



## Corrigendum to "Influence of Histidine-198 of the D1 subunit on the properties of the primary electron donor, P<sub>680</sub>, of photosystem II in *Thermosynechococcus elongatus*"



Miwa Sugiura<sup>a,\*</sup>, Yui Ozaki<sup>a</sup>, Fabrice Rappaport<sup>b,1</sup>, Alain Bousiac<sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Proteo-Science Research Center, Ehime University, Bunkyo-cho, Matsuyama, Ehime 790-8577, Japan

<sup>b</sup> Institut de Biologie Physico-Chimique, UMR 7141 CNRS and Université Pierre et Marie Curie, 13 rue Pierre et Marie Curie, 75005 Paris, France

<sup>c</sup> iBiTec-S, SB2SM, CNRS UMR 9198, CEA Saclay, 91191 Gif-sur-Yvette, France

### ARTICLE INFO

#### Article history:

Received 29 August 2016

Received in revised form 26 September 2016

Accepted 28 September 2016

Available online 2 October 2016

#### Keywords:

Photosystem II

P<sub>680</sub>

Electron transfer

Chlorophyll axial ligand

Site-directed mutagenesis

*Thermosynechococcus elongatus*

### ABSTRACT

Two mutants, D1-H198Q and D1-H198A, have been previously constructed in *Thermosynechococcus elongatus* with the aim at modifying the redox potential of the P<sub>680</sub><sup>+</sup>/P<sub>680</sub> couple by changing the axial ligand of P<sub>D1</sub>, one of the two chlorophylls of the Photosystem II primary electron donor [Sugiura et al., Biochim. Biophys. Acta 1777 (2008) 331–342]. However, after the publication of this work it was pointed out to us by Dr. Eberhard Schlodder (Technische Universität Berlin) that in both mutants the pheophytin band shift which is observed upon the reduction of Q<sub>A</sub> was centered at 544 nm instead of 547 nm, clearly showing that the D1 protein corresponded to P<sub>SbA1</sub> whereas the mutants were supposedly constructed in the *psbA<sub>3</sub>* gene so that the conclusions in our previous paper were wrong. O<sub>2</sub> evolving mutants have been therefore reconstructed and their analyze shows that they are now correct mutants which are suitable for further studies. Indeed, the D1-H198Q mutation downshifted by ≈ 3 nm the P<sub>680</sub><sup>+</sup>/P<sub>680</sub> difference absorption spectrum in the Soret region and increased the redox potential of the P<sub>680</sub><sup>+</sup>/P<sub>680</sub> couple and the D1-H198A mutation decreased the redox potential of the P<sub>680</sub><sup>+</sup>/P<sub>680</sub> couple all these effects being comparable to those which were observed in *Synechocystis* sp. PCC 6803 [Diner et al., Biochemistry 40 (2001) 9265–9281 and Merry et al. Biochemistry 37 (1998) 17,439–17,447]. We apologize for having presented wrong data and wrong conclusions in our earlier publication.

© 2016 Elsevier B.V. All rights reserved.

### 1. Introduction

The light-driven oxidation of water in Photosystem II (PSII) is a key step in photosynthesis, the process that is the main input of energy into biology and is thus responsible not only for the production of biomass including food, fibre and fuels (fossil and non-fossil) but also putting O<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere. PSII in cyanobacteria is made up of 17 membrane proteins and 3 extrinsic proteins. Altogether these 20 subunits bear 35 chlorophylls, 2 pheophytins (Phe), 2 hemes, 1 non-heme iron, 2 plastoquinones (Q<sub>A</sub> and Q<sub>B</sub>), a Mn<sub>4</sub>CaO<sub>5</sub> cluster, 2 Cl<sup>-</sup>, 12 carotenoids and 25 lipids [1,2].

**Abbreviations:** PSII, Photosystem II; Chl, chlorophyll; MES, 2-(*N*-morpholino) ethanesulfonic acid; P<sub>680</sub>, chlorophyll dimer acting as the second electron donor; Q<sub>A</sub>, primary quinone acceptor; Q<sub>B</sub>, secondary quinone acceptor; 43H, *T. elongatus* strain with a His-tag on the C terminus of CP43; WT\*3, cells containing only the *psbA<sub>3</sub>* gene; Phe<sub>D1</sub>, pheophytin; P<sub>D1</sub> and P<sub>D2</sub>, Chl monomer of P<sub>680</sub> on the D1 or D2 side, respectively; E<sub>m</sub>, redox potential versus SHE; TL, Thermoluminescence; DCMU, 3-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-1,1-dimethylurea; PPBQ, phenyl *p*-benzoquinone; DCBQ, 2,6-dichloro-1,4-benzoquinone; β-DM, *n*-dodecyl-β-maltoside; Cm, chloramphenicol; Gm, gentamycin; Sm, streptomycin; Sp, spectinomycin.

\* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: [miwa.sugiura@ehime-u.ac.jp](mailto:miwa.sugiura@ehime-u.ac.jp) (M. Sugiura).

<sup>1</sup> Deceased before the end of this work.

The excitation resulting from the absorption of a photon is transferred to the photochemical trap P<sub>680</sub>, which is composed of four chlorophyll *a* molecules, P<sub>D1</sub>/P<sub>D2</sub> and Chl<sub>D1</sub>/Chl<sub>D2</sub>, and two pheophytin *a* molecules, Phe<sub>D1</sub>/Phe<sub>D2</sub>. Charge separation then occurs. After some picoseconds the positive charge is mainly stabilized on P<sub>D1</sub> but this is often termed P<sub>680</sub><sup>+</sup>. P<sub>680</sub><sup>+</sup> then oxidizes Y<sub>Z</sub>, the Tyr161 of the D1 polypeptide, which in turn oxidizes the Mn<sub>4</sub>CaO<sub>5</sub> cluster. On the electron acceptor side, the electron is transferred to the primary quinone electron acceptor, Q<sub>A</sub>, and then to Q<sub>B</sub>, a two-electron and two-proton acceptor, e.g. [3–5] for reviews. The Mn<sub>4</sub>CaO<sub>5</sub> cluster accumulates oxidizing equivalents and acts as the catalytic site for water oxidation. The enzyme cycles sequentially through five redox states denoted S<sub>*n*</sub> where *n* stands for the number of stored oxidizing equivalents. Upon formation of the S<sub>4</sub> state two molecules of water are rapidly oxidized, the S<sub>0</sub> state is regenerated and O<sub>2</sub> is released, e.g. [5–9].

