Molecular Remodeling of Photosystem II during State Transitions in Chlamydomonas reinhardtii $^{\text{m}}$

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State transitions, or the redistribution of light-harvesting complex II (LHCII) proteins between photosystem I (PSI) and photosystem II (PSII), balance the light-harvesting capacity of the two photosystems to optimize the efficiency of photosynthesis. Studies on the migration of LHCII proteins have focused primarily on their reassociation with PSI, but the molecular details on their dissociation from PSII have not been clear. Here, we compare the polypeptide composition, supramolecular organization, and phosphorylation of PSII complexes under PSI- and PSII-favoring conditions (State 1 and State 2, respectively). Three PSII fractions, a PSII core complex, a PSII supercomplex, and a multimer of PSII supercomplex or PSII megacomplex, were obtained from a transformant of the green alga Chlamydomonas reinhardtii carrying a Histagged CP47. Gel filtration and single particles on electron micrographs showed that the megacomplex was predominant in State 1, whereas the core complex was predominant in State 2, indicating that LHCIIs are dissociated from PSII upon state transition. Moreover, in State 2, strongly phosphorylated LHCII type I was found in the supercomplex but not in the megacomplex. Phosphorylated minor LHCIIs (CP26 and CP29) were found only in the unbound form. The PSII subunits were most phosphorylated in the core complex. Based on these observations, we propose a model for PSII remodeling during state transitions, which involves division of the megacomplex into supercomplexes, triggered by phosphorylation of LHCII type I, followed by LHCII undocking from the supercomplex, triggered by phosphorylation of minor LHCIIs and PSII core subunits.

INTRODUCTION

Photosystem II (PSII) is a large multisubunit pigment protein complex that uses light energy to oxidize water and reduce plastoquinone. In PSII, light energy is captured by the peripheral antenna and is transferred to the core complex, where it is trapped. In green plants, the peripheral antennas are composed of major trimeric and minor monomeric light-harvesting complex II (LHCII) proteins (Dekker and Boekema, 2005). In the vascular plant *Arabidopsis thaliana*, there are three major trimeric LHCII proteins. Types I and II are encoded by five and four duplicated genes (*Lhcb1.1-1.5* and *Lhcb2.1-2.4*), respectively, while type III is encoded by a single gene (*Lhcb3.1*; Jansson, 1999). In the green alga *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii*, there are four major LHCII proteins (types I to IV) encoded by five, one, two, and one genes (*LhcbM3*, -*4*, -*6*, -*8*, and -*9*; *LhcbM5*; *LhcbM2* and -*7*; and *LhcbM1*), respectively (Minagawa and Takahashi, 2004). Three minor monomeric LHCII polypeptides, CP29, CP26, and CP24, are encoded by the genes *Lhcb4*, -*5*, and -*6*, respectively, in *Arabidopsis* (Jansson, 1999), whereas *C. reinhardtii* only contains the first two (Teramoto et al., 2001). Single-particle image analysis of electron micrographs revealed that these peripheral

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antenna proteins are bound to both sides of the PSII core, each of which consists of one LHCII trimer and two LHCII monomers in spinach (*Spinacia oleracea*) (Boekema et al., 1995) and *C. reinhardtii* (Nield et al., 2000). This protein complex organization is called the C_2S_2 supercomplex, where "C" and "S" refer to the PSII core complex and strongly bound LHCII trimer, respectively (Dekker and Boekema, 2005). In spinach, another supercomplex, $C_2S_2M_2$ supercomplex, has been reported, where two moderately bound LHC II trimers along with CP24 are associated with the C_2S_2 supercomplex (Boekema et al., 1998).

Photosystem I (PSI) has a broad absorption peak in the far-red region as well as peaks in the blue and red regions, whereas PSII has peaks in the blue and red but not in the far-red region. Thus, an imbalance of energy distribution between the two photosystems tends to occur in natural environments, where light quality and quantity fluctuate with time (Bellafiore et al., 2005; Tikkanen et al., 2006). Under such conditions, state transitions occur to balance the light-harvesting capacity of the two photosystems (Bonaventura and Myers, 1969; Murata, 1969). When the plastoquinone pool gets reduced (Allen et al., 1981), a protein kinase is activated through the cytochrome *bf* complex (Wollman and Lemaire, 1988; Vener et al., 1997). This kinase phosphorylates the LHCII that is bound to PSII in the appressed region of the thylakoids (Bennett, 1977). The phosphorylation of LHCII then leads to the lateral migration of LHCII to PSI in the unappressed region (Andersson et al., 1982), where it acts as the peripheral antenna for PSI (State 2). Oxidation of the plastoquinone pool induces the opposite effect, regenerating State 1 (Bennett, 1980).

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The association of LHCII proteins with PSI has been observed indirectly as changes in the quantum yield of PSI and PSII during state transitions (Samson and Bruce, 1995). Phosphorylated LHCII polypeptides were detected in the unappressed region of thylakoid membranes where PSI is preferentially located (Bassi et al., 1988). However, only recently have several lines of direct biochemical evidence shown the binding of LHCII polyepeptides to PSI (Pesaresi et al., 2002; Zhang and Scheller, 2004; Takahashi et al., 2006). Such an association was first observed in an *Arabidopsis psae1-1* mutant where a fraction of LHCII was associated with PSI when the mutant plants were exposed to low-light (State 2 favoring) conditions, giving rise to a high molecular mass protein-pigment complex (Pesaresi et al., 2002). This large complex, however, seemed to be an aggregated product since the mutant did not show state transitions, likely due to a low level of PsaH. The next attempt was through cross-linking of the mobile LHCII proteins with the PSI-LHCI supercomplex in *Arabidopsis* (Zhang and Scheller, 2004). More major LHCII proteins, including Lhcb1 and -2, were cross-linked to PsaH, I, and L subunits in State 2 than in State 1. A further report was provided from a study on *C. reinhardtii*, where the PSI-LHCI/II supercomplex isolated from State 2 cells contained three LHCII polypeptides, CP26, CP29, and LhcbM5, suggesting a pivotal role for the minor monomeric LHCII in state transitions (Takahashi et al., 2006). Mobile LHCII proteins were also observed in single particle images of the PSI-LHCI/II supercomplexes. Boekema and colleagues (Kouřil et al., 2005) reported a large density along the side of PsaH/L/A/K in electron micrographs of *Arabidopisis* PSI, which they assigned to the LHCII trimer, and Barber and colleagues located a smaller density near PsaH in *C. reinhardtii*, which they assigned to CP29 (Kargul et al., 2005).

