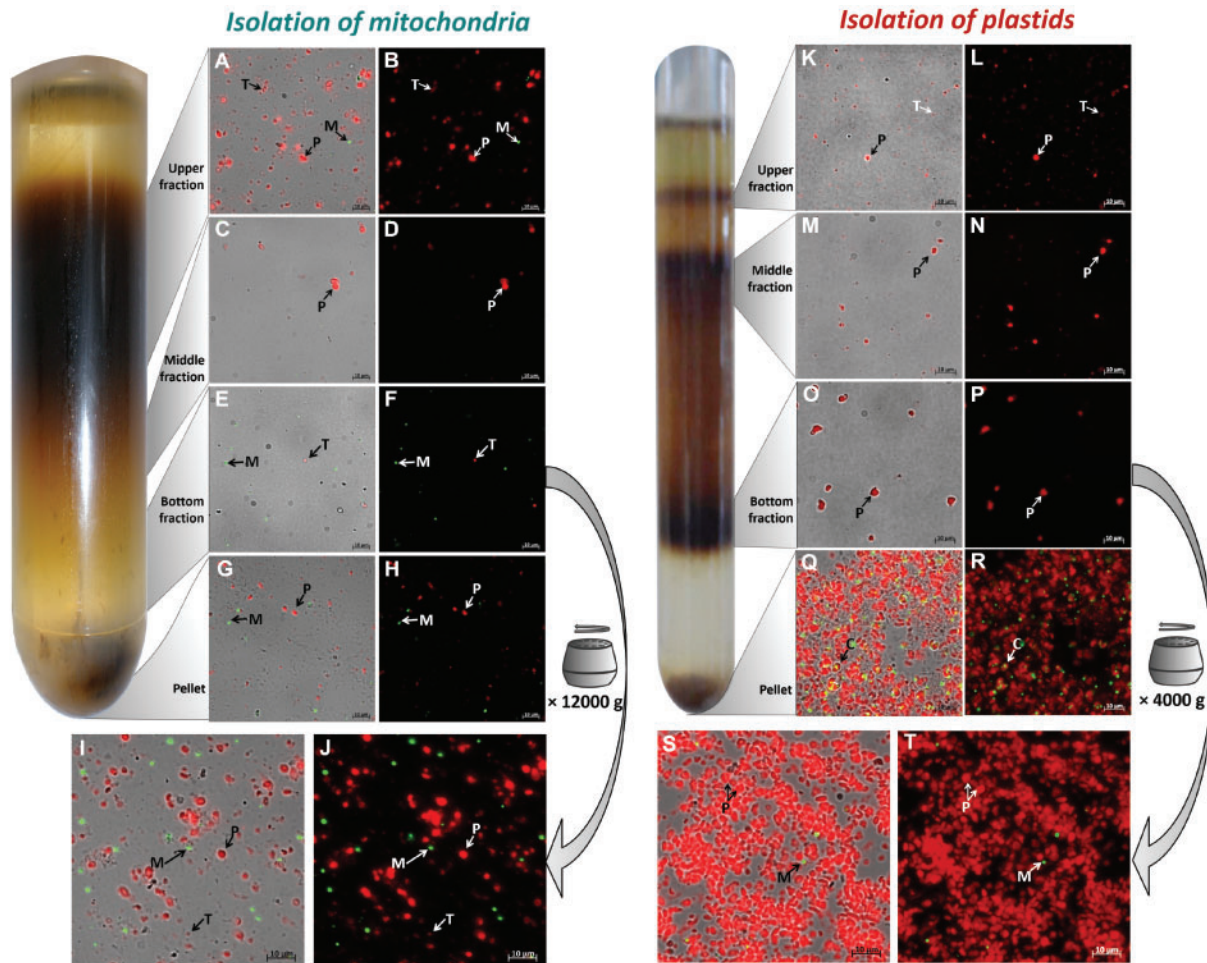
In order to study the energy transfer within the PSII towards PSI, we performed O-J-I-P-fluorescence induction curves of the plastids and dark-adapted cells (Fig. 6D, E). The graphs originate in point O, in which  $Q_A$  is fully oxidized and hence fluorescence is very low, but rises towards J as a consequence of the saturating pulse until  $Q_A$  is reduced. In a functional electron transport chain, maximum fluorescence will not be reached at the J-phase, as downstream electron acceptors like the plastoquinone pool, the cytochrome  $b_6f$ -complex, and the whole photosystem I site lead to a partial re-oxidation of  $Q_A$  during the saturating pulse. By a progressive reduction of acceptor site molecules in the following JIP phase during the ongoing saturating flash,  $Q_A$  will become fully reduced and maximum fluorescence level will be reached. These graph characteristics observed for the plastid fraction are very similar to those of Tig19 cells. However, the differentiation between the I and P phase, which is visible in cells (Fig. 6D) and which indicates electron transfer towards photosystem I and the final acceptors, is less pronounced in the PF (Fig. 6E). The vital parameter  $Q_y (\Delta F_v/F_m)$ , the maximum photosynthetic efficiency of photosystem II, reached approximately 70% (0.51; three independent preparations) of the intact cell value (0.73;  $n = 3$ ) in the PF.

### Organelle proteomics

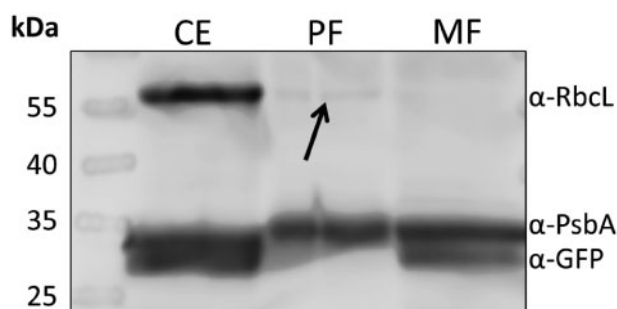
Organelle fractionation may facilitate comparative subcellular proteomics. Therefore, MF, PF as well as Tig19 cell lysates were separated by SDS-PAGE and whole lanes were analyzed by liquid chromatography electrospray-ionization mass spectrometry (LC-ESI-MS/MS). The resulting peptide profiles were compared to an optimized protein catalog in order to provide sets of evidence-driven organellar proteomes.

**Mitochondria fraction.** Out of 325 proteins that have been identified within MF, 196 proteins (listed in Fig. 7A) could be assigned to functional groups that are either mitochondrial or associated to mitochondrial pathways as judged by *T. pseudonana* KEGG pathway maps (organism code: tps), while 130 of the detected proteins were predominantly plastidic contaminations (for details refer Supplementary Table S1).

The largest protein category comprises 19 proteins that are directly involved in respiratory chain function, covering all major complexes required for functionality (Fig. 7A; KEGG pathways in Supplementary File S1). The TCA cycle is



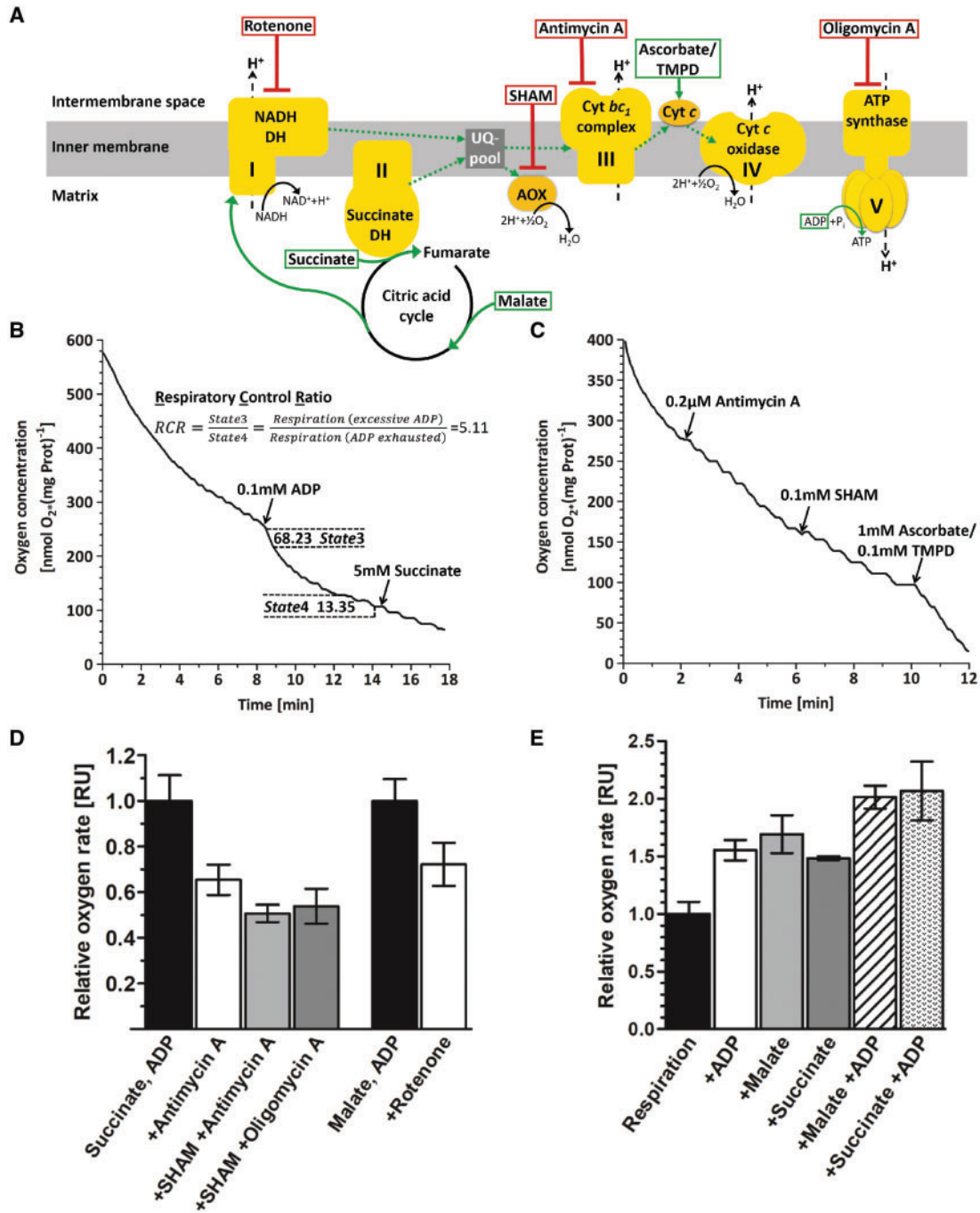
**Fig. 3** Fluorescence microscopic analysis of plastids or mitochondria after Percoll-density centrifugation. (Left) Mitochondria separated by a continuous Percoll density gradient. Pre-fractionated cell lysate was separated by density centrifugation on a continuous Percoll gradient. Resulting bands were analyzed by fluorescence microscopy (A–H). Mitochondria that accumulated in the bottom fraction (= highest quality and purity; E, F) were extracted and subsequently washed by centrifugation at 12,000 $\times$ g (I, J). (Right) Plastids separated on a layered Percoll density-gradient. Pre-fractionated cell lysate was separated by centrifugation on a layered Percoll density-gradient [from top to bottom: 10%, 20% and 30%]. Resulting bands were analyzed by fluorescence microscopy (K–R). Plastids that accumulated in the bottom fraction (= highest quality and purity; O, P) were extracted and subsequently washed by centrifugation at 4,000 $\times$ g (S, T). Chlorophyll autofluorescence is shown in red. GFP fluorescence is depicted in green. M, mitochondrion; P, plastid; C, intact cell; T, thylakoid.



