

The Hsp70 and Hsp40 Chaperones Influence Microtubule Stability in *Chlamydomonas*

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ABSTRACT Mutations at the *APM1* and *APM2* loci in the green alga *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* confer resistance to phosphorothioamidate and dinitroaniline herbicides. Genetic interactions between *apm1* and *apm2* mutations suggest an interaction between the gene products. We identified the *APM1* and *APM2* genes using a map-based cloning strategy. Genomic DNA fragments containing only the *DNJ1* gene encoding a type I Hsp40 protein rescue *apm1* mutant phenotypes, conferring sensitivity to the herbicides and rescuing a temperature-sensitive growth defect. Lesions at five *apm1* alleles include missense mutations and nucleotide insertions and deletions that result in altered proteins or very low levels of gene expression. The *HSP70A* gene, encoding a cytosolic Hsp70 protein known to interact with Hsp40 proteins, maps near the *APM2* locus. Missense mutations found in three *apm2* alleles predict altered Hsp70 proteins. Genomic fragments containing the *HSP70A* gene rescue *apm2* mutant phenotypes. The results suggest that a client of the Hsp70–Hsp40 chaperone complex may function to increase microtubule dynamics in *Chlamydomonas* cells. Failure of the chaperone system to recognize or fold the client protein(s) results in increased microtubule stability and resistance to the microtubule-destabilizing effect of the herbicides. The lack of redundancy of genes encoding cytosolic Hsp70 and Hsp40 type I proteins in *Chlamydomonas* makes it a uniquely valuable system for genetic analysis of the function of the Hsp70 chaperone complex.

PROPER folding of cellular proteins is critical for their function, and the Hsp70/DNAK chaperones play a critical role in folding proteins. Hsp70-mediated folding plays a role in assembly of proteins after synthesis, in translocating proteins across membranes, in refolding proteins after denaturation, in degrading denatured proteins if they cannot be successfully refolded, and in assembly or disassembly of protein complexes such as clathrin coats (reviewed by Meimaridou *et al.* 2009; Kampinga and Craig 2010; Schlecht *et al.* 2011). Hsp70 proteins are highly conserved across all species, from bacteria to mammals (reviewed by Karlin and Brocchieri 1998). They are the central component of “Hsp70 machines,” acting in concert with a great variety of other proteins, including the DnaJ/Hsp40 class of proteins.

A widely accepted model for chaperone action suggests that denatured proteins are recognized by an Hsp40 protein

that delivers the protein to Hsp70 for folding and stimulates Hsp70 ATPase activity. In the next step, specific nucleotide exchange factors (NEFs) act on Hsp70 to release the bound client proteins and allow them to renature to their native state. Different Hsp40 proteins are thought to recognize different “client” protein substrates. Mechanical flexibility of the substrate binding domain of Hsp70 allows it to accommodate a wide array of client proteins (Schlecht *et al.* 2011).

Hsp40 proteins are defined by having a J domain, a highly conserved sequence of ~70 amino acids, usually at their N terminus, that interacts with Hsp70. The protein binding domain, usually at the C terminus, is highly variable among different Hsp40s and confers client protein binding specificity. DnaJ/Hsp40 proteins have been categorized into three groups, on the basis of the presence of a J domain followed by a Gly-Phe-rich region and four cysteine repeats in zinc finger domains (type I); the J domain followed by the Gly-Phe-rich region (type II); or the J domain only (type III) (reviewed by Walsh *et al.* 2004; Craig *et al.* 2006; Qiu *et al.* 2006; Kampinga and Craig 2010).

The unicellular green alga *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* is somewhat unusual among eukaryotes in that it has only a single DnaK-type cytosolic Hsp70 protein, Hsp70A, along with at least six other Hsp70 family members that function

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in the chloroplast, mitochondria, and endoplasmic reticulum (Gromoff *et al.* 1989; Muller *et al.* 1992; Schroda 2004; Nordhues *et al.* 2010). The cytosolic Hsp70A in *Chlamydomonas* is also found in the flagella (Bloch and Johnson 1995). The flagellar Hsp70A has been localized using immunofluorescence to the flagellar tip, known to be the site of flagellar microtubule assembly (Witman 1975; Johnson and Rosenbaum 1992). That Hsp70 in the flagella may be involved in the assembly of the radial spokes required for regulation of flagellar motility has been suggested by the finding that a novel, dimeric Hsp40 is incorporated into the structure of the radial spoke (Yang *et al.* 2005). A role for Hsp70 in assembly of the flagella is suggested by the observation that expression of the cytosolic/flagellar form of Hsp70 is stimulated upon amputation of the flagella (Baker *et al.* 1986; Stolc *et al.* 2005). The activity of Hsp70A also appears to be required in the cytosol for preassembly of dynein arm complexes prior to their transport into the flagellar compartment (Omran *et al.* 2008).

In contrast to the small Hsp70 gene family, 63 proteins with DnaJ domains are encoded in the haploid *Chlamydomonas* genome, with more than half of these localized to the cytosol, suggesting that many Hsp40 proteins interact with the single cytosolic Hsp70 (Schroda 2004; Nordhues *et al.* 2010). However, only three Hsp40s are DnaJ type I proteins with zinc finger domains containing CxxCxxGxxG motifs. These proteins are targeted separately to the mitochondrial, chloroplastic, and cytosolic compartments; the cytosolic form has been designated Dnj1 (Willmund *et al.* 2008). We report here a newly discovered role for Hsp40 and Hsp70 proteins in *Chlamydomonas* in regulating the stability of cytoplasmic microtubules.

Strategies to select for mutants resistant to chemicals that bind to tubulin and destabilize microtubules have resulted in the identification of mutations in α - and β -tubulin genes in numerous experimental systems (*e.g.*, Schibler and Cabral 1985; Yanagida 1987; Stearns 1990; Morrissette *et al.* 2004; Oakley 2004). Similarly, weed species resistant to antimicrotubule herbicides due to mutations in tubulin genes have been selected by repeated long-term application of these chemicals to fields (reviewed by Anthony and Hussey 1999). In *Chlamydomonas*, mutants with alterations in the β 2-tubulin gene were obtained by selecting for resistance to the antimicrotubule compound colchicine (Schibler and Huang 1991). In an earlier study, we selected mutants in *Chlamydomonas* that conferred resistance to the plant antimicrotubule agents amiprophosmethyl (APM) or oryzalin (ORY) but did not affect sensitivity to several other chemicals unrelated to microtubule function. Surprisingly, when *apm1* and *apm2* mutants were isolated, none of the 25 mutations mapped to the two α -tubulin genes or the two β -tubulin genes (James *et al.* 1988), even though the herbicides had been shown to bind to tubulin from *Chlamydomonas* and plants and to inhibit *in vitro* assembly of plant microtubules (Hess and Bayer 1977; Morejohn and Fosket 1984; Morejohn *et al.* 1987; Hugdahl and Morejohn 1993).

Instead, the APM-resistant mutants had lesions in two unlinked genes: *APM1*, with 21 mutant alleles, and *APM2*, with two mutant alleles (James 1989). It was possible to isolate mutations in α -tubulin that conferred resistance to APM, but only by isolating "step-up" mutations, in which mutants with a higher level of resistance were selected in an *apm1* mutant background (James *et al.* 1993).

Genetic interactions between the *apm1* and *apm2* alleles were observed including allele-specific synthetic lethality and partial intergenic noncomplementation, expressed as intermediate levels of drug resistance in doubly heterozygous diploids (James *et al.* 1988). These results suggested that the *APM1* and *APM2* gene products may have physical interactions or that the genes may function in the same process or structure. With the completion of the *Chlamydomonas* molecular map (Kathir *et al.* 2003; Rymarquis *et al.* 2005) and the sequence of the nuclear genome (Merchant *et al.* 2007), we were able to determine that *apm1* mutations are caused by lesions in the *DNAJ1* gene encoding the cytosolic Hsp40 type I protein, while the genetically interacting *apm2* mutations are in the gene encoding cytosolic Hsp70A. The results indicate a previously unsuspected role of the Hsp70 chaperone system in regulation of microtubule stability.

Materials and Methods

Chlamydomonas strains, growth conditions, and genetic crosses

Strains CC-124 *mt*⁻, 21gr *mt*⁺ (CC-1690), S1-D2 *mt*⁻ (CC-2290), L5 *apm1-19 nit1 mt*⁺ (CC-4263), and L8 *apm1-19 nit1 mt*⁻ (CC-4264) were obtained from the *Chlamydomonas* Resource Center (University of Minnesota, St. Paul). Additional strains from this project have been deposited in the resource center (Table 1). Minimal medium I (Sager and Granick 1953) and Tris-acetate-phosphate (TAP) medium (Gorman and Levine 1965) were prepared using the modifications described by Schnell and Lefebvre (1993). Solid media contained 1% agar (molecular biology grade *Drosophila* agar; US Biological, Swampscott, MA) soaked in distilled water prior to media preparation. Cells were grown routinely at 24° on 14-hr light/10-hr dark cycle. Cultures were illuminated with white light (4800 lux) from fluorescent tubes. Tests of drug-resistant and temperature-sensitive growth were carried out as described by James *et al.* (1988). Growth of cells on agar media was scored at $\times 80$ magnification using a stereomicroscope. Standard methods were used for tetrad analysis (Levine and Ebersold 1960).

