

RIP1, a member of an *Arabidopsis* protein family, interacts with the protein RARE1 and broadly affects RNA editing

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Transcripts of plant organelle genes are modified by cytidine-uridine (C-to-U) RNA editing, often changing the encoded amino acid predicted from the DNA sequence. Members of the PLS subclass of the pentatricopeptide repeat (PPR) motif-containing family are site-specific recognition factors for either chloroplast or mitochondrial C targets of editing. However, other than PPR proteins and the *cis*-elements on the organelle transcripts, no other components of the editing machinery in either organelle have previously been identified. The *Arabidopsis* chloroplast PPR protein Required for *AccD* RNA Editing 1 (RARE1) specifies editing of a C in the *accD* transcript. RARE1 was detected in a complex of >200 kDa. We immunoprecipitated epitope-tagged RARE1, and tandem MS/MS analysis identified a protein of unknown function lacking PPR motifs; we named it RNA-editing factor interacting protein 1 (RIP1). Yeast two-hybrid analysis confirmed RIP1 interaction with RARE1, and RIP1-GFP fusions were found in both chloroplasts and mitochondria. Editing assays for all 34 known *Arabidopsis* chloroplast targets in a *rip1* mutant revealed altered efficiency of 14 editing events. In mitochondria, 266 editing events were found to have reduced efficiency, with major loss of editing at 108 C targets. Virus-induced gene silencing of *RIP1* confirmed the altered editing efficiency. Transient introduction of a WT *RIP1* allele into *rip1* improved the defective RNA editing. The presence of RIP1 in a protein complex along with chloroplast editing factor RARE1 indicates that RIP1 is an important component of the RNA editing apparatus that acts on many chloroplast and mitochondrial C targets.

nucleoid | RNA editosome | dual targeting

Posttranscriptional C-to-U RNA editing occurs in plastid and plant mitochondrial transcripts. In a typical vascular plant, ~30 C targets in chloroplasts and over 500 C targets in mitochondria are targeted for editing (1, 2). The majority of the editing events results in encoding of a different amino acid than the one predicted from the genomic sequence. The editing-encoded amino acid is usually more conserved relative to residues present in homologous proteins in other organisms than the genomically encoded amino acid. Because there is presently no known case in which useful genetic variation results from partial editing of a transcript population, the current concept is that editing is a correction mechanism for thymidine-to-cytidine (T-to-C) mutations that have arisen in plant organelle genomes (1, 3, 4).

Little is known about the molecular apparatus that is responsible for recognizing the correct C target for editing and converting it to U, although plant mitochondrial RNA editing was discovered over 20 y ago (5–7). *cis*-Elements for recognition of editing sites have been identified proximal and 5' to the nucleotide to be modified (8–10). As few as 22 nt in sequence surrounding the C target is sufficient to specify RNA editing (9). In 2005, a pentatricopeptide repeat (PPR) motif-containing protein termed CRR4 was discovered to be required for editing of the chloroplast *ndhD* start codon (11), and it binds to *cis*-elements on *ndhD* transcripts in vitro (12). Since that time, members of the

PPR protein family have been identified as site-specific recognition factors for a number of C targets in either chloroplasts or mitochondria. PPR proteins consist of a tandem array of degenerate 35-aa repeats and can be divided into two major subfamilies based on the nature of their PPR motifs: the P and PLS subfamilies (13). The P subfamily contains a 35-aa motif, whereas the PLS subfamily exhibits longer or shorter variant PPR motifs within the tandem arrays. The PLS subfamily, which is specific to the plant kingdom, can be further separated into smaller subclasses based on two C-terminal motifs, the E and DYW motifs (14). All of the well-characterized organelle editing factors that are required for editing at specific sites are members of the PLS subfamily of PPR proteins (11, 15–29).

Other than the *cis*-elements and site-specific PPR proteins, the components of the editing machine are unknown. The enzymatic activity that converts C to U remains unidentified, although the DYW domain found in about one-half of the *Arabidopsis* PPR editing factors does contain a sequence similar to the conserved cytidine/deoxycytidylate deaminase motif (30). To identify additional components of the chloroplast editing apparatus in *Arabidopsis*, we immunoprecipitated an epitope-tagged PPR-DYW protein named RARE1, which is responsible for recognition of a C target in the chloroplast *accD* transcript (21). MS/MS analysis of the coimmunoprecipitated proteins resulted in the identification of a protein of unknown function lacking PPR motifs. Yeast two-hybrid analysis confirmed the interaction of RARE1 and the protein, which is named RNA-editing factor interacting protein 1 (RIP1). Although RIP1 was identified by its interaction with a chloroplast PPR protein, GFP localization experiments revealed its presence in both plastids and mitochondria. Virus-induced gene silencing of *RIP1* resulted in defective editing of both chloroplast and mitochondrial C targets. A homozygous *rip1* mutant line exhibited altered editing of 14 C targets in chloroplast transcripts and impaired editing of 266 of 368 mitochondrial editing sites that were assayed, with major loss of editing of 108 mitochondrial C targets. Transient introduction of a WT *RIP1* allele into the mutant resulted in improvement in the defective RNA editing. Our findings indicate that *RIP1*, which belongs to a 10-member gene family, is required for efficient editing at most *Arabidopsis* mitochondrial editing sites and

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plays an important role in chloroplast editing as well. Identification of RIP1 is a significant step that will aid additional efforts to understand the mechanism of plant organelle RNA editing.