**Fig. 4** Western blot analysis of the final mitochondria (MF) and plastids fraction (PF). 0.5  $\mu$ g of total protein per lane were tested with three different compartment marker antibodies:  $\alpha$ -Rbcl, antibody against Rubisco large subunit [marker for plastid stroma];  $\alpha$ -PsbA, antibody against photosystem II protein D1 [marker for thylakoids];  $\alpha$ -GFP, antibody against green fluorescent protein [marker for mitochondrial matrix proteins]. CE, Tig19 cell extract; PF, plastids fraction; MF, mitochondria fraction.

represented by 11 out of 15 known *T. pseudonana* proteins, which is consistent with the competence to metabolize malate during oxygen measurements observed here. Other soluble proteins of the mitochondrial glycolysis/gluconeogenesis (7), the Carbon-Concentrating Mechanism (CCM) (6) or chaperones/proteins involved in assembly and repair (7) were identified as well, arguing for preserved matrix structures. The MF proteome also contains several membrane-associated proteins, e.g. transporters, carriers and channels (12), proteins involved in the lipid (7) or amino acid (17) metabolism (KEGG pathways in Supplementary File S1). Additionally, four enzymes of the diatom-specific urea cycle (Allen et al. 2011), namely mitochondrial carbamoyl phosphate synthase (CPSase (Thaps3a\_40323), urease (Thaps3a\_25118), urease accessory protein (Thaps3a\_7461) and glutamate dehydrogenase (Thaps3a\_26192) were detected.

**Plastids fraction.** We detected 217 proteins in the PF fraction, of which 209 proteins (listed in Fig. 7B) could be assigned to



**Fig. 5** Analysis of mitochondrial respiration by Clark electrode measurements. (A) Schematic representation of the mitochondrial respiratory chain and phosphorylation complexes (yellow). The direction of the electron flow (dotted green arrows) is stimulated by different substrates (green boxes). Application of inhibitors at the corresponding site of action are indicated by red boxes. Complex I, NADH dehydrogenase; complex II, succinate dehydrogenase; complex III, cytochrome *bc*<sub>1</sub> reductase; complex IV, cytochrome *c* reductase; complex V, ATP synthase; UQ-pool, ubiquinone pool; AOX, alternative oxidases; cyt *c*, cytochrome *c*. (B, C) Exemplary oxygen measurements. Mitochondrial respiration (solid line) is plotted as time-resolved oxygen consumption and was measured in complete darkness. (B) Addition of ADP (first arrow) uncouples phosphorylation from the mitochondrial respiratory chain, resulting in increased oxygen consumption. Reintroduction of the substrate succinate (second arrow) did not increase respiration rates, illustrating that substrates were not limited during the measurement. The respiratory control ratio (RCR = 5.11) shows tight coupling of respiration to phosphorylation. *State3* (active respiration), maximum speed of respiration when both substrate and ADP are available in excess. *State4* (ADP-limiting state), speed of the respiratory chain when substrate is available, but all ADP has been phosphorylated. (C) Inhibition of complex III by Antimycin A only becomes evident when Alternative oxidases (AOX) are inhibited similarly. Ascorbate and TMPD bypasses the inhibition leading to increased oxygen depletion. (D) Examination of mitochondrial respiration upon application of different inhibitors. Mitochondrial respiration was saturated with substrate (succinate or malate) and ADP before different inhibitors were applied. Data represent the means of at least two replicates ± SEM. (E) Relative effects of substrates on the respiration rates normalized to endogenous respiration, data represent the means of at least two replicates ± SEM.

functional groups (as judged by KEGG pathway reference maps), that are related to plastid functionality (for details refer Supplementary Table S2). There is also indication that the PF lacks most stromal proteins, but features many membrane integrated and -associated proteins of the photosynthetic electron transport chain (9), light harvesting complexes (32), photosystem components (19) or subunits of the plastid ATPase (9) (Fig. 7B; KEGG pathways in Supplementary File S2). The detection of 10 proteins belonging to the Rab-type GTPase family might be related to vesicle trafficking between (chloroplast) endoplasmic reticulum ((c)ER) and Golgi apparatus and is in line with TEM micrographs (Fig. 2E, F) that show that some plastids retained parts of the chloroplast ER.

**Organelle prediction analyses.** Organellar proteins obtained from PF, MF and Tig19 cells were analyzed comparatively, and in the following used to benchmark the plastid-targeting prediction pipeline 'ASAFind' and the universal cell-targeting prediction tool 'TargetP' (here for mitochondria) (Fig. 8). Comparative proteomics (Fig. 8A) reveals 53 (red (50) plus overlap of red and purple (3)) PF and 49 (green (44) plus overlap of green and purple (5)) MF proteins that have not been detected in any other fraction compared here. The targeting prediction analysis of the PF (Fig. 8B) moreover suggests that 104 (intersections of PF with ASAFind<sup>+</sup>: 52 + 22 + 7 + 23) out of all 217 proteins were predicted to possess a plastid-targeting signal (not accounting for false positives). This leaves 113 (intersections 4 + 30 + 52 + 27) proteins in the PF which have not been predicted to be plastid imported. Out of these 113 proteins, 26 (Supplementary Table S2) were found to be plastid-encoded, justifying the predicted absence of a plastid-targeting signal. We cannot claim that all of the residual 87 are true plastid proteins, but our protein annotation suggests that most proteins are relevant for plastid functionality; e.g. several Lhc and three Lhc-like proteins, photosystem components PsaE, PsaF, PsaB, a putative PSII repair protein (Thaps3a\_3853) and several transporters, like the Tic-22 like protein or the triose phosphate translocators Tpt1 and Tpt8.