Although much has been learned about the molecular details of state transitions on the PSI side, those on the PSII side remain elusive. Which LHCII polypeptides are dissociated from PSII? What is the dissociation order? Does the dissociation cause any effects on PSII macroorganization? Notably, the roles of phosphorylated LHCII have been obscure. It was originally proposed that the phosphorylation of LHCII induces conformational changes, leading to its dissociation from PSII (Nilsson et al., 1997), but an *Arabidopsis* mutant lacking the H subunit of PSI shows that phosphorylated LHCIIs remain attached to PSII (Lunde et al., 2000). It was thus proposed that phosphorylation of LHCII increases its affinity for PSI over PSII and results in its migration from PSII to PSI (Allen and Forsberg, 2001). While many LHCII polypeptides, including minor LHCII, are phosphorylated during the transition from State 1 to 2 (Turkina et al., 2006), whether all of these phosphorylations simply exert the same effect, namely, increasing affinity for PSI, or each of those plays a unique role in the progress of state transitions has remained largely unknown.

In this study, we introduced two new approaches to provide insights on the fate of LHCII polypeptides associated with PSII during the course of state transitions. One uses the detergent tridecyl-b-D-maltoside (TM), which has a one-unit-longer aliphatic tail than the more commonly used mild detergent dodecyl- β -D-maltoside (β -DM). We found this detergent more suitable for solubilizing larger membrane protein complexes in *C. reinhardtii*. The other approach uses nickel affinity chromatography, which has been successfully employed for the discrete and rapid purification of multisubunit membrane protein complexes, including the PSII core complex from *C. reinhardtii* (Sugiura et al., 1998). We used a *C. reinhardtii* mutant carrying a His-tagged CP47 (Suzuki et al., 2003) to isolate the various PSII complexes retaining peripheral antennas under both State 1 and 2 conditions. Using these approaches, we characterized the polypeptide composition, supramolecular organization, and phosphorylation of the PSII complexes both in State 1 and 2. The results indicate that with the undocking of LHCIIs, the PSII-LHCII supercomplex and its multimer (PSII-LHCII megacomplex) were transformed into PSII core complexes, leading to the transition from State 1 to 2. The undocking process was accompanied by a multistep phosphorylation of LHCIIs and PSII core subunits. Based on the obtained results, we present a new model of the PSII complex remodeling during state transitions, which involves divisions of the megacomplex into supercomplexes and LHCII undocking from the supercomplex, triggered by the phosphorylation of LHCII type I, minor LHCIIs, and PSII core subunits.

RESULTS

Isolation of PSII Complexes in States 1 and 2

Since relatively few attempts have been reported for purifying the *Chlamydomonas* PSII-LHCII supercomplex, we sought to establish a streamlined protocol to obtain discrete and intact PSII complexes retaining peripheral antennas. Thylakoids prepared from a genetically modified *C. reinhardtii* strain, PsbB-His, in which a 6x His-tag was fused to the C terminus of CP47 (Suzuki et al., 2003), were subjected to nickel affinity chromatography. A highly active PSII core complex with no attached LHCIIs was previously purified from this strain using β -DM as a detergent (Suzuki et al., 2003). To solubilize PSII particles that retain peripheral LHCIIs, we first tested a b-DM epimer *n*-dodecyl- α -D-maltoside, which has been reported to partially solubilize spinach thylakoids and allow the purification of PSII-LHCII supercomplexes (Boekema et al., 1998). However, *n*-dodecyl- α -D-maltoside yielded similar results to β -DM in *C. reinhardtii* (data not shown). We then tested another mild detergent, TM, which has the same head group as β -DM but with one unit longer aliphatic chain than β -DM.

C. reinhardtii cells were grown under low-light conditions (\sim 20 μ mol photons m⁻² s⁻¹) until the early exponential phase, and the culture was split into two: one for preparing thylakoids in State 1 and another for preparing them in State 2. Induction of state transitions was done by manipulating the redox state of the plastoquinone pool as described previously (Bulté et al., 1990). Cells were treated with a PSII inhibitor DCMU for 20 min under low light to oxidize the plastoquinones, which locked them in State 1. State 2–locked cells were obtained by treatment with the uncoupler carbonyl cyanide *p*-(trifluoromethoxy)phenylhydrazone (FCCP) for 20 min under low light to reduce the plastoquinone pool. Fluorescence emission spectra at 77K of cells in State 1 showed that the peak at 689 nm ($F₆₈₉$), originating from PSII, was higher than the peak at 718 nm $(F₇₁₈)$ from PSI (Figure 1,

State 1). On the other hand, cells locked in State 2 exhibited the opposite trend, as F_{718} was higher than F_{689} (Figure 1, State 2). These results confirmed that the energy distribution between the two photosystems was altered and the cells were indeed locked in the designated state. The results of these treatments are consistent with previous reports (Bulté et al., 1990; Finazzi et al., 1999).

Thylakoid membranes isolated from States 1 and 2 locked cells were solubilized by TM and loaded onto a nickel affinity column. For comparison, we also isolated PSII cores using β -DM solubilization according to the procedure described by Suzuki et al. (2003). Protein complexes carrying His-tagged CP47 were bound to the column and eluted with 250 mM imidazole. Immunoblot analysis confirmed that PSI and PSII subunits were clearly separated in the flow-through and the eluate fractions, respectively (see Supplemental Figure 1 online), indicating that nickel affinity chromatography could be used to purify PSII particles. Each eluate was analyzed by SDS-PAGE and immunoblotting (Figures 2A and 2B) to confirm that the eluted complexes harbor PSII core subunits, including D1, D2, CP43, CP47, PsbO, PsbP, and PsbQ. In addition, the TM-solubilized protein complexes eluted from the column contained minor LHCIIs (CP26 and CP29) and major LHCIIs type I, III, and IV, suggesting that these eluates contain PSII complexes retaining the peripheral antennas (Figures 2A and 2B). The retained LHCIIs were estimated to represent 43 and 16% of LHCIIs in the State 1 and 2 samples, respectively, by immunoblotting using an anti-LHCII type I antibody. The LHCIIs recovered in the flow-through are most likely not, or only marginally, bound to PSII.