Mapping the *APM1* gene

Primer design and PCR reaction conditions were carried out as described previously (Kathir *et al.* 2003). All primers are listed in supporting information, Table S1.

Cloning of *DNAJ1* and *HSP70A* genes

The BAC clone BAC9F17 covers a region of chromosome 17 that contains the ACE9357 marker, located within the 3'-

Table 1 Growth phenotypes of wild-type and mutant strains

Strain, genotype	APM concentration				Temperature		Pronamide concentration	
	0.5 mM	1.0 mM	1.5 mM	2.0 mM	23°	33°	6 mM	12 mM
CC-1690 (21gr) mt ⁺	0	0	0	0	+++	+++	+/0	0
CC-124 mt ⁻	+/0	0	0	0	+++	+++	+/0	0
CC-4432 <i>apm1-1</i>	+++	+++	+++	++/0	+++	+++	+++	+++
CC-4433 <i>apm1-5</i>	+++	+++	+/0	0	+++	+++	+++	+++
CC-4434 <i>apm1-6</i>	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
CC-4435 <i>apm1-12</i>	++	+/0	+/0	+/0	++	0 ^a	+/0	0
CC-4263 <i>apm1-19 mt⁺</i>	+++	+++	+++	++/0	+++	+++	+++	+++
CC-4171 <i>apm2-1A mt⁻</i>	+++	++/0	++/0	0	+++	0 ^a	+++	+++
CC-4172 <i>apm2-1A mt⁺</i>	+++	+++	+/0	0	+++	0 ^a	+++	++
CC-4173 <i>apm2-1B mt⁻</i>	+++	+/0	0	0	+++	0 ^a	+/0	0
CC-4174 <i>apm2-2 mt⁺</i>	++/0	+/0	+/0	0	+++	0 ^a	++/0	++/0
CC-4175 <i>apm2-2 mt⁻</i>	++/0	+/0	+/0	0	+++	0 ^a	++/0	++/0

0, swollen, dead cells fail to divide; +, some normal-sized dividing cells; ++, many normal sized, dividing cells; +++, mostly normal sized, dividing cells.

^a Phenotype requires low plating density.

UTR of the *DNAJ1* gene. A *HindIII*–*BamHI* fragment of 10.2 kb was excised from BAC9F17 and cloned into pUC119 (Vieira and Messing 1987). This plasmid was digested with *KpnI* to yield a 7.5-kb fragment that was cloned into the *KpnI* site of pBSKS (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA) to generate pBS7.5*KpnI*. This plasmid was digested with *SallI* to yield a 6.98-kb fragment that was cloned into pBSKS to generate plasmid p6.98*SalI**DNAJ1*. To clone the full-length *HSP70A* gene, we ligated a 7.4-kb *XhoI* fragment from BAC clone 39F24 into pBSKS to generate p7.4*XhoI**HSP70A*. Complete sequences of *DNAJ1* or *HSP70A* genes were obtained from each mutant strain by generating overlapping PCR fragments that were sequenced on one or both DNA strands. Amplification was performed using Epicentre Biotechnologies (Madison, WI) FailSafe premix K (FSP995K) and enzyme mix (FSES101K). Primers are listed in Table S1.

Transformation of *Chlamydomonas* cells

Phenotypic rescue of mutant strains was accomplished using glass bead transformation (Nelson and Lefebvre 1995). Plasmid DNA (2 µg) containing the gene to be tested was cotransformed with 2 µg of plasmid pSI103 containing the *Streptomyces rimosus aphVIII* gene (Sizova *et al.* 2001) into 5 × 10⁷ cells grown in TAP liquid medium and treated with autolysin just prior to transformation. Transformants were grown in TAP medium overnight before spreading on TAP agar plates containing paromomycin (10 µg/ml). Colonies that grew up after 5–7 days were picked for further testing.

Inverse PCR With DNA from *apm1-1* strain

Genomic DNA (2 µg) from an *apm1-1* strain was digested with *AvaI* in a 50-µl reaction and the enzyme was heat inactivated. Ligation using T4 DNA ligase was performed in a total volume of 500 µl, using the entire restriction enzyme digestion mixture, to favor intramolecular ligation. Ligated DNA was phenol/chloroform purified, precipitated in ethanol, and resuspended in 20 µl dH₂O. Subsequent PCR reactions used 1 µl of the DNA as template. Touchdown PCR

(Korbie and Mattick 2008) was based on the method of Lecktreck *et al.* (2009). Amplification was performed using FailSafe enzyme, with forward primer C170010-R6 (For) and reverse primer *Apm1*-cDNA-R (Table S1), using touchdown PCR cycles: 95° 5 min, 16 cycles of touch-down amplification (95° 30 sec, 70° 1 min with 0.8° decrease each cycle, 72° 7-min extension), 15 cycles of regular amplification (95° 30 sec, 58° 1 min, 72° 7 min), and a final extension at 72° for 10 min. The ~700-bp product was sequenced on both directions using primers C170010-R6 (For) and C170010-R8 (Table S1).

Southern blotting and hybridization

Genomic DNA (3 µg) from 21gr wild-type and *apm1-1* mutant strains was digested with *AvaI* or *PvuII*, size fractionated on a 1% TBE gel, blotted, and hybridized following standard procedures (Sambrook and Russell 2001). Duplicate gels were prepared for multiple probes. The hybridization probes were: probe c, a 414-bp fragment amplified with primers *Apm1*–probe F and *Apm1*–probe R (Table S1), which cover the first half of the 3'-UTR of the *DJN1* gene, starting from the translation termination site TAA and probe d, a 277-bp fragment amplified with primers ACE9357-F2 and ACE9357-R, which cover the second half of the *DJN1* gene 3'-UTR, including the TGTA polyadenylation site. Probes were labeled with ³²P dCTP using the DECAprime II kit (Ambion, Austin, TX).

RNA blotting and hybridization

Total RNA (22 µg) from 21gr wild-type strain and strains with *APM1* mutant alleles *apm1-1*, *apm1-5*, *apm1-6*, *apm1-12*, and *apm1-19* were size fractionated on a 1.2% formaldehyde gel in 1× MOPS buffer, blotted, and hybridized following standard procedures (Sambrook and Russell 2001). A duplicate gel was prepared for multiple probes. Hybridization probe a was a 506-bp fragment amplified from cDNA prepared from RNA from strain 21gr. The probe was amplified using primers C170010-F11 and C170010-R2, which cover exons 1–4 of the *APM1* gene. For probe b, a 564-bp fragment was amplified from 21gr genomic

Table 2 Mapping the *apm1* mutation

		Locus or position on v4.0 chr 17											
		ACE	ACE	ACE	MSsc17	ACE	ACE			STSc17	ACE	ACE	
		9390	7549	4477	(FAP47)	9074	ODA3	4954	C170199	1016415	5892	C170104	9357
APM ^a		1401800	1299500	119500	1139000	1114000	1079000	992800	950900	890500	839700	779100	763500
Progeny from cross A: <i>apm1-19</i> × S1-D2													
JF0204-E7	1 ^b	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
JF0105-A8	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
JF0105-B10	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
JF0105-D4	1	2	2	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
JF3105-E9	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
JF0105-G9	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
JF3105-G9	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
JF0105-G2	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
JF0105-D7	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
JF0105-D11	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
JF3105-B6	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	0	1
JF3205-E5	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
JF3205-F1	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Progeny from cross B: <i>apm1-19 oda3</i> × S1-D2													
JF0306-A5	2						1	1	1	1	1	2	2
JF0306-E3	2						1	1	1	1	1	2	2
JF0506-F9	2						1	1	1	1	1	2	2

C. *reinhardtii* *apm1-19* mutant strains were crossed with the polymorphic strain S1-D2 to generate mapping progeny, each of which was derived from a separate tetrad.

^a Mapping progeny were scored for the *APM1* phenotype by growth on 1 μM APM; genotypes for SNP markers were scored based on PCR products.

^b The C. *reinhardtii* allele is indicated by 1; the S1-D2 allele is indicated by 2; 0 indicates not scored.

DNA, with primers C170010-F8 and C170010-R5, which cover the 350-bp intron 6 of the *DNJ1* gene. The *CRY1* probe contains a 358-bp fragment from the coding sequence of ribosomal gene *RPS14* and was used as a loading control (Nelson *et al.* 1994).