A consensus has emerged that primary charge separation in PSII occurs between Chl<sub>D1</sub> and Phe<sub>D1</sub>, e.g. [10,11]. In a few ps, the P<sub>680</sub><sup>+</sup>Phe<sub>D1</sub><sup>-</sup> state is then formed with 80% of the cation residing on P<sub>D1</sub> and 20% on P<sub>D2</sub> [3], see also [12] for similar calculated values based on the recent high-resolution PSII structure [1]. Then, the pheophytin anion transfers the electron to the quinone, Q<sub>A</sub>. P<sub>680</sub><sup>+</sup> is reduced by Tyr<sub>Z</sub> at position 161 of the D1 protein. Tyr<sub>Z</sub> is in turn reduced by the Mn<sub>4</sub>CaO<sub>5</sub> cluster.

An extraordinary feature of PSII amongst reaction centre complexes is the high redox potential of the  $P_{680}^+/P_{680}$  couple which is required to drive water oxidation, e.g. [13]. Possible reasons for the elevated value compared to Chl *a* *in vitro* include protein-pigment interactions, such as H-bonding, e.g. [12,14–16], pigment-cofactor interactions [17–21], a low dielectric environment [22] and puckering of pigment molecules [23].

The importance of the amino-acid ligand, D1-His198, on the functional properties of  $P_{D1}$  has been examined by mutagenesis in the mesophilic cyanobacterium *Synechocystis* sp. PCC 6803 [10]. Of the 11 mutants examined only 3 were found to be photoautotrophic: H198Q, H198A and H198C mutants. Interestingly, in the D1-H198A mutant the Mg atom was conserved despite the lack of any proteinaceous ligand. The likely substitution of the His ligand by a water molecule had nevertheless some influence on the  $P_{680}^+/P_{680}$  absorption difference spectrum which was down-shifted by  $\approx 2$  nm in the Soret region. This spectroscopic change was accompanied by a decrease of  $\approx 80$  mV in the estimated mid-point redox potential of the  $P_{680}^+/P_{680}$  couple. In the D1-H198Q mutant, in which glutamine could possibly act as a ligand to Mg, the  $P_{680}^+/P_{680}$  absorption difference spectrum was downshifted by 3–4 nm in the Soret region but the redox potential was almost unchanged in PSII core complexes. Thus, the correlation between the spectral changes and the redox properties of  $P_{680}$  were not obvious in these mutants [10]. This prompted us to study the role of the D1 axial ligand to  $P_{D1}$  in the thermophilic cyanobacterium *Thermosynechococcus elongatus* from which fully active PSII can be purified and importantly for which the PSII structure likely identical to that one of *T. vulcanus* is known [1,2]. To achieve this aim we have described the development of a mutagenesis system for the construction of D1 mutants in *T. elongatus* and the characterization of D1-H198Q and D1-H198A mutants by low-temperature fluorescence, thermoluminescence, oxygen-evolution, FTIR spectroscopy and time-resolved absorption spectroscopy has been reported [24].

The two mutants, D1-H198Q and D1-H198A, were constructed in a strain (WT\*3) in which the *psbA<sub>1</sub>* and *psbA<sub>2</sub>* gene were previously deleted so that this strain expressed only the *psbA<sub>3</sub>* gene. However, after the publication of this earlier work [24] and in order to investigate the Q<sub>y</sub> region of the  $P_{680}^+/P_{680}$  difference spectra, it was observed by Eberhard Schlodder from the Technische Universität in Berlin (Max Volmer Lab, Str 17 Juni 135, D-10623 Berlin, Germany) that in both mutants the pheophytin band shift which is observed upon the reduction of Q<sub>A</sub> was centered at 544 nm instead of 547 nm clearly showing that the D1 protein corresponded to PsbA1 whereas the mutants were constructed in the *psbA<sub>3</sub>* gene. The red shift by  $\approx 3.0$  nm of the C550 band-shift for the PsbA3–PSII sample, relative to the PsbA1–PSII sample, reflects the stronger hydrogen bond to the <sup>1</sup>13-keto of the Phe<sub>D1</sub> from the carboxylate group of E130 in PsbA3–PSII than from Q130 in PsbA1–PSII, as previously shown [25,26].

Since to determine at which step the contamination of the strains occurred in our earlier work was impossible we decided to reconstruct the two mutants and to redo the most important experiments with new control experiments in order to add a *corrigendum* on our previous conclusions instead of presenting a simple retraction.

## 2. Materials and methods

The site-directed mutant strains PsbA3/H198A and PsbA3/H198Q were reconstructed from *T. elongatus* 43-H cells [27]. First, site-directed mutations were done in the *psbA<sub>3</sub>* gene in the 43H strain, i.e. in the strain which contains the three *psbA* genes, by using a spectinomycin (Sp)/streptomycin (Sm) resistant cassette in a site-directed plasmids as described in [24]. Segregation of all the *psbA<sub>3</sub>* copies in genome was confirmed by digestion of *psbA<sub>3</sub>* with *Pvu* II after PCR amplification of the mutated region by using the P3 (5'-CCAGGCACTCACTGGAGTTGTGAACGGTT-3') and P4 primers (5'-CCACCGAACCGAACTGCCAACTACGGTT-3') (Fig. 1).

Then, both the H198A and H198Q mutants were knocked out by substitution of gentamycin (Gm) resistant cassette and chloramphenicol (Cm) resistant cassette for the *psbA<sub>1</sub>* - *psbA<sub>2</sub>* genes, respectively. Fully segregated *psbA<sub>1</sub>/psbA<sub>2</sub>*-deletion mutants were selected by growth on either Gm or Cm for H198A and H198Q, respectively. Their genotype were confirmed by PCR analysis using the P1 primer (5' GGGCACCCTC GAATGGTTGCTCGTGG-3') and P2 primer (5' ACCTCTAGTGATAA GTAGTGATAAGTCC-3') as shown in Fig. 1A and D. Plasmid DNA were introduced into *T. elongatus* cells by electroporation (BioRad gene pulser). The segregated cells were selected as single colonies on DTN agar plates containing 25  $\mu$ g Sp mL<sup>-1</sup>, 10  $\mu$ g Sm mL<sup>-1</sup>, 40  $\mu$ g Km mL<sup>-1</sup> and 5  $\mu$ g Cm mL<sup>-1</sup>.