The Three PSII Fractions and Their Relative Abundance in States 1 and 2

Comparing the amount of bound LHCIIs, it is clear that the PSII complexes in State 1 bind more LHCIIs than in State 2 (Figure

Figure 1. The 77K Steady State Fluorescence Emission Spectra of *C. reinhardtii* Cells Locked in States 1 and 2.

C. reinhardtii cells grown under 20 μ mol photons m⁻² s⁻¹ were treated with 10 μ M DCMU or 5 μ M FCCP for 20 min to induce to State 1 or State 2, respectively. Excitation was given at 440 nm. Spectra were normalized to the 699-nm (CP47) emission peak (Lin and Knox, 1991).

Figure 2. Polypeptide Composition of Affinity-Purified PSII Complexes in States 1 and 2.

Polypeptides in PSII complexes, isolated using nickel affinity chromatography, were analyzed by SDS-PAGE stained with Coomassie blue (A) and immunoblotting using antibodies specific for each protein as labeled (B). C, isolated PSII cores; S1, PSII complexes isolated from State 1 thylakoid membranes; S2, PSII complexes isolated from State 2 thylakoid membranes. One microgram of chlorophyll was loaded in each lane.

2B). This is consistent with the existing model, where mobile LHCIIs migrate from PSII to PSI in the transition from State 1 to 2, thereby decreasing the PSII antenna size (see, for instance, Allen and Forsberg, 2001). The decreased amount of LHCIIs associated with PSII complexes in State 2 (Figures 2A and 2B) suggests that the PSII-LHCII supercomplex has a decreased molecular mass in State 2 compared with State 1. We thus performed gel filtration to analyze the molecular mass of the protein complexes isolated by nickel affinity chromatography. The gel filtration chromatogram showed at least three peaks (or shoulders) at 36.6 (Fraction I), 39.7 (Fraction II), and 43.5 min (Fraction III) retention time, which corresponds to a molecular mass of \geq 2000, 900 to 1000, and 300 to 400 kD, respectively (Figure 3). SDS-PAGE and immunoblot analysis confirmed that all three fractions contained PSII core subunits, including D1, D2, CP43, CP47, PsbO, PsbP, and PsbQ (see Supplemental Figures 2 and 3 online). In State 1, the PSII subunits (D1, CP47, and PsbO) were more abundant in Fraction I, whereas in State 2 they were more abundant in Fraction III (see Supplemental Table 1 online). Since

Figure 3. Gel Filtration Elution Profile of PSII Particles in States 1 and 2 Isolated with Nickel Affinity Chromatography.

PSII complexes isolated with nickel affinity chromatography were separated by gel filtration on a Superdex 200 PC 3.2/30 column. Three major fractions are designated as I to III. The elution profile of the purified PSII cores is shown as a dashed line. Traces are shown for 280-nm absorption. Thick line, State 1; thin line, State 2.

a control PSII core sample isolated from β -DM-solubilized membranes peaked at \sim 43.5 min, Fraction III was assigned as PSII core (Figure 3).

The LHCII association with the PSII fractions was tested by their chlorophyll and carotenoid compositions using HPLC (Table 1). The ratio of chlorophyll *a* to *b*, which is inversely correlated to the abundance of LHC proteins, was similar in Fractions I and II but markedly increased in Fraction III, where the ratio was approximately the same as that of PSII core, confirming that Fraction III contains PSII core and Fractions I and II contain LHCII proteins in addition to PSII core. The ratio of neoxanthin, which is bound only to LHCII, to β -carotene, which is bound only to PSII core proteins, in Fraction I was nearly the same as that in Fraction II but significantly larger than that in Fraction III, which indicates that more LHCIIs are associated with the PSII particles in Fractions I and II than in Fraction III (Table 1). The functional coupling of the bound LHCIIs to PSII core was determined by measuring the functional absorption cross section of PSII (σ_{PSII}), which indicated that the bound LHCIIs in Fraction I and II increased σ_{PSII} from 163 A²/quanta in Fraction III to 366 and 350 A²/quanta in Fractions I and II, respectively (Table 1). These findings were further supported by the SDS-PAGE gel, indicating that Fractions I and II contain significant amounts of LHCII proteins, while Fraction III does not (see Supplemental Figure 2 online).

The relative abundance of Fractions I to III was dramatically changed during state transitions. In State 1, Fraction I was predominant, whereas in State 2, Fraction III was more pronounced (Figure 3). It is thus inferred from these results that there is more LHCII-retaining PSII (Fractions I and II) in State 1 and more LHCII-less PSII (Fraction III) in State 2, which is most likely due to the removal of LHCIIs from the PSII-LHCII supercomplex upon transition from States 1 to 2.

LHCII Polypeptide Composition in the Three PSII Fractions

The composition of LHCII polypeptides in each gel filtration fraction was determined using immunoblotting. Both Fractions I and II contained all of the minor and major LHCIIs except for LHCII type II (Figure 4A). The relative amount of each LHCII to the PSII core (D1 protein) was essentially the same in the two fractions (Figure 4B). In Fraction III, however, the levels of bound LHCIIs were significantly reduced, confirming that this fraction is mainly composed of PSII complexes that lost most of their LHCII (Figures 4A and 4B).

The major LHCII type I and III in *C. reinhardtii* are encoded by five (*LhcbM3*, -*M4*, -*M6*, -*M8*, and -*M9*) and two (*LhcbM2* and -*M7*) duplicated genes, respectively, while both LHCII types II and IV are encoded by single genes, *LhcbM5* and *-M1*, respectively (Minagawa and Takahashi, 2004). To further determine which LHCII gene products are associated with PSII in these fractions, we conducted two-dimensional gel electrophoresis (2-DE). The first dimension was isoelectric focusing, which uncovered distinct LHCII spots because hydrophobic PSII core subunits did not penetrate the gel. Several spots that have been previously reported as LHCIIs (Stauber et al., 2003) appeared in the region between 20 and 42 kD and pH 4.0 and 5.0 on the 2-DE gels (Figure 5). Polypeptides in these spots were then identified by tandem mass spectrometry (MS/MS) analysis after in-gel trypsin digestion (see Supplemental Table 2 online). All of the minor and major LHCIIs except for LhcbM5 and -M8 were detected in Fraction I (Figure 5). Spot 3, corresponding to CP29, was hardly visualized by silver staining in Figure 5 but was clearly detected by immunoblotting (see Supplemental Figure 5 online) and was confirmed by MS/MS (see Supplemental Table 2 online). The same LHCII polypeptides were identified

b Chlorophyll concentrations were determined as described by Niyogi et al. (1997).

