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Arabidopsis thaliana alpha1,2-glucosyltransferase (ALG10) is required for efficient N-glycosylation and leaf growth

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SUMMARY

Assembly of the dolichol-linked oligosaccharide precursor ($Glc_3Man_9GlcNAc_2$) is highly conserved among eukaryotes. In contrast to yeast and mammals, little is known about the biosynthesis of dolichol-linked oligosaccharides and the transfer to asparagine residues of nascent polypeptides in plants. To understand the biological function of these processes in plants we characterized the *Arabidopsis thaliana* homolog of yeast ALG10, the α 1,2-glucosyltransferase that transfers the terminal glucose residue to the lipid-linked precursor. Expression of an Arabidopsis ALG10–GFP fusion protein in *Nicotiana benthamiana* leaf epidermal cells revealed a reticular distribution pattern resembling endoplasmic reticulum (ER) localization. Analysis of lipid-linked oligosaccharides showed that Arabidopsis ALG10 can complement the yeast $\Delta alg10$ mutant strain. A homozygous Arabidopsis T-DNA insertion mutant (alg10-1) accumulated mainly lipid-linked $Glc_2Man_9Glc-NAc_2$ and displayed a severe protein underglycosylation defect. Phenotypic analysis of alg10-1 showed that mutant plants have altered leaf size when grown in soil. Moreover, the inactivation of ALG10 in Arabidopsis resulted in the activation of the unfolded protein response, increased salt sensitivity and suppression of the phenotype of α -glucosidase l-deficient plants. In summary, these data show that Arabidopsis ALG10 is an ER-resident α 1,2-glucosyltransferase that is required for lipid-linked oligosaccharide biosynthesis and subsequently for normal leaf development and abiotic stress response.

Keywords: protein glycosylation, glycosyltransferase, lipid-linked oligosaccharides, posttranslational modification, endoplasmic reticulum, abiotic stress.

INTRODUCTION

In eukaryotes, asparagine-linked glycosylation is a common co- and post-translational protein modification. In the first step the pre-assembled core oligosaccharide (Glc₃Man₉GlcNAc₂) is transferred from the dolichyl-pyrophosphate precursor to asparagine residues in Asn-X-Ser/Thr (X cannot be Pro) sequences of nascent polypeptide chains in the lumen of the endoplasmic reticulum (ER). The *N*-glycans are then subjected to a series of highly coordinated step-by-step enzymatic conversions occurring in the ER and Golgi apparatus (Pattison and Amtmann, 2009; Schoberer

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and Strasser, 2011). The assembly of the dolichyl-pyrophosphate precursor oligosaccharide ($Glc_3Man_9GlcNAc_2$ -PP-Dol) is not well described in plants. However, it has been suggested that the biosynthetic steps and enzymes involved are conserved between humans, yeast and plants (Burda and Aebi, 1999; Lehle et al., 2006). In mammals and yeast, the first biosynthesis step is catalyzed at the cytosolic side of the ER by dolichyl-phosphate GlcNAc-1-phosphotransferase, which adds a single GlcNAc residue to the lipid carrier. This initial step of lipid-linked oligosaccharide assembly can be specifically inhibited by tunicamycin (Koizumi et al., 1999), which subsequently results in severe underglycosylation of proteins and the activation of the unfolded protein response

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(UPR) (D'Amico et al., 1992; Denecke et al., 1991). After attachment of a second GlcNAc residue, five mannose residues are added from GDP-mannose by mannosyltransferases to build a Man₅GlcNAc₂-PP-Dol structure, which is subsequently translocated into the ER. Further elongation occurs in the lumen of the ER by transfer of mannose and glucose residues from dolichol-P-mannose and dolichol-Pglucose to build up the Glc₃Man₉GlcNAc₂-PP-Dol (Burda and Aebi, 1999) (Figure 1). The fully assembled oligosaccharide is then transferred en bloc to asparagine residues of nascent polypeptides by the oligosaccharyltransferase complex (Kelleher and Gilmore, 2006).

Processing of the Glc₃Man₉GlcNAc₂ oligosaccharide starts immediately after the transfer by α-glucosidase I (GCSI) that specifically cleaves off the terminal α 1,2-linked glucose residue (Helenius and Aebi, 2001; Spiro, 2000). Although the enzymatic properties of Arabidopsis thaliana GCSI have not been described so far the knf-14 mutant, which has a premature stop codon due to the loss of a donor splice site, completely lacks the corresponding α-glucosidase activity (Gillmor et al., 2002). Moreover, GCSI T-DNA insertion mutants (gcs1) lacked any processed complex N-glycans and instead accumulated Glc₃Man₇₋₈GlcNAc₂ structures on glycoproteins (Boisson et al., 2001). Importantly, all GCSI-null mutants (knf-14 and gcs1) were described to be embryo lethal, revealing the importance of N-glycan processing for cell differentiation and embryo development in plants. Recently a novel gcsl (knf-101) allele was identified in a screen for genes involved in epidermal development in A. thaliana (Furumizu and Komeda, 2008). The knf-101 mutant, which has a Gly-to-Asp substitution at amino acid residue 504 of GCSI, displays a semi-dwarf phenotype with altered cell shape of the outer epidermal

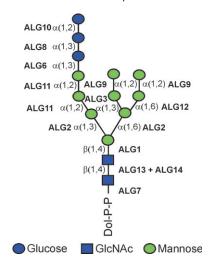


Figure 1. Structure of the lipid-linked Glc₃Man₉GlcNAc₂ oligosaccharide

The glycosyltransferases (ALGs) involved in the biosynthesis of the dolichollinked (Dol) precursor and the corresponding linkage of the sugar residues are cells in fruits and short and hairy roots (Furumizu and Komeda, 2008). In contrast to knf-14/gcs1 mutants, embryo development was not affected in knf-101 and the plants were viable and fertile.