Results

Phenotypes of *apm1* and *apm2* mutants

To investigate the molecular basis of resistance to antimicrotubule herbicides in *Chlamydomonas*, we focused on a subset of *apm1* and *apm2* mutants isolated previously by selecting for colonies able to grow on solid medium containing levels of APM or ORY lethal to wild-type cells (Table 1; James 1989; James *et al.* 1988). Those studies had found that at the threshold lethal dose of 0.5 μM APM, wild-type cells swell to several times normal diameter and fail to divide. The mutant strains grow normally in the absence of drugs and are resistant to four- to eightfold higher concentrations of APM. Among the mutants examined in this study, one arose spontaneously (*apm1-1*); the rest were induced by chemical mutagenesis. In addition to drug resistance, the *apm1-12* allele shows a growth defect at 33°. All *apm2* alleles exhibit a growth defect at both 15° and 33°, but normal growth at 23°. In tests with the mutants used for this project we observed the same resistance to APM and temperature-sensitive growth defects described earlier (Table 1). Among the *apm1* strains, *apm1-6* showed the strongest drug resistance. Examination of two cultures of the *apm2-1* mutant maintained separately for many years revealed the presence of an altered phenotype in one of

the strains. The *apm2-1A* strain is slightly more resistant to the drugs than is the *apm2-1B* strain. A second original mutant strain with the *apm2-2* allele also shows relatively weaker drug resistance (James 1989).

We tested the possibility that microtubules in the mutant strains are more stable than those in wild-type cells. Previous work had shown that *apm1* and *apm2* mutations result in cross-resistance to ORY (James 1989; James *et al.* 1988), a result that might be expected given that the dinitroaniline and phosphorothioamidate compounds likely bind to the same site on microtubules (Ellis *et al.* 1994). However, the mutant strains showed little difference relative to wild-type cells in their sensitivity to the microtubule depolymerizing agent colchicine and to the microtubule stabilizing compound taxol (James and Lefebvre 1992). As colchicine binds with relatively low affinity to plant tubulin (Morejohn *et al.* 1987), we tested the mutants for growth on pronamide, a benzamide compound with potent antimicrotubule activity in plant cells. Benzamides bind to a different site on microtubules than do the phosphorothioamidate and dinitroanilines (Young and Lewandowski 2000). We found that the mutants most resistant to APM also exhibit cross-resistance to pronamide (Table 1), supporting a model in which microtubules in the mutant cells are more stable/less dynamic than those in wild-type cells.

Positional cloning of the *APM1* gene

The starting point for positional cloning of the *APM1* gene was an *oda3* allele mapped to a position within 2.4 cM of the *APM1* (162:0:8 PD:NPD:T) (James 1989). On the basis of previous results indicating that a genetic distance of 1 cM

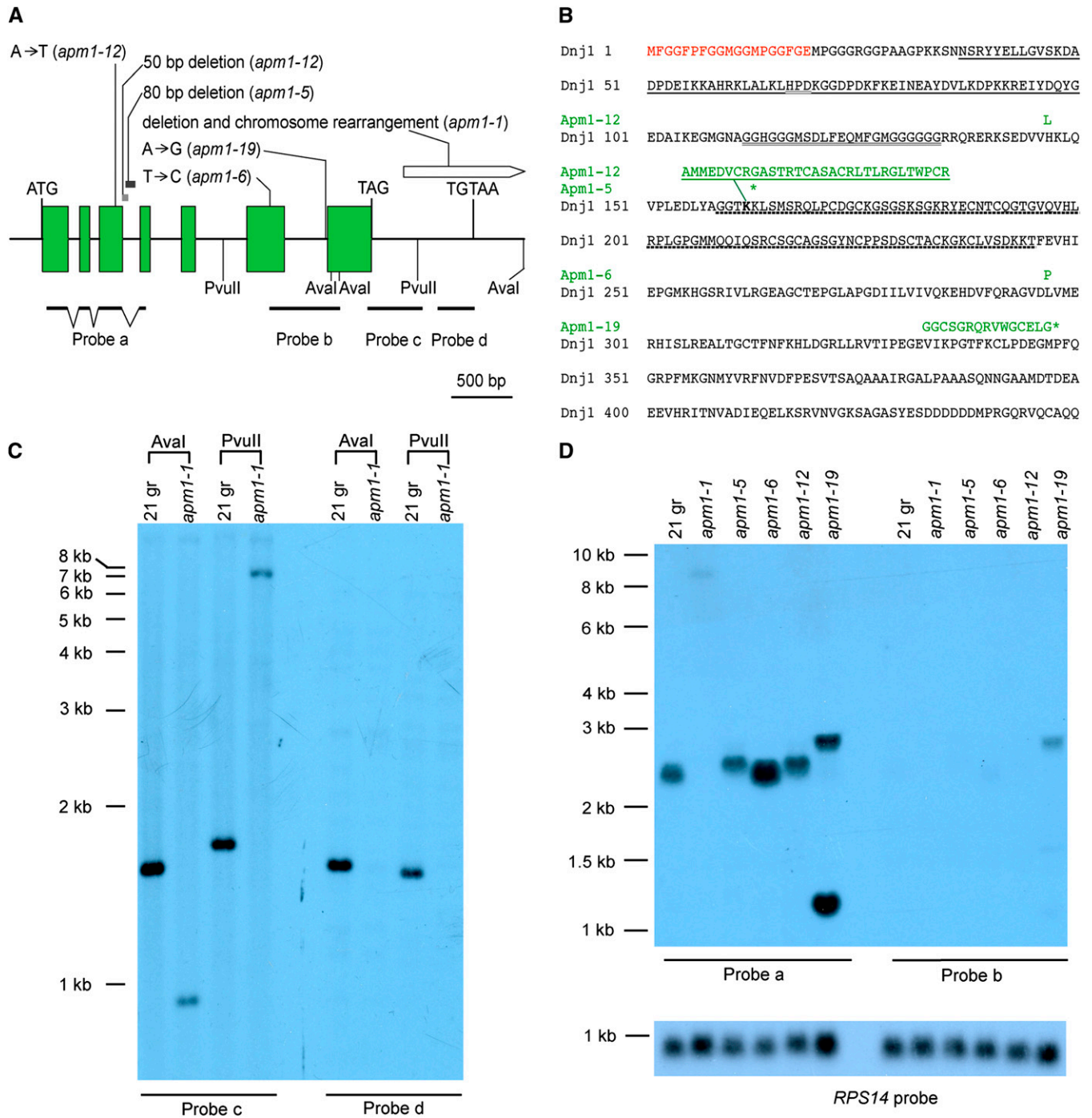


Figure 1 Lesions in *APM1* mutant alleles affecting transcript abundance and amino acid sequence. (A) The *APM1* gene contains seven exons (green rectangles) and untranslated sequences (introns and UTRs, solid line). The translation start codon ATG, termination codon TAG, and polyadenylation site TGATA are labeled. Nucleotide deletions in alleles *apm1-5* and *apm1-12* are shown as gray rectangles. Nucleotide deletion and possible chromosome rearrangement in *apm1-1* is drawn as a pointed white box. Positions of hybridization probes a, b, c, and d are shown. Probe a was amplified from cDNA sequence as shown by broken lines indicating exons. Only *Aval* and *PvuII* sites generating fragments that hybridized to probes c and d are shown. (B) The amino acid sequence of the Dnj1/Hsp40 protein encoded by the *APM1* gene is shown with the 19 amino acid N-terminal extension (red), the J domain (single underline), the G/F-enriched domain (double underline), and the zinc finger domain (dotted underline). Amino acid sequence alterations in individual mutant alleles are marked in green above the wild-type sequence, with corresponding allele names on the left. The Apm1-12 protein has two mutations, H124L and a 31-amino-acid (single underlined in green) replacement of K163 (boldface type); the Apm1-5 protein has a premature stop codon at K164 (*); the Apm1-6 protein changes L297P. The failure of splicing intron 6 in *apm1-19* changes the reading frame and causes a premature stop codon (*). (C) Autoradiograph of Southern blot showing the deletion in *apm1-1*. (Left) Genomic DNA (3 mg) from wt 21gr or *apm1-1* strains was digested with *Aval* or *PvuII* and hybridized with probe c. (Right) Duplicate blot of DNA hybridized to probe d. (D) Autoradiograph of RNA blot showing *DNAJ1* transcripts in wild-type and mutant strains. Total RNA (22 mg) was loaded in each lane. (Left) Transcripts hybridizing to probe a. (Right) Duplicate blot hybridized to probe b targeting intron 6. (Bottom) Labeled probe for the *RPS14* gene encoding ribosomal protein S14 was used as loading control (Nelson *et al.* 1994).

equals a physical distance of ~100 kb (Nguyen *et al.* 2005), we reasoned that the *APM1* gene should lie within 300 kb on either side of *ODA3*. We developed sequence-tagged site (STS) markers for *ODA3* (Kathir *et al.* 2003) and for ACE9390 and ACE9357, two markers that span a distance of 600 kb centered on *ODA3* (Table S1, Table 2).