Figure 4. Relative Abundance of LHCII Polypeptides in the Gel Filtration Fractions I to III.

(A) Minor LHCIIs (CP26 and CP29) and major LHCIIs (types I, III, and IV) in the three PSII fractions were detected using immunoblotting with specific antibodies as indicated. I, II, and III indicate the corresponding fractions isolated from a State 1–locked sample using gel filtration (Figure 3). Each protein sample was normalized to the quantity of D1 protein. Three independent experiments were performed, and a representative result is shown.

(B) Protein levels detected by immunoblotting (A) were quantified using ImageJ software. Values are means of three measurements $+$ SD normalized to the highest value in the three fractions.

in Fraction II, but they were markedly shifted toward the acidic side (see spots 4 and 5, corresponding to LhcbM3/4/6 and LhcbM4/6/9, respectively in Figure 5, panel II). These shifts could be due to the phosphorylation of these proteins as indicated previously (Hippler et al., 2001). In Fraction III, only a trace amount of LHCII type III (LhcbM2/7) was detected in the 2-DE gel (Figure 5, panel III). These results further support the conclusion that Fractions I and II contain PSII-LHCII supercomplexes with similar polypeptide compositions, and Fraction III contains PSII cores and a small amount of PSII core with LHCII type III. It is of note that among the four types of major LHCIIs in *C. reinhardtii*, LHCII type II was barely detected in any of the PSII-LHCII supercomplexes in either State 1 or 2; however, it has been reported to be associated with PSI in State 2 (Takahashi et al., 2006). LHCII type II is thus more likely either to be bound at the outer ridge of the peripheral antenna for PSII in State 1, such that it is removed by TM solubilization, or to exist as an unbound form in State 1 and associate with PSI in State 2.

Supramolecular Organization of the Three PSII Particles

According to single-particle image analysis of PSII-LHCII supercomplexes in higher plants, the $C_2S_2M_2$ supercomplex is the most predominant (Dekker and Boekema, 2005). However, the largest PSII-LHCII supercomplex in *C. reinhardtii* has been reported to be the C_2S_2 supercomplex, which might be due to the lack of CP24 in this organism (Nield et al., 2004; Dekker and Boekema, 2005). The PSII-LHCII supercomplex in Fraction II is likely a C_2S_2 supercomplex, based on the estimated molecular mass and the polypeptide composition (Boekema et al., 1995): two major LHCII trimers, two copies of CP26 and CP29, and one PSII core dimer. The largest PSII particle with molecular mass of \geq 2000 kD in Fraction I could be a multimer of the C₂S₂ supercomplex, since the polypeptide composition (Figure 5), relative amount of LHCIIs to D1 (Figure 4B), chlorophyll *a*/*b* ratio,

Figure 5. Two-Dimensional Separation of LHCII Polypeptides in the Gel Filtration Fractions I to III.

Fractions I to III isolated from a State 2–locked sample were subjected to 2-DE. Shown are the regions between 20 and 40 kD and pH 4.0 and 5.0 on the silver-stained 2-DE gels. Each numbered spot was identified by MS/MS analysis (see Supplemental Table 2 online) after in-gel trypsin digestion. Asterisks indicate putatively phosphorylated polypeptides (see corresponding spots 13 and 14 in Figure 8).

Figure 6. Electron Micrographs of Single-Particle PSII Complexes in the Gel Filtration Fractions I to III.

Fractions I to III isolated from State 2–locked cells were negatively stained with uranyl acetate. Projections of particles inferred to be PSII-LHCII megacomplexes, PSII-LHCII supercomplexes, and PSII core complexes are indicated by blue, green, and orange boxes, respectively. Bars = 50 nm.

neoxanthin/b-carotene ratio, and functional absorption cross section (Table 1) of PSII particles in Fraction I are all similar to those in Fraction II.

To investigate the supramolecular organization of the PSII particles in the three gel filtration fractions, negatively stained single particles were observed via electron microscopy. Figure 6 shows a distribution of the top-down views of PSII particles in Fractions I to III. Large (33.0 \times 33.0 nm, blue), medium (16.5 \times 33.0 nm, green), and small particles (11.0 \times 20.5 nm, orange) are predominant in Fractions I, II, and III, respectively (Figure 6; see Supplemental Figure 4 online). These sizes correspond to two C_2S_2 supercomplexes (Nield et al., 2000), one C_2S_2 supercomplex (Nield et al., 2000), and one PSII core dimer (Barber, 2006), respectively. Dekker and Boekema (2005) showed that several types of dimerized PSII-LHCII supercomplexes, so-called megacomplexes, are formed through the lateral association of supercomplexes. Although most of the megacomplexes reported so far in higher plants are dimers of $C_2S_2M_2$ supercomplexes, the dimerization of C_2S_2 supercomplexes was also suggested in *C. reinhardtii* (Dekker and Boekema, 2005). Based on these results, it is thus inferred that the predominant PSII particles with molecular masses of \geq 2000 kD, 800 to 900 kD, and 300 to 400 kD in Fractions I, II, and III are $(C_2S_2)_2$ PSII-LHCII megacomplexes, C₂S₂ PSII-LHCII supercomplexes, and PSII core dimers, respectively.

Phosphorylations Involved in the Detachment of LHCII

Phosphorylated polypeptides in the three gel filtration fractions were determined by immunoblotting using an antiphosphothreonine antibody (Figure 7). The obtained results demonstrate that PSII proteins in State 1 were mostly not phosphorylated, whereas PSII-bound LHCII type I and the core subunits CP43 and D2 were strongly phosphorylated in State 2. This clearly indicates that phosphorylation by itself, at least of LHCII type I, does not readily induce detachment of LHCIIs from PSII. Intriguingly, LHCII type I was much more phosphorylated in Fraction II than in Fraction I in State 2 (Figure 7, Table 2). This implies a possibility that the phosphorylation of LHCII type I triggers the division of the PSII-LHCII megacomplex in Fraction I into the PSII-LHCII supercomplexes in Fraction II. The levels of phosphorylation in the PSII core subunits, CP43 and D2, were highest in the core complex and lowest in the megacomplex (Table 2). Thus, the phosphorylation of the PSII core subunits occurs in a different manner from that of LHCII type I, suggesting a distinct mechanism for the regulation of the kinases for LHCII polypeptides and PSII core subunits.

