

Eukaryotic Oligosaccharyltransferase Generates Free Oligosaccharides during *N*-Glycosylation*

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Background: The enzyme generating free oligosaccharides (fOSs) in the lumen of the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) has been unidentified.

Results: Oligosaccharyltransferase (OST), the *N*-glycosylating enzyme, hydrolyzes dolichol-linked oligosaccharides to release the fOSs.

Conclusion: OST is responsible for the generation of fOSs in the ER lumen.

Significance: This study provides a mechanistic insight into the formation of luminal fOSs in yeast.

Asparagine (*N*)-linked glycosylation regulates numerous cellular activities, such as glycoprotein quality control, intracellular trafficking, and cell-cell communications. In eukaryotes, the glycosylation reaction is catalyzed by oligosaccharyltransferase (OST), a multimembrane protein complex that is localized in the endoplasmic reticulum (ER). During *N*-glycosylation in the ER, the protein-unbound form of oligosaccharides (free oligosaccharides; fOSs), which is structurally related to *N*-glycan, is released into the ER lumen. However, the enzyme responsible for this process remains unidentified. Here, we demonstrate that eukaryotic OST generates fOSs. Biochemical and genetic analyses using mutant strains of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* revealed that the generation of fOSs is tightly correlated with the *N*-glycosylation activity of OST. Furthermore, we present evidence that the purified OST complex can generate fOSs by hydrolyzing dolichol-linked oligosaccharide, the glycan donor substrate for *N*-glycosylation. The heterologous expression of a single subunit of OST from the protozoan *Leishmania major* in *S. cerevisiae* demonstrated that this enzyme functions both in *N*-glycosylation and generation of fOSs. This study provides insight into the mechanism of PNGase-independent formation of fOSs.

N-Glycosylation is a fundamental and evolutionarily conserved post-translational protein modification that occurs in all domains of life (1, 2). In eukaryotes, the glycosylation often occurs co-translationally on nascent polypeptides emerging from the protein-conducting channel in the endoplasmic reticulum (ER)² lumen (3, 4). Oligosaccharyltransferase (OST) catalyzes the transfer of the fully assembled

glycan, Glc₃Man₉GlcNAc₂, from its dolichylpyrophosphate-linked precursor to the target asparagine residue of polypeptide chains.

During the *N*-glycosylation process in mammalian cells, free oligosaccharides (fOSs) are generated in the ER lumen by a yet unclarified mechanism (5, 6), but fOSs are thought to be derived from either *N*-glycosylated proteins or dolichylpyrophosphoryl oligosaccharides (DLOs). The generation of fOSs from glycoproteins suggests that they result from the enzymatic deglycosylation of misfolded glycoproteins destined for proteasomal destruction by a process called ER-associated degradation. This deglycosylation reaction is catalyzed by the cytoplasmic peptide:*N*-glycanase (PNGase; Png1 in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*) (7, 8), which is highly conserved in eukaryotes.

In *S. cerevisiae*, Png1-mediated cytosolic deglycosylation of glycoproteins is the dominant source for fOSs, as demonstrated by the marked reduction in, but not the complete depletion of, fOSs in *png1Δ* cells (9, 10). The glycoprotein-derived fOSs are catabolized solely by Ams1, a cytosol-vacuolar α -mannosidase (9, 10). On the other hand, the molecular basis underlying the Png1-independent generation of fOSs in *S. cerevisiae* remains to be explored.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

Yeast Strains—Yeast strains used in this study were listed in Table 1. Various deletion mutants were generated by the PCR-based gene deletion technique (11, 12).

Plasmids—Plasmids used in this study are listed in Table 2. pOST3 and pOST6 were generated using the In-Fusion HD cloning kit (Takara), genomic DNA from BY4741 as a template, and the primers listed in Table 3. Briefly, open reading frame of Ost3 and Ost6 that is flanked by 500 bp upstream of the initiation codon and 200 bp downstream of the stop codon was amplified, using the yeast genomic DNA (100 ng) and primers listed in Table 3, by KOD-Plus DNA polymerase (Toyobo) according to the manufacturer's instructions. YEp352 vector

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² The abbreviations used are: ER, endoplasmic reticulum; PNGase, peptide:*N*-glycanase; PA-, pyridylaminated; OST, oligosaccharyltransferase; fOS, free

oligosaccharide; DLO, dolichylpyrophosphoryl oligosaccharide; SD, selective dropout; CPY, carboxypeptidase Y; G3M9, Glc₃Man₉GlcNAc₂.