Results

Identification of RIP1 as an RARE1-Interacting Protein. Our previous work reported the identification of RARE1, a plastid editing factor that controls the editing of *accD-794* (21). We determined that RARE1 is present in a protein complex by performing size exclusion column chromatography on chloroplast stroma (*SI Appendix*, Fig. S1). To identify members of this complex, we produced transgenic plants that express RARE1 protein carrying a 3× FLAG tag (RARE1-3×F) (31) (*SI Appendix*, Fig. S2). Leaf protein extract from transgenic plants was incubated with α-FLAG agarose to isolate the RARE1 complex (*SI Appendix*, Fig. S3). The MS data indicated that the protein encoded by At3g15000 was the top candidate RARE1-interacting protein present in the immunoprecipitate, because it had the largest number of matches of MS/MS spectra other than RARE1 (*SI Appendix*, Table S1). The gene encodes a member of the differentiation and greening (DAG) family; mutants in members of this gene family exhibit chloroplast biogenesis defects (32, 33). Yeast two-hybrid analysis confirmed the interaction between RARE1 and the protein encoded by At3g15000, which was, therefore, named RIP1 (*SI Appendix*, Fig. S4). Serial deletions of both RARE1 and RIP1 established the portions responsible for the interaction on the N termini of the proteins (*SI Appendix*, Fig. S5).

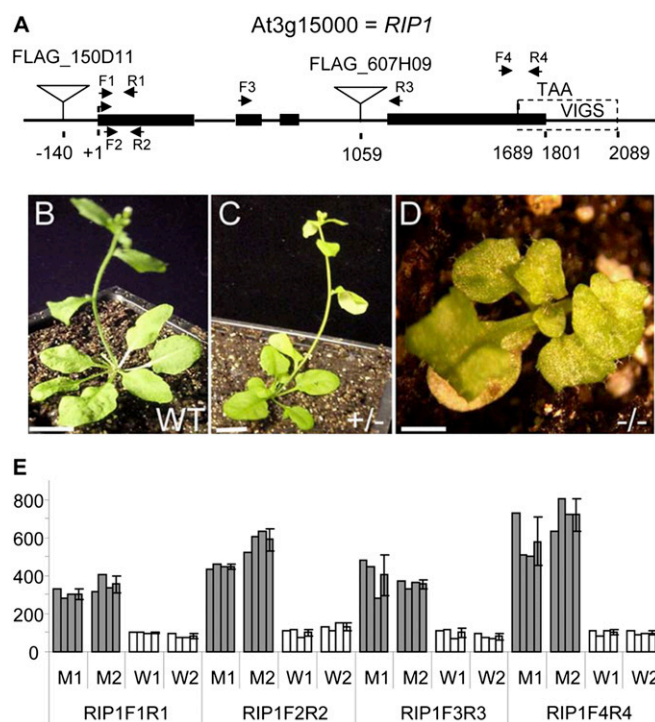


Fig. 1. A *rip1* mutant exhibits dwarf phenotype and increases in *RIP1* transcript. (A) Map of At3g15000 (*RIP1*) with exons shown as black rectangles, T-DNA insertions shown as triangles, the region used for VIGS indicated, and the location of primers used for quantitative RT-PCR shown as facing arrows. (B–D) WT, heterozygous, and homozygous progeny of a heterozygous plant carrying the FLAG_150D11 insertion. Plants are 32 d old. (Scale bars: B and C, 10 mm; D, 1 mm.) (E) The expression of *RIP1* is increased four- to sixfold in the T-DNA mutant compared with WT. Quantitative RT-PCR measured the level of *RIP1* transcript in two homozygous mutants (M1 and M2) and two homozygous WT siblings (W1 and W2). Quantitative RT-PCR assays were replicated three times for each plant. The expression level was arbitrarily set at 100 for W1. SDs are indicated ($n = 3$).

T-DNA Insertional *rip1* Mutant Exhibits a Dwarf Phenotype and Altered Chloroplast RNA Editing. Two mutant lines with insertions in the *RIP1* locus (Fig. 1) were obtained from the INRA FLAGdb T-DNA collection (34). Homozygous mutants could not be recovered from the FLAG_607H09 line; possibly, the T-DNA insertion in FLAG_607H09 might be lethal because of the complete loss of expression. Homozygous FLAG_150D11 mutants, which have a T-DNA inserted 140 bp upstream of the *RIP1* coding region, exhibit a dwarf phenotype (Fig. 1D). We measured the level of *RIP1* transcript in the homozygous FLAG_150D11 mutant line and homozygous WT siblings by quantitative RT-PCR. The expression of the *RIP1* ORF was found to be increased four- to sixfold in the T-DNA mutant compared with the WT (Fig. 1E). Nevertheless, the proximity of the T-DNA insertion to the ORF may result in impaired production of RIP1 protein; abnormal phenotypes have previously been reported in T-DNA insertional mutants that exhibited increased rather than reduced target gene transcript abundance (35).

Because RIP1 coimmunoprecipitates and interacts in vivo with RARE1, a chloroplast editing factor, we surveyed the editing extent of all known *Arabidopsis* chloroplast editing sites in segregating progeny for the FLAG_150D11 T-DNA insertion. A poisoned primer extension (PPE) assay is shown in Fig. 2 for *accD-794* and the three sites showing the most pronounced editing extent variation in the mutant relative to WT. *PetL-5* and *ndhD-2* exhibit a significant reduction of editing extent in the mutant (60% and 55%, respectively), whereas *rps12*-(i1)58, a site in the first intron of *rps12*, shows a significant increase of editing extent in the mutant (Fig. 2). PPE data for *accD-794*, the site under the control of RARE1, indicate that editing in the homozygous mutant is reduced relative to WT as observed for *petL-5* and *ndhD-2* but to a lesser extent (83% in mutant compared with 98% in WT or a 15% reduction). The mutation is clearly recessive, because the editing extent of the heterozygous plant for these sites is similar to the homozygous wild plants (Fig. 2).

Of the 34 known chloroplast C targets of editing present in *Arabidopsis*, 14 C targets exhibited significant changes in RNA editing extent between the homozygous WT and the homozygous mutant plants (*SI Appendix*, Table S2); 11 of 14 sites exhibit a decrease in editing extent in the mutant, whereas an increase of editing extent in the mutant is observed for only 3 sites (*SI Appendix*, Table S2). The editing extent of the heterozygote was not significantly different from the homozygous WT at any of the chloroplast sites.