The second N-glycan processing step is the removal of the two α 1,3-linked Glc residues by α -glucosidase II (GCSII). As in mammals, plant GCSII is a heterodimer consisting of the catalytically active α -subunit and the β -subunit, which participates in ER retention of the GCSII α-subunit and assists in deglucosylation (D'Alessio et al., 2010). There is strong evidence that disruption of the Arabidopsis GCSII-α function is lethal, while weaker alleles display a temperature-sensitive phenotype or are more susceptible to pathogen perception (Burn et al., 2002; Lu et al., 2009; Soussilane et al., 2009). On the other hand, null mutants of class I α-mannosidases (MNS1-3), which catalyze the subsequent N-glycan trimming reactions are viable and show a developmental phenotype with cell wall alterations under normal growth conditions (Liebminger et al., 2009). Together, these data highlight the importance of the glucose residues for the viability and development of plants. To examine the crucial role of the individual glucose residues in detail we identified the gene homologous to the yeast ALG10 (asparagine-linked glycosylation) locus, which encodes an a1,2-glucosyltransferase catalyzing the transfer of the terminal glucose residue to generate the fully assembled Glc₃Man₉GlcNAc₂-PP-Dol precursor. Here, we characterized an Arabidopsis alg 10 mutant that displays an underglycosylation defect and altered leaf size under normal growth conditions and reduced tolerance to salt stress. Importantly, the ALG10deficient plants are viable and suppress the embryo lethality of knf-14 and the developmental phenotype of the weak knf-101 mutant. Our results show that efficient glycosylation is required for proper leaf development in plants and suggests that the embryo lethality of knf-14 is due to an indirect effect caused by a block of further N-glycan processing.

RESULTS

Identification of the Arabidopsis ALG10 gene

To identify the putative Arabidopsis α1,2-glucosyltransferase that catalyzes the final glucosylation step during the biosynthesis of the dolichol-linked oligosaccharide precursor (Figure 1) we used the amino acid sequence of the Saccharomyces cerevisiae ALG10 (Burda and Aebi, 1998) and performed a BLASTP search in the A. thaliana protein database. As a result of this search we identified a single protein encoded by the At5g02410 gene. This protein has been annotated to the glycosyltransferase family GT59 in the Carbohydrate-Active-enZYmes database (CAZY; http://www.cazy.org/), which contains inverting enzymes that transfer glucose residues from dolichol-P-glucose in α1,2-linkage to Glc₂Man₉GlcNAc₂-PP-Dol, the ultimate step in the assembly of the oligosaccharide precursor. We amplified the whole open reading frame including additional 5'- and 3'-untranslated regions of the Arabidopsis ALG10 from leaf cDNA. The sequence of the open reading frame was identical to the annotated one from the TAIR database and encodes a protein of 509 amino acid residues. The Arabidopsis ALG10 has 26% identity (44% similarity) to the S. cerevisiae ALG10 amino acid sequence (Figure S1 in Supporting Information). It contains three putative N-glycosylation sites and bioinformatic analysis (Plant Protein Membrane Database, http:// aramemnon.botanik.uni-koeln.de/) predicts the presence of 12 transmembrane helices (Figure S1) with both ends facing the cytosol as has been suggested for yeast ALG10 (Oriol et al., 2002). Consistent with yeast ALG10, the Arabidopsis homolog does not contain any C-terminal dilysine motif, which can typically be found in other ER-located yeast and Arabidopsis ALG proteins (Oriol et al., 2002; Henguet et al., 2008; Hong et al., 2009; Kajiura et al., 2010), and acts as a Golgi-to-ER-retrieval signal for these proteins. The gene expression profiles from the Bio-Array Resource for Plant Functional Genomics (BAR; http://bbc.botany.utoronto.ca/ efp/cgi-bin/efpWeb.cgi) and Genevestigator www.genevestigator.com/gv/index.jsp) indicate that ALG10 expression is high in roots, stems and leaves and reduced in pollen, embryos and endosperm.

To determine its subcellular localization ALG10 was fused to GFP and transiently expressed in *N. benthamiana* leaf epidermal cells. Analysis of the ALG10–GFP fusion protein by confocal laser scanning microscopy revealed a reticular distribution pattern resembling ER localization (Figure 2). To confirm the localization, we co-expressed ALG10–GFP with the ER-retained GnTI-CaaaTS-mRFP, a mutated fusion protein that mainly localizes to the ER with a minor portion concentrating in the Golgi (Figure 2) (Schoberer *et al.*, 2009). Most of ALG10–GFP displayed co-localization with GnTI-CaaaTS-mRFP, which is in agreement with the proposed function of the enzyme in the assembly of the dolichol-linked oligosaccharide precursor in the ER.

Arabidopsis ALG10 can complement the yeast $\Delta alg10$ mutant

To determine whether ALG10 is a functional ortholog of the yeast ALG10 glycosyltransferase we expressed the full-

length Arabidopsis *ALG10* open reading frame under the control of a constitutive promoter in the *S. cerevisiae* $\Delta alg10$ knockout strain and tested for complementation of the mutant phenotype. In yeast, ALG10 deficiency results in severe underglycosylation of N-linked glycoproteins

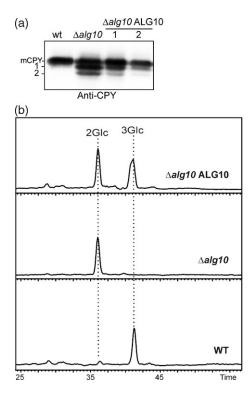


Figure 3. Arabidopsis ALG10 can complement the yeast $\Delta alg10$ mutant. (a) Immunoblot analysis of the CPY glycosylation status. Protein extracts from the *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* wild-type strain BY4741 (wt), the ALG10-deficient yeast strain YGR227W ($\Delta alg10$) and YGR227W transformed with the plasmid expressing Arabidopsis ALG10 ($\Delta alg10$ ALG10, 1 and 2 represent two independent transformation events) were separated by SDS-PAGE and analyzed by immunoblotting with anti-CPY antibody. The position of mature CPY (mCPY) and the different CPY forms lacking one (1) or two (2) glycans are indicated.

(b) Lipid-linked oligosaccharide analysis of the different yeast strains. Selected ion current chromatograms are shown. Glc2 indicates the elution position of Glc₂Man₉GlcNAc₂ and Glc3 the position of Glc₃Man₉GlcNAc₂ structures. All samples contained less intense peaks of smaller structures, which are not shown here.

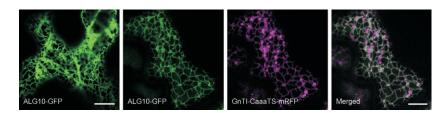


Figure 2. ALG10–GFP displays endoplasmic reticulum (ER) distribution.

Nicotiana benthamiana leaf epidermal cells expressing the ALG10–GFP fusion protein either alone (left panel) or in combination with the ER-retained construct GnTl-CaaaTS-mRFP. The reticulate fluorescence pattern of ALG10–GFP and its co-localization with GnTl-CaaaTS-mRFP indicate accumulation in the ER. Analysis of fluorescent proteins was done by confocal laser scanning microscopy. Scale bars = 10 μm.

because the oligosaccharyltransferase transfers incompletely assembled oligosaccharides with reduced efficiency (Burda and Aebi, 1998). The hypoglycosylation of proteins can be monitored by immunoblotting using antibodies against the vacuolar protease carboxypeptidase Y (CPY). Yeast CPY carries four N-linked glycans and in the ∆alg10 strain two faster-migrating CPY-forms with a reduced number of N-glycans are detected. As shown in Figure 3(a), expression of Arabidopsis ALG10 in \(\Delta alg10 \) resulted in a reduced number of faster-migrating CPY-forms indicating partial rescue of the CPY underglycosylation defect.