## Discussion

### Isolation protocol optimization

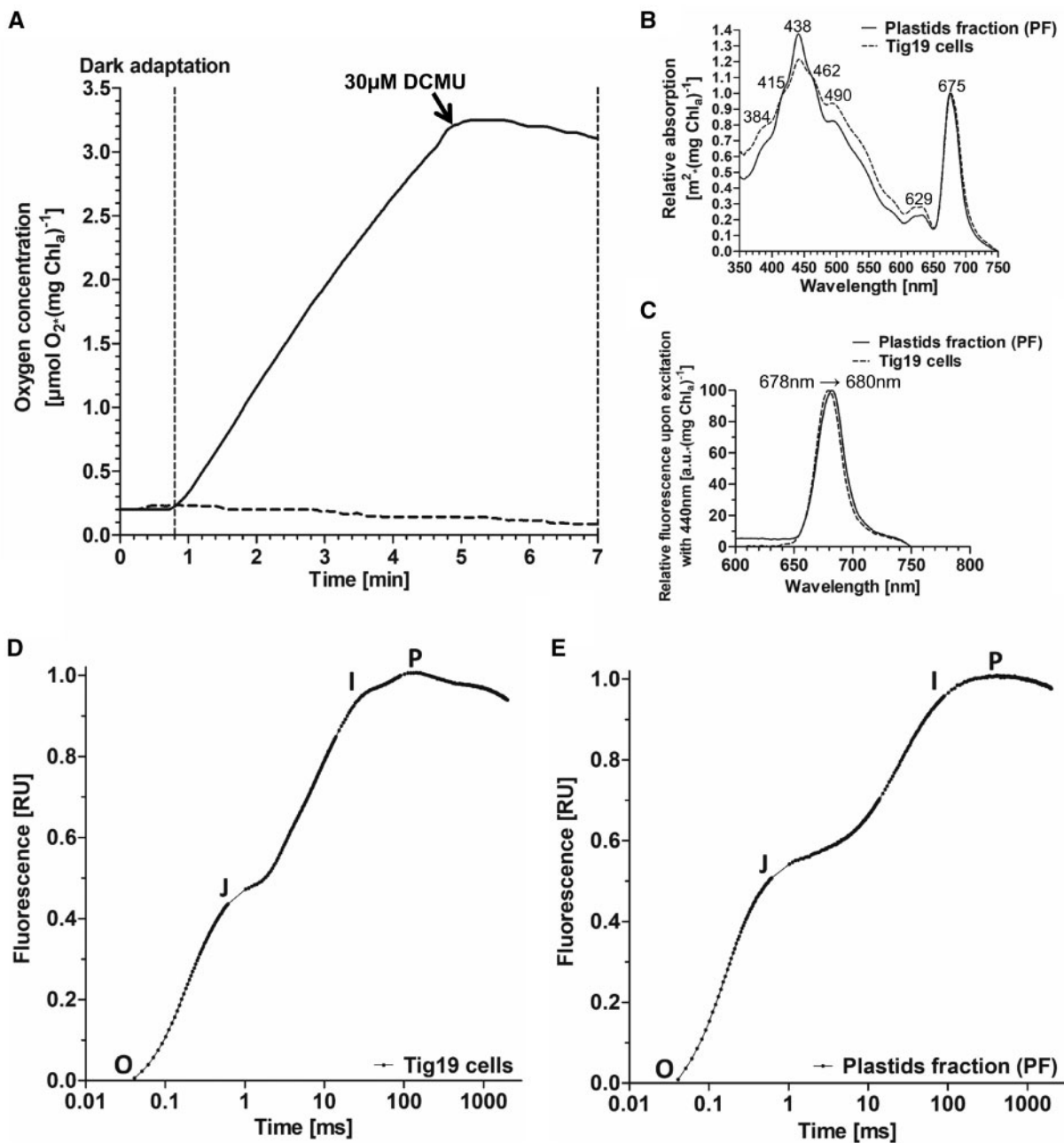
Numerous protocols exist for the isolation of primary plastids and mitochondria of land plants, such as pea or spinach (Lyttleton 1962, Palmer 1967, Stankovic and Walker 1977, Schwitzguebel and Siegenthaler 1984, Beston et al. 1990, Vishwakarma and Gupta 2017) or green algae (Mendiola-Morgenthaler et al. 1985, Eriksson et al. 1995, Mason et al. 2006). The protocols are usually simple, yielding organelles of consistent quality. Other isolation approaches bypass conventional tissue or cell extraction by isolating organelles from cell-wall deficient mutant lines (Pollock et al. 2003) or protoplasts (Edwards et al. 1978, Schnell and Lefebvre 1993). Those techniques, however, demand the availability of respective mutant lines or specific cell wall degrading enzymes. The first protocols on the isolation of photosynthetically active thylakoids were reported for the pennate diatoms *P. tricornutum*

(Murata et al. 1979) and *Cylindrotheca fusiformis* (Martinson et al. 1998). Both pennate species are well suited for organelle isolation, as they either do not possess a silica cell wall or allow protoplast formation, respectively. Also for the centric diatoms *Chaetoceros gracilis* (Nagao et al. 2007) and *Cyclotella meneghiniana* (Kansy et al. 2017), the isolation of photoactive thylakoids is feasible. So far, the preparation of physiologically and structurally intact plastids has only been reported for the diatoms *O. sinensis* and *Coscinodiscus granii* (Wittpoth et al. 1998). These species are especially suited as they easily break due to their large cell size while accommodating several hundreds of plastids. However, for both species no sequenced genomes are available as well as no established transformation protocols or genome-editing tools.

Here, we present the first procedure for isolation of mitochondria and modified it towards the applicability for preparation of PFs. Optimization of the isolation procedure in more than 60 individual preparations revealed that cell culture densities and average cell sizes in combination with a constant working pressure of 90 MPa are essential for a thorough cell rupture by the French Press. Other cell rupture approaches like osmotic shock, enzymatic digestion or homogenization with glass beads were also tested, but proved unsuccessful. Additionally, we found that accurately adjusted osmolalities of the preparation buffers are critical for a successful organelle isolation. Already slight deviations of 50-100 mOsm/kg caused drastic deformations of the plastids (Supplementary Fig. S3). In line, the osmolality had been previously shown to alter the multilamellar organization of diatom thylakoids in intact diatom cells (Szabo et al. 2008). Also the concentration of divalent cations in preparation buffers, especially Mg<sup>2+</sup>, was demonstrated to influence pigment organization as well as thylakoid membrane appression (Szabo et al. 2008, Jäger and Büchel 2019).

### Purity and quality of mitochondria

Our isolated mitochondria are structurally intact (TEM); however, the preparations still contain some residual contaminations with cell wall fragments and plastid membranes (Figs. 2–5). Regarding mitochondria function, our experiments (Fig. 5) indicated a full connectivity of all major complexes: (i) complex I contributed to respiration, until it was inhibited by Rotenone. (ii) the reducing equivalents required for complex I could be provided by malate, suggesting a functional citric acid cycle and/or a functional malate/oxaloacetate shuttle, both of which were detected in the proteomic data. (iii) Inhibiting complex I by Rotenone and subsequent addition of succinate increased respiration, demonstrating that complex II is also functional. (iv) Succinate dependent respiration was reduced by Antimycin A, an inhibitor of complex III when it was used in combination with SHAM to inhibit the AOX. (v) Ascorbate and TMPD circumvented this inhibition by feeding electrons to the cytochrome *c* site (Fig. 6C, D). As both, complex III and cytochrome *c* can only transfer electrons to oxygen via complex IV, these findings demonstrate a linear electron