Hydrolysis of Dolichol-linked Oligosaccharides by OST

TABLE 1
Yeast strains used in this study

Name	Genotypes	Sources
<i>ams1Δ</i>	<i>MATa his3Δ1 leu2Δ0 met15Δ0 ura3Δ0 ams1Δ::kanMX4</i> BY4741	Open Biosystems
<i>png1Δ</i>	<i>MATa his3Δ1 leu2Δ0 met15Δ0 ura3Δ0 png1Δ::kanMX4</i> BY4741	Open Biosystems
<i>png1Δ ams1Δ</i>	<i>MATa his3Δ1 leu2Δ0 met15Δ0 ura3Δ0 ams1Δ::kanMX4 png1Δ::His3MX6</i> BY4741	This study
<i>png1Δ ams1Δ ost3Δ</i>	<i>MATa his3Δ1 leu2Δ0 met15Δ0 ura3Δ0 ams1Δ::kanMX4 png1Δ::His3MX6 ost3Δ::hphNT1</i> BY4741	This study
<i>png1Δ ams1Δ ost5Δ</i>	<i>MATa his3Δ1 leu2Δ0 met15Δ0 ura3Δ0 ams1Δ::kanMX4 png1Δ::His3MX6 ost5Δ::hphNT1</i> BY4741	This study
<i>png1Δ ams1Δ ost6Δ</i>	<i>MATa his3Δ1 leu2Δ0 met15Δ0 ura3Δ0 ams1Δ::kanMX4 png1Δ::His3MX6 ost6Δ::hphNT1</i> BY4741	This study
<i>png1Δ ams1Δ ost3Δ ost6Δ</i>	<i>MATa his3Δ1 leu2Δ0 met15Δ0 ura3Δ0 ams1Δ::kanMX4 png1Δ::His3MX6 ost3Δ::hphNT1 ost6Δ::natNT2</i> BY4741	This study
<i>png1Δ ams1Δ alg6Δ</i>	<i>MATa his3Δ1 leu2Δ0 met15Δ0 ura3Δ0 ams1Δ::kanMX4 png1Δ::His3MX6 alg6Δ::hphNT1</i> BY4741	This study
<i>png1Δ atg19Δ</i>	<i>MATa his3Δ1 leu2Δ0 met15Δ0 ura3Δ0 png1Δ::kanMX4 atg19Δ::hphNT1</i> BY4741	This study
<i>png1Δ ams1Δ gls1Δ mns1Δ htm1Δ</i>	<i>MATa his3Δ1 leu2Δ0 met15Δ0 ura3Δ0 ams1Δ::His3MX6 png1Δ::hphNT1 gls1Δ::LEU2 mns1Δ::natNT2 htm1Δ::kanMX4</i> BY4741	This study
OST4-FLAG	<i>MAT a leu2-3,112 trp1-1 can1-100 ura3-1 ade2-1 his3-11,15 OST4-3×FLAG::HisMX6</i>	This study

TABLE 2
Plasmids used in this study

Name	Plasmids	Source/Reference
pOST3	YEp352-OST3	This study
pOST6	YEp352-OST6	This study
pLmSTT3D (WT)	pRS425-GPD- <i>LmSTT3D</i> (WT)	Ref. 36
pLmSTT3D (E102A)	pRS425-GPD- <i>LmSTT3D</i> (E102A)	This study
pLmSTT3D (D104A)	pRS425-GPD- <i>LmSTT3D</i> (D104A)	This study
pLmSTT3D (D223N)	pRS425-GPD- <i>LmSTT3D</i> (D223N)	This study
pLmSTT3D (E225Q)	pRS425-GPD- <i>LmSTT3D</i> (E225Q)	This study
pLmSTT3D (D223N E225Q)	pRS425-GPD- <i>LmSTT3D</i> (D223N E225Q)	This study
pLmSTT3D (D639A)	pRS425-GPD- <i>LmSTT3D</i> (D639A)	This study
pLmSTT3D (D698A)	pRS425-GPD- <i>LmSTT3D</i> (D698A)	This study
pLmSTT3D (K701A)	pRS425-GPD- <i>LmSTT3D</i> (K701A)	This study
pScSTT3	pRS425-GPD- <i>ScSTT3</i>	This study