To obtain further evidence for the functionality of Arabidopsis ALG10 we analyzed the restoration of the lipid-linked oligosaccharide defect of the S. cerevisiae △alg10 strain. The lipid-linked oligosaccharides were isolated from microsomal fractions, hydrolyzed and analyzed by liquid chromatography-electrospray ionization-mass spectrometry (LC-ESI-MS) analysis. In contrast to wild-type cells, which accumulated a peak corresponding to the fully-assembled Glc₃Man₉GlcNAc₂ precursor, the $\Delta alg 10$ mutant displayed a major peak representing Glc₂Man₉GlcNAc₂ (Figure 3b) and smaller amounts of Glc₁Man₉GlcNAc₂ and Man₉GlcNAc₂ (data not shown) (Burda and Aebi, 1998). The ∆alg10 yeast strain expressing Arabidopsis ALG10 accumulated a peak that co-eluted with Glc₃Man₉GlcNAc₂. These data show that Arabidopsis ALG10 can restore the lipid-linked oligosaccharide biosynthesis defect of the ∆alg10 mutant yeast strain, indicating that it is the corresponding plant α1,2-glucosyltransferase.

The alg10-1 mutant displays a defect in lipid-linked oligosaccharide synthesis

The ER localization and the complementation of the yeast △alg10 strain strongly indicate that ALG10 is involved in the assembly of the lipid-linked oligosaccharide precursor. To investigate the in vivo function of ALG10 we isolated a homozygous T-DNA insertion line. Sequence analysis showed that the T-DNA insertion in alg 10-1 results in a small deletion of a sequence fragment from exon 4 of the ALG10 gene (Figure 4a). Reverse transcriptase PCR with different primer combinations confirmed the absence of a functional full-length transcript, indicating that alg 10-1 represents a null allele (Figure 4b).

The effect of ALG10 deficiency on the synthesis of the lipid-linked oligosaccharide precursor in plants was determined by LC-ESI-MS analysis. In wild-type plants the main peak was derived from fully assembled lipid-linked Glc₃Man₉GlcNAc₂. In accordance with the proposed function of ALG10, the alg10-1 mutant completely lacked this peak and instead accumulated a peak corresponding to Glc₂Man₉GlcNAc₂ (Figure 5) as well as minor amounts of Glc₁Man₉GlcNAc₂ (data not shown), showing that alg 10-1 plants cannot perform the last step of the lipid-linked precursor biosynthesis.

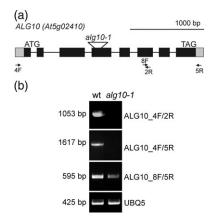


Figure 4. alg10-1 displays no functional ALG10 transcript.

(a) Schematic overview of the ALG10 gene structure. Boxes represent exons (the black area represents the coding region), the T-DNA insertion and the primers used (small arrows) are indicated.

(b) Reverse transcription-PCR analysis of the alg10-1 mutant. Reverse transcription-PCR (two independent repeats) was performed on RNA isolated from rosette leaves of Col-0 (wt) and alg 10-1. Primers specific for the indicated transcripts were then used for amplification. UBQ5 served as a positive control.

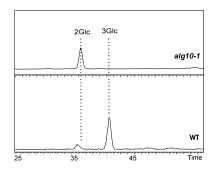


Figure 5. alg 10-1 displays incomplete lipid-linked oligosaccharides. Selected ion current chromatograms for $Glc_2Man_9GlcNAc_2$ (Glc2) and Glc₃Man₉GlcNAc₂ (Glc3) obtained from lipid-linked oligosaccharides isolated from Arabidopsis thaliana seedlings (alg 10-1 and wild-type, WT) and analyzed by liquid chromatography-electrospray ionization-mass spectrometry (LC-ESI-MS). Glc2 indicates the elution position of Glc2Man9GlcNAc2 and Glc3 the position of Glc₂Man₆GlcNAc₂ structures. Both samples contained less intense peaks of smaller structures, which are not shown here.

The alg10-1 mutant displays a severe underglycosylation defect

We asked whether the formation of incomplete lipid-linked oligosaccharides results in changes in N-glycosylation of proteins. Glycans were isolated from leaves and analyzed by matrix assisted laser desorption ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry (MALDI-TOF-MS). The N-glycosylation profile of alg 10-1 was indistinguishable from the wild type, suggesting that the composition of N-glycans is not altered in the mutant (Figure S2). However, immunoblotting with

antibodies against complex *N*-glycans revealed that the overall signal intensity was reduced in protein extracts from *alg10-1* compared with the wild-type (Figure 6a). Since the relative amounts of oligomannosidic and complex *N*-glycans were not altered in the mutant (Figure S2) this finding indicates underglycosylation with smaller amounts of complex *N*-glycans present on glycoproteins from *alg10-1*. A lectin blot with concanavalin A (ConA), which binds mainly to oligomannosidic glycans, also showed fainter signals in the mutant, and increased mobility of several

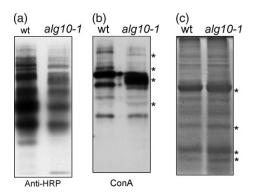


Figure 6. alg 10-1 displays differences in N-glycosylation.

(a) Immunoblot analysis of total proteins extracted from wild-type (wt) and alg 10-1 leaves. Proteins were subjected to SDS-PAGE under reducing conditions and blots were analyzed using anti-horseradish peroxidase (anti-HRP) antibodies, which recognize complex N-glycans with a β 1,2-xylose and core α 1,3-fucose residues.

(b) Proteins were subjected to SDS-PAGE under reducing conditions and blots were analyzed using the lectin concanavalin A (ConA).

(c) Coomassie brilliant blue staining of total protein extracts. Asterisks indicate bands that differ between wild-type and *alg10-1*.

glycoproteins was observed (Figure 6b). Differences in the mobility of bands were also found when protein extracts from seedlings were analyzed by SDS-PAGE and Coomassie staining (Figure 6c).