Cells were cultivated and the PSII complexes were purified as previously described [28]. Absorption changes were measured with a lab-built spectrophotometer [29] where the absorption changes are sampled at discrete times by short analytical flashes. These analytical flashes were provided by an optical parametric oscillator pumped by a neodymium:yttrium-aluminum garnet laser (Nd:YAG, 355 nm), which produces monochromatic flashes (1 nm full-width at half-maximum) with a duration of 5 ns. Actinic flashes were provided by a second neodymium:yttrium-aluminum garnet laser (Nd:YAG, 532 nm), which pumped an optical parametric oscillator producing monochromatic saturating flashes at 695 nm (1 nm full-width at half-maximum) with a duration of 5 ns. The path length of the cuvette was 2.5 mm. PSII was used at 25  $\mu$ g of Chl mL<sup>-1</sup> in 1 M betaine, 15 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 15 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, and 40 mM MES (pH 6.5). PSII were dark-adapted for  $\approx 1$  h at room temperature (20–22 °C) before the addition of 0.1 mM phenyl *p*-benzoquinone (PPBQ) dissolved in dimethyl sulfoxide.

Thermoluminescence (TL) glow curves were measured with a lab-built apparatus [30,31]. PSII core complexes were diluted to 10  $\mu$ g Chl mL<sup>-1</sup> in 1 M betaine, 40 mM MES, 15 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 15 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>, pH 6.5 and then dark-adapted for 1 h at room temperature. Before loading the sample, 50  $\mu$ M DCMU were added to the dark-adapted samples. The samples were illuminated at 0 °C by using a saturating xenon flash. Immediately after the flash, the samples were heated at the constant heating rate indicated in the legend of the figure and TL emission was detected. It was checked that, after dilution, the 3 PSII samples had a similar OD at 673 nm.

The O<sub>2</sub> activity was measured at 25 °C by using a Clark type oxygen electrode (Hansatech) with continuous saturating white light through infrared and water filters. The activity was measured over a period of 1.5 min in the presence of 0.5 mM 2,6-dichloro-*p*-benzoquinone (dissolved in dimethyl sulfoxide) as an electron acceptor.

Cw-EPR spectra were recorded using a standard ER 4102 (Bruker) X-band resonator with a Bruker EleXsys 500 X-band spectrometer equipped with an Oxford Instruments cryostat (ESR 900). The PSII samples at 1.1 mg of Chl mL<sup>-1</sup> were loaded in the dark into quartz EPR tubes and further dark-adapted for 1 h at room temperature. Then, the samples were frozen in the dark to 198 K and then transferred to 77 K in liquid N<sub>2</sub>. Illuminations with visible light for approximately 5–10 s with a 800 W tungsten lamp filtered by water and infrared cut-off filters at temperatures close to 200 K were done in a non-silvered dewar in ethanol cooled down with dry ice. No artificial electron acceptors were added to probe the redox state of the PSII electron acceptor side. Prior to the measurements all the samples were degassed at 198 K.