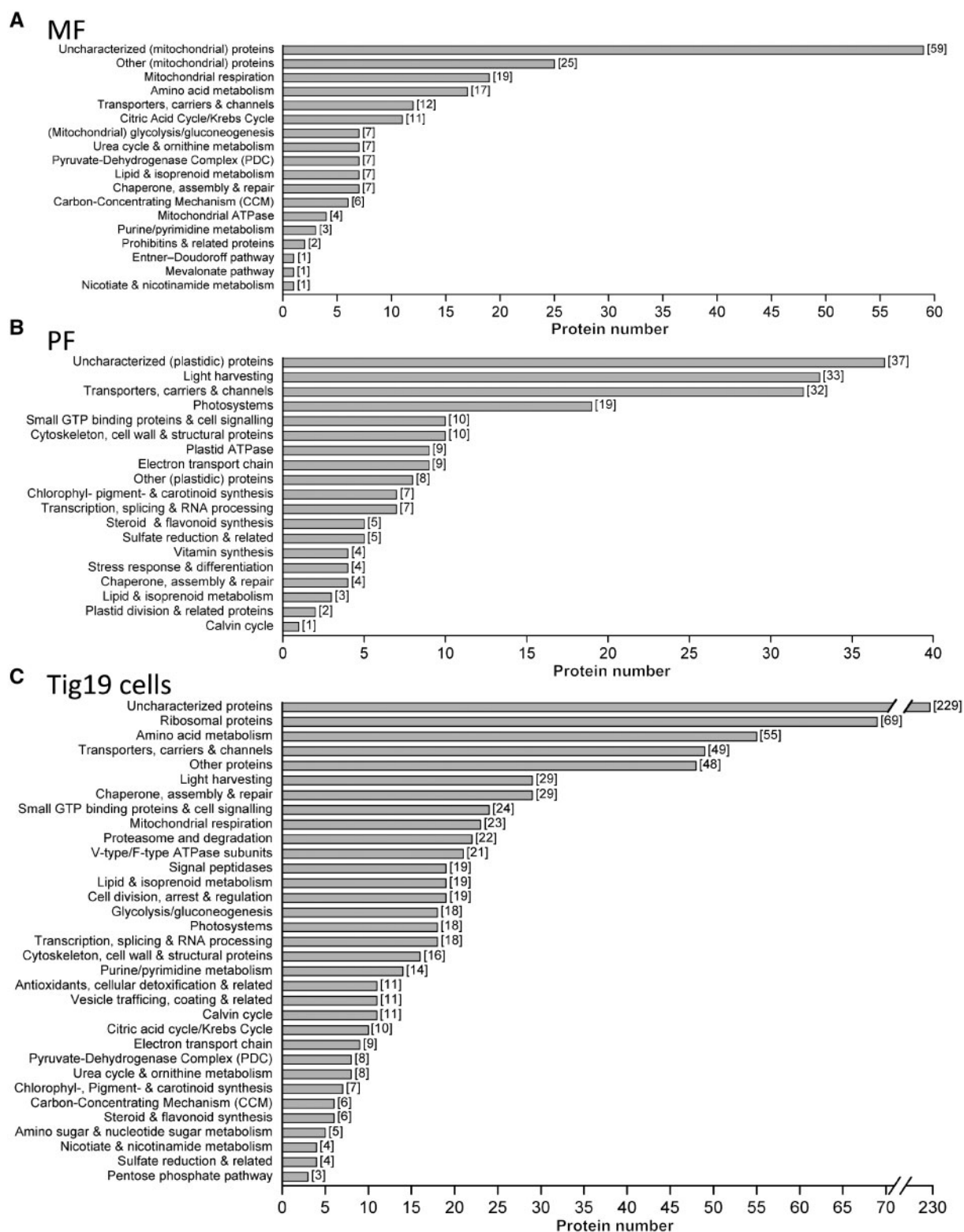


**Fig. 6** Oxygen evolution, absorption, fluorescence emission spectra and O-J-I-P fluorescence transients of isolated plastids and cells. (A) Oxygen evolution of plastids preparations. Prior to every measurement, isolated plastids were adapted to the dark for 2 min. Thirty-five micrograms of isolated plastids (corresponding to chlorophyll *a*) were illuminated with  $200 \mu\text{E m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  in the presence of 40 mM potassium ferricyanide (solid line). DCMU treatment blocked the plastoquinone binding pocket QB which immediately abolished oxygen production. Dark control (dashed line). (B) Absorption spectrum of Tig19 cells (dashed line) compared to plastids fraction (PF; solid line). (C) Fluorescence emission spectrum of Tig19 cells (dashed line) compared to plastids fraction (PF; solid line). (D, E) O-J-I-P fluorescence transients of *T. pseudonana* cells and plastids fraction (PF). Untreated Tig19 cells or plastids corresponding to 1  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  chlorophyll *a* were adapted to the dark for 10 min prior to measurements. Curves were double normalized between O and P [ $V_{\text{OP}} = (F_{\text{T}} - F_{\text{O}}) / (F_{\text{m}} - F_{\text{O}})$ ] and plotted on a logarithmic scale.

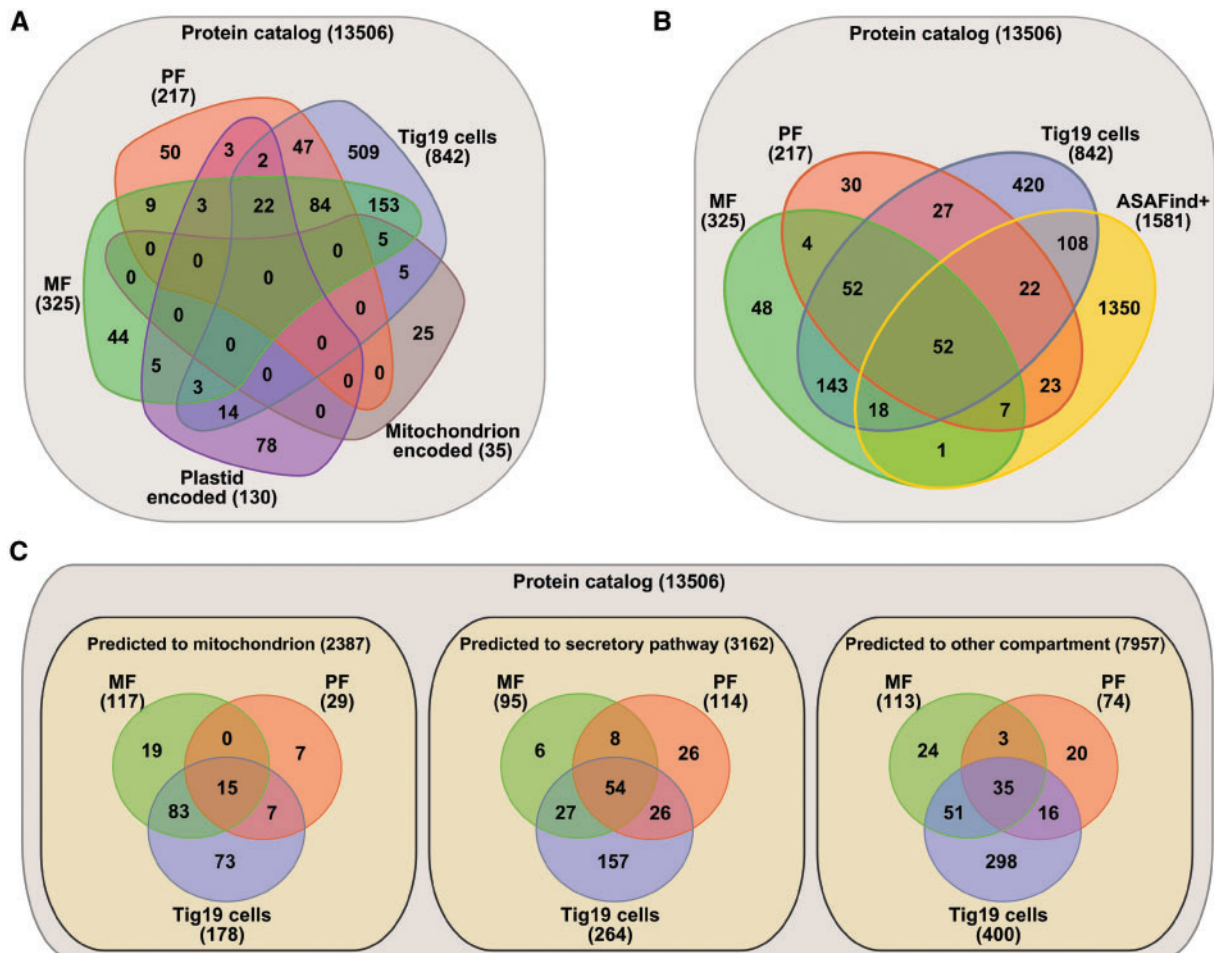
transport chain from complex I/II to complex IV and eventually oxygen. Finally our oxygen measurements also confirmed a functional coupling of mitochondria's electron transport chain with phosphorylation (Fig. 5B, E), suggesting a functional ATP synthase (complex V).

### Purity and quality of plastids

A meaningful measure for the physiological integrity of plastids is their capability to perform  $\text{CO}_2$ -dependent photosynthesis autonomously. However, only plastids which still possess intact envelope membranes, and thereby harbor stromal components



**Fig. 7** Mass Spectrometry profile of proteins within mitochondria (MF), plastids (PF) and Tig19 cells categorized in functional groups. All proteins detected within the MF (325), PF (217) and Tig19 cells (842) were annotated according to the workflow described in the Materials and Methods section and in Supplementary Fig. S5. All proteins annotated this way were manually compiled in functional groups by following the *T. pseudonana* KEGG pathways reference maps (three-letter code: tps) and database annotations. Bar charts of the MF (A) and PF (B) do not include proteins that were assigned as ‘cellular contaminants’ (MF: 129 proteins; PF: 8 proteins; refer Supplementary Tables S1 and S2). Bar charts of Tig19 cells (C) represent all evident proteins detected.



**Fig. 8** Comparison and targeting prediction of proteins detected within the mitochondria, plastids and Tig19 cell fractions. (A) Venn diagram representation of absolute protein numbers detected in the MF (325), PF (217) and Tig19 (842) compared to proteins encoded on organelle genomes. Intersections describe identical protein hits within overlapping sets. (B) Comparison of protein identified in the individual fractions to ASAFind positive proteins. ASAFind+ thereby represents all proteins within the protein catalog that have been predicted (with high and low confidence) to be plastid-targeted. (C) TargetP 1.1 prediction analysis of proteins identified in the respective fraction.

essential for electron transport (such as ferredoxin), are able to accomplish photosynthesis with  $\text{CO}_2$  as the only substrate (Wittpoth 1996). This is not the case in the PF isolated here, as most of the plastid envelopes were damaged throughout the isolation process and consequently lacked stroma and the pyrenoid as judged by TEM (Fig. 2E, F), Western blots (Fig. 4) and proteome analysis (Fig. 7B).

The thylakoids, however, are structurally intact and are almost free from contaminants as shown by immunoblotting (Fig. 4), fluorescence (Fig. 3, right) and TEM (Fig. 2E, F) as well as by proteomic analyses (Fig. 7B). Oxygen measurements (Fig. 6A) further demonstrated reproducibly high photosynthetic rates of up to  $32 \mu\text{mol O}_2 \times (\text{mg chlorophyll} \times \text{h})^{-1}$ . These rates are comparable to *C. gracilis* thylakoids ( $30\text{--}40 \mu\text{mol O}_2 \times (\text{mg chlorophyll} \times \text{h})^{-1}$ ) (Nagao et al. 2007) measured with potassium ferricyanide at comparable light intensities. The high photosynthetic rates measured are moreover corroborated by the O-J-I-P analyses (Fig. 6E), which resemble those of cells (Fig. 6D). The less pronounced inflections between I and P of the PF compared to the well-defined IP-

phase of cells might be caused by inefficient electron transfer to the terminal acceptors ferredoxin and  $\text{NADP}^+$  (Stirbet and Govindjee 2011). Maximum quantum yields of 0.51 demonstrate a good physiological condition ( $\Delta 70\%$  of intact cells) which is clearly higher than the 0.39 measured in previous thylakoid preparations of *P. tricornutum* (Szabo et al. 2008). These parameters suggest physiological intactness of the thylakoids corroborated by the spectroscopic features obtained via absorption and fluorescence emission spectra (Fig. 6B, C).

### Proteome targeting prediction

In total, we identified 325 MF and 217 PF proteins (Fig. 8A), of which 49 (MF) and 53 (PF) were exclusively found in their respective fraction and not in the whole cell lysate. This suggests that isolation and concentration of organelles itself greatly improved the detection of putatively lowly expressed organelle proteins, leading to a better coverage of the organelle proteomes. Interestingly, only 19 out of the 49 MF exclusive proteins were predicted to feature a mitochondrial targeting signal, while only 4 of the non-predicted proteins were organelle

encoded. For the PF, just 23 out of 53 fraction exclusive proteins were predicted to be targeted to the plastids, with 3 proteins found to be plastid encoded. These examples highlight that prediction analyses alone may not be sufficient and need to be verified by other methods, such as localization of fluorescently tagged fusion proteins.