To analyze the underglycosylation defect of ala10-1 in more detail we performed SDS-PAGE and immunoblotting using antibodies specific for different glycoproteins. Previous studies have analyzed the mobility of the ER-retained glycoprotein protein disulfide isomerase (PDI) to monitor underglycosylation defects in plants (Hoeberichts et al., 2008; Kajiura et al., 2010; Lerouxel et al., 2005; Zhang et al., 2009). In the alg 10-1 mutant three PDI forms were detectable while in the wild type a single PDI form was present (Figure 7a). Upon digestion with endoglycosidase H (Endo H) or peptide: N-glycosidase F (PNGase F) the three bands shifted to a band that migrated at the same position as the de-glycosylated wild-type protein, showing that PDI is underglycosylated in alg 10-1 (Figure 7b). Importantly, analysis of PDI forms present in different underglycosylation mutants revealed that ALG10 loss-of-function results in a more severe defect than observed for alg3 and stt3a-2 mutants as the underglycosylated PDI forms were more abundant in alg10-1 (Henquet et al., 2008; Kajiura et al., 2010; Lerouxel et al., 2005) (Figure 7c). ALG3 transfers the first mannose residue in the ER to the flipped dolichol precursor and the alg3 null mutant displays only a very mild underglycosylation defect (Kajiura et al., 2010). The shift in mobility of the major PDI form in alg3 is not caused by underglycosylation but by the presence of truncated N-glycan structures in this mutant (Henguet et al., 2008; Kajiura et al., 2010). The stt3a-2 mutant has a T-DNA insertion in the gene coding for the STT3A subunit of the

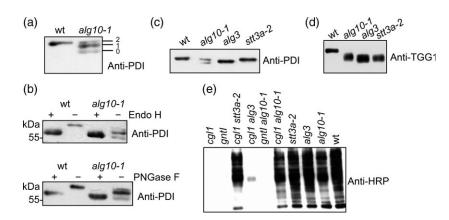


Figure 7. alg 10-1 displays a severe underglycosylation defect.

(a) Immunoblot analysis of protein disulfide isomerase (PDI). Protein extracts were separated by SDS-PAGE and blots were analyzed with anti-PDI antibodies. The positions of the fully glycosylated PDI form (2), the form with one *N*-glycan (1) and the non-glycosylated PDI form (0) are given.

(b) Protein extracts from wild-type (wt) and alg10-1 were subjected to Endo H and PNGase F treatment to confirm the underglycosylation status of PDI in alg10-1. (c) Protein gel blot analysis of PDI from different underglycosylation mutants (alg10-1, alg3, stt3a-2).

(d) Total proteins from wild-type, alg10-1, alg3 and stt3a-2 were separated by SDS-PAGE and blots were analyzed with anti-TGG1 antibodies. The shift in mobility of PDI and TGG1 in alg3 is caused by the aberrant truncated N-glycan structures present in this mutant (Henguet et al., 2008; Kajiura et al., 2010).

(e) Total proteins from the indicated single (cg/1, gntl, stt3a-2, alg3, alg10-1) and double mutants (cg/1 stt3a-2, cg/1 alg3, gntl alg10-1 and cg/1 alg10-1) were analyzed with anti-horseradish peroxidase (anti-HRP) antibodies.

oligosaccharyltransferase complex that results in a profound defect in glycosylation efficiency (Koiwa et al., 2003).

Another glycoprotein that is sensitive to alterations in N-glycosylation is beta-thioglucoside glucohydrolase 1(TGG1) (Koiwa et al., 2003; Zhang et al., 2008, 2009). TGG1 is a vacuolar glycoprotein with nine potential N-glycosylation sites (Ueda et al., 2006). On immunoblots probed with anti-TGG1 antibodies, TGG1 displayed a clear mobility shift corroborating our data that deficiency of ALG10 leads to hypoglycosylation of glycoproteins (Figure 7d).

Previously, it has been shown that the glycosylation defect in the complex glycan 1 (cgl1) mutant can be rescued by crossing to the stt3a-2 mutant (Frank et al., 2008). The cgl1 mutant contains a point mutation in the gene encoding N-acetylglucosaminyltransferase I (GnTI) that generates an additional N-glycosylation site and thus interferes with correct folding of GnTI and subsequent enzyme activity (Strasser et al., 2005). As a consequence of reduced glycosylation, CGL1-GnTl becomes partially active in stt3a-2 and the formation of complex N-glycans is restored (Frank et al., 2008). To study if ALG10 deficiency has a similar effect on CGL1-GnTl we crossed alg10-1 to cgl1 and analyzed the formation of complex N-glycans by immunoblotting. In the alg10-1 cgl1 double mutant complex N-glycan formation is restored, while in alg 10-1 gntl, which contains a null allele of GnTI, no signal could be detected (Figure 7e). The staining intensity in the alg10-1 cgl1 line was comparable to stt3a-2 cgl1, indicating similar degrees of CGL1-GnTl underglycosylation in the absence of ALG10 and STT3A, respectively. In contrast to alg 10-1, glycosylation efficiency is only slightly affected in the alg3 mutant (Figures 7e and S3).

Deficiency of N-glycosylation in the ER perturbs protein folding and quality control processes leading to ER stress and activation of the unfolded protein response (UPR) (Koizumi et al., 1999; Koiwa et al., 2003; Martínez and Chrispeels, 2003). We hypothesized that underglycosylation of proteins in alg 10-1 should lead to activation of the UPR. In accordance with our prediction, the expression of the folding chaperone binding protein (BiP) was increased in the alg10-1 mutant (Figure S4) and a BiP2-promoter GUS construct (Oh et al., 2003) expressed in alg 10-1 resulted in a strong GUS signal throughout the whole seedling (Figure S4) consistent with the finding that ALG10 loss-offunction leads to underglycosylation and subsequently to ER stress and activation of the unfolded protein response.

The alg10-1 mutant displays altered leaves and is more sensitive to salt stress

Plants with ALG3 or STT3A deficiency display mild and severe underglycosylation defects, respectively, but do not display any obvious phenotype under normal growth conditions (Henquet et al., 2008; Kajiura et al., 2010; Koiwa et al., 2003). The alg10-1 seedlings were indistinguishable from the wild type when grown on MS medium, but alg 10-1 plants were smaller than the wild type and displayed alterations in leaf size when grown on soil (Figure 8a,b).