was amplified using the primers listed in Table 3 by PrimeSTAR Max DNA polymerase (Takara) according to the manufacturer's instructions. The PCR product of YEp352 vector was digested with DpnI (0.5 μl, 10 units; Toyobo) for 1 h at 37 °C and terminated by heating for 15 min at 75 °C. All of the PCRs were purified with the NucleoSpin Gel and PCR Clean-Up kit (Clontech) and subjected to recombination with the In-Fusion HD cloning kit. The reaction products were used for transformation of *Escherichia coli* DH5α strain (Toyobo). pScSTT3 was generated with In-Fusion HD cloning kit as described above, except that their coding sequences were amplified by using primers listed in Table 3. pRS425-GPD vector was amplified, using the primers listed in Table 3, by PrimeSTAR Max DNA polymerase.

Mutagenesis—Mutagenesis of the pLmSTT3D plasmid was carried out using PrimeSTAR Max DNA polymerase (Takara) and the primers listed in Table 3.

Cell Culture—The standard yeast medium was used. The medium and 20% (w/v) glucose were separately autoclaved, and the autoclaved glucose was added to the medium at a concentration of 2% just before use. The yeast cells were spread from the 15% (v/v) glycerol stock onto YPD plates and grown for 3 days at 30 °C. The fresh single colony was inoculated in 50 ml of synthetic complete medium or selective dropout (SD) medium lacking appropriate nutrients and incubated for 24 h at 30 °C. For transformants, a fresh colony was first inoculated in 5 ml of the SD medium lacking appropriate nutrients for 24 h at 30 °C. The preculture was diluted to 0.2 A₆₀₀ unit in 50 ml of the same medium and grown for 24 h at 30 °C.

Preparation of fOSs—The yeast cells were harvested and washed twice with 10 ml of the ice-cold phosphate-buffered saline (PBS). The washed cells were resuspended in 1 ml of lysis buffer (20 mM Tri-HCl, pH 7.4, and 10 mM EDTA), and then 3 ml of the ice-cold ethanol were added. The cells were homogenized by three 10-s vigorous agitations separated by 5-min cooling periods on ice. The homogenate was centrifuged at 15,000 × g for 15 min, and the supernatant was recovered as the soluble oligosaccharide fraction and evaporated to dryness. The dried soluble oligosaccharide fraction was desalted on the column containing a stack of AG50-X8 (250 μl, 200–400 mesh, H⁺ form) and AG1-X2 (250 μl, 200–400 mesh, acetate form) (Bio-Rad), followed by an InertSep GC column (150 mg/3 ml) (GL Sciences).

Subcellular Fractionation—The yeast cells were grown in YPD medium for 24 h to reach the cell density at ~10 A₆₀₀ units, resuspended in 10 ml of TSD buffer (100 mM Tris sulfate, pH 9.4, and 10 mM DTT), and incubated for 10 min at room temperature. The cells were harvested and resuspended in 5 ml of spheroplasting buffer (0.75× YP, 2% glucose, 1.2 M sorbitol, and 20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4) supplemented with 0.5 mg of zymolyase 100T (Seikagaku Co.). After incubation for 30 min at 30 °C with gentle agitations, the cells were harvested and gently washed twice with 10 ml of the ice-cold PBS containing 1.2 M sorbitol. The cells were resuspended in 300 μl of B88 (20 mM Hepes-KOH, pH 7.4, 300 mM KCl, 5 mM MgCl₂, and 200 mM sorbitol) and homogenized in a Potter-Elvehjem homogenizer by 20 strokes on ice. The homogenate was centrifuged at 1,000 × g for 5 min at 4 °C, and the supernatant (S1) was recovered. These homogenization and centrifugation steps were