Mapping progeny were generated by crossing an *apm1-19* strain (Tam and Lefebvre 1993) with the polymorphic wild isolate S1-D2 (Gross *et al.* 1988) (cross A, Table 2). From each of 105 tetrads, a single *APM*^R progeny strain was scored for recombination between *apm1* and one or more of the three STS markers. Among the progeny, 13 strains showed recombination among these markers. Each strain was scored for additional STS markers within the 600-kb region. The results indicated that *APM1* lies to the right of *ODA3* and within a region bounded by markers C170199 and ACE 9357 (Table 2). The C170199 boundary was further reduced by examining progeny from cross B (*apm1-19 oda3* × S1-D2) to detect recombination between the *apm1* and *oda3* markers. Analysis of three recombinant *oda3 APM1* progeny indicated that *APM1* lies within a region bounded by STS markers ACE 5892 (bp 839,700) and ACE 9357 (bp 736,500) (Table 2).

The genomic region defined by the STS markers covers 76,200 bp containing 13 annotated gene models. We chose to examine one of these candidate genes, au5.g7075_t1, alias *DNJ1*, located at position 763,172–766,970 on chromosome 17 of the DOE Joint Genome Institute version 4.0 sequence (<http://genome.jgi-psf.org/Chlre4/Chlre4.home.html>). The gene encodes a protein similar to *Escherichia coli* DnaJ. We designed primer sets to amplify overlapping genomic fragments covering a ~3090-bp region beginning 190 bp upstream of the start codon (Figure 1A). The gene was amplified from strain 21gr and from five *apm1* mutant alleles. The amplified fragments were sequenced and compared with the JGI ver 4.0 and 21gr sequences, which were identical. Sequencing of the entire the *DNJ1* gene from all five *apm1* mutant strains revealed a different lesion in each strain, indicating that the *APM1* gene is *DNJ1*.

The *DNJ1* gene contains an open reading frame interrupted by six introns and encoding a protein of 450 amino acids (Figure 1, A and B). The protein contains the J domain, the G/F-enriched sequence, and the zinc finger domain typical of type I J-domain proteins. Phylogenetic studies had identified the most highly conserved homologs as cytosolic DnaJ proteins from plants (Willmund *et al.* 2008). Alignment of the *Chlamydomonas* protein with the plant proteins shows that it contains an N-terminal extension of 19 amino acids enriched in methionine, glycine, phenylalanine, and proline. Like other Hsp40 proteins from plants, the *Chlamydomonas* Dnj1 protein contains a CAQQ motif at the C terminus (Frugis *et al.* 1999; Nambara and McCourt 1999), suggesting that the protein may be post-translationally modified by prenylation as has been demonstrated for some plant DnaJ proteins (Preisig-Muller *et al.* 1994) and for the *S. cerevisiae* Ydj1 protein (Caplan *et al.* 1992).

Lesions in the *apm1* mutants

The lesion in the *apm1-1* allele is within the 764 bp 3'-UTR. We amplified and sequenced PCR fragments from the *apm1-1* allele covering the exons and introns together with 1 kb at the 5' end of the gene and found sequence identity with the wild-type gene. Sequence representing the first 155 bp of the 3'-UTR was confirmed as well. However, amplification of sequences further downstream did not yield products with template DNA from the mutant. A Southern blot was used to compare the 3'-UTR of the wild-type and mutant strains (Figure 1C). Probe c including the first 414 bp of the 3'-UTR hybridized to the expected 1.5-kb *AvaI* fragment and 1.6-kb *PvuII* fragment in wild-type DNA. This probe hybridized weakly to a 0.9-kb *AvaI* fragment and a 7-kb *PvuII* fragment in *apm1-1* DNA, indicating that part of the gene corresponding to the probe is deleted in the mutant strain. A second nonoverlapping probe, probe d, containing the terminal 240 bp of the 3'-UTR hybridized to the 1.5-kb *AvaI* fragment and a 1.4-kb *PvuII* fragment in wild-type DNA but did not hybridize to *apm1-1* DNA. These results indicate that the *apm1-1* lesion is a deletion of at least half of the 3'-UTR sequences. The precise point of the deletion was determined using inverse PCR. The sequence of this PCR product showed that in the *apm1-1* mutant gene, the 3'-UTR sequence extends for 261 bp and is fused to sequence from gene model au5.g7079_t1 located ~83 kbp away in the JGI version 4.0 sequence of chromosome 17. Although the Southern blot shows that the 3' end of the *DNJ1* sequence is missing, we did not determine further details of the deletion/rearrangement of genomic sequences in the *apm1-1* mutation.

To determine the effect of the mutation on transcript levels, total RNA from the *apm1-1* strain was examined on RNA blots (Figure 1D). Hybridization probe a, derived from the first three exons, hybridizes weakly to a transcript of ~9 kb (Figure 1D). This same transcript hybridizes to a probe from the 3'-UTR of gene au5.g7059_t1 (data not shown). These results indicate a deletion event in which the coding sequence of the *DNAJ1* gene was fused to the 3' half of gene au5.g7059_t1, resulting in production of the large transcript. Levels of the chimeric transcript are very low compared to transcript levels in wild-type cells and in the other mutant strains. This result was confirmed in reverse-transcriptase PCR experiments showing that the level of the transcript is significantly reduced from that of wild-type cells (data not shown). The *apm1-1* mutant phenotype presumably reflects the effect of decreased Dnj1 protein expression; the small amount of protein expected to be produced from this mutant gene would likely be the wild-type protein.

The *apm1-5* allele contains an 80-bp deletion beginning at nucleotide 32 within intron 3 (Figure 1A). Sequencing of a reverse-transcriptase PCR product showed that the resulting transcript has an insertion of 60 nt due to the failure of intron 3 splicing. Consistent with the sequence data is the presence of a transcript slightly larger than the wild-type

transcript (Figure 1D). An in-frame stop codon is found at the extreme 5' end of the unspliced intron, predicting the expression of a truncated protein of 162 amino acids (Figure 1B). It would contain the J domain and the G/F sequence motif, but not the zinc finger domain.

A single nucleotide difference distinguishes the *apm1-6* allele from the wild-type gene. The *apm1-6* lesion is a T-to-C transition at the second position of codon 297 in exon 6, resulting in a leucine-to-proline change (L297P) in the predicted protein (Figure 1, A and B). This mutation was confirmed by using reverse-transcriptase PCR with RNA from an *apm1-6* mutant strain. The amino acid change occurs in the region of *DNAJ* proteins thought to be important for binding to client proteins (Craig *et al.* 2006). The level of the *DNAJ* transcript in *apm1-6* cells is at least twofold higher than the level found in wild-type cells and the other mutants. The reason for this increased abundance is not known, but we noted that the higher transcript levels are correlated with the strong drug resistance of cells carrying the *apm1-6* allele (Table 1).

Two DNA sequence changes were detected for the *apm1-12* allele. An A-to-T transversion in the second position of codon 147 in exon 3 results in the change H124L in the predicted protein product (Figure 1, A and B). In addition, we found a deletion of 50 bp, beginning with two bp at the 3' end of exon 3 and including 48 bp from the 5' end of intron 3. The resulting transcript has an insertion of 90 nt due to the failure of intron 3 splicing, but the reading frame is not altered downstream of the insertion. The nucleotide sequence predicts an insertion of 31 amino acids replacing the K163 in the protein product. Both of the amino acid sequence changes occur in the region between the G/F motif and the zinc finger domains. We have not determined whether one or both of these amino acid changes is responsible for the temperature-sensitive growth phenotype found only in this *apm1-12* allele of the five we analyzed.

The single nucleotide change in the *apm1-19* allele is an A-to-G transition in the next-to-last base of intron 6, changing the consensus 3' splice site from CAG to CGG. A failure in splicing intron 6, which contains 350 bp, is supported by the significantly larger size of some transcripts detected by probe a, which hybridizes to exons 1–3 (Figure 1D). This same large transcript also hybridizes to probe b, containing intron 6 sequences. Due to an in-frame stop codon within intron 6, translation of this transcript would result in truncation of the protein to 345 amino acids, with the final 15 amino acids consisting of “junk” sequence. In addition to the larger transcript, RNA from *apm1-19* cells also contains a second and more abundant transcript of ~1.2 kb detected by probe a (Figure 1D). It is not detected by the intron 6 probe (probe b), but does hybridize to a probe for exon 6 (data not shown), suggesting that this transcript may utilize an alternate 3' splice site downstream of the mutated site. The small transcript was not detected by probe d (data not shown), indicating that most of the 3'-UTR sequence is not present. The protein translated from this alternatively

spliced transcript would likely be truncated for all or part of the 120 C-terminal amino acids encoded by exon 7.