### Photosystems, light harvesting and photoprotection

The proteins identified in the PF cover most of the PSII reaction center proteins, e.g. the core proteins D1 (PsbA) and D2 (PsbD), the core antenna CP43 (PsbC) and CP47 (PsbB) and cytochrome *b*559 (PsbE) (Supplementary Table S2 and Supplementary File S2). Also, peripheral PSII proteins like the PSII stability and assembly proteins PsbH and Psb27, the OEC components PsbO, Psb, PsbV, as well as an uncharacterized protein (Thaps3a\_3853) with similarity to a putative PSII repair protein were identified. The only PSII membrane proteins that have not been detected are PsbM and Psb28, both proposed to be involved in PSII dimerization (Jiroutová et al. 2010, Kawakami et al. 2011) and PsbZ which in higher plants mediates coupling of core antenna to PSII (Swiatek et al. 2001). Both mechanisms are likely to play a role in photoacclimation (Nymark et al. 2009) or responses to abiotic stressors such as iron-limitation (Allen et al. 2008), which might explain the absent expression in our plastids derived from cells grown under low light and full nutrient supply. Interestingly, also in other proteomic studies on *T. pseudonana* and *P. tricornutum* (Grouneva et al. 2011, Grouneva et al. 2016) grown under moderate conditions, these proteins were not detected, arguing for the hypothesis of stress-driven expression. The presence of both PSI core (PsaA, PsaB) and all known peripheral reaction center subunits (PsaC, PsaD, PsaE, PsaF and PsaL), required to provide electron flow to ferredoxin (Supplementary Table S2 and Supplementary File S2) could be confirmed. Moreover, all mapped *T. pseudonana* subunits (PetA, PetB, PetC and PetD) of the cytochrome *b*<sub>6</sub>f complex, and six out of eight plastid ATP synthase subunits were identified in the PF. With respect to the photosynthetic electron transport, two isoforms (Thaps3a\_4586 and Thaps3a\_4914) of the ferredoxin-NADP<sup>+</sup> reductase (FNR/PetH), but neither ferredoxin (Fd/PetF) nor cytochrome *c*<sub>6</sub> (cyt *c*<sub>6</sub>/PetI) were found. Instead, an uncharacterized ferredoxin protein containing a 2Fe-2S Rieske domain (Thaps3a\_29842) was detected.

One of the protein groups that showed a remarkably high protein coverage was the light harvesting complex protein (LHC) family. This group is divided into three major subgroups: the red alga-like Lhcr, predominantly comprising PSI-specific antennae; Lhcf, that serve primarily as PSII antennae, and Lhcx proteins, mainly playing a role in energy dissipation via NPQ (Lepetit et al. 2012, Büchel 2015). We identified 35 Lhc and Lhc-like proteins (33 within the PF and 2 exclusively in MF/CL), and compared them to existing proteome studies performed on diatoms (Fig. 9). Lhcr proteins detected here (Fig. 9A) are almost identical to the ones reported in proteomes published by Grouneva and colleagues (Grouneva et al.

2011, Grouneva et al. 2016). The only PSI-specific antennae protein that was solely detected in the Grouneva et al. (2016) study is the Lhcr5. A study published by Dong et al. (2016) suggested Lhcr5 to be involved in dissipation of heat through binding of diatoxanthin (Ddt) after it showed increased expression upon 10 h of high light (HL). This would agree with the absence of Lhcr5 in the Grouneva et al. (2011) data and the study presented here, as both were performed on low light cultured cells, eventually leading to expression levels below the detection limit of LC-ESI-MS/MS. A similar explanation seems to be valid for Lhcx-class proteins 4 and 6 that were also hypothesized to act as photoprotectors that are upregulated during HL-conditions (Zhu and Green 2010, Dong et al. 2016). With respect to Lhc proteins that could not be attributed to one of the three major classes, therefore termed as 'unclassified Lhc variants', it strikes that most proteins were shared exclusively between the Grouneva et al. (2016) and our study. Besides the high comparability of the two studies, we could accessorially report the detection of three FCP (FCP1, FCP2 and FCP-like 11556) and two Lhc-like (25040 and 25745) proteins that have not been found in any of the studies compared here.

### Particular features of diatom metabolism

**Mitochondrial glycolysis.** Diatoms feature special metabolic traits that are not present in other photosynthetic eukaryotes. Glycolysis, for instance, the major energy source of eukaryotic catabolism, is partially performed in the mitochondria of stramenopiles (Río Bártulos et al. 2018), instead of being restricted to the cytosol as in most eukaryotes. A search in our mitochondrial proteome returned all enzymes required to perform the second half of glycolysis: two isoforms of the triosephosphate isomerase/glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (TPI: GAPDH), the phosphoglycerate kinase (PGK), the phosphoglycerate mutase (PGM), an enolase (ENO) and the pyruvate kinase (PYK). This strengthens the previously proposed localization of parts of the glycolysis to the mitochondria (Kroth et al. 2008), which recently was verified experimentally in *P. tricornutum* by Río Bártulos et al. (2018).

**Entner–Doudoroff pathway.** The Entner–Doudoroff pathway (EDP) is an ancient alternative route to the classical glycolytic reactions that is usually restricted to prokaryotes, but also found in mitochondria of diatoms (Fabris et al. 2012). It catalyzes the metabolic breakdown of glucose to pyruvate via the two enzymes 6-phosphogluconate dehydratase (EDD) and 2-keto-3-deoxyphosphogluconate aldolase (EDA) after an intermediary conversion step via 6-phosphogluconate (6PG). Both enzymes possess coding genes in the pennate and centric diatoms *P. tricornutum* and *T. pseudonana* (Kroth et al. 2008, Fabris et al. 2012). We detected protein signatures of both enzymes required to operate a functional EDP in our proteomic data, with EDA (Thaps3a\_25880) being expressed in both the MF and the Tig19 cell lysate, while EDD (Thaps3a\_27997) was solely evident in the Tig19 lysate, implying that the EDP might indeed be active in the diatom metabolism.

**Carbon concentrating mechanism.** The operation of a carbon concentrating mechanism (CCM) actively increases the accessibility of CO<sub>2</sub> or bicarbonate required for photosynthetic carbon fixation (Matsuda et al. 2011). In the model diatoms *T. pseudonana* and *P. tricornutum*, the presence of biochemical C<sub>4</sub> mechanism is still under discussion (Clement et al. 2016; Ewe et al. 2018), but a biophysical carbon concentrating mechanism (CCM) is present and apparently also takes place in the mitochondria (Clement et al. 2016). We found isoforms of the major key players for a putative C<sub>4</sub> metabolism, the mitochondrial phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase (PEPC2) and mitochondrial phosphoenolcarboxykinase 1 (PEPCK1) as well as three carbonic anhydrases  $\gamma$ CA4,  $\zeta$ CA1 and  $\delta$ CA1. Moreover, we detected the malate dehydrogenase 1 (MDH1) and an oxoglutarate/malate translocator.

**Import of nucleotides, amino acids and metabolites.** In contrast to primary plastids of higher plants, complex plastids of diatoms lack a plastidic nucleotide biosynthesis pathway (Armbrust et al. 2004, Ast et al. 2009) and the oxidative pentose-phosphate pathway (Michels et al. 2005) to provide nucleotide precursors, thus relying on the import of nucleotides from the cytosol. Specifically adapted nucleotide import systems are therefore indispensable for maintaining the chloroplasts' nucleotide and energy metabolism. The PF proteome confirmed the presence of the ADP/ATP carrier proteins NTT1 and NTT3 (Ast et al. 2009) and the adenine nucleotide translocator ATP/ADP translocase ANT1. Both NTTs are most likely localized in the inner membranes and feature a broad substrate specificity towards other nucleotides beside ADP/ATP (Ast et al. 2009), suggesting a minor relevance for other metabolic tasks apart from the energy maintenance. The ANT1 protein, moreover, might be an AXER (ATP/ADP exchanger in the ER membrane) orthologue, recently described by Klein et al. (2018), that was shown to be involved in maintaining energy shuttling across the chloroplast membranes.

The triose phosphate translocators Tpt1—recently reported to be integrated in the (c)ER membrane (Moog et al. 2015)—and Tpt8—whose localization in the (c)ER membrane or the periplastidal membrane is still discussed controversially (Moog et al. 2015)—were also identified. Besides, we obtained evidence for the presence of unspecific amino acid (Thaps3a\_23142 and Thaps3a\_25887) and protein (SecA, SecY, Tic110 and Tic22-like) transport in the PF, suggesting that the inner and outer plastidic envelopes show at least partial preservation in our isolates.

**Thioredoxins and redox signaling.** Redox regulation via thioredoxins is a ubiquitous feature present in all sorts of cellular processes, but is of major importance for the regulation of photosynthesis in higher plants (Gelhaye et al. 2004, Meyer et al. 2005). To which extent these small redox proteins contribute to the regulation of diatom photosynthesis is still contentious (Weber et al. 2009). We detected six novel uncharacterized proteins with thioredoxin domains (Supplementary Table S3; see Thioredoxin and Related Proteins), sharing approximately 40–90% of sequence similarity to known thioredoxins and one additional thioredoxin-reductase. All of the mentioned proteins are not predicted to be

plastid targeted and were interestingly only disclosed in the Tig19 cell lysate fraction and neither in the PF nor in the MF, arguing for a redox regulatory role rather in the cytosol or the nucleus instead of serving in regulation of photosynthesis.