It was shown for some underglycosylation mutants that they are more sensitive towards salt stress and hypersensitive towards abscisic acid (ABA) and tunicamycin (Koiwa et al., 2003; Zhang et al., 2009). Root growth of alg10-1 seedlings was affected when grown on media supplemented with 120 mm NaCl (Figure 8c). This effect was stronger when higher salt concentrations were used, while mannitol had only a very weak effect on the growth of alg 10-1 seedlings compared with the wild type (Figure S5). Interestingly, while stt3a-2 displayed a swelling of the root tip when grown on MS medium with 160 mm NaCl, the root tip of alg10-1 seedlings was indistinguishable from the wild type (Figure 8d). The alg 10-1 mutant was also more sensitive towards the treatment with tunicamycin than wild-type seedlings but less sensitive than stt3a-2 (Figure S6). The alg10-1 seeds germinated equally well on MS medium supplemented with ABA, but seedlings were slightly more ABA sensitive (Figure S7).

Complementation of the Arabidopsis alg 10-1 mutant

Transgenic A. thaliana plants were generated by floral dipping of alg10-1 plants with an ALG10 construct, where ALG10 expression was driven by the ubiquitin-10 promoter (UBQ10:ALG10), which provides consistent expression in

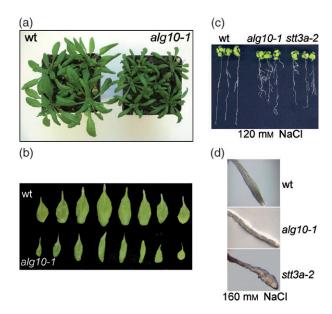


Figure 8. alg 10-1 mutant phenotypes.

(a) Wild-type (wt) and alg10-1 mutant plants grown on soil under long-day conditions (16-h light/8-h dark).

(b) Leaf sizes of 6-week-old wild-type and alg 10-1 mutant plants.

(c) alg 10-1 is salt sensitive. Seedlings were grown on MS medium for 6 days, transferred to new MS plates containing 120 mm NaCl and grown for 14 additional days. Col-0 wild-type and stt3a-2 mutants were included for comparison.

(d) Root tip of wild-type, alg 10-1 and stt3a-2 seedlings grown for 14 days on MS medium supplemented with 160 mm NaCl.

A. thaliana tissues (Grefen et al., 2010). Seedlings were selected on kanamycin and positive plants were screened by PCR for the presence of the transgene. Immunoblotting with anti-TGG1 and anti-horseradish peroxidase (anti-HRP) antibodies and analysis of lipid-linked oligosaccharides by LC-ESI-MS showed that ALG10 could fully complement the ALG10 deficiency of alg10-1 (Figure S8). Moreover, the observed growth phenotype was also restored in the transgenic lines, confirming that these alterations are caused by the defect in lipid-linked oligosaccharide assembly and the resulting underglycosylation defect.

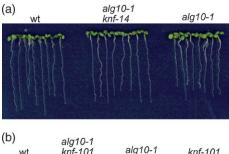
The alg10-1 mutant can rescue the embryo lethality of knf-14

Our data show that ALG10 adds the terminal glucose residue to the lipid-linked oligosaccharide. Based on these results we hypothesized that in the absence of the terminal glucose the activity of GCSI, which removes this residue, is not required for normal processing of N-glycans. As a consequence ALG10-deficient mutants might be able to rescue the defects observed for the knf-14 GCSI loss-of-function mutant (Gillmor et al., 2002) and for the weak knf-101 allele (Furumizu and Komeda, 2008). To test our hypothesis we crossed alg 10-1 to knf-14 as well as knf-101 and screened by PCR and sequence analysis for putative double mutants. We could identify several lines, which were knockout for alg 10-1 and homozygous for the point mutations of knf-14 or knf-101. Remarkably, the alg10-1 knf-14 double mutant was viable and seedlings were indistinguishable from alg 10-1 and wild-type plants when grown on MS medium (Figure 9a). In addition, the root growth phenotype of light- and dark-grown knf-101 seedlings was completely rescued in the alg10-1 knf-101 mutant (Figure 9b). N-glycan analysis revealed that processing of N-glycans was completely restored in the alg10-1 knf-14 and alg10-1 knf-101 double mutants (Figures S9 and S10).

DISCUSSION

Biosynthesis of the lipid-linked oligosaccharide precursor in plants

The first identified ALG glycosyltransferase from plants was $A.\ thaliana\ ALG3$ (Henquet $et\ al.$, 2008), which elongates the Man₅GlcNAc₂ precursor after flipping into the ER lumen by addition of one mannose residue. An ortholog of ALG11 catalyzing the biosynthetic step that precedes ALG3 on the cytosolic face and an ortholog of ALG12, which transfers the eighth mannose residue in the ER lumen, have also been characterized recently (Zhang $et\ al.$, 2009; Hong $et\ al.$, 2009). Here, we provide clear evidence that the identified $A.\ thaliana\ ALG10$ is an ortholog of the yeast ALG10 α 1,2-glucosyltransferase: (i) $A.\ thaliana\ ALG10$ can complement the $S.\ cerevisiae\ \Delta alg10\ mutant$; (ii) the alg10-1 loss-of-function mutant displays incomplete lipid-linked oligosaccharides



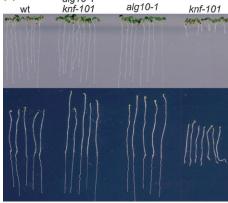


Figure 9. ALG10 deficiency suppresses the severe phenotypes of the *knf-14* and *knf-101* mutants which are deficient in α -glucosidase I activity. (a) The *alg10-1 knf-14* double mutant is indistinguishable from wild-type (wt) and *alg10-1* seedlings. Seedlings were grown on MS medium for 10 days (16-

h light/8-h dark).

(b) The alg 10-1 knf-101 double mutant has restored root elongation (10-day-old seedlings, 16-h light/8-h dark) and hypocotyl formation when grown in the

resulting in an underglycosylation defect; and (iii) ALG10 deficiency suppresses the phenotypes of GCSI-deficient plants.

The alg10-1 underglycosylation defect

dark for 7 days compared with knf-101.