Phenotypic rescue of *apm1* mutants

Knowing that the *apm1* mutants are recessive (James *et al.* 1988), we transformed a wild-type copy of the putative *APM1* gene into *apm1* mutant strains and screened them for sensitivity to APM. From BAC9F17 containing genomic DNA covering the region of the *DNJ1* gene, we subcloned a fragment extending 3 kb upstream of *DNJ1* start codon and 1.3 kb downstream of the stop codon. The subcloned DNA was cotransformed with pSI103 DNA (Sizova *et al.* 2001) into *apm1-12*, *apm1-5*, and *apm1-19* mutant cells, which were plated on paromomycin selection medium. The transformants from *apm1-5* and *apm1-19* cells were tested for growth on APM concentrations lethal for wild-type cells. For the *apm1-19* strains, we found that 8% of colonies resistant to paromomycin also showed phenotypic rescue of the *apm1* mutation (wild-type sensitivity to APM; Table 3). The same screen identified only one *apm1-5* rescue strain among 96 transformants. We showed that this strain did acquire the wild-type gene, by using the PCR on genomic DNA to amplify fragments expected from both the mutant and the wild-type alleles (data not shown). In an alternate strategy to transfer the wild-type gene into the *apm1-5* mutant background, we crossed two independently rescued *apm1-19* strains to the *apm1-5* strain. Among the progeny of six complete tetrads, we observed 2:2 segregation of the APM resistance phenotype, indicating that the *APM1* gene rescues both the *apm1-19* and *apm1-5* alleles. Eleven of the phenotypically rescued progeny were tested for the presence/absence of the wild-type gene using the PCR test. In each case, rescue of APM resistance was correlated with presence of the wild-type allele (data not shown). Because the APM resistance of *apm1-12* strains is relatively weak, the paromomycin-resistant transformant strains were tested for rescue of the *ts*⁻ growth phenotype. One of the 44 strains tested was rescued to viability at 33° and this strain was shown to contain the wild-type *APM1* gene as shown by PCR amplification (data not shown). These results indicate that both the APM resistance and temperature-sensitive growth defects can be rescued by the wild-type gene.

Sequencing of *HSP70A* gene in *apm2* mutant strains

The *apm1* and *apm2* mutations show genetic interactions, including intergenic noncomplementation and synthetic lethality (James *et al.* 1988). Given that Hsp40 proteins are known to work by interaction with Hsp70s, we considered the single cytosolic *HSP70* gene to be a strong candidate for the site of *apm2* genetic lesions. The *apm2* mutation maps near the centromere of linkage group VIII (James *et al.* 1988) and the *HSP70A* gene maps in the same region (Kathir *et al.* 2003).

To determine whether the *HSP70A* gene corresponds to the *APM2* locus, we sequenced the gene from two different *apm2-1* strains that had been maintained separately in the

Table 3 Transformation rescue of *apm1* and *apm2* mutations

Strain and genotype	1.0 mM APM	1.25 mM APM	33°
CC-4263 <i>apm1-19 nit1 mt+</i>	16/191	NT	NT
CC-4264 <i>apm1-19 nit1 mt-</i>	NT	8/96	NT
CC-4433 <i>apm1-5</i>	1/96	NT	NT
CC-4435 <i>apm1-12</i>	NT	NT	1/44
CC-4171 <i>apm2-1A</i>	1/190	NT	NT
CC-4173 <i>apm2-1B</i>	NT	NT	7/190

Number of strains phenotypically rescued to wild-type sensitivity to APM or growth at 33° compared to the number of paromomycin-resistant transformants. NT, transformants not tested at this condition.

absence of drug selection for ~20 years (*apm2-1A* and *apm2-1B*) and from an *apm2-2* strain (Figure 2). In each case, overlapping DNA fragments covering the entire gene were amplified and the sequence data were compared with the *HSP70A* gene from wild-type cells (strain 21gr), which is identical to the *HSP70A* gene sequence on the JGI *Chlamydomonas* v. 4.0 Website. In the *apm2-1A* strain, missense mutations were found at two sites affecting amino acids in the substrate-binding domain. First, a transition mutation in codon 435, TCG to TTG, results in S435L at the C-terminal end of the β3 strand. This location corresponds to the hsp70 β-sandwich subdomain. A Ser or Thr is conserved at this site in both *E. coli* DnaK and in bovine Hsc70 proteins; the adjacent Phe is part of the hydrophobic cluster that interacts with client proteins (Zhu *et al.* 1996; Morshauser *et al.* 1999). Second, two adjacent base substitutions were found at the second and third positions of codon 530, AAG(K) to ATA(I). Lysine 530 resides at the C-terminal end of helix A in the α-helical “lid” subdomain (Zhu *et al.* 1996). Although Ala is found in this site in DnaK, metazoan, yeast, and plant cytosolic Hsp70 proteins have a basic amino acid in this position (Morshauser *et al.* 1999; Lin *et al.* 2001). Structural studies with a functionally intact bovine Hsc70 showed that helix A lies at the interface between the substrate-binding domain and the nucleotide-binding domain (Jiang *et al.* 2005); the positioning of these amino acid residues involves a salt bridge between residues equivalent to K530 and D156 in the *Chlamydomonas* Hsp70A protein. A double mutant construct in which the two residues were converted to Cys showed efficient cross-linking, supporting an ionic interaction between the residues (Jiang *et al.* 2005).

In DNA from the *apm2-1B* strain, we found only the single S435L lesion at codon 435. The fact that the *apm2-1A* phenotype has a slightly higher level of resistance to antimicrotubule drugs suggests that the original *apm2-1* strain may have contained both lesions, one of which reverted to wild-type under long-term storage in the absence of selection. Although this order of events is feasible, we are unable to determine the order of mutation and reversion events at the two sites.

For the *apm2-2* strain, we found one missense mutation, a transversion in codon 384 GCC(A) to GAC(D). Alanine is conserved in DnaK and mammalian Hsp70 homologs in this position in an α-helical region near the C terminus of the