RIP1 Is Dual-Targeted to both Chloroplasts and Mitochondria. RIP1 has been previously reported to be located in mitochondria according to characterizations of the *Arabidopsis* mitochondrial proteome (36, 37). In addition, the dwarf phenotype of the FLAG_150D11 T-DNA insertional mutant could be indicative of mitochondrial dysfunction. Therefore, we determined the location of RIP1 by transiently expressing a construct encoding the full-length *RIP1* attached to GFP under the control of a 35S promoter into *Arabidopsis* protoplasts (38). Our observations indicate that RIP1 is dually targeted to chloroplasts and mitochondria (Fig. 3). Most of the *Arabidopsis* protoplasts showed RIP1 to be localized in mitochondria (Fig. 3C). Occasionally, we observed RIP1 both in mitochondria and chloroplasts (Fig. 3G). This observation is reminiscent of a recent report on PPR2263, a maize PPR-DYW that is dually targeted to mitochondria and chloroplasts with a preference for mitochondria (39).

To confirm the dual localization of RIP1 to both organelles, we repeated the previous experiment by transfecting *Nicotiana benthamiana* protoplasts. In contrast to *Arabidopsis* protoplasts, all of the transfected *N. benthamiana* protoplasts showed a dual localization of RIP1 to both mitochondria and chloroplasts (*SI Appendix*, Fig. S6). DAPI staining of the *N. benthamiana* protoplasts

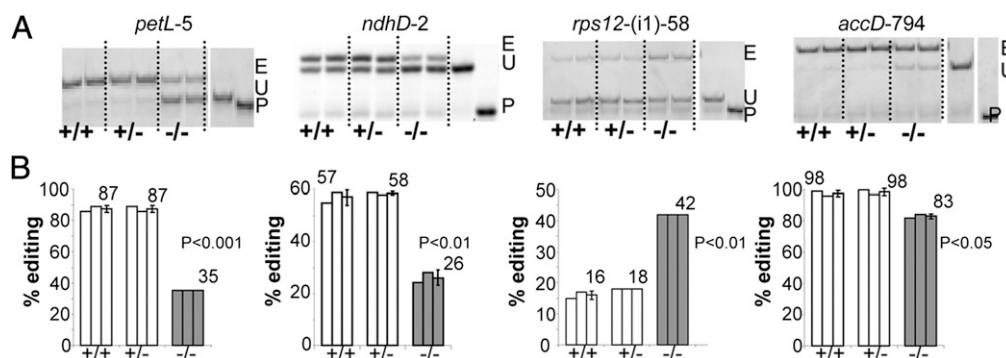


Fig. 2. Mutation in *RIP1* affects the editing extent of plastid sites. (A) Acrylamide gels separate the PPE products obtained from sibling plants: two homozygous WT (+/+), two heterozygous (-/-) mutants, and two homozygous mutants (-/-). E, edited; P, primer; U, unedited. The name of the site assayed is given above each gel. (B) The quantification of editing extent derived from the measure of the band's intensity is represented by a bar below each lane of the acrylamide gels. The average is given for each genotypic class with SD. The sites *petL-5*, *ndhD-2*, and *accD-794* show a significant decrease of the editing extent in the mutant, representative of the majority of the plastid sites showing an effect of the *RIP1* mutation. The site *rps12-(i1)-58* shows a significant increase of editing extent in the mutant compared with the WT and heterozygous plants as observed only in two other plastid editing sites.

showed that some of the small punctate structures targeted by *RIP1*-GFP colocalize with nucleoids (*SI Appendix, Fig. S6H*).

***rip1* Mutant Exhibits Altered Mitochondrial Editing.** We conducted a bulk sequencing screen of the 33 mitochondrial protein-coding genes known to harbor editing sites by comparing the sequencing electrophoretograms of the RT-PCR products obtained from the homozygous T-DNA mutant with the homozygous WT line. A typical result is shown in Fig. 4A, where the editing extent in the *nad2* transcript is not uniformly affected by the *RIP1* mutation along the transcript. The majority of the *nad2* sites, 14 of 22 sites, do not show any reduction in editing extent in the mutant compared with the WT (Table 1). However, editing of *nad2-90* is not detectable in the mutant, because only a C peak is observed at that position (Fig. 4A). Between these two extremes are detected sites in which editing is reduced to less than one-half of WT, about one-half of WT, or more than one-half of WT as observed in *nad2-1091*, *nad2-89*, and *nad2-530*, respectively (Fig. 4A).

Table 1 summarizes the results of the bulk sequencing screen by presenting the number of sites for each mitochondrial gene that falls into one of five categories described for *nad2* transcript

from no effect of the *RIP1* mutation to an apparent absence of editing. Of the 33 mitochondrial genes surveyed, only *atp6-1*, which contains one reported editing site at position 475, does not show any dependence on a functional *RIP1* for efficient editing. Overall, mutation in *RIP1* affects the editing extent of a very high number of mitochondrial sites; 108 of 368 sites surveyed show a major loss of editing in the mutant (Table 1). A very similar number of sites (102 sites) do not show any variation in editing extent in the mutant. A complete list of all of the affected mitochondrial C targets of editing among the 368 sites assayed is shown in *Dataset S1*.

Plant mitochondrial sites in the *rip1* mutant analyzed can be divided into two categories: totally *RIP1*-dependent (108 of 368 sites or 29%) and totally *RIP1*-independent (102 of 368 sites or 28%). Although these categories are approximately equal in size in the entire population of genes analyzed, *RIP1* seems to play a larger role in editing of transcripts for proteins of certain mitochondrial complexes than others. For example, transcripts of complex 1 genes exhibit 10% (15/153) C targets affected by the *RIP1* mutation and 45% (82/153) unaffected. In contrast, the cytochrome *c* biogenesis complex exhibits 49% C targets (45/92) affected and only 5% (5/92) sites with editing extent that is unaffected (Table 1). The effect of *RIP1* mutation on mitochondrial extent does not seem to be related to the location of the C target on the transcript, because there is no apparent pattern in the distribution of the *RIP1*-dependent and -independent sites along the transcript (Fig. 4B).