## 3. Results and discussion

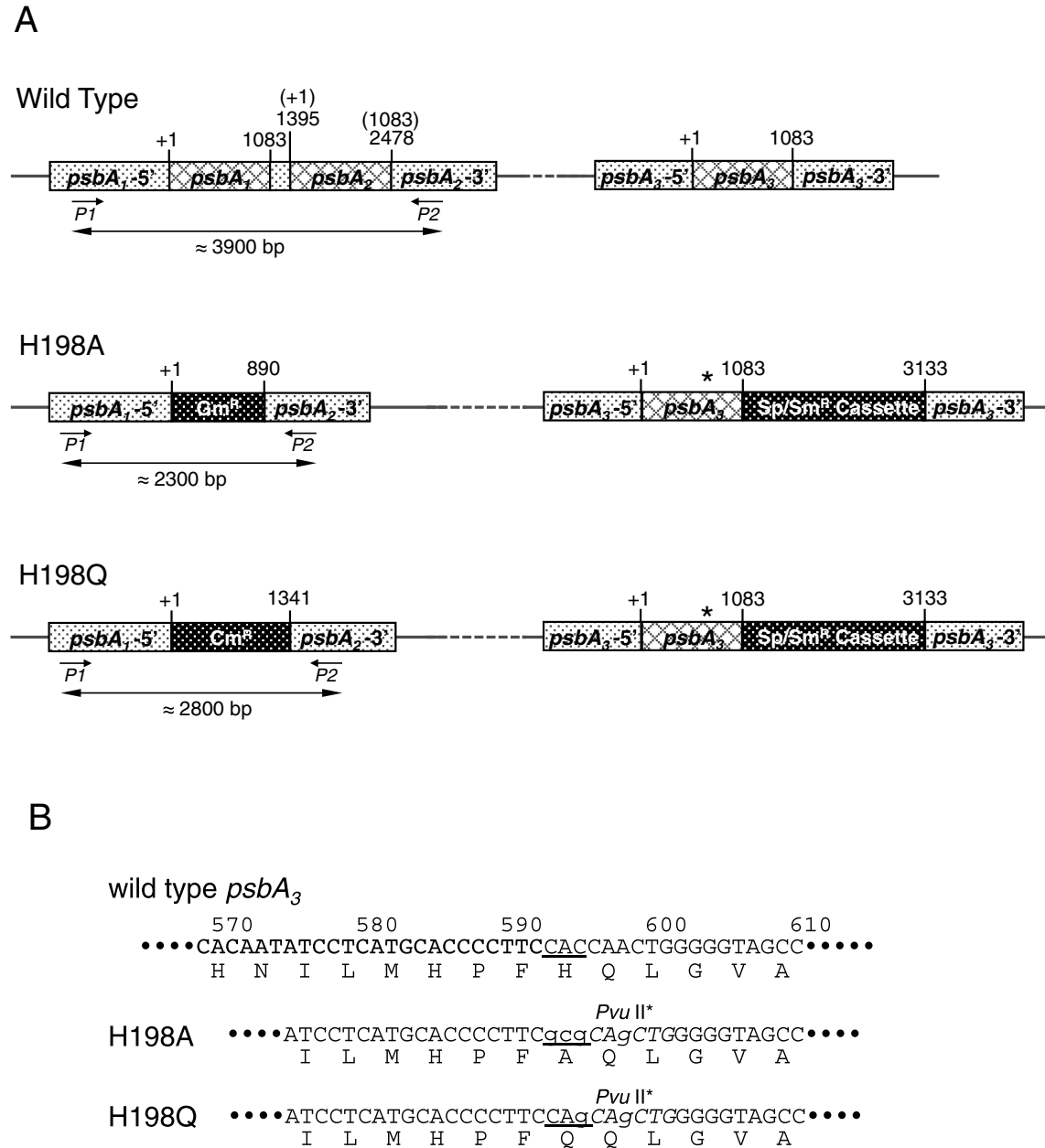
### 3.1. Intactness of the mutant PSII

D1-H198Q and D1-H198A PSII core complexes exhibited an O<sub>2</sub> evolving activity of  $\approx 3300$   $\mu$ mol O<sub>2</sub> (mg Chl)<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> and  $\approx 3000$   $\mu$ mol O<sub>2</sub> (mg Chl)<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup>, respectively, thus confirming that these mutations did not affect the formation of a PSII with a high activity. The EPR results shown in Fig. 2 also show that the S<sub>2</sub> multiline signal induced by 200 K

illumination had an amplitude similar in the WT\*3 PSII and in the two mutants thus showing that  $S_2$  can be formed in the same proportion of centers in the three samples. The amplitude of the  $Q_A^- Fe^{2+} Q_B^-$  signal at  $g = 1.66$  ( $\approx 4000$ – $4200$  gauss) [32] induced by the 200 K illumination was also similar in the two mutants thus showing that the amount of  $Q_A^- Fe^{2+} Q_B^-$  prior to the illumination was similar. The addition of DCMU in the dark-adapted mutants was therefore not expected to result in a different proportion of closed centers in the  $Q_A^- Fe^{2+}/DCMU$  state prior to the flash illumination in the thermoluminescence experiment (see below).

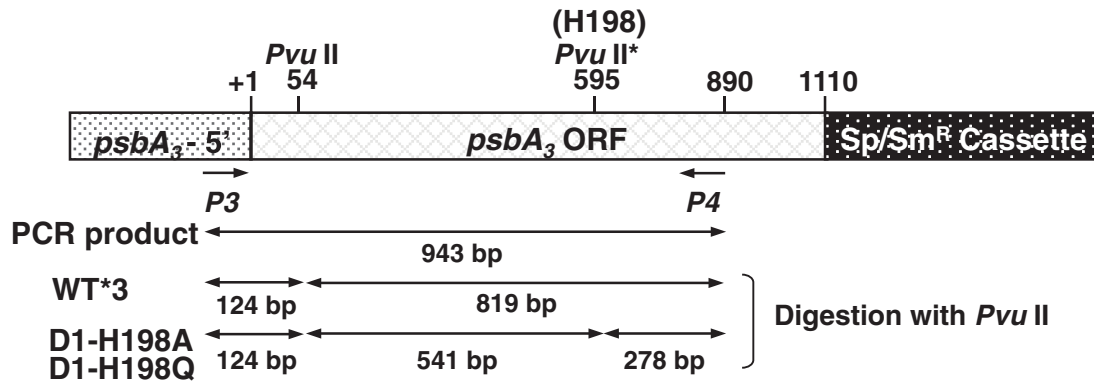
### 3.2. Time-resolved flash-induced absorption changes around 550 nm

Fig. 3 shows the electrochromic blue shift undergone by Phe<sub>D1</sub> upon reduction of  $Q_A$  and known as the C-550 bandshift in PsbA1-PSII (green trace), PsbA3-PSII (black trace) and PsbA3/H198Q-PSII (red trace). For these measurements, the samples were first dark-adapted for 1 h at room temperature then, the absorption changes were measured 15  $\mu$ s after each actinic flash in a series. The data shown in Fig. 3 are the average of the individual absorption changes induced by the 2nd to 7th flashes. The red shift by  $\approx 3.0$  nm of the C550



**Fig. 1.** (A) Map around the *psbA<sub>1</sub>*–*psbA<sub>2</sub>* genes and *psbA<sub>3</sub>* gene in wild type and H198A and H198Q mutants. For deletion of both the *psbA<sub>1</sub>* and *psbA<sub>2</sub>* genes, Gm resistant cassette and Cm resistant cassette were substituted in H198A and H198Q, respectively. Site-directed mutations were introduced in *psbA<sub>3</sub>* (asterisks) with Sp/Sm resistant cassette. *P1* and *P2* show positions of PCR primers to confirm the length of the *psbA<sub>1</sub>* and *psbA<sub>2</sub>* genes and/or the Gm and Cm resistant cassettes. (B) The nucleotides and translated amino acids sequences of PsbA3 of wild type, H198A and H198Q mutants including amino acid at position 198. Newly created restriction enzyme sites for site-directed mutations are shown in italic. *Pvu II* sites were newly created for both mutants. (C) Physical map around *psbA<sub>3</sub>* and theoretical DNA length after treating with *Pvu II* the PCR products by using primers *P3* and *P4*. The created *Pvu II* (shown as *Pvu II*\*) sites for H198A and H198Q mutants are at position +595. As *psbA<sub>3</sub>* of wild type has *Pvu II* at position +54, digestion of products from the mutants with *Pvu II* generated fragments at 124-bp, 541-bp, and 278-bp. (D) (a) Agarose gel (1%) electrophoresis of PCR amplification products using the *P1* and *P2* primers. Lanes 1 and 6, 1 kb DNA ladder markers (Nacalai Tesque, Japan); lane 2, 43-H strain; lane 3, WT\*3 ( $\Delta psbA_1/\Delta psbA_2/43$ -H) strain; lane 4, H198A strain; lane 5, H198Q strain. (b) Agarose gel (2%) electrophoresis of PCR products using the *P3* and *P4* primers (lanes 2, 4 and 6) and the products after digestion with *Pvu II* (lanes 3, 5 and 7). Lanes 1 and 6, 100 bp DNA ladder markers (Nacalai Tesque, Japan); lanes 2 and 3, WT\*3 strain; lanes 4 and 5, H198A strain; lanes 6 and 7, H198Q strain.