Hsp70A	1	<u>MGKEA</u> <u>PAIGIDL</u> <u>GT</u> <u>TYSCVGVWQ</u> <u>NDRVEII</u> <u>ANDQGN</u> <u>RTTP</u>
Hsp70A	41	<u>SYVAF</u> <u>TDTERL</u> <u>IGDAAK</u> <u>NQVAMN</u> <u>PRHTV</u> <u>FD</u> <u>AKRL</u> <u>IGR</u> <u>KFS</u>
Hsp70A	81	<u>DP</u> <u>IVQ</u> <u>ADIKL</u> <u>WPFQ</u> <u>VRAGA</u> <u>HDVPE</u> <u>IVVSY</u> <u>KNEK</u> <u>VFKA</u> <u>E</u>
Hsp70A	121	<u>I</u> <u>SSM</u> <u>VLIK</u> <u>MKETA</u> <u>QAF</u> <u>L</u> <u>GAD</u> <u>REV</u> <u>KKAV</u> <u>TV</u> <u>PAY</u> <u>FN</u> <u>DS</u> <u>QRQ</u>
Hsp70A	160	<u>AT</u> <u>KDAG</u> <u>M</u> <u>IAG</u> <u>LE</u> <u>VL</u> <u>RI</u> <u>I</u> <u>NE</u> <u>PTAA</u> <u>AI</u> <u>AY</u> <u>GL</u> <u>DK</u> <u>KS</u> <u>GL</u> <u>G</u> <u>ERN</u>
Hsp70A	201	<u>VL</u> <u>I</u> <u>F</u> <u>D</u> <u>L</u> <u>G</u> <u>G</u> <u>G</u> <u>T</u> <u>F</u> <u>D</u> <u>V</u> <u>S</u> <u>L</u> <u>L</u> <u>T</u> <u>I</u> <u>E</u> <u>E</u> <u>G</u> <u>I</u> <u>F</u> <u>E</u> <u>V</u> <u>K</u> <u>A</u> <u>T</u> <u>A</u> <u>G</u> <u>D</u> <u>T</u> <u>H</u> <u>L</u> <u>G</u> <u>G</u> <u>E</u> <u>D</u> <u>F</u> <u>D</u>
Hsp70A	241	<u>ER</u> <u>L</u> <u>V</u> <u>N</u> <u>H</u> <u>F</u> <u>A</u> <u>N</u> <u>E</u> <u>F</u> <u>O</u> <u>R</u> <u>K</u> <u>Y</u> <u>K</u> <u>K</u> <u>D</u> <u>L</u> <u>K</u> <u>T</u> <u>S</u> <u>P</u> <u>R</u> <u>A</u> <u>L</u> <u>R</u> <u>R</u> <u>L</u> <u>R</u> <u>T</u> <u>A</u> <u>C</u> <u>E</u> <u>R</u> <u>A</u> <u>K</u> <u>R</u> <u>T</u> <u>L</u>
Hsp70A	281	<u>S</u> <u>S</u> <u>A</u> <u>A</u> <u>Q</u> <u>T</u> <u>T</u> <u>I</u> <u>E</u> <u>L</u> <u>D</u> <u>S</u> <u>L</u> <u>F</u> <u>E</u> <u>G</u> <u>V</u> <u>D</u> <u>F</u> <u>A</u> <u>T</u> <u>S</u> <u>I</u> <u>T</u> <u>R</u> <u>A</u> <u>R</u> <u>F</u> <u>E</u> <u>E</u> <u>L</u> <u>C</u> <u>M</u> <u>D</u> <u>L</u> <u>F</u> <u>R</u> <u>K</u> <u>C</u> <u>M</u>
Hsp70A	321	<u>D</u> <u>P</u> <u>V</u> <u>E</u> <u>K</u> <u>C</u> <u>L</u> <u>R</u> <u>D</u> <u>A</u> <u>K</u> <u>M</u> <u>D</u> <u>K</u> <u>M</u> <u>T</u> <u>V</u> <u>H</u> <u>D</u> <u>V</u> <u>V</u> <u>L</u> <u>V</u> <u>G</u> <u>G</u> <u>S</u> <u>T</u> <u>R</u> <u>I</u> <u>P</u> <u>K</u> <u>V</u> <u>Q</u> <u>L</u> <u>L</u> <u>D</u> <u>F</u> <u>F</u>
Apm2-2A		D
Hsp70A	361	<u>NG</u> <u>KEL</u> <u>N</u> <u>K</u> <u>S</u> <u>I</u> <u>N</u> <u>P</u> <u>D</u> <u>E</u> <u>A</u> <u>V</u> <u>A</u> <u>Y</u> <u>G</u> <u>A</u> <u>A</u> <u>V</u> <u>Q</u> <u>A</u> <u>I</u> <u>L</u> <u>T</u> <u>G</u> <u>E</u> <u>G</u> <u>E</u> <u>K</u> <u>V</u> <u>Q</u> <u>D</u> <u>L</u> <u>L</u> <u>L</u> <u>L</u>
Apm2-1B		L
Apm2-1A		L
Hsp70A	401	<u>D</u> <u>V</u> <u>T</u> <u>P</u> <u>L</u> <u>S</u> <u>L</u> <u>G</u> <u>L</u> <u>E</u> <u>T</u> <u>A</u> <u>G</u> <u>G</u> <u>V</u> <u>M</u> <u>T</u> <u>V</u> <u>L</u> <u>I</u> <u>P</u> <u>R</u> <u>N</u> <u>T</u> <u>T</u> <u>I</u> <u>P</u> <u>T</u> <u>K</u> <u>K</u> <u>E</u> <u>Q</u> <u>V</u> <u>F</u> <u>S</u> <u>T</u> <u>Y</u> <u>S</u> <u>D</u> <u>N</u>
Hsp70A	441	<u>Q</u> <u>P</u> <u>G</u> <u>V</u> <u>L</u> <u>I</u> <u>Q</u> <u>V</u> <u>Y</u> <u>E</u> <u>G</u> <u>E</u> <u>R</u> <u>A</u> <u>R</u> <u>T</u> <u>K</u> <u>D</u> <u>N</u> <u>N</u> <u>L</u> <u>L</u> <u>G</u> <u>K</u> <u>F</u> <u>E</u> <u>L</u> <u>T</u> <u>G</u> <u>I</u> <u>P</u> <u>P</u> <u>A</u> <u>R</u> <u>G</u> <u>V</u> <u>P</u> <u>O</u> <u>I</u>
Hsp70A	481	<u>N</u> <u>V</u> <u>I</u> <u>F</u> <u>D</u> <u>I</u> <u>D</u> <u>A</u> <u>N</u> <u>G</u> <u>I</u> <u>L</u> <u>N</u> <u>V</u> <u>S</u> <u>A</u> <u>E</u> <u>D</u> <u>K</u> <u>T</u> <u>T</u> <u>G</u> <u>N</u> <u>K</u> <u>N</u> <u>K</u> <u>I</u> <u>T</u> <u>I</u> <u>T</u> <u>N</u> <u>D</u> <u>K</u> <u>R</u> <u>L</u> <u>S</u> <u>K</u> <u>D</u> <u>E</u>
Apm2-1A		I
Hsp70A	521	<u>I</u> <u>F</u> <u>R</u> <u>M</u> <u>V</u> <u>Q</u> <u>E</u> <u>A</u> <u>E</u> <u>K</u> <u>Y</u> <u>K</u> <u>A</u> <u>D</u> <u>D</u> <u>E</u> <u>F</u> <u>O</u> <u>L</u> <u>K</u> <u>K</u> <u>V</u> <u>E</u> <u>A</u> <u>K</u> <u>N</u> <u>S</u> <u>L</u> <u>E</u> <u>N</u> <u>Y</u> <u>A</u> <u>N</u> <u>M</u> <u>R</u> <u>N</u> <u>T</u> <u>I</u> <u>R</u>
Hsp70A	561	<u>E</u> <u>D</u> <u>K</u> <u>V</u> <u>A</u> <u>S</u> <u>Q</u> <u>L</u> <u>S</u> <u>A</u> <u>S</u> <u>D</u> <u>K</u> <u>E</u> <u>S</u> <u>M</u> <u>E</u> <u>K</u> <u>A</u> <u>L</u> <u>T</u> <u>A</u> <u>A</u> <u>M</u> <u>D</u> <u>W</u> <u>L</u> <u>E</u> <u>A</u> <u>N</u> <u>O</u> <u>M</u> <u>A</u> <u>E</u> <u>V</u> <u>F</u> <u>E</u> <u>F</u> <u>F</u> <u>H</u>
Hsp70A	601	<u>H</u> <u>L</u> <u>K</u> <u>E</u> <u>L</u> <u>E</u> <u>G</u> <u>V</u> <u>C</u> <u>N</u> <u>P</u> <u>I</u> <u>I</u> <u>T</u> <u>R</u> <u>L</u> <u>Y</u> <u>Q</u> <u>G</u> <u>G</u> <u>A</u> <u>G</u> <u>A</u> <u>G</u> <u>G</u> <u>M</u> <u>P</u> <u>G</u> <u>G</u> <u>A</u> <u>P</u> <u>G</u> <u>A</u> <u>G</u> <u>A</u> <u>A</u> <u>P</u> <u>S</u> <u>G</u> <u>G</u>
Hsp70A	641	<u>S</u> <u>G</u> <u>A</u> <u>G</u> <u>P</u> <u>K</u> <u>I</u> <u>E</u> <u>E</u> <u>V</u> <u>D</u> <u>*</u>

Figure 2 Amino acid sequence of Hsp70A and mutant proteins. The N-terminal nucleotide binding domain is underlined. The β-sheet subdomain of the substrate binding domain is double underlined; the α-helical subdomain is indicated with a dashed underline. Amino acids substitutions in the mutant proteins are shown above the wild-type amino acid indicated in boldface type.

nucleotide binding domain. The α-helix is part of subdomain IA of the nucleotide binding pocket (Arakawa *et al.* 2011).

Phenotypic rescue of *apm2* mutations

To determine whether the *HSP70A* gene is the *APM2* locus, we cotransformed cells containing *apm2* mutations with the pSI103 plasmid and a plasmid containing the full-length *HSP70A* gene. Transformant colonies that grew on paromomycin plates were tested for *apm2* phenotypes. For strain *apm2-1A*, 190 transformants were tested by plating on 1 μM APM. One transformant showed wild-type sensitivity to the drug. When genomic DNA from this strain was sequenced in the region in which the two lesions reside, the sequencing electropherogram showed that the wild-type bases were present at approximately equal levels with the mutant bases (data not shown). For strain *apm2-1B*, 7 of 190 transformants showed significantly improved survival at 33°, the non-permissive temperature. When DNA from these strains was sequenced in the region of the single missense lesion, both the wild-type and mutant nucleotides were present on electropherograms (data not shown). The results indicate that

the wild-type *HSP70A* can rescue the mutant *apm2* phenotypes.

Discussion

Our genetic analysis of herbicide-resistant mutants in *Chlamydomonas* has revealed a role for the Hsp70/Hsp40 chaperone system in the regulation of microtubule stability. In plant systems, direct selection for resistance to dinitroaniline herbicides has resulted in genetic lesions in α -tubulin genes (Anthony and Hussey 1999), but these were obtained in *Chlamydomonas* only by step-up selection starting with *apm1* mutants (James *et al.* 1993). Only mutants in Hsp40 (*apm1*) and Hsp70 (*apm2*) were found by direct selection for resistance to APM (James *et al.* 1988). The likely explanation for this observation is that the *Chlamydomonas* genome has no redundancy for genes encoding cytosolic Hsp70 and Hsp40 type I proteins, whereas it has twofold redundancy for genes encoding α - and β -tubulin (Youngblom *et al.* 1984; James *et al.* 1993). These results indicate the power of *Chlamydomonas* for studying Hsp40 and Hsp70 function, particularly in the regulation of microtubule assembly.