TABLE 3
Primers used in this study

Primers	5' → 3'	Notes
E102A-F	gatacctgatccacgcttcgaccctggtt	Mutagenesis
E102A-R	aaccacgggtcgaacgcgtggatcaggtatc	Mutagenesis
D104A-F	ctgatccacgagttcccccgtggttcaactac	Mutagenesis
D104A-R	gtagttgaaccacggggcgaaactcgtggatcag	Mutagenesis
D223N-F	atggcgggtgagttcaacaacgagtgcatcg	Mutagenesis
D223N-R	cgatgcactcgttggtaactcaccgccat	Mutagenesis
E225Q-F	gtgagttcgacaaccagtgcatcgccgtc	Mutagenesis
E225Q-R	gacggcgatgcactggttgcgaactcac	Mutagenesis
D639A-F	ttggcctggggcctacggctaccag	Mutagenesis
D639A-R	ctggtagccgtaggccaccaggccaa	Mutagenesis
D698A-F	gggcagagcggcgccctgatgaagtca	Mutagenesis
D698A-R	tgacttcacagggcgccgctctgcc	Mutagenesis
K701A-F	gcggcgactcgtggcgtcaccgcacatgg	Mutagenesis
K701A-R	ccatgtgcggtgacgccatcaggtcgccgc	Mutagenesis
Ost3-Inf-F	gaattcgagctcggtaaccggggatccgatgtcattcccggcgctc	Cloning
Ost3-Inf-R	aagcttcatcctcaggtcagctgactggactaggcagcctcaaaa	Cloning
Ost6-Inf-F	gaattcgagctcggtaaccggggatcgtctgagttaggagcaaac	Cloning
Ost6-Inf-R	aagcttcatcctcaggtcaggtcacttcctctgtgtattaa	Cloning
YEp352-Inf-F	gtcgactgcaggtcagc	Cloning
YEp352-Inf-R	ggatccccgggtaccgag	Cloning
ScSTT3-Inf-F	ggcctgcaggaattcagggatccgaccggctcg	Cloning
ScSTT3-Inf-R	ggatcgcataagcttttagactcgaagcctaa	Cloning
p425GPD-Inf-F	aagcttatcgataccgtc	Cloning
p425GPD-Inf-R	gaattcctgcagccccggg	Cloning

repeated once on the pellet fraction under the same conditions as described above. The combined S1 fraction was centrifuged at $15,000 \times g$ for 5 min at 4 °C, and the supernatant (S15) was recovered. The pellet (P15) was washed once with 300 μ l of B88. The S15 fraction was ultracentrifuged at $100,000 \times g$ for 20 min at 4 °C, and the supernatant (S100) was recovered as the cytosol fraction. The P15 and P100 were resuspended in 600 μ l of B88. To prepare the soluble oligosaccharide fraction, ice-cold ethanol was added to a final concentration of 75% and incubated for 15 min at 0 °C. After centrifugation at $15,000 \times g$ for 15 min, the supernatant was evaporated to dryness.

Preparation of DLOs—The yeast cells were cultured, harvested, and washed as described above and resuspended in 2 ml of methanol. After the addition of an equal volume of glass beads (0.5 mm, Yasui Kikai, Kyoto, Japan), the cells were homogenized with a bead beater (Yasui Kikai) by three 1-min vigorous agitations separated by 1-min cooling periods on ice. The homogenate was centrifuged at $3,000 \times g$ for 5 min, and the pellet was further washed twice with 5 ml of methanol. The washed pellet was extracted twice with 5 ml of chloroform/methanol (2:1 by volume). The pellet was dried under a nitrogen stream and extracted twice with 5 ml of methanol/water (1:1 by volume) supplemented with 4 mM MgCl₂. The DLOs were extracted twice from the pellet by incubation with 5 ml of chloroform/methanol/water (10:10:3 by volume) for 10 min at 37 °C. The supernatant was evaporated to dryness. The residual pellet was re-extracted twice with 1 ml of chloroform/methanol/water (10:10:3 by volume). The resultant supernatant was evaporated to dryness. The pellet was incubated with 1 ml of 20 mM HCl in isopropyl alcohol/water (1:1 by volume) for 30 min at 100 °C. After it was evaporated to dryness, the pellet was extracted three times with 1 ml of water and desalted on an InertSep GC column and then on the AG50-X8 and AG1-X2 column.