The assembly of the incomplete oligosaccharide precursor in alg 10-1 does not lead to detectable alterations of N-glycans. This finding is consistent with the fact that upon transfer by the oligosaccharyltransferase the glucose residues are immediately processed to generate monoglucosylated and oligomannosidic N-glycans (Hubbard and Robbins, 1979). Tri- and diglucosylated N-glycans are normally not detectable on glycoproteins from A. thaliana (Henquet et al., 2008; Kajiura et al., 2010; Strasser et al., 2004) or other plant species (Wilson et al., 2001). On the contrary the ALG10 deficiency results in a drastic underglycosylation of proteins in A. thaliana. A reduced in vivo glycosylation efficiency was also described for the yeast ALG10 mutant (Burda and Aebi, 1998) and can be explained by the reduced transfer of Glc₂Man₉GlcNAc₂ to nascent polypeptides by the oligosaccharyltransferase (Karaoglu et al., 2001; Murphy and Spiro, 1981; Turco and Robbins, 1979). To date the S. cerevisiae ALG10 is the only ALG10 protein that has been enzymatically characterized (Burda and Aebi, 1998). A putative rat ALG10 protein has been identified as a subunit of voltage-dependent K1 channels in rat brain, but a link to dolichol-linked oligosaccharide biosynthesis has not been established (Hoshi et al., 1998). In humans, biosynthesis defects of the dolichol-linked oligosaccharide precursor are associated with diseases known as congenital disorders of glycosylation (CDG) (Haeuptle and Hennet, 2009). Interestingly, no ALG10-CDG patient has yet been identified and a mouse model for ALG10 deficiency has not been described (Thiel and Körner, 2011). Hence, the consequences of ALG10 deficiency for mammals are unknown. Here, we show that ALG10 loss-offunction in a multicellular organism has a profound effect on plant growth and tolerance to abiotic stress conditions. As the glycosylation process seems to be conserved in higher eukaryotes our data suggest that a similar ALG10 defect in mammals should also lead to drastic protein hypoglycosylation resulting in severe metabolic diseases or developmental changes in other organisms.

Here, we have established that several glycoproteins are underglycosylated in alg10-1. ALG10 deficiency has an effect on CGL1-GnTI, TGG1 and PDI as well as on some proteins detectable by ConA binding and Coomassie staining, indicating that a large number of glycoproteins are underglycosylated. Previously A. thaliana mutants that display reduced glycosylation efficiency and subsequent hypoglycosylation of proteins have been described (Hoeberichts et al., 2008; Kajiura et al., 2010; Koiwa et al., 2003; Lerouxel et al., 2005; Zhang et al., 2008, 2009). These mutants have either a defect in the assembly of the lipidlinked core glycan or a deficiency in one of the oligosaccharyltransferase subunits. The stt3a-2 mutant with a T-DNA insertion in the gene coding for the STT3a subunit of the oligosaccharyltransferase complex displayed underglycosylation of TGG1 (Koiwa et al., 2003), PDI (Lerouxel et al., 2005), CGL1-GNTI (Frank et al., 2008) and the membrane-bound endo-1.4-β-glucanase KORRIGAN (Kang et al., 2008; Zhang et al., 2009). The stt3a-2 mutant is viable, but hypersensitive to salt/osmotic stress (Koiwa et al., 2003). Moreover, in stt3a-2 (Koiwa et al., 2003) and alg10-1 mutants the UPR is activated and crossing of alg 10-1 to the weak KORRIGAN allele rsw2-1 enhanced the rsw2-1 root phenotype (data not shown) as was described for the rsw2-1 stt3a-2 double mutant (Kang et al., 2008), suggesting that KORRIGAN or another protein involved in cell wall synthesis is also subjected to hypoglycosylation in alg 10-1. Despite these similarities there are, however, clear differences between stt3a-2 and alg10-1: stt3a-2 plants do not display any alteration of plant growth when grown on soil (Figure S11), but are more sensitive to salt stress and tunicamycin. It is very likely that these specific differences result from lack of N-glycosylation on a different group of glycoproteins.

Interestingly, a weak A. thaliana allele of the oligosaccharyltransferase subunit OST48/WBP1 (dgl1-1), which results in significant underglycosylation of PDI, but not of KORRI-GAN, displays a severe growth phenotype at the seedling stage that finally leads to premature cessation of growth (Lerouxel et al., 2005). The glycosylation capacity is also impaired in the lew3 mutant, which is a weak alg 11 allele and shows a leaf-wilting phenotype as well as increased sensitivity to osmotic stress and ABA (Zhang et al., 2009). The lew3 plants are also hypersensitive to tunicamycin and show underglycosylation of PDI, but not of KORRIGAN. The comparatively mild underglycosylation defect present in the alg3 null mutant (Kajiura et al., 2010), which was confirmed by partial restoration of complex N-glycan formation in the call mutant (Figure 7), does not result in any detectable growth phenotype or in increased salt stress sensitivity (Kajiura et al., 2010) and the alg12 null mutant does not display any protein hypoglyocsylation at all (Hong et al., 2009). Together these data show that the different underglycosylation defects result in partially overlapping phenotypes (e.g. salt sensitivity in stt3a-2, alg10-1 and lew3) but also in rather distinct phenotypes, which are presumably caused by the different degree of underglycosylation and by the different proteins that are affected in the mutants. In addition, some mutants like lew3 generate aberrant truncated glycans, which are transferred to proteins and could influence the phenotype of the mutant. The characteristic leaf wilting phenotype of lew1 and lew3 mutants (Zhang et al., 2008, 2009) was not found in the alg10-1 plants. In summary our data suggest that the detected growth phenotype is specific for plants with ALG10 deficiency.

Rescue of the lethality of the gcsl knockout mutant

The first step of N-glycan processing is the removal of the terminal α1,2-linked glucose from Glc₃Man₉GlcNAc₂ in the ER by GCSI. One of the knopf mutants (knf-14) with a defect in cell expansion in early embryos is impaired in GCSI activity (Gillmor et al., 2002). In another study a mutant with a T-DNA insertion in the GCSI gene displayed altered protein body formation, cell differentiation and embryo development (Boisson et al., 2001). Moreover knf-101, which is a weaker allele, shows alterations of cell shape in epidermal cells (Furumizu and Komeda, 2008). All these studies propose a critical role for GCSI in plant development. However, our data show that these severe defects can be suppressed by ALG10 deficiency, suggesting that α-glucosidase I per se is not essential for embryo development and the lethality is caused by the presence of the terminal α 1,2-linked glucose that blocks further trimming of the N-glycan. Mutants with defects in mannose trimming reactions are viable but display a severe root growth phenotype (Liebminger et al., 2009), and impairment of maturation steps in the Golgi apparatus result in no or only conditional phenotypes (Kang et al., 2008; Strasser et al., 2004, 2007, 2006) suggesting that