C



D

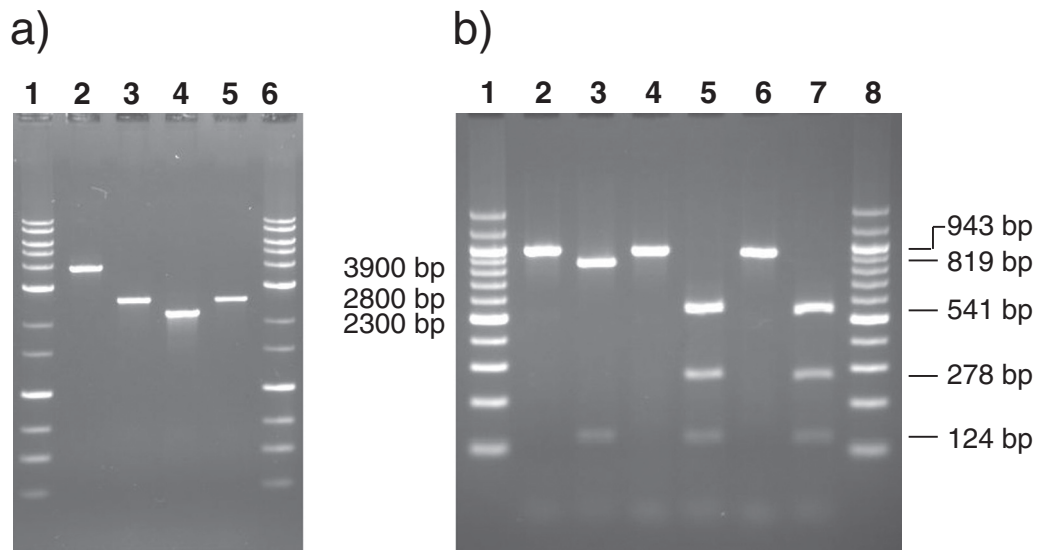


Fig. 1 (continued).

band-shift for the *PsbA3*-PSII sample, relative to the *PsbA1*-PSII sample, reflects the stronger hydrogen bond to the <sup>13</sup>-keto of the Phe<sub>D1</sub> from the carboxylate group of E130 in *PsbA3*-PSII than from Q130 in *PsbA1*-PSII, as previously shown [25,26,28]. In the *PsbA3*/H198Q-PSII sample the electrochromic bandshift was similar to that in the *PsbA3*-PSII sample, showing that in this PSII mutant D1 corresponded to *PsbA3*. Because of the death of our colleague Fabrice Rappaport we could not do the time-resolved flash-induced absorption changes measurements in the D1-H198A mutant. However, as shown below, this mutant has been probed by thermoluminescence experiment.

### 3.3. Time-resolved flash-induced absorption changes around 430 nm

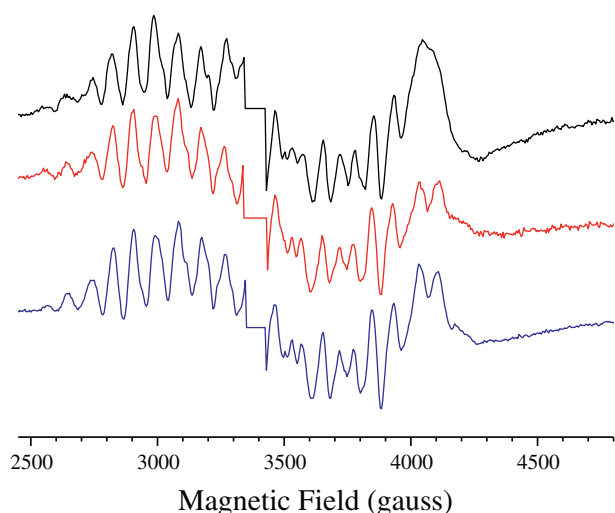
In this spectral region, the redox changes of several species, such as the Chls, cytochromes, Tyr<sub>Z</sub> and Q<sub>A</sub> are associated with absorption changes. The most prominent one, however, is associated with the formation of P<sub>680</sub><sup>+</sup>. The P<sub>680</sub><sup>+</sup>/P<sub>680</sub> difference spectrum exhibits a strong Soret band bleaching in the 430 nm region. Fig. 4 shows the absorption changes from 411 to 455 nm in *PsbA3*-PSII and in the *PsbA3*/H198Q PSII mutant. The absorption changes were measured 15 ns after the first flash, given to dark-adapted PSII *i.e.* in the S<sub>1</sub>-state, and corresponded to

the P<sub>680</sub>Q<sub>A</sub> to P<sub>680</sub><sup>+</sup>Q<sub>A</sub><sup>-</sup> transition. The O<sub>2</sub> evolving D1-H198Q PSII mutant exhibited a blue shift by about 3–4 nm exactly as observed in *Synechocystis* sp. PCC 6803 [10].

### 3.4. Energetic effects of the D1-H198 mutations in O<sub>2</sub> evolving PSII

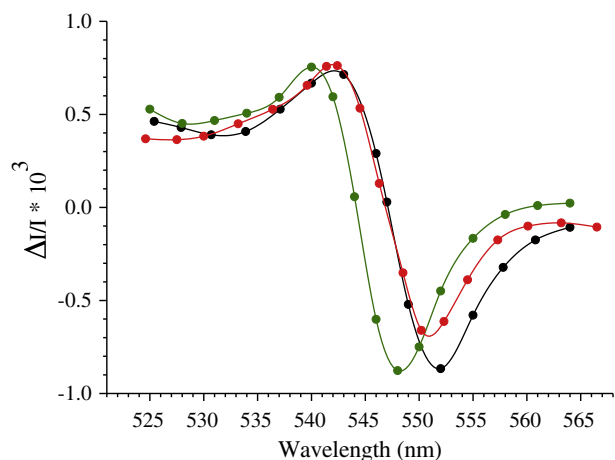
A change in the redox potential of the P<sub>680</sub><sup>+</sup>/P<sub>680</sub> couple can be assessed with thermoluminescence experiments by measuring the glow curve [33–36] originating from the S<sub>2</sub>Q<sub>A</sub><sup>-</sup> charge recombination in the presence of DCMU (Q band). Fig. 5 shows the thermoluminescence glow curve, in the presence of DCMU, resulting from the S<sub>2</sub>Q<sub>A</sub><sup>-</sup> recombination recorded in *PsbA3*-PSII (black trace), *PsbA3*/H198A PSII (blue trace) and *PsbA3*/H198Q PSII (red trace).