## Concluding remarks and the role of GreenCut proteins

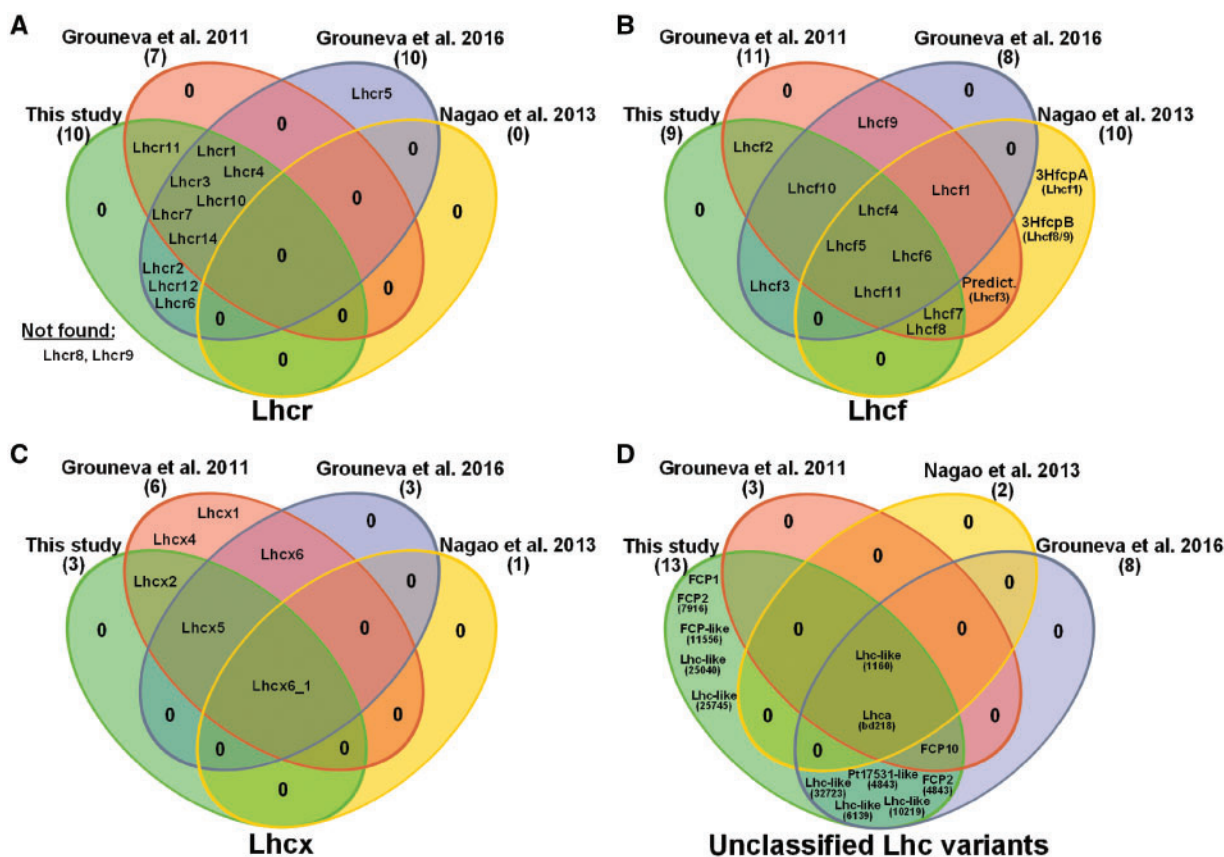
Our work provides a novel tool to investigate mitochondrial respiration and photosynthesis of diatoms *in organello*, which will help us to broaden our understanding of diatom metabolism and its compartmentalization. Studies that may profit from the described methodology might address questions concerning organelle-specific metabolite uptake and release, pigment composition, post-transcriptional modifications or investigation of organellar DNA and gene regulation. Also, comparative proteomics, metabolomics, transcriptomics or lipidomics on organelles derived from cultures grown with varying nutrition or illumination are imaginable and thus might help us to shed further light on organellar fate and functionality in diatoms.

Moreover, we would like to raise the idea that organelle proteomes provided here might be used to improve meta-analyses that benefit from the report of experimental data sets. One example for a large meta-study is the so-called 'GreenCut proteins' analysis (Merchant et al. 2007, Karpowicz et al. 2011). The 'GreenCut' includes all *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* plastid proteins that are nucleus-encoded and only found in photosynthetic organism. With respect to the PF isolated here, we report 30 proteins (see Supplementary Table S2; indicated by colors) that have been reported as 'GreenCut proteins' (Merchant et al. 2007, Karpowicz et al. 2011). Within these 30 proteins, 15 were previously attributed to the subgroup termed 'ViridiCut' (proteins that are exclusively found in the green lineage of plantae, but are not found in red algae or diatom). Therefore, these proteins should be re-assigned to the 'DiatomCut' (Merchant et al. 2007, Karpowicz et al. 2011), proteins that are only found in the green lineage and at least one diatom. As some of these proteins might be essential for photosynthetic organisms and the function of some is still unknown, future work should concentrate on revealing their role.

## Materials and Methods

### Cloning and generation of the Tig19 mutant line

The *T. pseudonana* mutant line Tig19 (Schober et al. 2018) expresses GFP fused to the pre-sequence of mitochondrial triosephosphate isomerase/glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (preTPI-GAPDH::GFP) and thus promotes fluorescence microscopic tracking of mitochondria during organelle isolation. Initial parts of the TPI-GAPDH pre-sequence (short: TIG; JGI Protein ID: 28239) were amplified from *T. pseudonana* cDNA using the TripleMaster PCR System (Eppendorf; Hamburg, Germany) with the oligonucleotides TIG28239\_fw: TAG GTACCAAGATGTTATCAAACACTG and TIG28239\_rev: AAGGTACCGTTGC ATTTCCAGTTTC. The resulting 142 bp PCR fragment was subcloned into the pGEM-T cloning Vector (#A1360, Promega; Mannheim, Germany). Digestion of both flanking KpnI restriction sites allowed cloning into the *T. pseudonana* GFP expression vector pTpFcpGFP Vector (Poulsen et al. 2006). Correct insertion was verified by Sanger sequencing (GATC; Konstanz, Germany) and resulting vector was co-transformed together with the selection plasmid pTfcpNAT



**Fig. 9** Comparison of Lhc proteins identified in recent proteome studies. *Lhcr* (A), *Lhcf* (B), *Lhcx* (C) and unclassified Lhc variants (D) identified in this study compared to recent proteome studies published by Grouneva et al. (2016), Grouneva et al. (2011) and Nagao et al. (2013). Intersections illustrate Lhc proteins that were identified in all studies of the respective intersection-forming ovals.

into *T. pseudonana* wild type strain CCMP 1335 [National Center for Marine Algae and Microbiota (NCMA); Maine, USA] as described by Poulsen et al. (2006). Cell line number 19 (TIG19) was used for further experiments.

### Cell culture

Cells were grown axenically in modified F/2 growth medium according to Guillard and Lorenzen (but with only half of the original sea salt content, enriched with 250  $\mu\text{M}$   $\text{NaSiO}_3 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and 5  $\mu\text{M}$   $\text{H}_2\text{SeO}_3$ ) (Guillard and Lorenzen 1972). Four liters of batch-cultures were inoculated sterile from pre-culture and kept under standard atmospheric pressure at 20°C. During the whole cultivation period, cells were aerated with filtered ambient air and illuminated with constant light intensities of 40  $\mu\text{E m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$  (16 h light-8 h dark cycle).

### Preparation of crude organelle suspensions

Utilized preparation media are indicated in Table 1. Their composition was modified based on the recipes employed by Wittpoth et al. (1998). All following steps were performed at 4°C while organelles were kept on ice and in the dark wherever applicable. Four liters of early-stationary *T. pseudonana* TIG19 culture was harvested at cell densities between  $5\text{--}7 \times 10^6$  cells/ml and a spherical volume diameter of 4.7–5.3  $\mu\text{m}$  (see Supplementary Fig. S1) determined using a Coulter Counter (Beckman Coulter; Krefeld, Germany, as described by Rottberger et al. 2013). Cells were resuspended in 9 ml isolation buffer (IB; Table 1) and resulting cell suspension was loaded to a pre-chilled French Press mini cell. Cell rupture at 90 MPa was performed with an SLM Aminco cell press (Laurier Research Instruments; ON, Canada) by releasing the fragmented cells gently to avoid shear forces. The homogenate was diluted and cautiously inverted for 30 s in a total volume of approximately 20 ml of washing buffer (WB; Table 1). Cells and cell debris were sedimented by centrifugation using a swing-out bucket rotor TS-5.1-500 (Beckman Coulter; Krefeld,

Germany) at 300 $\times g$  for 10 min. To increase organelle yield, sedimented cells and cell debris were again resuspended in 9 ml of WB and processed with the French Press followed by centrifugation at 300 $\times g$  for 10 min. This step was typically repeated 3 times during mitochondria isolation and once when plastids were isolated. Resulting supernatants (=crude organelle suspensions) containing mostly plastids and mitochondria of varying qualities were collected, pooled and kept in the dark on ice.