the critical step for the viability of plants is the removal of the second and third glucose residues by GCSII. GCSII T-DNA mutants have not been described in detail but the available data suggest that GCSII-null mutants are non-viable (Burn et al., 2002; Soussilane et al., 2009). Trimming of the first α1,3-glucose by GCSII is required to generate the monoglucosylated oligosaccharide that is specifically recognized by the lectins calnexin/calreticulin and thus enters the glycan-dependent protein folding and quality control cycle in the ER (D'Alessio et al., 2010). In the absence of GCSI, subsequent trimming by GCSII is blocked and might lead to the observed embryo lethality. However, the null mutant of UDP-glucose:glycoprotein glucosyltransferase (Jin et al., 2007), which performs the reglucosylation step that is required for prolonged interaction with the calnexin/calreticulin system, is viable, suggesting that a single round of calnexin/calreticulin binding is sufficient to provide efficient folding of the glycoproteins involved in cell wall synthesis and embryo development in A. thaliana. Apart from blocking glycoprotein folding, the presence of glucosylated oligosaccharides on certain glycoproteins could directly impair protein function, for example by preventing essential protein-protein interaction or enzyme activity. The importance of concerted deglucosylation is also highlighted by the fact that mammals have developed an additional glucosidaseindependent pathway for removal of glucose residues which involves a Golgi-resident endo-α-mannosidase that releases Glc₁₋₃Man from *N*-glycans and ensures that no proteins with glucosylated N-glycans are secreted (Zuber et al., 2000). Moreover, malectin, an ER-resident protein that recognizes glucosylated oligosaccharides, has been found to participate in another backup quality control system in mammalian cells (Galli et al., 2011; Schallus et al., 2008). In summary these data show that glucose residues are critical determinants of protein glycosylation and quality control and their presence and controlled removal is crucial for the development of mammals and plants. Identification and characterization of other N-glycan biosynthesis mutants such as ALG5, which generates the Dol-P-glucose donor substrate for all ER-resident alucosyltransferases, ALG6 or ALG8 (Figure 1) are required to further dissect the role of the glucose residues on glycoproteins in plants. Moreover the alg10-1 mutants are valuable tools to investigate the relationship between underglycosylation and plant growth as well as abiotic stress reactions.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

Plant material and growth conditions

Arabidopsis thaliana ecotype Columbia (Col-0), mutant plants and N. benthamiana were grown under long-day conditions (16-h light/8-h dark photoperiod) at 22°C as described previously (Liebminger et al., 2009). The mutants alg10-1 (SAIL_515_F10), alg3 (SALK_064006), gntl (SALK_073560) (Kang et al., 2008), stt3a-2 (Koiwa et al., 2003), cgl1 (von Schaewen et al., 1993) and knf-14 (Gillmor

et al., 2002) were all obtained from the European Arabidopsis Stock Centre. The knf-101 seeds were a kind gift of Yoshibumi Komeda (Department of Biological Sciences, The University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan) and BiP2:GUS seeds were kindly provided by Nozomu Koizumi (Nara Institute of Science and Technology, Nara, Japan).

The alg10-1T-DNA insertion was confirmed by sequencing of the PCR products obtained using primers ALG10_1F/RBsail1 and ALG10_2R/LBsail1 (see Table S1). Homozygous T-DNA insertion lines were identified using the primers ALG10_1F/_2R. The homozygous alg3 T-DNA insertion line was identified by PCR using the primer combinations ALG3_9F/LBa1 and ALG3_9F/_8R. The other mutants were screened as previously described. Double mutants were generated by crossing and confirmed by PCR genotyping and subsequent sequencing. For the different treatments (e.g. NaCl) the seedlings were grown or incubated as described in the figures.

RT-PCR analysis

Total RNA was purified from rosette leaves of A. thaliana wild-type plants and alg10-1 using an SV total RNA isolation kit (Promega, http://www.promega.com/). First-strand cDNA was synthesized from 500 ng of total RNA at 42°C using oligo(dT) primers and AMV reverse transcriptase (Promega). The ALG10 coding region was amplified with primers ALG10_4F/_5R using Turbo Pfu polymerase (Stratagene, http://www.stratagene.com/). The PCR product was subcloned using a ZERO Blunt TOPO PCR cloning kit (Invitrogen, http://www.invitrogen.com/) and sequenced using a BIG Dye Termination Cycle sequencing kit (Applied Biosystems, http:// www.appliedbiosystems.com/). To detect ALG10 transcripts, PCR was performed from cDNA using the primers ALG10_4F/_2R, ALG10_4F/_5R and ALG10_8F/_5R. Complementary DNA derived from the ubiquitin 5 (UBQ5) gene was amplified as a control using the primers UBQ5-D/-U. The PCR products were visualized by ethidium bromide staining.

Subcellular localization of ALG10-GFP

The ALG10–GFP construct was generated by PCR amplification of the *ALG10* coding region using the primers ALG10_6F/_7R by Phusion High-Fidelity DNA Polymerase (Finnzymes, http://www.finnzymes.com/) and ligated into *Xbal*- and *Bam*Hl-digested p20F plasmid (Schoberer *et al.*, 2009). Transient expression in *N. benthamiana* was done by infiltration of leaves as described previously (Schoberer *et al.*, 2009). For co-expression experiments, resuspended *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* strain UIA143 was diluted to an OD600 of 0.1 for ALG10–GFP and an OD600 of 0.05 for the ER marker protein GnTl-CaaaTS-mRFP (Schoberer *et al.*, 2009). Sampling and imaging of fluorescent proteins expressed in *N. benthamiana* leaves was performed 2 days after infiltration using a Leica TCS SP2 confocal microscope (http://www.leica.com/) as described in detail recently (Schoberer *et al.*, 2009).

Yeast strains and expression in yeast cells

The *S. cerevisiae* wild-type strain BY4741 (*MATa his3D1 leu2D0 met15D0 ura3D0*) and the $\Delta alg10$ strain YGR227W (Y05880 die2::kanMX4) are from the EUROSCARF collection and were kindly provided by Gerhard Adam (BOKU-University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria). The kanMX4 alg10 disruption was confirmed by PCR using the following primer combinations: ScALG10_1F/Kan-B, Kan-D/Kan-C, ScALG10_4R/Kan-C and genespecific primers ScALG10_1F/_2R and ScALG10_1F/_4R. Cells were grown in YPD broth or YPD agar (10 g L $^{-1}$ yeast extract, 20 g L $^{-1}$ peptone, 20 g L $^{-1}$ dextrose, 20 g L $^{-1}$ agar).

ALG10 cDNA was amplified from wild-type A. thaliana (Col-0 ecotype) using the primers ALG10_10F/_11R. The Bg/II- and Sall-digested fragment was ligated into BamHI- and Xhol-digested yeast vector pADHfw (kindly provided by Gerhard Adam), which provides expression under the control of the ADH1 promoter. The resulting vector was transformed into the yeast $\Delta alg 10$ strain using the lithium acetate procedure (Gietz et al., 1992) and grown on plates prepared with yeast nitrogen base and yeast synthetic dropout media without leucine. Yeast transformants were analyzed by PCR using the primers ScALG10_1F/_4R, ScALG10_4R/Kan-C and ALG10_9R/pTk2-fw.