Editing events can be divided into two classes: nonsilent (when editing changes the encoded amino acid) or silent (when the amino acid is unchanged). Nonsilent sites are predominant in the population of sites surveyed (335 nonsilent sites or 91%) (*Dataset S1*). There are somewhat fewer nonsilent sites in the group of sites that are strongly affected in the *rip1* mutant than there are in the entire population of surveyed sites [83% (90 nonsilent sites to 108 sites) vs. 91% respectively] (*Dataset S1*).

We also examined a small selection of editing sites by the PPE assay, which is more precise and sensitive than the RT-PCR/bulk sequencing method that we used to survey the 368 sites in the *rip1* mutant (40). We chose some mitochondrial editing sites that exhibited either no or complete dependence on functional *RIP1* (Fig. 4A). Although no editing of the C targets in *cob-325* and *nad6-161* was detected by the less-sensitive bulk sequencing method, we found that both exhibit a residual editing extent detectable by PPE (13% and 21%, respectively) (Fig. 4C). The negative effect of the *rip1* mutation on *cob-325* and *nad6-161* is greater than its effect on any chloroplast C targets (*SI Appendix,*

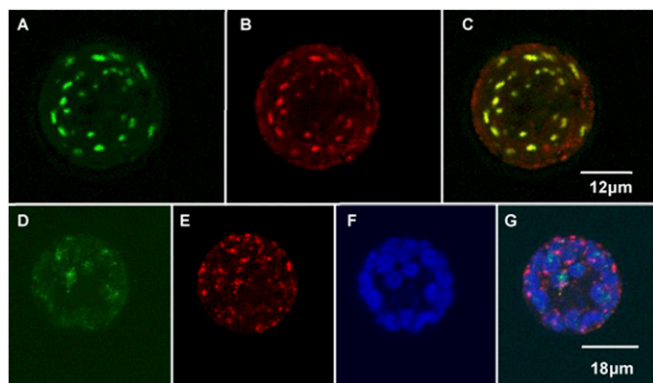


Fig. 3. *RIP1* is dual-targeted to mitochondria and chloroplasts. Protoplasts prepared from leaves of *Arabidopsis* accession Col-0 were transfected with a construct encoding an *RIP1*-GFP fusion protein under the control of a 35S promoter. Protoplasts were examined for fluorescence 16 h after incubation with the construct. (A and D) GFP signal is green. (B and E) Mitochondria (red) were labeled with Mitotracker Orange. (C) Merge of GFP and mitochondrial signal is yellow. (F) Chlorophyll autofluorescence is shown in blue. (G) Merge of D–F gives turquoise signals where GFP and chlorophyll overlap and yellow images where GFP and Mitotracker overlap.

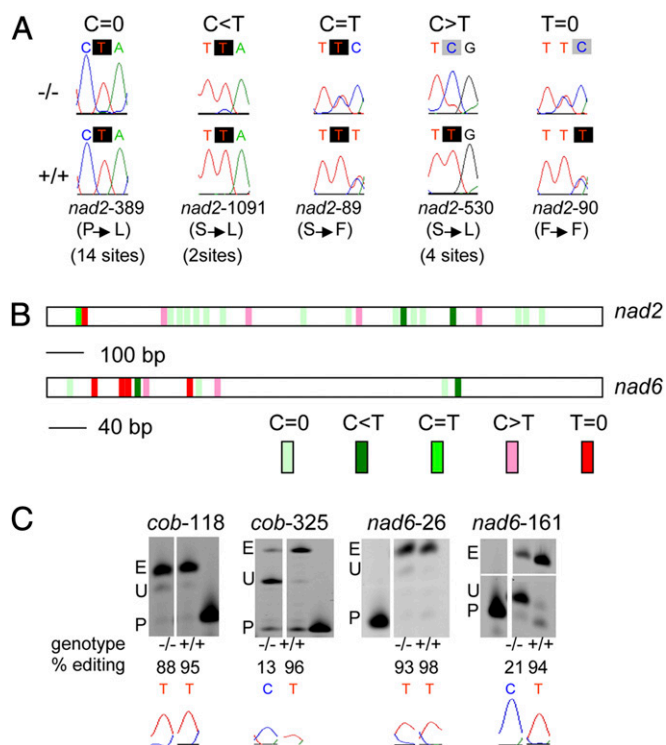


Fig. 4. Editing extent is not uniformly affected along mitochondrial transcripts in *rip1* mutants. (A) Portions of electrophoretograms from RT-PCR bulk sequencing of *nad2* are shown for the homozygous T-DNA mutant (–/–) and homozygous WT (+/+). Below the electrophoretograms are given the position of the editing site in the *nad2* transcript with the amino acid change on editing between parenthesis and the number of sites in *nad2* sharing the same molecular phenotype. The editing phenotype of the mutant was classified in one of five categories above the electrophoretograms from C = 0 (no effect of the mutation on the editing extent) to T = 0 (total loss of editing in the mutant). The C target of editing is highlighted by a black shade for T and a gray shade for C, and it is shown according to its position in the codon. (B) Distribution of the effect of the *RIP1* mutation on the editing extent of mitochondrial sites on *nad2* and *nad6* transcripts. Each site is represented by a block with background color that indicates the strength of the *rip1* mutation's effect on the editing extent as detected by bulk sequencing. (C) PPE assays confirm the reduction of editing extent of mitochondrial sites in *cob* and *nad6* transcripts previously detected by bulk sequencing (Region of *nad6-161* gel lacking signal removed for space considerations). The PPE products run on acrylamide gels are shown on top, with the name and position of the site being assayed above the gel. E, edited; P, primer; U, unedited. Below the gels are shown the electrophoretograms of the editing site.

Table S2). When the editing extent of these two sites was assayed by PPE in homozygotes, heterozygotes, and WT, we found no difference between heterozygotes and WT, indicating the mutation is completely recessive with respect to editing efficiency at these two C editing targets as well as other mitochondrial sites (*SI Appendix, Fig. S7*).