### Isolation of mitochondria

Starting from a pooled organelle extract (see Fig. 1), suspensions were centrifuged with the swing-out bucket rotor TS-5.1-500 (Beckman Coulter) at 500 $\times g$ , 4°C for 10 min to remove residual cells and cell debris with the pellet. The supernatant was carefully transferred to two SS34 centrifuge tubes and mitochondria were pelleted at 12,000 $\times g$ , 4°C for 10 min. Each pellet was gently resuspended in 2–4 ml WB (see Table 1) before being pooled to a single SS34 centrifuge tube. The organelle extract was topped up to approximately 30 ml with WB and centrifugation at 500 $\times g$  with a Sorvall RC6Plus centrifuge (Thermo Fisher Scientific; Karlsruhe, Germany) using the corresponding SS34 fixed-angle rotor. The supernatant was carefully collected, again centrifuged at 12,000 $\times g$ , and the pellet was resuspended in 2–4 ml of WB using a fine paintbrush. A maximum of 1–2 ml of organelle suspension was loaded on top of two continuous Percoll gradients each. Both gradients have been adjusted preliminarily by centrifugation of Mitochondria Percoll Solution (MPS; Table 1) for 40 min at 40,000 $\times g$ , 4°C in a Sorvall RC6Plus (Thermo Fisher Scientific) using rotor SS34 without using the rotor break. The loaded gradients were centrifuged for 30 min at 40,000 $\times g$ , 4°C (without using the rotor break) (see Fig. 3). The separated bands were evaluated by fluorescence microscopy and mitochondria of highest purity were extracted. Percoll was removed by diluting with 30 ml reaction buffer (RB; Table 1) followed by centrifugation at 12,000 $\times g$ , 4°C

for 10 min. The supernatant was discarded and the pellet was again dissolved carefully with a fine paint-brush in 2–4 ml of RB.

## Isolation of plastids

Pooled organelle extract (see Fig. 1) was diluted with WB (see Table 1) in a total volume of approximately 30 ml and plastids were collected by centrifugation at 6,000×g and 4°C for 10 min with a Sorvall RC6Plus centrifuge (Thermo Fisher Scientific). The supernatant was discarded and the pellet was dissolved gently in 2–4 ml WB using a fine paint-brush. A maximum of 1–2 ml organelle suspension was loaded to layered Percoll density gradients, consisting of 1 ml 10%, 5 ml 20% and 3 ml 30% (from top to bottom) Plastid Percoll Solution (PPS; Table 1). Separation of organelles by density centrifugation was performed in an Optima LE-80K Ultra Centrifuge (Beckman Coulter) with corresponding SW40Ti rotor at 14,400×g and 4°C for 30 min. The band formed at the boundary of the 20% and 30% phase (see Fig. 3), comprising the plastids with highest quality, was extracted without dispersing the 30% phase. The PF was washed through dilution in 30 ml WB and subsequently centrifuged at 4,000×g, 4°C for 10 min. The supernatant was discarded and the pellet containing the final PF was dissolved carefully with a fine paint-brush in 2–4 ml of RB (see Table 1).

## Preparation of cell- and organelle lysates for immunoblotting and mass spectrometry

Cell- or plastid material was pelleted at 10,000×g, 4°C for 10 min and resuspended in ice-cold 75 mM Tris-HCl; pH 7.6 supplemented with double concentrated Protease-Inhibitor (cOmplete EDTA-free, Roche Applied Science; Penzberg, Germany). Glass beads with three different diameters (0.1–0.11 mm, 0.25–0.3 mm and 1 mm) were added to the suspension to perform mechanical disruption by applying 6 cycles à 30 s at power setting 6.5 with a reciprocating Savant FastPrep FP120 cell disruptor (MP Biomedicals; CA, USA). Homogenate was kept on ice for 5 min in between every cycle. After homogenization, 0.5% v/v SDS was added to each samples followed by incubation on ice for 5 min. If desired, membrane fraction was separated by two subsequent 30 min centrifugation steps at 18,000×g at 4°C.

## Determination of chlorophyll *a* content

Chlorophyll *a* (Chl *a*) content of either cells or isolated plastids was carried out spectrophotometrically with an Ultrospec 2100 Pro (GE healthcare, Munich, Germany) according to the method described by Jeffrey and Humphrey (1975).

## Determination of protein content

Protein yields were determined colorimetrically according to the Bradford protein assay kit (catalog #B6916, Sigma Aldrich; Munich, Germany, Bradford 1976, Compton and Jones 1985).

## Optical spectrometry

Ambient temperature absorption spectra of dark acclimated plastids/cells were determined in 1 ml WB (see Table 1) using an Ultrospec 8000 Spectrophotometer (GE healthcare). Relative absorbance was recorded at wavelength ranging from 350 to 750 nm with a bandwidth set to 1 nm. Fluorescence emission spectra were measured with a LS50B luminescence/fluorescence spectrophotometer using an excitation wavelength of 440 nm (Perkin Elmer; Hamburg, Germany). Plastids/cells corresponding to 20 µg Chl *a* were diluted in a total volume of 1 ml WB (see Table 1). Scan speed was kept at constant 150 nm/min.

## Fluorescence and light microscopy

Plastids and mitochondria isolation was monitored by fluorescence and light microscopy during the whole isolation process. Particular attention was paid to the French Press eluates and the Percoll gradient fractions. Microscopy was performed with a BX51 epifluorescence microscope (Olympus; Tokyo, Japan) at excitation and emission wavelengths (for GFP) of 395 nm and 509 nm, respectively. Chlorophyll autofluorescence was observed at wavelengths of 465 nm (excitation) and 673 nm (emission). Photos were taken with an AxioCam MRm

digital camera system and Axio Vision 40' V.4.6.3.0 Documentation software (Carl Zeiss; Jena, Germany). Three-dimensional models were reconstructed as described in Río Bártulos et al. (2018) from pictures taken with a confocal laser scanning microscope (cLSM-510META, Carl Zeiss) using a Plan-Neofluar 40x/1.3 Oil DIC objective.

## Transmission electron microscopy

Three-staged fixation of samples was carried out by first mixing the samples dissolved in isolation buffer with double-concentrated fixation buffer (4% glutardialdehyde, 200 mM sodium cacodylate, 20 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub> and 20 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, buffered in 50 mM HEPES; pH 7) at the ratio of 1:1. After incubation of samples for 15 min on ice, fixation was completed by replacing the buffer twice with 1× fixation buffer. Each step was followed by a subsequent incubation step of 15 min on ice. Samples were then washed 3 times for 10 min in cacodylate buffer (100 mM sodium cacodylate, 10 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub> and 10 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, buffered in 50 mM HEPES; pH 7). Staining of the biological material was performed in 1% osmium tetroxide (OsO<sub>4</sub>) and cacodylate buffer for 1 h, while permanently keeping the samples in the dark, on ice. To remove excessive osmium tetroxide, samples were again washed 3 × 15 min in cacodylate buffer. Dehydration of samples was achieved by passage through a consecutive ethanol series of ice-cold 15% (30 min), 30% (30 min), 50% (overnight), 70% (1 h), 90% (1 h), 96% (2 × 30 min) and absolute ethanol (2 × 30 min). Preliminary embedding took place overnight at 4°C in a solution composed of Spurr's resin (Spurr 1969) and absolute ethanol, mixed at the ratio of 1:1. Final embedding was performed in pure Spurr's resin by incubating samples 3 times for 2 h at 4°C. Polymerization was achieved by incubation of samples at 65°C for 3 d. Polymerized blocks were cut in thin sections of about 70–75 µm with a Leica Ultracut R ultramicrotome (Leica; Solms, Germany). In the following, thin sections were applied to copper grids and contrasted with 2% uranyl acetate and 0.4% lead citrate. Microscopic analysis was carried out with a TEM 912 Omega (Carl Zeiss). The pictures were taken with a CCD-sensor camera (TRS, 2,048 × 2,048 for Zeiss EM 906–922, Carl Zeiss).

## Oxygen measurements

Oxygen evolution was measured with the Clark-type (Clark et al. 1953) oxygen-electrode system Chlorolab 2 (Hansatech Instruments Ltd; Norfolk, UK). Prior to every experiment, the luminous source was adjusted, and the oxygen electrode was calibrated under consideration of daily atmospheric pressure. Mitochondrial respiration (mitochondria fraction) was measured in complete darkness in order to avoid light-driven oxygen production performed by residual thylakoidal contaminants. Therefore, 0.3–0.5 ml of mitochondria suspension (typically corresponding to 0.1–0.15 mg/ml protein in the inhibition experiments; and 0.374 mg/ml protein for the RCR measurements) were measured in 1 ml RB (see Table 1) supplemented with 5 mM dipotassium phosphate (K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>) and 1 mM glutathione. Light-dependent oxygen evolution (PF) was determined in the same buffer, but complemented with 40 mM of the artificial electron-acceptor potassium ferricyanide (K<sub>3</sub>[Fe(CN)<sub>6</sub>]). Therefore, plastid material corresponding to 35 µg Chl *a* (diluted in RB) was treated by 2 min of dark adaptation, before being illuminated with 200 µE m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>. The temperature was kept at constant 20°C during each measurement. If not stated otherwise, final concentrations of substrates and inhibitors applied were: 5 mM malate, 5 mM succinate, 0.3 mM ADP, 1 mM ascorbate, 0.1 mM TMPD, 0.2 µM Antimycin A, 0.1 µM Oligomycin A, 1 µM Rotenone and 0.1 mM SHAM.