We also characterized the unbound form of LHCII polypeptides to get further insights on their dissociation from PSII. Free LHCIIs in flow-through fractions obtained after nickel affinity chromatography were subjected to 2-DE analysis (Figure 8). The compositions of unbound LHCIIs were nearly the same in State 1 and 2 (Figures 8A and 8B; see Supplemental Figure 5 and Supplemental Table 3 online); however, there were clear differences in their levels of phosphorylation. Spots corresponding to free CP26, CP29, and LHCII type I (LhcbM3, -4, and -6) were more phosphorylated in State 2 (Figures 8C and 8D). Although the free CP26 was also phosphorylated in State 1 (spot 11), possibly more amino acid residues in CP26 were phosphorylated in State 2 (spot 10). In Figure 7, CP26 and CP29 associated with PSII were shown to be nonphosphorylated. Therefore, phosphorylations of CP26 and CP29 most likely lead to their dissociation from PSII. Considering the location of the minor LHCIIs bordering major LHCII trimers and the PSII core (Harrer et al.,

Figure 7. Phosphorylated Polypeptides in the Gel Filtration Fractions I to III from State 1– and State 2–Locked Samples.

Phosphorylated proteins were detected using immunoblotting with an antiphosphothreonine antibody. I, II, and III indicate the corresponding fractions isolated using gel filtration (Figure 3). Each protein sample was normalized to the quantity of D1 protein.

^a Phosphorylation levels are normalized to the quantity of D1 protein and quantified by ImageJ. Values shown are means of three measurements \pm SD normalized to the value for Fraction I.

1998), we infer that the phosphorylation of minor LHCIIs induces the detachment of all LHCIIs, including major LHCIIs, from PSII. Interestingly, LHCII type III (LhcbM2 and -7) and type IV (LhcbM1) in the flow-through fractions were phosphorylated irrespective of the state (Figures 8C and 8D), whereas those associated with PSII were not (Figure 7). Therefore, unlike LHCII type I, once LHCII type III and IV are phosphorylated they will be undocked from PSII no matter the state.

Lastly, we examined the kinetics of phosphorylation for the most conspicuously phosphorylated proteins of LHCII and PSII in the course of transition from State 1 to 2. Whole cell samples, taken every 2 min under blue light illumination (light 2), were subjected to immunoblotting using an antiphosphothreonine antibody (Figure 9). While the phosphorylation level of LHCII type I was immediately elevated (followed by a slow decline), that of CP29 was gradually increased, but similarly dephosphorylated after 6 min. The phosphorylation of the core subunit CP43 was even slower and reached a plateau after 6 min. The distinct phosphorylation kinetics of the three polypeptides suggests their distinct roles in state transitions. Since Fraction II is the main fraction harboring the phosphorylated LHCII type I (Figure 7), its population could be increased in the initial phase of transition from State 1 to 2. This in turn suggests that the division of the megacomplex occurs first with the LHCII type I phosphorylation and then the other phosphorylations trigger the undocking of LHCIIs from PSII, until just the PSII core complex remains.

DISCUSSION

The Two-Step Transition from State 1 to State 2: Megacomplex to Supercomplex, and Supercomplex to Core Complex

In this study, PSII particles from State 1– and State 2–locked thylakoids were characterized biochemically and structurally. The profile of the gel filtration and single particle images of the electron micrographs demonstrated that megacomplexes, which are presumably multimers of PSII-LHCII supercomplexes, are predominant in State 1, whereas PSII core complexes with much less LHCII are predominant in State 2. We also identified an intermediate state of transition, the PSII-LHCII supercomplex monomer, which has the same polypeptide and pigment compositions as the megacomplex. We propose that the transition from State 1 to 2 proceeds in two steps on the PSII side: first, the PSII megacomplex is divided into supercomplexes and then LHCIIs (both major and minor) dissociate from these supercomplexes.

Role of Phosphorylated LHCII

It is well accepted that LHCII phosphorylation is crucial for the migration of LHCIIs from PSII to PSI (Depége et al., 2003). To give insights into the molecular details of the undocking process of

Figure 8. Two-Dimensional Separation and Phosphorylation Analysis of Unbound LHCII Polypeptides from the State 1- and State 2-Locked Samples.

Nickel affinity chromatography flow-through from the State 1 ([A] and [C]) and State 2 ([B] and [D]) samples was subjected to 2-DE. Shown are the regions between 20 and 40 kD and pH 4.0 and 5.0 on the 2-DE gels. Protein spots were silver stained ([A] and [B]), and the numbered spots were identified by MS/MS analysis (see Supplemental Table 3 online). Phosphorylated proteins were detected using immunoblotting with an antiphosphothreonine antibody ([C] and [D]). Loaded protein amounts were approximately the same in (A) and (B), and in (C) and (D).

Figure 9. Phosphorylation Kinetics in the Course of Transition from State 1 to State 2.

C. reinhardtii cells settled in State 1 under weak far-red light (720 nm) for 15 min were illuminated by weak blue light (467 nm) to induce a transition to State 2. Phosphorylated polypeptides in cells sampled at every 2 min were detected by immunoblotting with an antiphosphothreonine antibody (A), and kinetics of the relative phosphorylation levels are shown (B). Data represent an average of three independent measurements and are expressed as mean \pm SD.

LHCIIs from PSII, phosphorylation of the PSII core subunit and of LHCII polypeptides both bound and unbound to PSII was thoroughly characterized. The results suggest distinct roles for each phosphorylated protein: (1) LHCII type I (LhcbM3, -4, -6, and -9), (2) minor LHCII (CP26 and CP29), (3) PSII core subunits (CP43 and D2), and (4) LHCII type III (LhcbM2 and -7) and type IV (LhcbM1).

(1) LHCII Type I (LhcbM3, -4, -6, and -9)

It has been hypothesized that phosphorylated major LHCIIs do not necessarily dissociate themselves from PSII (Lunde et al., 2000). It is clear that LHCII type I remains associated with PSII upon phosphorylation. Surprisingly, the phosphorylation of LHCII type I is induced earlier in the course of state transition, and it is mostly localized in the supercomplex, not in the megacomplex. This suggests that the phosphorylation of LHCII type I likely causes division of the megacomplex. As has been previously described by Dekker and Boekema (2005), the two $C₂S₂$ supercomplexes constituting the megacomplex are bridged by an LHCII trimer in *C. reinhardtii*. Therefore, the phosphorylation of the most abundant trimeric LHCII, type I, may induce the division of the megacomplex due to its altered conformation (Sprang et al., 1988; Nilsson et al., 1997).