***rip1* Mutation Affects Transcript Abundance.** We examined the level of a selection of mitochondrial transcripts in the mutant to investigate the possibility of a link between the steady-state level of mitochondrial transcripts and the editing extent of their targeted C sites. Among the 10 mitochondrial transcripts assayed by quantitative RT-PCR, 5 transcripts showed a significant increase (approximately four- to sixfold) in their abundance compared with the WT, 3 transcripts showed a moderate increase (1.3- to 1.5-fold) in the mutant, and 2 transcripts were in similar amounts in both the mutant and the WT (*SI Appendix, Fig. S8*). Although *ccmB*, the transcript harboring the highest number of sites with editing

Table 1. Effect of FLAG_150D11 insertion on RNA editing of mitochondrial C targets

Gene	Effect				
	C = 0	C < T	C = T	C > T	T = 0
<i>nad1</i>	14	4		1	
<i>nad2</i>	14	2	1	4	1
<i>nad3</i>				3	4
<i>nad4</i>	21	4	3	2	
<i>nad4L</i>		2	2	2	4
<i>nad5</i>	16	4		4	1
<i>nad6</i>	3	2		2	4
<i>nad7</i>	14	2	2	3	1
<i>nad9</i>		4	2	1	
Complex I	82	24	10	22	15
<i>cob</i> —complex III	3	3			2
<i>cox2</i>	5	2	1	1	3
<i>cox3</i>		5	1	1	
Complex IV	5	7	2	2	3
<i>atp1</i>	1	1	1		
<i>atp4</i> (<i>orf25</i>)	1	3		3	1
<i>atp6-1</i>	1				
<i>atp9</i>	2	2			
Complex V	5	6	1	3	1
<i>ccmB</i> (<i>ccb206</i>)			1	4	27
<i>ccmFn-2</i> (<i>ccb203</i>)			1	5	4
<i>ccmC</i> (<i>ccb256</i>)	1		1	17	7
<i>ccmFn-1</i> (<i>ccb382</i>)			1	5	7
<i>ccmFc</i> (<i>ccb452</i>)	4	2	4	1	
cytochrome c biogenesis	5	2	8	32	45
<i>rpl2</i>					1
<i>rpl5</i>		2	1	3	4
<i>rpl16</i>	2	2	1		1
<i>rps3</i>		2	2	1	2
<i>rps4</i>		3	1	1	5
<i>rps7</i>				1	
<i>rps12</i>				5	3
<i>rps14</i>		1			
Ribosomal protein	2	10	5	11	16
<i>matR</i>			2	2	5
<i>mttb</i> (<i>OrfX</i>)				6	21
Total	102	52	28	78	108

The five categories of *RIP1* mutation effect on mitochondrial editing, from no effect (C = 0) to a total loss of editing (T = 0) extent, are presented in the text and Fig. 4.

extents that are severely affected by *rip1* mutation (Table 1), shows the highest increase of transcript abundance in the mutant (*SI Appendix, Fig. S8A*), there is no obvious correlation between the steady-state level of transcript and the incidence of *rip1* mutation on the editing extent. For example, *nad9*, which exhibits a similar increase of its transcript abundance in the mutant as *ccmB* (*SI Appendix, Fig. S8A*), does not harbor any site with editing extent that is greatly impaired in the mutant (Table 1). Conversely, *ccmFn-2*, with 4 of 10 targeted sites showing an apparent total loss of editing in *rip1* (Table 1), experiences only a slight increase of its transcript abundance in the mutant relative to the WT (*SI Appendix, Fig. S8C*). Eight of the sites on *nad7* transcript show a reduced editing extent in *rip1*, whereas *nad7* abundance is similar to the WT (Table 1 and *SI Appendix, Fig. S8D*).

A model can be proposed in which a dosage effect is transcript-specific, and therefore, a slight increase of *ccmB* transcript abundance is sufficient to have an effect on the editing extent of some of its sites. In this model, some of the recognition trans-factors directing the specific editing site of targeted C sites are in limiting amounts, and therefore, even a slight increase of the

transcript abundance might deplete these recognition factors, resulting in an apparent reduction in editing efficiency. However, this possibility is refuted by a close examination of the *nad4*, *ccmFn-2*, and *cox3* transcript abundances, which show a very similar and slight increase in the *rip1* mutant (SI Appendix, Fig. S8C). These three transcripts each possess a site, *cox3*-422, *nad4*-124, and *ccb203* (*ccmFn-2*)-344, recognized by the same recognition factor, MEF11 (27). In the *rip1* mutant, the editing extent of *ccmFn-2*-344 is severely reduced, whereas the editing extent of *cox3*-422 is only slightly reduced; *nad4*-124 does not show any detectable difference in editing extent between *rip1* and the WT (Dataset S1). In conclusion, our mutant analysis data clearly indicate independence of the editing extent of the sites carried by a mitochondrial transcript and its abundance.

Unlike the mitochondrial transcripts, the three plastid transcripts assayed by quantitative RT-PCR all show a reduction of steady-state level in *rip1* compared with WT (SI Appendix, Fig. S8E). Similar to editing of mitochondrial transcripts, there is no clear connection between the editing extent of plastid sites and the amount of transcript that carries these sites. The *ndhD* and *petL* sites show a decrease of editing extent in *rip1*, whereas *rpoC1*-488 editing extent is significantly increased in the mutant (SI Appendix, Table S2).