In the D1-H198Q mutant, the glow curve was larger than in WT\*3 PSII and the peak of the glow curve was up-shifted by ≈6 °C from 27 °C to 33 °C. This phenotype is in a good agreement with what is expected for a more positive P<sub>680</sub><sup>+</sup>/P<sub>680</sub> redox couple [36]. Indeed, in conditions where only the E<sub>m</sub> of the P<sub>680</sub><sup>+</sup>/P<sub>680</sub> couple varies, a more positive E<sub>m</sub> value is expected to translate into a higher peak temperature, owing to a larger energy gap between the S<sub>2</sub>Tyr<sub>Z</sub>P<sub>680</sub> and the S<sub>1</sub>Tyr<sub>Z</sub>P<sub>680</sub><sup>+</sup> pairs and a larger intensity of the TL glow curve owing to a

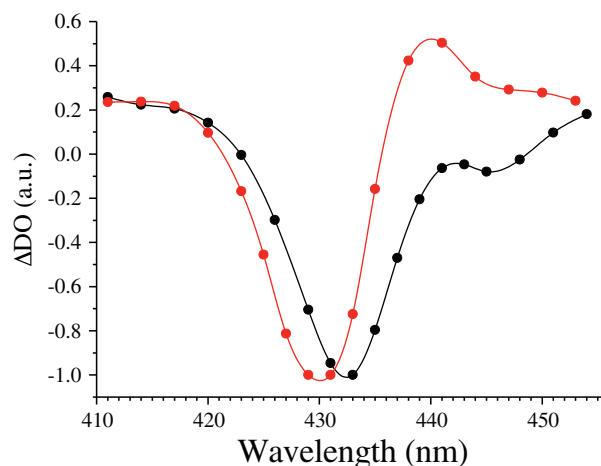


**Fig. 2.** Light-minus-dark EPR spectra induced by 200 K illumination of dark-adapted PsaA3-PSII (black spectrum), PsaA3/H198Q PSII (red spectrum) and PsaA3/H198A PSII (blue spectrum). PSII concentration = 1.1 mg Chl mL<sup>-1</sup>. Instrument settings: modulation amplitude, 25 gauss; microwave power, 20 mW; microwave frequency, 9.4 GHz; modulation frequency, 100 kHz. Temperature, 8.6 K. It was checked that the reaction center concentrations were similar by using the Tyr<sub>D</sub> EPR signal as a probe. The spectral region corresponding to the Tyr<sub>D</sub> EPR signal has been deleted.

smaller free energy gap between P<sub>680</sub>\*Pheo and P<sub>680</sub><sup>+</sup>Pheo<sup>-</sup>, see [32–34] for a detailed explanation of the TL glow curve dependence upon changes of the various energy level of the radical pairs involved in luminescence. From kinetics of the charge recombination it has been estimated earlier [10] that the  $E_m$  of the P<sub>680</sub><sup>+</sup>/P<sub>680</sub> couple in the H198Q mutant was found  $\approx 50$  mV higher than in the wildtype whole cells but almost unchanged in PSII core complexes. This difference was attributed to the loss of the Mn<sub>4</sub> cluster in the PSII core complexes in the mutant [10]. Here, with active H198Q PSII and according to the empirical relationship between the shift in free energy and the peak temperature discussed in [35,36], the expected upshift in the  $E_m$  of the P<sub>680</sub><sup>+</sup>/P<sub>680</sub> couple resulting from the H198Q single site directed mutation in PsaA3-PSII would be  $\approx 15$  mV. This value is very close to that one found by Merry et al. [37] who found the P<sub>680</sub><sup>+</sup>/P<sub>680</sub> couple to be more positive by 13–19 mV in the D1-H198Q mutant.

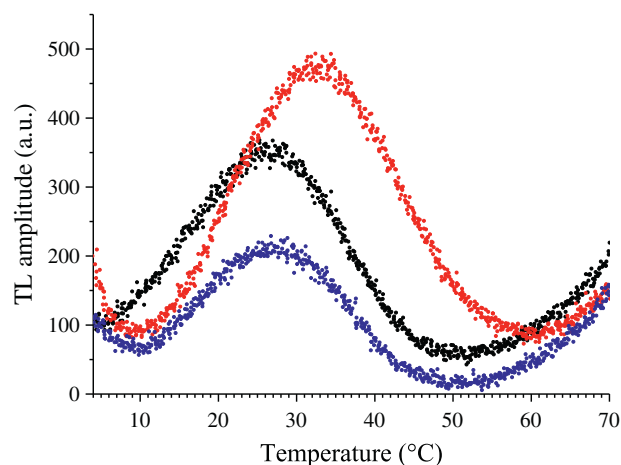


**Fig. 3.** Light-induced difference spectra around 545 nm. The flash-induced absorption changes were measured in PsaA1-PSII (green trace), PsaA3-PSII (black trace) and PsaA3/H198Q-PSII (red trace). Measurements were performed 15  $\mu$ s after the flash and were averaged from the 2nd to 7th flash given to dark-adapted PSII. Upon dark-adaptation for 1 h at room temperature, 100  $\mu$ M PPBQ (dissolved in dimethyl sulfoxide) was added to the samples (Chl concentration was 25  $\mu$ g mL<sup>-1</sup>). The difference spectra were approximately normalized to the same amplitude.