(2) Minor Monomeric LHCII (CP26 and CP29)

Our previous work indicates that the minor monomeric LHCIIs are shuttled to PSI, thereby acting as a linker between PSI and major trimeric LHCII during a transition to State 2 (Takahashi et al., 2006). The minor LHCIIs, especially CP29, are indeed strongly phosphorylated in State 2 (Kargul et al., 2005; Takahashi et al., 2006; Turkina et al., 2006). This study provides further evidence for the pivotal role of the minor LHCIIs. While both CP26 and CP29 associated with the megacomplex and supercomplex were not phosphorylated, those of the free form were phosphorylated (Figure 8D). Thus, only phosphorylated minor LHCIIs are dissociated from PSII. Since the minor monomeric LHCIIs are bordering major LHCII trimers and the PSII core (Harrer et al., 1998; Yakushevska et al., 2003), any LHCII proteins associated with PSII will be forced to leave when the minor LHCIIs are dissociated. Thus, it is inferred that phosphorylation of CP26 and CP29 triggers undocking of the entire peripheral antenna during state 2 transition.

Recently, Turkina et al. (2006) reported the exact phosphorylated amino acid residues on CP29 in *C. reinhardtii* cells under State 2 as well as under high-light conditions. Transfer of the cells from State 1 to 2 conditions increases the number of phosphorylated residues in CP29 from two to four, whereas high-light treatment causes seven phosphorylated residues. Based on the mapping of those phosphorylated residues at the interface of PSII core and the peripheral antenna proteins, they proposed that the hyperphosphorylation of CP29 causes uncoupling of itself and other LHCII proteins from PSII in cells under State 2 or high-light stress. Our proposal, based on this study, agrees with their report.

(3) PSII Core Subunits (CP43 and D2 Protein)

We demonstrated that CP43 and D2 protein are phosphorylated under State 2 conditions, but the distribution of phosphorylated core proteins among the megacomplex, supercomplex, and core complex, as well as the phosphorylation kinetics, is completely different from that of LHCII. These results are compatible with previous findings that the phosphorylation of PSII core subunits and LHCIIs were both under the redox control by the plastquinone pool and that only LHCII phosphorylation depends on cytochrome *bf* complex (Bennett, 1991). Two distinct kinases, STN7 and STN8, were assigned as the kinases for LHCIIs and PSII core subunits, respectively (Bellafiore et al., 2005; Bonardi et al., 2005).

Since the two phosphorylation events (PSII core subunits and LHCIIs) occur simultaneously during the transition to State 2, we must emphasize that the two processes are potentially interlinked. Although it is controversial (Andronis et al., 1998, Fleischmann and Rochaix, 1999, Bonardi et al., 2005), PSII core subunit phosphorylation has been suggested to act as a protection mechanism from proteolytic degradation of photodamaged PSII complex under high-light conditions (Koivuniemi et al., 1995; Kruse et al., 1997; Turkina et al., 2006). Since cells were grown in low light in this study (20 μ mol photons m⁻² s⁻¹), the core subunits are not under the high-light stress. However, the bare PSII core complex (after dissociation of LHCIIs during state

Figure 10. A Proposed Model for the Remodeling of PSII during the Transition from State 1 to State 2.

(A) A top-down view from the stromal side of the membrane showing the division of the PSII megacomplex and detachment of peripheral antenna: (1) unphosphorylated LHCIIs stabilize the megacomplex; (2) the phosphorylation of LHCII type I in the major LHCII trimer triggers the division of the megacomplex, resulting in discrete C₂S₂ supercomplexes; (3) the phosphorylation of CP26 and CP29 as well as PSII core subunits D2 and CP43 induces the undocking of most LHCIIs from the PSII core complex. The crystal structure of the PSII core complex (dark green) is from 2AXT.pdb, and the LHCII monomer (light blue) and trimer (light green) structures are from 2NHW.pdb. Structural organizations of the megacomplex and supercomplex refer to Dekker and Boekema (2005) and Nield et al. (2004), respectively. The first- and second-step phosphorylations are indicated by blue and red circles with a letter "P," respectively.

(B) A side-view of the membrane plane showing alterations in the thylakoid ultrastructure: (1) thylakoids are more stacked in State 1 (left); (2) after membrane unstacking, which is likely caused by the phosphorylation of LHCII type I, more LHCII proteins, including CP26 and CP29 and the core proteins CP43 and D2 protein, are phosphorylated (middle), leading to the undocking of most peripheral antenna proteins from PSII (right).

transition) is potentially more susceptible to photodamage (Finazzi et al., 2001), so that the core phosphorylation could also be effective to protect cores after the dissociation of LHCII upon state transition.

Alternatively, core subunit phosphorylation might be specifically required for undocking of the peripheral antenna. Our results revealed that the strongest phosphorylation of PSII subunits was found in Fraction III (Figure 7). It is thus possible that the simultaneous phosphorylation of both minor LHCIIs and PSII core subunits facilitates dissociation of peripheral antenna via coulombic repulsion. A similar model has been proposed previously by Turkina et al. (2006). This possibility might not be the case, if land plants and green algae share a common mechanism for state transitions, as an *stn8* mutant of *Arabidopsis* does perform state transitions normally, although PSII core phosphorylation was suppressed (Bonardi et al., 2005). Further studies incorporating the kinase mutants are expected to clarify these issues.

(4) LHCII Type III (LhcbM2 and -7) and Type IV (LhcbM1)

In contrast with LHCII type I, LHCII type III (LhcbM2 and -7) and IV (LhcbM1) were not associated with PSII when they were phosphorylated (Figures 7 and 8). These unbound phosphorylated polypeptides were not only in the State 2 samples but also in the State 1 samples. These results may imply that the phosphorylationinduced undocking of LHCII type III and IV occurs irrespective of the state and plays a unique role in photosynthesis other than state transitions. Care should be taken, however, since the quantity of phosphorylated polypeptides cannot be directly compared between State 1 and 2 gels, as approximately the same amount of proteins were resolved in the two 2-DE gels although the amounts of unbound LHCIIs in State 1 cells should be significantly lower than those in State 2 cells (Figures 8C and 8D). It is unclear whether LHCII type III and IV are more phosphorylated under State 2. Simply put, their behavior upon phosphorylation is different from that of LHCII type I; they leave PSII upon phosphorylation.