Clues for understanding the molecular mechanism by which the *apm1* and *apm2* mutants acquire resistance to antimicrotubule drugs may come from examining sensitivity to other compounds known to bind tubulin (see review by Jordan and Wilson 2004). Cross-resistance of the mutants to APM and ORY is not surprising, given that the electrostatic surfaces of three-dimensional structures of phosphorothioamidate and dinitroaniline compounds were found to be similar, suggesting that they share a common binding site (Ellis *et al.* 1994). We found that the *apm1* and *apm2* mutants show cross-resistance to pronamide, one of a family of benzamide compounds that bind to β -tubulin and disrupt microtubules in plant cells (Young and Lewandowski 2000). These authors showed that the phosphorothioamidate and dinitroaniline compounds do not inhibit the binding of a labeled benzamide, indicating that the binding sites are different. Our results with pronamide indicate that the *apm1* and *apm2* mutant phenotypes result from increased stability of microtubules in the mutant cells compared to wild-type cells, rather than from failure to take up APM and ORY or from detoxification of these compounds.

The *apm1* and *apm2* mutants are not supersensitive to the microtubule-stabilizing drug paclitaxel, as would be expected if the mutations hyperstabilized microtubules (James and Lefebvre 1992). For example, mutations in β -tubulin render *Chlamydomonas* cells resistant to colchicine (Schibler and Huang 1991) and a mutation in α -tubulin rendered the cells resistant to APM and ORY (James *et al.* 1993). In both cases, the mutants acquired supersensitivity to paclitaxel. Why are the *apm1* and *apm2* mutants not supersensitive to paclitaxel if the microtubules in the mutant cells are more stable? One possibility is that the putative client protein(s) whose folding is regulated by Hsp70 and

Hsp40 binds to tubulin or microtubules and promotes dynamic instability of microtubules. The improperly folded protein could block binding of paclitaxel to microtubules. Regardless of the paclitaxel phenotype, our results indicate that improper function of the client protein results in microtubules that are less dynamic and thus have increased resistance to microtubule depolymerizing drugs.

A model to explain the role of the Hsp70 chaperone system in microtubule stability might involve a client protein that affects the dynamics of microtubules, either by direct interaction with microtubules or through an indirect mechanism. Numerous proteins affect the folding, post-translational modification, and degradation of tubulins (reviewed by Lundin *et al.* 2009). For example, in vertebrate systems, proteins in the stathmin family promote microtubule dynamics by two mechanisms (reviewed by Rubin and Atweh 2004). Stathmins bind and sequester tubulin heterodimers, thus decreasing the pool available for polymerization and slowing microtubule assembly. The stathmin-heterodimer complexes also bind at the ends of microtubules and promote microtubule depolymerization. Stathmin has been shown to interact with Hsc70 in coimmunoprecipitation and affinity binding experiments (Manceau *et al.* 1999). While sequence homologs of the stathmins have not been found in *Chlamydomonas*, it is possible that proteins with similar function are targets of the Hsp70 chaperone system. Hsp70 chaperone activity has been shown to regulate the activity of tau, a well-characterized microtubule-binding protein in metazoan systems. Dou *et al.* (2003) reported that Hsp70 binds tau, and that reduced Hsp70 was correlated with increased tau tangles and Alzheimers. They concluded from their studies that Hsp70 helped tau protein fold into its microtubule-binding configuration. A connection between Hsp70 and the proteasome could be mediated by CHIP (carboxy terminus of Hsp70-binding protein), an E3 ubiquitin ligase that associates with Hsp70 and ubiquitinates proteins that fail to be properly folded. In neurons, CHIP ubiquitinates tau, leading to its aggregation (Petrucci *et al.* 2004). The interaction between Hsp70 and the evolutionary predecessor of tubulin, *ftsZ*, has been suggested in prokaryotic systems, as *hscA*, an Hsp70 in *E. coli*, has been shown to be required for the function of *ftsZ* (Uehara *et al.* 2001).

Due to microtubule dynamic instability, the stability of microtubules can be regulated indirectly, by altering the size of the tubulin heterodimer pool and by degrading tubulins (Lundin *et al.* 2009). The tubulin-specific TBCA-E chaperone complex assembles α - and β -tubulin heterodimers (Cowan and Lewis 2002), but it can act in reverse to disrupt heterodimers, leading to tubulin degradation and destabilization of microtubules (Tian *et al.* 2010). Tubulins may be degraded by ubiquitination and proteasomal degradation, as suggested by a study showing that parkin is a protein-ubiquitin E3 ligase that ubiquitinates α - and β -tubulin, leading to their degradation (Ren *et al.* 2003). Although Huang *et al.* (2009) showed that α -tubulin is ubiquitinated in *Chlamydomonas* during flagellar resorption

when axonemal microtubules are disassembled, the E3 ligase responsible for the modification has not been identified.

Only a few genetic studies have suggested a role for the Hsp70, Hsp40 chaperone system in microtubule function. One of the mutants found when Chinese hamster ovary cells in culture were selected for colchicine resistance had a lesion in Hsp70 (Ahmad *et al.* 1990). A role for Hsp70 chaperone activity in microtubule function in M phase was described previously in budding yeast (Oka *et al.* 1998). Mutations in *SSA1*, one of two cytosolic Hsp70 genes, alter the sensitivity of yeast cells to antimicrotubule drugs. The temperature-sensitive allele *ssa1-134* results in defects in orientation and migration of nuclei associated with abnormal assembly of microtubules in M phase at the nonpermissive temperature. The mutation also leads to a weaker interaction between Ssa1p and Ydj1p, one of three cytosolic DnaJ type I proteins. Compared to wild-type cells, the *ssa1-134* mutant cells are slightly sensitive to microtubule depolymerizing drugs, whereas *ydj1* null mutants are hypersensitive to the drugs. The results indicate that the chaperone activity of Ssa1p and Ydj1p is necessary for proper function of microtubules in nuclear movement. A second Hsp40 family member in budding yeast, the DnaJ type II protein Caj1p also plays a role in stability of both cytosolic and nuclear microtubules (Ptak *et al.* 2009). Deletion of the *CAJ1* gene enhanced the benomyl sensitivity of cells with a deletion in the *KAP123* gene encoding a karyopherin. The results indicate that both Caj1p and Kap123p, working in a complex or in parallel pathways, contribute to normal microtubule dynamics.

Perhaps surprisingly, in view of the fact that Hsp70 has been shown to localize to the flagella, no flagellar phenotype was detected in analyzing a series of *apm1* and *apm2* mutant alleles. Flagella of the *apm1* or *apm2* mutants assemble to full length, have no obvious defects in beating, and the flagella of the mutant cells regenerate with normal kinetics after deflagellation (James and Lefebvre 1992). It is possible, of course, that characterization of additional mutant alleles might uncover a flagellar function for the *HSP70A* or *DNAJ1* genes. In fact, an allele-specific synthetic interaction has been reported between *apm1* and mutant alleles of the *FLA10* gene encoding a subunit of the anterograde motor for intraflagellar transport. The *apm1-122* mutant allele, but not any other *apm1* allele tested, caused a synthetic slow-growth phenotype in double mutant combination with a temperature-sensitive mutant allele of *fla10*, although no flagellar phenotype was reported for the double mutant, and no flagellar phenotype for *apm1-122* alone was reported (Lux and Dutcher 1991). However *apm1-122*, in combination with a different *fla10* allele, produced a synthetic flagellar motility phenotype, suggesting a role for Hsp40 in some function required for flagellar motility. It is clear, however, that mutations in Hsp40 and Hsp70 can affect the function of cytoplasmic microtubules in mitosis and cell division without having an obvious effect on the assembly or function of flagellar microtubules.

We have not established, as yet, the null mutant phenotype of *apm1*. In *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, truncated Hsp40 genes with only the J domain and the G/F-enriched sequence are able to rescue mutant phenotypes upon transformation (Craig *et al.* 2006). All of our *apm1* mutants would be expected to retain at least the J domain and G/F-enriched sequence, suggesting that they may also retain some Hsp40 protein function. The *apm1-1* mutant is presumably a hypomorphic allele, as the lesion causes defective termination of transcription, leading to a transcript that is greatly increased in size but reduced in amount and a wild-type protein likely reduced in amount. The *apm1-1* phenotype is indistinguishable from that of missense mutations like *apm1-6*.

Our results showing genetic interactions of *apm1* and *apm2* mutations support previous genetic and biochemical studies showing the physical interaction of Hsp70 and Hsp40 proteins (Becker *et al.* 1996). Further studies will be required to identify the protein(s) required for normal microtubule dynamics and to understand how they interact with the Hsp70 pathway.