**Fig. 4.** Flash-induced absorption changes were measured in PsaA3-PSII (black trace) and PsaA3/H198Q PSII (red trace) 15 ns after the first flash given on dark-adapted PSII. Upon dark-adaptation for 1 h at room temperature, 100  $\mu$ M PPBQ (dissolved in dimethylsulfoxide) was added to the samples with Chl = 25  $\mu$ g mL<sup>-1</sup>.

The situation in the D1-H198A mutant is more complex to analyze. In the two previous studies [10,37], the P<sub>680</sub><sup>+</sup>/P<sub>680</sub> couple was estimated to be less positive by 23–29 mV in [37] and less positive by 74–84 mV in [10]. In the most simple case, a decrease in the  $E_m$  of the P<sub>680</sub><sup>+</sup>/P<sub>680</sub> couple would translate into a lower peak temperature owing to a smaller energy gap between the S<sub>2</sub>Tyr<sub>Z</sub>P<sub>680</sub> and the S<sub>1</sub>Tyr<sub>Z</sub>P<sub>680</sub><sup>+</sup> pairs and a lower intensity of the TL glow curve owing to a larger free energy gap between P<sub>680</sub>\*Pheo and P<sub>680</sub><sup>+</sup>Pheo<sup>-</sup> [36]. However, as detailed in [36], a mutation in a ligand of P<sub>680</sub> could also affect the energy level of P<sub>680</sub>\* so that the three routes for a charge recombination (the direct, indirect and radiative routes) could be affected. Although, a change in the  $E_m$  of the P<sub>680</sub><sup>+</sup>/P<sub>680</sub> couple in active H198A-PSII has been observed [10,37] and therefore cannot be excluded, from all the theoretical cases investigated in [36] an increase in the energy level of P<sub>680</sub>\* in the D1-H198A mutant would be the major effect to explain the TL data. It should be mentioned that TL measurements in whole cells in *Synechocystis* sp. PCC 6803 also showed a decrease of the TL amplitude in the H198A mutant and an increase in the TL amplitude in the H198Q mutant [35].



**Fig. 5.** Thermoluminescence glow curves from S<sub>2</sub>Q<sub>A</sub><sup>-</sup> charge recombination formed by 1 flash at 0 °C in the presence of DCMU (50  $\mu$ M) in PsaA3-PSII (black trace), PsaA3/H198Q-PSII (red trace) and PsaA3/H198A-PSII (blue trace). Concentration, 10  $\mu$ g Chl mL<sup>-1</sup>. Heating rate, 0.3 °C/s. See Materials and Methods for other details.

#### 4. Conclusion

In this work, the two mutants, D1-H198Q and D1-H198A, which have been previously constructed in *Thermosynechococcus elongatus* with the aim to modify the redox potential of the  $P_{680}^+/P_{680}$  couple by changing the axial ligand of  $P_{D1}$ , one the two chlorophylls of the primary electron donor [24], have been reconstructed. The characterization of these new mutants presented above shows that our previous conclusions were wrong and that these new  $O_2$  evolving mutants exhibit a correct phenotype which makes them suitable for further studies.

#### Transparency document

The Transparency document associated with this article can be found, in online version.

#### Acknowledgements

Jean-Marc Ducruet is acknowledged for his help in setting up a new TL set up. We thank to Makoto Nakamura (Ehime University) for technical assistance.