Analysis of the carboxypeptidase Y glycosylation pattern

Yeast cells were grown in YPD broth medium at 30°C for 2 days and harvested by centrifugation at 16 000 a for 1 min. Cells were disrupted with glass beads using a Retsch mixer mill (http:// www.retsch.com/) at 50-60 amplitude for 2 min and incubated in PBS for 15 min at 4°C. The soluble protein fraction was obtained by centrifugation at 8000g and 10 000g for 5 min, respectively. Protein concentration was measured with a BCA protein assay kit (Pierce, http://www.piercenet.com/) and proteins were separated by SDS-PAGE (8%) and blotted to a Hybond-ECL nitrocellulose membrane (GE Healthcare, http://www.gehealthcare.com/). After blocking with PBS containing 0.1% Tween 20 and 3% BSA for 60 min, blots were probed with monoclonal anti-CPY antibody (1:2.000 dilution in blocking buffer; Invitrogen) and developed using the Super Signal West Pico Chemiluminescent Substrate (Pierce).

Preparation and analysis of lipid-linked glycans

Yeast cells (1×10^7) were lysed in 2 ml of microsomal preparation buffer [50 mм 2-amino-2-(hydroxymethyl)-1,3-propanediol (TRIS)-HCl pH 7.3, 0.5 mm DTT, 1 mm EDTA, 250 mm sucrose and 0.5 mm phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride (PMSF)] by shaking with glass beads for 2 h at 4°C. Cell lysates were separated from the glass beads, 3 ml of microsomal preparation buffer was added and the lysates were centrifuged at 8000 g for 20 min. The supernatant was centrifuged at 100 000 g for 75 min at 4°C. The resulting microsomal pellets assumed to contain most of the cells' dolichol-linked precursor oligosaccharides were treated with 200 μl of 0.1 M trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) at 80°C for 1 h, which selectively hydrolyzes the labile sugar-phosphate linkage (M. Pabst et al., unpublished).

In the case of seedlings, samples of approximately 1 g were minced in 5 ml of microsomal preparation buffer at 4°C with an Ultra-Turrax (IKA GmbH, Germany) disperser. Samples were centrifuged at 8000 g for 20 min at 4°C and the microsomal fraction was prepared and hydrolyzed as described above for yeast cells.

The hydrolyzed microsomal samples from yeast cells or plant seedlings were made slightly alkaline with ammonia and reduced by adding a twofold volume of a 2% sodium borohydride solution. Twenty-five per cent of the purified and vacuum-dried sample was injected to the liquid chromatography-MS analysis system. Liquid chromatography was done with a porous graphitized carbon column coupled to an electrospray ionization mass spectrometer (Q-TOF Global Ultima, Waters, http://www.waters.com/) for glycan detection as described recently (Pabst et al., 2007, 2010). Peaks with the masses of doubly charged, reduced Glc₀₋₃Man₉GlcNAc₂ were retrieved by simulated selected ion monitoring.

N-glycan analysis by immunoblotting and lectin blots

Protein gel blot analysis of crude protein extracts was performed using anti-HRP antibody (1:10.000 diluted, Sigma-Aldrich, http:// www.sigmaaldrich.com/) and peroxidase-conjugated concanavalin A (Sigma-Aldrich) as described (Schoberer et al., 2009; Strasser et al., 2004). Deglycosylation of proteins with peptide: N-Glycosidase F (PNGase F, New England Biolabs, http://www.neb.com/) and endoglycosidase H (Endo H, New England Biolabs) were done as described recently (Liebminger et al., 2011).

Protein gel blot analysis

Plant material was ground in liquid nitrogen, resuspended in 5-10 μl of PBS per mg of plant material, and centrifuged at 16 000 g for 10 min. An aliquot of the supernatant was immediately mixed with SDS-PAGE loading buffer, denatured at 95°C for 5 min, and subjected to SDS-PAGE (8 or 12%) under reducing conditions. Protein gel blots were blocked in PBS containing 0.1% Tween 20 and 3% BSA. The membranes were probed with anti-HRP, anti-PDI (1:5.000; custom-made antiserum raised against a peptide from A. thaliana PDI5 by Gramsch Laboratories, http://www.gramsch.de/) (Andème Ondzighi et al., 2008), anti-BiP2 (1:1.500, Agrisera), anti-TGG1 (1:1.000, kindly provided by Ikuko Hara-Nishimura, Department of Botany, Graduate School of Science, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan).

Total N-glycan analysis

Total N-glycan analysis was performed from 500 mg of rosette leaves or seedlings by MALDI-TOF-MS as described previously (Altmann et al., 2001; Strasser et al., 2004).

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional Supporting Information may be found in the online version of this article:

TAIR annotation spreadsheet.

Figure S1. Multiple sequence alignment of Arabidopsis thaliana ALG10 with yeast (ScALG10) and human (HsALG10) proteins.

Figure S2. Matrix-assisted laser desorption ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry (MALDI-TOF-MS) spectra of total N-glycans extracted from leaves of wild-type (wt) and alg 10-1 plants.

Figure S3. *alg10-1* displays a severe underglycosylation defect.

Figure S4. ALG10 deficiency activates the unfolded protein response.

Figure S5. Salt/osmotic stress sensitivity of alg 10-1.

Figure S6. alg 10-1 seedlings are more sensitive to tunicamycin (TM) treatment than wild-type but not as hypersensitive as stt3a-2.

Figure S7. Phenotypic analysis of alg 10-1 under ABA treatment.

Figure S8. ALG10 expressed under the UBQ10 promoter can complement the phenotypic changes of the alg 10-1 mutant.

Figure S9. Matrix-assisted laser desorption ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry (MALDI-TOF-MS) spectra of total N-glycans extracted from leaves of wild-type (wt) and alg10-1 knf-14 double mutants.

- **Figure S10.** Matrix-assisted laser desorption ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry (MALDI-TOF-MS) spectra of total *N*-glycans extracted from leaves of *knf-101* mutants and *alg10-1 knf-101* double mutants.
- **Figure S11.** Phenotypic comparison between wild-type, *alg10-1* and *stt3a-2* plants grown on soil.
- Table S1. Oligonucleotide sequences used in this study.
- **Data S1.** Methods Histochemical analysis; complementation of the *ala10-1* mutant.
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