Editing Defects in the *rip1* Mutant Differ from the Minor Defects Seen in Other Types of Mutants. We investigated organelle editing in two mutants that mimic the growth phenotype of the *rip1* mutant and are compromised in some aspects of organelle RNA metabolism or organelle biogenesis. Tissue was available from a mutant in the chloroplast polynucleotide phosphorylase, which has a major role in maturing mRNA and rRNA 3' ends but also participates in RNA degradation through exonucleolytic digestion and polyadenylation (41). We obtained a second mutant that was affected in the gene encoding a chloroplast envelope membrane protein containing a putative LrgB domain, which has been reported recently to play an important role in *A. thaliana* chloroplast development (42). Examination of the editing extent in two null mutants of the genes encoding these plastid proteins shows no difference from the WT in the editing extent of *nad6*-161 and *cob*-325, two mitochondrial sites that show a drastic reduction of editing extent in *rip1* (SI Appendix, Fig. S9). Among the five plastid sites with editing extent that showed the largest variation in the *rip1* mutant, we observed only an increase of editing extent in the null *pnp* and *lrgB* mutants for certain sites. *NdhD*-2, with an editing extent in the *rip1* mutant that is about one-half the amount observed in WT (SI Appendix, Table S2), shows an increase of editing extent in both mutants (110% and 40% in *pnp* and *lrgB* mutants, respectively) (SI Appendix, Fig. S9). *AccD*-794 and *petL*-5 exhibit an increase of editing extent only in the *pnp* mutant, whereas *rpoC1*-488 editing extent is markedly increased only in the *lrgB* mutant. *Rps12*-158 editing extent is invariant in both the *pnp* and *lrgB* plants.

Virus-Induced Gene Silencing of *RIP1* Affects Chloroplast and Mitochondrial Editing Efficiency. Because additional mutant lines with a second independent T-DNA insertion in *RIP1* were not available, we silenced *RIP1* by virus-induced gene silencing (VIGS) to confirm that the effect on RNA editing was specifically attributable to a defective *RIP1* gene. Two types of control plants were used in this experiment: uninoculated plants and plants inoculated with a silencing vector containing only GFP. Quantitative RT-PCR showed that the level of *RIP1* transcript in *RIP1*-silenced plants was reduced to 38% of the level detected in uninoculated plants (SI Appendix, Fig. S10). Unexpectedly, the level of *RIP1* transcript in GFP-silenced plants was increased to about two times the level in uninoculated plants. Both *RIP1*- and GFP-silenced plants show a significant reduction of GFP tran-

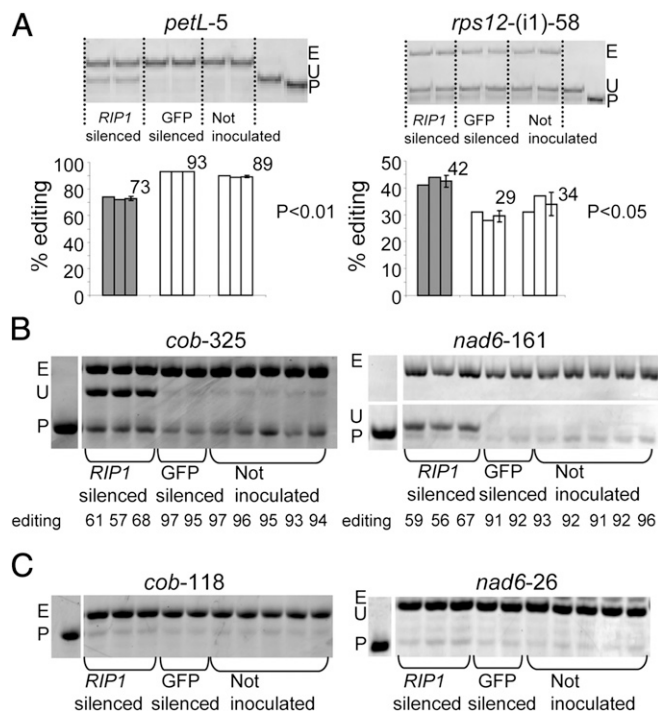


Fig. 5. *RIP1* silencing recapitulates the effect of *rip1* mutation on editing extent of organelle sites. (A) PPE assays on plastid sites with quantification of the editing extent represented by a bar below each lane. The average is given with SDs on the right of each group of plants: *RIP1*-silenced and two sets of controls (GFP-silenced and uninoculated plants). *petL*-5 and *rps12*-intron C targets were chosen for assay, because they exhibit reduction and increase, respectively, in the *rip1* T-DNA mutants. (B) PPE assays on mitochondrial sites *cob*-325 and *nad6*-161 in *RIP1*-silenced plants compared with the two sets of controls. *cob*-325 and *nad6*-161 are C targets that also show a very strong reduction of editing extent in *rip1* mutants. (C) *RIP1* silencing does not induce any change in the editing extent of *cob*-118 and *nad6*-26, two sites with editing extent that was also not affected in the *RIP1* mutant. E, edited; P, primer; U, unedited. (The unedited band is not detectable on the *cob*-118 PPE gel).

script compared with the uninoculated plants (87% and 95%, respectively) (SI Appendix, Fig. S10).

PPE assays on transcripts from uninoculated and silenced plants showed that silencing of *RIP1* results in an average 18% decrease in *petL*-5 editing extent and a 24% increase in *rps12*-(i1)-58 editing extent compared with the uninoculated plants ($P < 0.01$ and $P < 0.05$, respectively) (Fig. 5A). A decrease in *petL*-5 editing and an increase in *rps12*-(i1)-58 editing was likewise observed in the T-DNA mutant (SI Appendix, Table S2), although as expected, the effect of *rip1* knockdown in silenced plants is less than in the mutant. No significant difference in editing extent was detected between the GFP-silenced and uninoculated plants (Fig. 5A). The editing extent for *rps12*-(i1)-58 in the uninoculated WT siblings was 16% (Fig. 2), whereas the uninoculated GFP plants exhibited a 34% editing efficiency (Fig. 5A). This discrepancy results from the fact that the WT siblings of the mutant are in Wassilewskija background, whereas our *Arabidopsis* GFP line used for VIGS is in Columbia background. PPE assay on mitochondrial transcripts from uninoculated and silenced plants also confirms the variation in mitochondrial editing extent observed in the T-DNA mutant. *cob*-325 and *nad6*-161 exhibit a very significant reduction of editing extent in *RIP1*-silenced plants compared with uninoculated control plants [35% ($P < 10^{-4}$) and 34% ($P < 10^{-4}$), respectively] (Fig. 5B). As expected, *cob*-118 and *nad6*-26, two C targets with editing efficiencies that are not affected in the *rip1* mutant, do not show any decrease of editing extent in *RIP1*-silenced plants (Fig. 5C). Not