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GENETICS

Supporting Information

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The Hsp70 and Hsp40 Chaperones Influence Microtubule Stability in *Chlamydomonas*

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Table S1 PRIMERS USED IN THIS STUDY

Marker (gene)	Chrom.	Position ^a	Primer sequence	21gr ^b (bp)	S1-D2 ^c (bp)	Annealing Temp.
ACE9357	17	763502	ACE9357-F2 5'GGTCGGCACGGTCGGTGCA	277	119	55
		763344	ACE9357-F3 5'CGAGGGAGACTGTGGGAAGCCATG			
		763226	ACE9357-R 5'CCATTCTGGCTCTCGCCAACG			
C170104	17	778850	C170104-F3 5'GGCGTGCGCAGTGCCACAGA	289	327	55
		778890	C170104-F 5'GCCATTGGTGACGCCTTCTTATACCAGG			
		779178	C170104-R 5'TGCGCATGCCCAAGGGCACT			
ACE5892	17	839889	ACE5892-F1 5'GGCGGCCGTGACCTGCATTGTT	414	~480	55
		839476	ACE5892-R1 5'CCGGCACATCATAGCCTTGAGGCG			
STS sc17	17	890375	STS-Cr 5'CCAAGCAGTTGGGGTAACATAGTA	191	315	61
		890251	STS-S1D2 5'GACGTGTTTGTGTGAAATGCTAGG			
		890565	STS-both 5'CTATCACCTGAGGCTGAAGATCCG			
C170199	17	950876	C170199-F 5'GCACGTGATCCTTCTCAACTGCGC	521	~600	55
		950356	C170199-R2 5'ATGGTGACCAGCAGCGGAATGGG			
ACE4954	17	992645	ACE4954-F1 5'GACTGCTACCCCGTCAGCCTACGG	228	413	55
		992460	ACE4954-F2 5'TTGCCGTACCTCCCCGGCA			
		992872	ACE4954-R 5'TGTCTGCTGCATGCGGAGTGTGG			
ODA3	17	1079287	ODA3-F1 5'CGGCGTGATGCTGGCTTGCAA	430	240	55
		1079097	ODA3-F2 5'GGATGCACGCTCGTGACTGGATG			
		1078858	ODA3-R(1) 5'CCCTCGGACCACCTGATGCAACTC			
ACE9074	17	1114231	ACE9074-F 5'ACATCAGCGCTTGCATGGCGC	498	~450	55
		1113734	ACE9074-R 5'CTCGACGCGGAACTTCCACTCCTG			
MSsc17 (FAP47)	17	1138768	MSsc17-F3 5'GGTGCAGAGGCACGAGTGCGTT	302	271	55
		1138467	MSsc17-R1 5'TCCGCGTCATTGCGGGTAGGT			
ACE4477	17	1193549	ACE4477-F2 5'GGCGTCAAGCCCGGAGCA	371	258	55
		1193662	ACE4477-F3 5'GGTAATGAGCTCCCGGAGGGC			
		1193919	ACE4477-R 5'AGTGCACCCGGCAGCCGTATGA			
ACE7549	17	1299007	ACE7549-F2 5'ACAGACAGCATTGCTGCTCTTGAG	335	390	55
		1298952	ACE7549-F3 5'CGTGCATGGGGCCGTGATTTTAAA			
		1299341	ACE7549-R 5'ATGGAAGCGTCTGAGCCCGGC			
ACE9390	17	1401847	ACE9390-F2 5'AGTGCGCAGGGCCGGCACAA	271	344	55
		1401921	ACE9390-F3 5'GGGCAGGGCAACTTTGAACTGC			
		1401577	ACE9390-R 5'GCGCGGCTGTGACTTGCCTCAT			
DNAJ1	17	766887	C170010-F 5'AGTGCATAGCACCCGGACACAGGC	641		55
		766247	C170010-R 5'GGTGCCGTGGAAAGGTGCGTAAGC			

DNAJ1	17	766297	C170010-F2 5'CTGTCGCTGGTGGCTTTGCGTTG	452	55
		765846	C170010-R2 5'ACTTGGAGCCGGAGCCCTTGCA		
DNAJ1	17	766233	C170010-F3 5'GGCATGTCGCTTGACCTTGCGC	637	55
		765310	C170019-R3 5'CCAACCTCGCGCACCCGAACCTA		
DNAJ1	17	765405	C170010-F4 5'TCCAGAAGTGGAGCGGGCGTT	588	55
		764818	C170010-R4 5'GAGATGTGCCGCTCCATCACCAGG		
DNAJ1	17	764368	C170010-F6 5'GACATTCAAGTGCCTGCCGGACG	520	62
		763849	C170010-R6 5'TACGCAACGCTCGACAGCAGGC		
DNAJ1	17	763849	C170010-R6 (For) 5'CCTGCTGTCGAGCGTTGCGTA		58
DNAJ1	17	764840	C170010-F8 5'CTGGTGATGGAGCGGCACATCTCG	640	60
		764200	C170010-R8 5'CGCGCCGTTGTTTTGCGACG		
DNAJ1	17	764277	C170010-R5 5'GGAAGTCCACGTTGAAGCGCACG		
DNAJ1	17	767851	C170010prom-F 5'AAAGCCCCCAAGCCGAAGCTCC	1081	60
		766771	C170010prom-R 5'TCGATGTTTGGGCTGAGGTCCCG		
DNAJ1	17	769754	C170010prom-F2 5'TGCGTGCCGCTTTGGCAAC	920	60
		768841	C170010prom-R2 5'TTGACAAGCTCCCTGCCTGCG		
DNAJ1	17	768856	C170010prom-F3 5'CGCAGGCAGGGAGCTTGTGCAA	1023	60
		767834	C170010prom-R3 5'TTCGGCTTGGCGGGCTTTTGC		
DNAJ1	17	764012	apm1cDNA-R 5'GACAGCCGCGCGCTTTACTGCT	698	58
		765472	apm1cDNA-F2 5'AACTGCCACCCAGTGACTCCTGC ^d		
DNAJ1	17	766796	apm1cDNA-F 5'CCTCGGACCTCAGCCAAACA	638	58
		765846	C170010-R2 5'ACTTGGAGCCGGAGCCCTTGCA		
DNAJ1	17	766233	apm1cDNA-F3 5'TGGCGAGGACGCTATCAAGGAGGG	615	58
		764818	apm1cDNA-R2 5'GAGATGTGCCGCTCCATCACCAGG		
DNAJ1	17	764033	APM1probe-F 5'AGCAGTAAAGCGCGGGCTGTC	414	60
		763620	APM1probe-R 5'GCGAGAGCATCACGCCAGCTGT		
HSP70A	8	2076112	C640006-F 5'CTGATTTGGCGGGCTATGAGGGC	624	55
		2075489	C640006-R 5'GCCTGGACAATGGGGTCCGAGA		
HSP70A	8	2075696	C64006-F2 5'ACGTGGCCTTCACGGACACTGAGC	460	55
		2075237	C64006-R2 5'TTCTTGACCTCGCGGTGAGCGC		
HSP70A	8	2075282	C640006-F3 5'AGGAGACCGCTCAGGCTTTCTGG	436	55
		2074847	C640006-R3 5'AACCCAGTGCAGAGCCCCTCA		
HSP70A	8	2074963	C640006-F4 5'GGAGGTGCTGCGCATCATCAACG	442	55
		2074522	C640006-R4 5'AGATGAGCACGTTGCGCTCGCC		
HSP70A	8	2074620	C640006-F5 5'ACACACGGTTCCTGCTCTCGACGC	439	55
		2074068	C640006-R5 5'AGCTGCTGCACCTGGGGATACGG		
HSP70A	8	2074156	C640006-F6 5'TGCCTGCGGACGCCAAGAT	671	55
		2073486	C640006-R6 5'TCCAGCGAGTTCTTGGCCTCCACC		

HSP70A	8	2073611	C640006-F7 5' CACGATCACCAACGACAAGGGCC	698	55
		2072914	C640006-R7 5' CTCAGTCTGGGGCGAAGCCGATT		
RPS14	11	2220854	CRY1-FF 5' CCCC AAGGAGGTGGTGAG	358	52
		2220135	CRY1-RR 5' GATGCGCCAATCTTCAT		
au5.g7059_t1	17	688728	Ch17-688.6K-F 5' AGTGGGAGCGCCAGTAGCAC	718	55
		689428	Ch17-689.5K-R 5' TGGCCGACACGACATCCCAC		

^a Nucleotide position on *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* v4.0 sequence at <http://genome.jgi-psf.org/Chlre4/Chlre4.home.html>

^b Length of product generated from 21 gr genomic DNA template

^c Length of product generated from S1-D2 genomic DNA template

^d Template is cDNA; primer spans intron splice sites