It should be noted that a mutant of the *LhcbM1* gene in *C. reinhardtii* (*npq5*) has been shown to undergo normal state transitions (Elrad et al., 2002). Interestingly, the *npq5* mutant was originally isolated as exhibiting little energy-dependent quenching (q_E quenching) (Niyogi et al., 1997). This implies that the phosphorylated (dissociated) LhcbM1 and -2 may, in fact, be involved in q_E quenching in addition to their roles in state transitions. Considering that *C. reinhardtii* displays little to no expression of the essential protein for q_E quenching, PsbS (Niyogi et al., 2005), and only has a limited capacity of q_E quenching when grown under normal light (Finazzi et al., 2006), the underlying mechanism for q_E quenching in this green alga is not necessarily the same as that elucidated in higher plants (see reviews in Horton and Ruban, 2005; Niyogi et al., 2005). Further investigation on the significance of phosphorylation of LhcbM1 and -2 will clarify this point.

Based on the above observations, we propose the following model for the State 1 to 2 transition in *C. reinhardtii*: (1) unphosphorylated LHCIIs stabilize the megacomplex (State 1); (2) the phosphorylation of LHCII type I in the major LHCII trimer triggers the division of the megacomplex, resulting in individual C_2S_2 supercomplexes; (3) the phosphorylation of CP26 and CP29 as well as of PSII core subunits D2 and CP43 induces the undocking of all LHCIIs from PSII; and (4) free LHCIIs reassociate with the PSI-LHCI supercomplex yielding State 2 (illustrated in Figure 10A).

Ultrastructure of Thylakoid Membranes in State Transitions

It has been inferred that state transitions and the ultrastructure of thylakoid membranes are closely related (Allen and Forsberg, 2001). The functional absorption cross section of PSII is reported to be large in grana and small in stroma lamella (Garab and Musta´rdy, 1999; Danielsson et al., 2006; Veerman et al., 2007), indicating that PSII in the stacked region of the thylakoid membrane tends to harbor more antenna proteins. In fact, a highly ordered paracrystalline arrangement of supercomplexes, from which the megacomplexes are thought to be solubilized, was observed only in the highly stacked grana core in *Arabidopsis* (Boekema et al., 2000). In contrast with the grana/stroma lamellaetype structure in higher plants, thylakoid membranes in *Chlamydomonas* are organized such that long bands of two to four thylakoid membranes are extensively but loosely appressed (Bertos and Gibbs, 1998). If the megacomplexes described above are localized in the appressed region, the thylakoid membranes in *C. reinhardtii* need to have a larger appressed region in State 1 than in State 2 to accommodate the larger number of megacomplexes. Indeed, an electron micrograph of *C. reinhardtii* thin sections from State 1 cells show a higher degree of membrane stacking, whereas those in State 2 were relatively unstacked (see Supplemental Figure 6 online). Currently, it is unclear whether state transitions affect the ultrastructure of thylakoid membranes or vice versa.

Figure 10B shows a model of state transitions that incorporates stacking/unstacking of thylakoid membranes. Since PSII megacomplexes are localized in the appressed region (Boekema et al., 2000), the diffusion of LHCII proteins is restricted (Kirchhoff et al., 2004) under State 1 conditions. After the membranes unstack, which may be caused by the phosphorylation of LHCII type I, more LHCII proteins, including CP26, CP29, and the core proteins CP43 and D2, are phosphorylated, leading to the undocking of all peripheral antenna proteins from PSII, which is partly reflected in the phosphorylation kinetics (Figure 9).

Further studies will be needed to characterize the significance of our other findings, including the phosphorylation of LHCII type III and IV in State 1, the redox-dependent phosphorylation of PSII core subunits, and possible changes in the thylakoid ultrastructure during state transitions. Such studies will provide new perspectives on the mutually related mechanisms of photosynthetic acclimation, including state transitions, q_E quenching, and repair of photodamaged PSII centers.

METHODS

Strain and Growth Conditions

A genetically modified *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* strain PsbB-His, carrying a 6x His-tag at the C terminus of the *psbB* gene (Suzuki et al., 2003), was grown in Tris-acetate-phosphate medium (Gorman and Levine, 1965) under a light intensity of 20 μ mol photons m⁻² s⁻¹ aerated with ambient air at 23° C.

Induction of State Transitions

PsbB-His cells were treated as described previously (Bulté et al., 1990) to lock State 1 and 2. Briefly, the cells were incubated with 10 μ M DCMU or 5 μ M FCCP for 20 min under the same conditions as their growth to induce State 1 or State 2, respectively.

Isolation of Thylakoid Membranes and PSII Particles

Cells were harvested at mid-log phase (5×10^6 cells/mL), and thylakoid membranes were isolated similar to methods described by Chua and Bennoun (1975) with minor modifications. The buffer used for preparing thylakoid membranes contained 25 mM MES, 0.33 M sucrose, and 1.5 mM NaCl, pH 6.5. Disruption of cells was done using a BioNeb system (Glas-Col) at 10 kgf/cm2. Thylakoid membranes were adjusted to 1 mg chlorophyll/mL (for isolating PSII-LHCII supercomplexes) in a buffer containing 25 mM MES, 100 mM NaCl, and 12.5% (w/v) glycerol, pH 6.5, and solubilized with 1.0 to 1.2% (w/v) TM (Anatrace) at 4° C for 30 min in the dark. Solubilized thylakoid membranes were applied to a column with ProBond Resin (Invitrogen), which was preequilibrated with the same buffer supplemented with 15 mM imidazole and 0.03% (w/v) TM. Chromatography was performed as described previously (Suzuki et al., 2003). The eluate was diluted 10 times with a buffer containing 25 mM MES, pH 6.5, and 0.03% TM and concentrated to 1 mg chlorophyll/mL using an Amicon Ultra 100 KMWCO filter. Chlorophyll concentrations were determined as described by Porra et al. (1989) unless otherwise indicated.