expected to be less affected in a silenced plant than a homozygous mutant. In addition to *RIP1*, mutations in two PPR protein-encoding genes have been shown to increase editing extent. Mutation of *REME1*, which encodes a PPR-DYW protein, negatively affects editing of both *nad2-558* and *orfX-552* but also increases editing extent in at least two sites, *matR-1771* and *rp15-92* (23). A null mutant of *PPR596*, which encodes a PPR-P protein, showed an increase of editing extent in several sites in the *rpS4* transcript (45). Site-specific inhibition of editing by protein factors has previously been reported in the apolipoprotein B (*apoB*) RNA editing system in mammals. Antisense inhibition of expression of the proteins GRY-RBP or CUGBP2 in McA cells led to a two- to threefold increase in endogenous *apoB* RNA editing, suggesting that both these factors may participate in the *apoB* editing complex as negative regulators in vivo (46, 47). In contrast to these *apoB* factors, *RIP1* is able to promote editing at many sites while inhibiting editing at a few other sites.

Examination of editing extent in two mutants impaired in either plastid RNA metabolism or plastid biogenesis suggests that the increase in editing observed for some plastid sites in *rip1* might be an indirect effect of the mutation (*SI Appendix, Fig. S9* and *SI Appendix, Table S2*). Another indication that plastid editing activity might be indirectly compromised by *RIP1* mutation is the observation that plastid-encoded polymerase (PEP) transcripts (e.g., *petL* and *ndhB*) show decreased editing, whereas most nucleus-encoded polymerase (NEP) transcripts (e.g., *rpoA*, *rpoB*, and *rpoC*) show increased editing (*SI Appendix, Table S2*). However, if the plastid editing effect observed in the *rip1* mutant was indirectly caused by PEP dysfunction, we would expect to observe increase in transcript abundance generated by NEP, which is generally observed for mutants impaired in PEP activity (48). Our data clearly disprove this model, because the *rpoC1* (NEP-generated) transcript level is reduced in *rip1* as well as levels of PEP transcripts *ndhD* and *petL* (*SI Appendix, Fig. S8*). In addition, the *accD* (NEP-generated) transcript exhibits a reduction of editing extent at site 794 in *rip1*, which is unlike other NEP transcripts (*SI Appendix, Table S2*). More importantly, the current view that genes of photosystems I and II are completely dependent on PEP transcription and a few housekeeping genes, including the *rpoB* operon, are transcribed exclusively from NEP promoters has been recently challenged in a study of the barley chloroplast transcriptome (49). In this study, which included a PEP-lacking plastid mutant, Zhelyazkova et al. (49) observed that most genes, including genes coding for photosynthesis proteins, have both NEP and PEP promoters.

It remains possible that many of the minor alterations in editing extent of plastid and mitochondrial sites could possibly be caused by indirect effects on transcript or transfactor abundance. For example, altered organelle metabolism could potentially affect the abundance of particular PPR protein editing factors and thus, result in minor differences in editing extent at specific sites. However, we have also shown, in the case of the editing transfactor MEF11, that the sites on which it operates are differentially affected in the *rip1* mutant.

RIP1 and RARE1 Function in an Editing Complex. The current model for RNA editing holds that PPR proteins recognize *cis*-elements near C targets of editing, serving as molecular adaptors that recruit an editing activity to specific transcripts (50). CRR4, a PPR-E protein necessary for the editing of the plastid *ndhD* transcript, directly interacts with the transcript in the area surrounding the targeted C for editing (12). Two other PPR editing *trans*-factors, the *Physcomitrella patens* PpPPR_71 and *A. thaliana* OTP87, have been shown to bind the RNA sequence surrounding their target editing sites (29, 51). However, the identity of all the proteins that act in conjunction with PPR proteins to convert C targets to U targets is unknown.

Deamination is the favored process to explain the base modification, because the sugar phosphate backbone and the nucleotide base are retained during C-to-U conversion (52). The DYW domain found in about one-half of the *Arabidopsis* PPR editing factors has been suggested to be catalyzing the editing activity based on the similarity of one of its motifs to the conserved cytidine deaminase motif (30). In addition, the phylogenetic distribution of the DYW domain in plant taxa is strictly correlated with RNA editing (30). However, about one-half of the *Arabidopsis* editing factors lack the DYW domain; moreover, mutant complementation experiments with a truncated DYW protein have proved that the DYW domain is dispensable for editing (53). More importantly, in vitro experiments with recombinant DYW proteins failed to detect any RNA editing activity (53, 54). Examination of the *RIP1* sequence for motifs with a web-based tool (<http://www.genome.jp/tools/motif/>) did not detect any known motif; in particular, the conserved cytidine deaminase motif is absent from *RIP1*. However, it remains possible that a complex of *RIP1* and one or more PPR proteins could constitute an editing activity.

The coimmunoprecipitation and yeast two-hybrid interaction of *RIP1* and *RARE1* indicate that they are present in the same protein complex in chloroplasts. The C-terminal PPR repeats are not needed for interaction with *RIP1*, and the C-terminal portion of *RIP1* is dispensable for interaction with *RARE1* in yeast two-hybrid analysis. Perhaps the C-terminal PPR repeats are involved in interaction with RNA *cis*-elements, whereas the N-terminal repeats mediate interaction with *RIP1*. Supporting this model is the recent finding that two PPR motifs are sufficient to bind to an RNA target in vitro (55).

RIP1 Controls the Editing Extent of Many More Mitochondrial C Targets than Any Identified PPR Protein Editing Factor.