#### References

- Y. Umena, K. Kawakami, J.-R. Shen, N. Kamiya, Crystal structure of oxygen-evolving photosystem II at a resolution of 1.9 Å, *Nature* 473 (2011) 55–60.
- M. Suga, F. Akita, K. Hirata, G. Ueno, H. Murakami, Y. Nakajima, T. Shimizu, K. Yamashita, M. Yamamoto, H. Ago, J.-R. Shen, Native structure of photosystem II at 1.95 Å resolution viewed by femtosecond X-ray pulses, *Nature* 517 (2015) 99–103.
- B.A. Diner, F. Rappaport, Structure, dynamics, and energetic of the primary photochemistry of photosystem II of oxygenic photosynthesis, *Annu. Rev. Plant Biol.* 53 (2002) 551–580.
- J.-R. Shen, Structure of photosystem II and the mechanism of water oxidation in photosynthesis, *Annu. Rev. Plant Biol.* 66 (2015) 23–48.
- M. Pérez-Navarro, F. Neese, W. Lubitz, D.A. Pantazis, N. Cox, Recent developments in biological water oxidation, *Curr. Opin. Chem. Biol.* 31 (2016) 113–119.
- B. Kok, B. Forbush, M. McGloin, Cooperation of charges in photosynthetic  $O_2$  evolution-I. A linear four step mechanism, *Photochem. Photobiol.* 11 (1970) 457–475.
- Oxygen evolution in photosynthesis, in: P. Joliot, B. Kok, Govindjee (Eds.), *Bioenergetics of Photosynthesis*, Academic Press, New York 1975, pp. 387–412.
- N. Cox, J. Messinger, Reflections on substrate water and dioxygen formation, *Biochim. Biophys. Acta* 1827 (2013) 1020–1030.
- J. Yano, V. Yachandra,  $Mn_4Ca$  cluster in photosynthesis: where and how water is oxidized to dioxygen, *Chem. Rev.* 114 (2014) 4175–4205.
- B.A. Diner, E. Schlodder, P.J. Nixon, W.J. Coleman, F. Rappaport, J. Lavergne, W.F. Vermaas, D.A. Chisholm, Site-directed mutations at D1-His198 and D2-His197 of photosystem II in *Synechocystis* PCC 6803: sites of primary charge separation and cation and triplet stabilization, *Biochemistry* 40 (2001) 9265–9281.
- E. Romero, B.A. Diner, P.J. Nixon, W.J. Coleman, J.P. Dekker, R. van Grondelle, Mixed exciton-charge-transfer states in photosystem II: stark spectroscopy on site-directed mutants, *Biophys. J.* 103 (2012) 185–194.
- K. Saito, T. Ishida, M. Sugiura, K. Kawakami, Y. Umena, N. Kamiya, J.-R. Shen, H. Ishikita, Distribution of the cationic state over the chlorophyll pair of the photosystem II reaction center, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 133 (2011) 14379–14388.
- F. Rappaport, B.A. Diner, Primary photochemistry and energetics leading to the oxidation of the  $Mn_4Ca$  cluster and to the evolution of molecular oxygen in photosystem II, *Coord. Chem. Rev.* 252 (2008) 259–272.
- J.P. Allen, K. Artz, X. Lin, J.C. Williams, A. Ivancich, D. Albouy, T.A. Mattioli, A. Fetsch, M. Kuhn, W. Lubitz, Effects of hydrogen bonding to a bacteriochlorophyll-bacteriopheophytin dimer in reaction centers from *Rhodospira rubra*, *Biochemistry* 35 (1996) 6612–6619.
- X. Lin, H.A. Murchison, V. Nagarajan, W.W. Parson, J.P. Allen, J.C. Williams, Specific alteration of the oxidation potential of the electron donor in reaction centers from *Rhodospira rubra*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A.* 91 (1994) 10265–10269.
- K. Saito, J.-R. Shen, H. Ishikita, Influence of the axial ligand on the cationic properties of the chlorophyll pair in photosystem II from *Thermosynechococcus vulcanus*, *Biophys. J.* 102 (2012) 2634–2640.
- F. Rappaport, M. Guergova-Kuras, P.J. Nixon, B.A. Diner, J. Lavergne, Kinetics and pathways of charge recombination in photosystem II, *Biochemistry* 41 (2002) 8518–8527.
- H. Ishikita, W. Saenger, J. Biesiadka, B. Loll, E.W. Knapp, How photosynthetic reaction centers control oxidation power in chlorophyll pairs P680, P700, and P870, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A.* 103 (2006) 9855–9860.
- N. Ginet, J. Lavergne, Interactions between the donor and acceptor sides in bacterial reaction centers, *Biochemistry* 39 (2000) 16252–16262.
- J. Alric, A. Cuni, H. Maki, K.V. Nagashima, A. Vermeglio, F. Rappaport, Electrostatic interaction between redox cofactors in photosynthetic reaction centers, *J. Biol. Chem.* 279 (2004) 47849–47855.
- H. Ishikita, B. Loll, J. Biesiadka, W. Saenger, E.W. Knapp, Redox potentials of chlorophylls in the photosystem II reaction center, *Biochemistry* 44 (2005) 4118–4124.
- K. Hasegawa, T. Noguchi, Density functional theory calculations on the dielectric constant dependence of the oxidation potential of chlorophyll: implication for the high potential of P680 in photosystem II, *Biochemistry* 44 (2005) 8865–8872.
- J. Fajer, Chlorophyll chemistry before and after crystals of photosynthetic reaction centers, *Photosynth. Res.* 80 (2004) 165–172.
- M. Sugiura, A. Boussac, T. Noguchi, F. Rappaport, Influence of Histidine-198 of the D1 subunit on the properties of the primary electron donor, P680, of photosystem II in *Thermosynechococcus elongatus*, *Biochim. Biophys. Acta* 1777 (2008) 331–342.
- J.L. Hughes, N. Cox, A.W. Rutherford, E. Krausz, T.-L. Lai, A. Boussac, M. Sugiura, D1 protein variants in photosystem II from *Thermosynechococcus elongatus* studied by low temperature optical spectroscopy, *Biochim. Biophys. Acta* 1797 (2010) 11–19.
- Y. Shibuya, R. Takahashi, T. Okubo, H. Suzuki, M. Sugiura, T. Noguchi, Hydrogen bond interaction of the pheophytin electron acceptor and its radical anion in photosystem II as revealed by Fourier transform infrared difference spectroscopy, *Biochemistry* 49 (2010) 493–501.
- M. Sugiura, Y. Inoue, Highly purified thermo-stable oxygen-evolving photosystem II core complex from the thermophilic cyanobacterium *Synechococcus elongatus* having His-tagged CP43, *Plant Cell Physiol.* 40 (1999) 1219–1231.
- M. Sugiura, C. Azami, K. Koyama, A.W. Rutherford, F. Rappaport, A. Boussac, Modification of the pheophytin redox potential in *Thermosynechococcus elongatus* photosystem II with PsaA3 as D1, *Biochim. Biophys. Acta* 1837 (2014) 139–148.
- D. Beal, F. Rappaport, P. Joliot, A new high-sensitivity 10–ns time-resolution spectrophotometric technique adapted to in vivo analysis of the photosynthetic apparatus, *Rev. Sci. Instrum.* 70 (1999) 202–207.
- J.-M. Ducruet, Chlorophyll thermoluminescence of leaf discs: simple instruments and progress in signal interpretation open the way to new ecophysiological indicators, *J. Exp. Bot.* 54 (2003) 2419–2430.
- J.-M. Ducruet, I. Vass, Thermoluminescence: experimental, *Photosynth. Res.* 201 (2009) 195–204.
- C. Fufezan, C.-X. Zhang, A. Krieger-Liszczay, A.W. Rutherford, Secondary quinone in photosystem II of *Thermosynechococcus elongatus*: semiquinone-iron EPR signals and temperature dependence of electron transfer, *Biochemistry* 44 (2005) 12780–12789.
- A.W. Rutherford, Y. Govindjee, Inoue, charge accumulation and photochemistry in leaves studied by thermoluminescence and delayed light-emission, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A.* 81 (1984) 1107–1111.
- F. Rappaport, A. Cuni, L. Xiong, R. Sayre, J. Lavergne, Charge recombination and thermoluminescence in photosystem II, *Biophys. J.* 88 (2005) 1948–1958.
- K. Cser, I. Vass, Radiative and non-radiative charge recombination pathways in photosystem II studied by thermoluminescence and chlorophyll fluorescence in the cyanobacterium *Synechocystis* 6803, *Biochim. Biophys. Acta* 1767 (2007) 233–243.
- F. Rappaport, J. Lavergne, Thermoluminescence: theory, *Photosynth. Res.* 101 (2009) 205–216.
- S.A.P. Merry, P.J. Nixon, L.M.C. Barter, M. Schilstra, G. Porter, J. Barber, J.R. Durrant, D.R. Klug, Modulation of quantum yield of primary radical pair formation in photosystem II by site-directed mutagenesis affecting radical cations and anions, *Biochemistry* 37 (1998) 17439–17447.