Gel Filtration

PSII complexes isolated by nickel affinity chromatography (20 μ g chlorophyll) were separated on a SMART System with a Superdex 200 PC 3.2/ 30 column (GE Healthcare), which was preequilibrated with 25 mM MES and 0.03% TM, pH 6.5. Gel filtration was conducted at 10 \degree C with a flow rate of 25 μ L/min. Protein concentrations were detected from their absorbance at 280 nm. Molecular masses of the protein complexes were estimated with a standard curve drawn with blue dextran (molecular mass of 2000 kD), thyroglobulin (molecular mass of 669 kD), and apoferritin (molecular mass of 443 kD) from GE Healthcare.

SDS-PAGE, 2-DE, Immunoblotting, and MS/MS

Polypeptides were separated by SDS-PAGE as described previously (Ikeuchi and Inoue, 1988). The first dimension of 2-DE, isoelectric focusing, was performed according to the procedure described by Hippler et al. (2001) with an Immobiline DryStrip (pH 4 to 7) on a Multiphor II system (GE Healthcare). The second dimension, SDS-PAGE, was conducted as described above. Polypeptide bands were stained with Quick CBB (Wako) or silver stain MS kit (Wako).

Immunoblotting was performed as described previously (Takahashi et al., 2006). Antibodies against D1, D2, CP43, CP47, PsbO, PsbP, and PsbQ (1/5000 dilution) were kind gifts from M. Ikeuchi at the University of Tokyo, those against LhcbM6 for detecting LHCII type I and P25K for detecting LHCII type III and IV (1/10,000 dilution) were provided by M. Hippler at the University of Münster, and those against CP26, CP29, LhcbM5 (1/10,000 dilution), and PsaA/B (1/5000 dilution) were described by Takahashi et al. (2006). Phosphorylated proteins were detected with an antiphosphothreonine (42H4) monoclonal antibody (1/5000 dilution) from New England Biolabs. Anti-rabbit secondary antibody was used for all but antiphosphothreonine monoclonal antibody for which anti-mouse secondary antibody was used. To identify phosphorylated proteins, the duplicated blots were checked either with antibodies specific to each polypeptide (SDS-PAGE) or MS/MS analysis (2-DE). Quantification of protein levels was done with ImageJ software (Abramoff et al., 2004).

In-gel trypsin digestion of polypeptides was performed as described by Shevchenko et al. (1996). The digested samples were applied to a Paradigm MS4 dual solvent system (Michrom BioResources). Solutions of 2 and 90% (v/v) acetonitrile with 0.1% (v/v) formic acid were used as the mobile phases A and B, respectively. The flow rate was 2 μ L/min with a gradient as follows: 5% of B from 0 to 40 min, 95% from 40 to 50 min, and 5% from 50 to 60 min. Mass spectra were measured with a Finningan LTQ linear ion trap mass spectrometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Obtained mass spectra were analyzed by SEQUEST software (revision 3.3; Thermo Fisher Scientific) using a genomic database for *C. reinhardtii* (version 3.0 assembly). The obtained peptide information was filtered based on the following criteria: number of top matches $= 1$, probability < 0.001 , and Sffinal score > 0.85 .

Fluorescence Analysis

Steady state fluorescence spectra at 77K were measured as described previously (Takahashi et al., 2006). Functional absorption cross section of PSII (σ_{PSII}) was determined according to Kolber et al. (1998) with a fluorescence induction and relaxation (FIRe) fluorimeter (Satlantic). Samples were dark-adapted for 10 min, and a 100- μ s single-turnover flash was applied by a blue LED (455 nm) to cumulatively saturate PSII. The absolute σ_{PSII} values were calculated according to the calibration factor provided by the manufacturer.

Phosphorylation Kinetics from State 1 to State 2

PsbB-His cells grown as described above were illuminated with far-red light through a band-pass filter (720 \pm 10 nm) for 15 min to induce State 1, which was followed by 10 min illumination with blue light through a bandpass filter (467 \pm 10 nm) to induce State 2. Cells were sampled every 2 min in the course of transition to State 2. Polypeptides were isolated from the SDS-solubilized cells by precipitating with chloroform/methanol (Wessel and Flügge, 1984) and subjected to SDS-PAGE. Phosphorylation of polypeptides was detected by immunoblotting using an antiphosphothreonine antibody as described above. Three independent experiments were performed.

HPLC Analysis

Pigments of protein samples were extracted with 80% (v/v) acetone. HPLC was performed using a 4.6 \times 250- mm VP-ODS C18 column (Shimadzu). Separation of pigments was done by a linear gradient of acetone/water as described previously (Niyogi et al., 1997). Molar extinction coefficients of 36,620 and 122,510 M^{-1} cm⁻¹ were used for $neoxanthin$ and β -carotene, respectively.

Transmission Electron Microscopy

Observation of single-particle PSII complexes was done according to Ortega et al. (2000). An H-7650 ZeroA electron microscope was used, and micrographs were digitally captured at a magnification of \times 30,000. For observation of thylakoid membranes, cells induced to State 1 or State 2 were fixed in 1% glutaraldehyde in 0.1 M cacodylate buffer, pH 7.4, and 1% osmium tetraoxide, dehydrated, and embedded in epoxy resin. Ultrathin sections were stained with 2% uranyl acetate and 0.2% lead citrate. A JEM 1200EX electron microscope (JEOL) was used, and samples were imaged at a magnification of \times 50,000.

Supplemental Data

The following materials are available in the online version of this article.

Supplemental Figure 1. Specificity of Nickel Affinity Chromatography.

Supplemental Figure 2. Polypeptide Composition in Gel Filtration Fractions I to III during States 1 and 2.

Supplemental Figure 3. Relative Abundance of the PSII Core Subunits in the Gel Filtration Fractions from State 1– and State 2–Locked Samples.

Supplemental Figure 4. Distribution of PSII Particle Projections on Electron Micrographs.

Supplemental Figure 5. Evidence for the Correspondence between Spot #12 in Figure 8D and CP29.

Supplemental Figure 6. Structure of Thylakoid Membranes in State 1 and State 2.

Supplemental Table 1. Relative Protein Levels of the PSII Core Subunits in the Three PSII Fractions.

Supplemental Table 2. MS/MS Analysis of the LHCII Proteins Bound to the PSII Complexes.

Supplemental Table 3. MS/MS Analysis of the Free LHCII Proteins in the Nickel Affinity Chromatography Flow-Through.

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