## O-J-I-P fluorescence transients

The O-J-I-P fluorescence transient measuring routine describes the stepwise increase in fluorescence during electron transport rate saturation upon application of a saturation multi turnover pulse, from the minimum fluorescence  $F_0$  (O) via the inflection points J and I towards the maximum fluorescence  $F_m$  (P), and is characteristic for the reduction of the PSII electron acceptor site components (Neubauer and Schreiber 1987, Schreiber and Neubauer 1987, Strasser and Srivastava 1995). O-J-I-P transients were measured using an AquaPen AP-100 (Photon Systems Instruments; Drasov, Czech Republic). Therefore, cells or isolated plastids, diluted in 1 ml RB to contain a final Chl *a* concentration of 1 µg/ml (see Table 1), were dark adapted for 10 min prior every experiment. When plastids were measured, 5 mM of dipotassium phosphate was added to the RB. The saturating pulse at 450 ± 10 nm used to induce the fluorescence transients had an intensity of 1,500 µE m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>.

**Table 1** Buffers

|                                      | Isolation buffer (IB) | Washing buffer (WB) | Reaction buffer (RB) | Mitochondria percoll solution (MPS) | Plastid percoll solution (PPS) |         |         |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|---------|
|                                      |                       |                     |                      |                                     | (10%)                          | (20%)   | (30%)   |
| Sorbitol (M)                         | 0.5                   | 0.5                 | 0.5                  | 0.5                                 | 0.5                            | 0.5     | 0.5     |
| HEPES-KOH; pH8 (mM)                  | 50                    | 30                  | 30                   | 30                                  | 30                             | 30      | 30      |
| EDTA (mM)                            | 6                     | 6                   | 6                    | 6                                   | 6                              | 6       | 6       |
| MgCl <sub>2</sub> (mM)               | 5                     | 5                   | 5                    | 5                                   | 5                              | 5       | 5       |
| KCl (mM)                             | 10                    | 10                  | 10                   | 10                                  | 10                             | 10      | 10      |
| MnCl <sub>2</sub> (mM)               | 1                     | 1                   | 1                    | 1                                   | 1                              | 1       | 1       |
| PVP 40 (K30) (% w/v)                 | 1                     | 1                   |                      | 0.1                                 | 0.1                            | 0.1     | 0.1     |
| Adjust pH                            | 7.2–7.5               | 7.2–7.5             | 7.2–7.5              | 7.2–7.5                             | 7.2–7.5                        | 7.2–7.5 | 7.2–7.5 |
| Adjust osmolality (mOsm/kg)          | 730–750               | 730–750             | 730–750              | 930–990                             | 830                            | 935     | 1055    |
| Add fresh                            |                       |                     |                      |                                     |                                |         |         |
| BSA; defatted (% w/v)                | 0.5                   | 0.5                 |                      |                                     |                                |         |         |
| L-Cysteine (% w/v)                   | 0.1                   | 0.1                 |                      |                                     |                                |         |         |
| K <sub>2</sub> HPO <sub>4</sub> (mM) |                       |                     | 5                    |                                     |                                |         |         |
| Glutathione (mM)                     |                       |                     | 1                    |                                     |                                |         |         |
| Percoll (% v/v)                      |                       |                     |                      | 28                                  | 10                             | 20      | 30      |

## SDS-PAGE and immunoblotting

Proteins were separated on 12% SDS-polyacrylamide gels (Fling and Gregerson 1986) by following the method described by Laemmli (1970). Gels were stained with the Coomassie-based dye Instant Blue (Expediton; Heidelberg, Germany). Proteins were transferred to a 0.1 µm nitrocellulose membrane (Amersham Protran, GE Healthcare) using a 'semi-dry' Trans-Blot Turbo system (Bio-Rad Laboratories; CA, USA). After a successful blotting control with 0.5% Ponceau S and 1% acetic acid for 1 min, membranes were blocked for 1 h in Roti Block (Carl Roth; Karlsruhe, Germany) at room temperature (RT). Blocked membranes were washed twice for 5 min (RT) in TN buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl pH 8, 150 mM NaCl). Thereafter, simultaneous 2 h incubation steps with three commercial antibodies were performed at RT. Therefore, anti-GFP (#A6455 Thermo Fisher Scientific), anti-PsbA (#AS05 084 Agrisera; Vännas, Sweden) and anti-RbcL (#AS03 037 Agrisera) antibodies were diluted 1:3,000, 1:10,000 and 1:2,500, respectively, in 10 ml Roti Block. Membranes were washed twice for 5 min in TN buffer before an analogous incubation step for 1 h with the anti-rabbit-HRP secondary antibody (#AS09 602; Agrisera) diluted 1:10,000 in Roti Block was performed. The membrane was again washed twice for 5 min in TN buffer before it was covered with Roti-Lumin plus (Carl Roth). Luminescence was detected using an Odyssey Imaging system (Li-Cor, Biotechnology; Bad Homburg, Germany).

## Mass spectrometry and *in silico* data evaluation

Proteins were separated and stained as described above. Mitochondria samples were analyzed as whole lanes, while plastid and cell samples were cut into four separate gel slices (0–25 kDa, 25–35 kDa, 35–55 kDa, 55–rest) that were measured individually. Proteins samples were measured with an LTQ Orbitrap Discovery mass spectrometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific) by LC-ESI-MS/MS at the proteomics service facility (University of Konstanz).

## Data analyses

A workflow of the annotation procedure is illustrated in Supplementary Fig. S5. Mass spectrometric raw data were matched against the optimized, de-replicated *T. pseudonana* (Thaps) protein catalog (Supplementary Table S4) based on the United States Department of Energy Joint Genome Institute (JGI; <https://jgi.doe.gov/>) sequencing project for *T. pseudonana* v3.0 (Armbrust et al. 2004) compiled by Gruber et al. (2015). For this study, the supplementary file tpj12734-sup-0013-datasets1\_tmp.fas of Gruber et al. (2015) consisting of 'Thaps3a\_ID' (assembly) and 'Thaps3u\_ID' (unmapped sequences) was modified in the following way: (i) transgenes only present in the mutant line Tig19 were included into the protein

catalog [marked 'Thapst\_ID', these were nourseothricin acetyltransferase (GenBank: AAC60439.1) and enhanced green fluorescent protein (GenBank: AAB02576.1)]; (ii) mitochondria-encoded proteins were appended to the file (marked 'Thapsm\_ID', NCBI Reference Sequence: NC\_007405.1, Oudot-Le Secq and Green 2011); (iii) plastid-encoded proteins were appended to the file (marked 'Thapsp\_ID', GenBank: EF067921.1, Oudot-Le Secq et al. 2007); (iv) protein IDs that referred to gene models with identical coding sequence and gene coordinates were manually collapsed to one ID (the first of the ones listed) per sequence. Protein models that encoded identical proteins on different genomes (e.g. nuclear and plastid) were kept as separate protein catalog entries, but were run with double-accessions during mass spectrometry data evaluation. The classification of proteins into metabolic pathway-groups was carried out based on annotations provided by JGI (Grigoriev et al. 2012, Nordberg et al. 2014) and National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI; <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>). KEGG ontology (KO) tags designation was performed with 'GhostKOALA' (Kanehisa et al. 2016b), while mapping of KEGG pathways against the *T. pseudonana* reference maps (Three-letter KEGG organism code: tps) was carried out with 'KEGG Mapper – Search Pathway' (Kanehisa and Goto 2000; Kanehisa et al. 2016a, Kanehisa et al. 2017). Orthologues of 'GreenCut proteins' were identified with 'pblast' (Altschul et al. 1990) by blasting proteins detected within the PF against the NCBI *C. reinhardtii* (taxid: 3055) protein catalog. Hits that generated blast scores of at least 80 were reviewed manually and marked as 'GreenCut protein' if listed in the *C. reinhardtii* 'GreenCut2 resource' protein list published by Karpowicz et al. (2011). Plastid-targeting predictions were performed using the ASAFind pipeline as described in Gruber et al. (2015). Proteins that are potentially targeted to the mitochondria, the secretory or other pathways were predicted using the TargetP 1.1 with default parameters (Emanuelsson et al. 2007) following the strategies described in Gruber and Kroth (2014) and Gruber and Kroth (2017).

## Supplementary Data

Supplementary data are available at PCP online.

## Funding

The Graduate School Chemical Biology (KoRS-CB) to A.F.S.; the University of Konstanz; the German Research Foundation DFG [Grants no. LE 3358/3–1 to B.L., KR 1661/6–1 to P.G.K.]; the Baden-Württemberg Elite program and the Zukunftskolleg (to

B.L.); as well as Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation [Grant GBMF 4966 'DiaEdit' to C.R.B. and P.G.K.].

## Acknowledgments

We thank Doris Ballert for performing biolistic bombardment and for routine cell cultivation, Dr. Joachim Hentschel, Dr. Michael Laumann, Dr. Paavo Bergman and Lauretta Nejedli of the Electron Microscopy Centre (EMC) as well as the Bioimaging Centre (BIC) of the University of Konstanz for sample preparation and kind assistance during transmission electron and confocal fluorescence microscopy. Further we grateful acknowledge Dr. Andreas Marquardt from the University of Konstanz Proteomics Centre (PC) for the mass spectrometric analysis of organelle and cell fractions.

## Disclosures

The authors have no conflicts of interests to declare.

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