The editing extent of 33 mitochondrial genes in the *RIP1* T-DNA homozygous mutant exhibited a variable decrease, from undetectable editing for 108 sites by bulk sequencing to a mild decrease in 52 sites (Table 1). The intermediate level of decrease in editing in the mutant ranges from severe in 78 sites to moderate in 28 sites (Table 1). Thus, the number of mitochondrial sites with editing that is affected by *RIP1* equals 266 and represents roughly 70% of the sites assayed. A residual editing extent was detected by the sensitive PPE method at two sites, *cob-325* and *nad6-161*, although no editing was detected by bulk sequencing (Fig. 4C). To study the function of *RIP1*, we have used a hypomorphic allele with an upstream insertion that likely allows accumulation of some active *RIP1* protein. A low level of editing at most affected C targets may explain why the *rip1* homozygous mutant is viable.

Examination of transcript level by quantitative RT-PCR clearly shows that the changes in mitochondrial editing observed in *rip1* cannot be trivially explained by changes in RNA abundance. Mutation in *RIP1* has a generally positive effect on mitochondrial transcript levels as previously observed in respiratory mutants (24, 39).

All of the currently identified *Arabidopsis* mitochondrial PPR protein editing factors belong to the 152-member PLS subfamily, of which 65 members contain only the C-terminal E domain and 87 members exhibit both the E and DYW domains (14). Approximately two-thirds or about 100 of these proteins are predicted to be targeted to mitochondria. Among the 13 *Arabidopsis* members of the PLS subfamily reported to be mitochondrial editing factors (22–29), only 5 members have been observed to control the editing extent at more than one site. MEF1 and MEF11 control the editing of three sites (22, 27), whereas *REME1*, *SLO1*, and *OTP87* control two sites each (23, 24, 29). Whether 100 PPR proteins are sufficient to recognize the over 500 C targets of editing in *Arabidopsis* mitochondria is presently unknown. Some PPR proteins are known to have roles in other aspects of RNA metabolism instead of editing (56–60).

Although mutation of *RIP1* negatively affects the editing extent of a large number of mitochondrial C targets, editing of some C targets was not affected at all. It is possible that *RIP1* interacts with only a subset of PPR proteins that interact with target RNAs, whereas other members of the *RIP1* family interact with a different subset of PPR proteins to stimulate editing at other C targets. The discovery of the important role of *RIP1* in mitochondrial editing will open new inquiry into the functions of its 10-member gene family.

Materials and Methods

Genotyping. All genotyping was done by PCR with BioMix Red (Bioline). For amplification of RARE1 in transgenic plants, primer Rare1_+1933F and the 3xFLAG-StrepIIIR primer were used. For genotyping of the FLAG_150D11 line, the WT allele and T-DNA alleles were amplified with primer pairs At3g15000_-442F with At3g15000_+99R or At3g15000_-442F with FLAG_LB4, respectively (SI Appendix, Table S3). Likewise, for the FLAG_607H09 line, the primer pairs were At3g15000_+856F with At3g15000_+1334R and FLAG_Tag3 with At3g15000_+1334R. Both lines were obtained from the INRA FLAGdb T-DNA collection (34).

VIGS. VIGS of At3g15000 using a GFP cosilencing marker as in refs. 21 and 61 was performed with Complete *Arabidopsis* Transcriptome MicroArray (CATMA) primers (62) At3g15000_VF and At3g15000_VR (SI Appendix, Table S3). Tissue was collected 18 d postinoculation.

Analysis of RNA Editing by PPE. All 34 known *Arabidopsis* chloroplast RNA editing C targets (63, 64) were assayed as in ref. 21. Mitochondrial RNA editing sites were assayed by RT-PCR bulk sequencing using primers described in refs. 65 and 66. PPE analysis on mitochondrial sites *cob*-118, *cob*-325, *nad6*-26, and *nad6*-161 was conducted as in ref. 23 with primers *cob*-118, *cob*325, *nad6*-26, and *nad6*-161 (SI Appendix, Table S3).

Transient Transformation of *rip1* Seedlings. Production of the binary vector. *RIP1* ORF was transferred from the gateway entry clone G67651 (ABRC; Ohio State University) into the binary vector pH7RWG2.0 (67) by recombination using LR Clonase II (Invitrogen) After sequence verification, the plasmid was transformed into *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* GV3101.

Transformation of *rip1* seedlings. Sterile seeds from *RIP1*-FLAG_150D11-T-DNA heterozygous plant were germinated on MS plates. After 2 wk, the homozygous mutant plants, which were distinguishable from the other progeny because of their dwarf phenotype, were collected onto new MS plates and subjected to *Agrobacterium* infiltration according to the protocol in ref. 44. DNA and RNA were collected 3 d postinfiltration. DNA genotyping confirmed the visual assignment of the mutant seedlings based on the dwarf phenotype.

Subcellular Localization of *RIP1*. The *RIP1* ORF minus the stop codon was amplified from the clone G67651 with primers At3g15000_+1F and At3g15000_+1185R (SI Appendix, Table S3) and cloned into pCR8/GW/TOPO (Invitrogen). After sequence verification, the insert was transferred into the pEarleyGate 103 vector (68) by recombination using LR Clonase II (Invitrogen), creating a *RIP1*-GFP fusion driven by the 35S promoter. Protoplasts from *Arabidopsis* Col-0 accession or *N. benthamiana* were transfected with the plasmid using the protocol in ref. 39. Protoplasts were checked for fluorescence under the confocal microscope 16 h after incubation with the plasmid. Protoplasts were incubated with MitoTracker Orange CM-H₂TMRos (Invitrogen) at a final concentration of 500 nM for 30 min, centrifuged, and resuspended in dye-free medium. Images were acquired using a Leica SP2 confocal microscope. For chloroplast nucleoid staining, *N. benthamiana* protoplasts were incubated with 3 μg/mL DAPI (Sigma) for 5 min before visualization using a Zeiss 710 confocal microscope.

Real-Time Quantitative RT-PCR Conditions and Analysis. Quantitative RT-PCR was performed as described in ref. 69. All of the primers used for quantitative RT-PCR are given in SI Appendix, Table S3. The results of the quantitative RT-PCR analysis were normalized using the gene At2g28390, which has been shown to be a superior reference gene for transcript normalization in *Arabidopsis* (70).

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