Preparation of N-Glycans—The yeast cells were cultured, harvested, and washed twice with 15 ml of water. The cell pellet was resuspended in 1 ml of 10 mM sodium citrate buffer, pH 6.0,

and autoclaved for 2 h at 121 °C. After centrifugation at $15,000 \times g$ for 5 min, the supernatant was incubated with 3 ml of ethanol for 15 min on ice. After centrifugation at $15,000 \times g$ for 15 min, the pellet was dried and dissolved in 200 μ l of 0.1 M ammonium bicarbonate with 1 mg/ml trypsin. After incubation for 1 h at 37 °C, trypsin was inactivated by heating for 10 min at 100 °C, and PNGase F (5 units; Roche Applied Science) was added. The reaction mixture was further incubated for 16 h at 37 °C. After inactivation by heating for 5 min at 100 °C, the specimen was desalted on the AG50-X8 and AG1-X2 column and then on an InertSep GC column.

Pyridylamination—Fluorescent labeling of the soluble oligosaccharides with 2-aminopyridine was carried out as described previously (10, 13). Briefly, the dried sample was incubated in 20 μ l of 2.76 g/ml 2-aminopyridine in acetate for 1 h at 80 °C. After the reaction, 20 μ l of 500 mg/ml dimethylamine borane in acetate was added to the mixture and further incubated for 1 h at 80 °C. Excess amounts of 2-aminopyridine was removed by a MonoFas silica gel spin column (GL Sciences) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Preparation of the Pyridylaminated Standard Glycans—The pyridylaminated Man₁GlcNAc₂ (PA-Man₁GlcNAc₂) was prepared from N-glycans released from bovine ribonuclease B (Sigma) by PNGase F (Roche Applied Science), which were further digested with jack bean α -mannosidase (Seikagaku Co.) as described under "Glycosidase Digestions."

Size Fractionation HPLC—PA-glycans were separated by size fractionation HPLC with a Shodex NH2P-50 4E column (4.6 \times 250 mm; Shodex), as reported previously (10). The elution was achieved by two solvent gradients: solvent A (93% acetonitrile in 0.3% acetate (pH adjusted to 7.0 with ammonia)) and solvent B (20% acetonitrile in 0.3% acetate (pH adjusted to 7.0 with ammonia)). The flow rate was 0.8 ml/min. The column temperature was 25 °C. The gradient program was as follows: 0–5 min, isocratic 3% solvent B; 5–8 min, 3–33% solvent B; 8–40 min, 33–71% solvent B; 40–60 min, isocratic 3% solvent B. Fluores-

TABLE 4
Quantitation of the PA-labeled fOSs from *png1Δ ams1Δ* cells

Glycan ID ^a	Amounts ^b		Number of hexoses shifted after jack bean α -mannosidase digestion ^c	Number of hexoses shifted after α 1,2-mannosidase digestion ^d	Number of hexoses shifted after α 1,2-mannosidase and α 1,6-mannosidase double digestion ^e	Glucose unit ^g
	<i>png1Δ ams1Δ</i>	<i>ams1Δ</i>				
	<i>pmol/100 A₆₀₀</i>					
a	2.0	134.8	6	2	ND ^f	5.76
b-1	9.1	167.4	7	3	ND	4.91
b-2	1.1	45.1	7	2	3	5.75
c	1.6	28.6	8	3	4	4.86
Total amounts	13.8	375.9				

^a Glycan ID was based on Fig. 1B.^b Amounts of the fOSs were estimated from peak area of PA-Glc₆ in dual-gradient, reversed-phase HPLC (14).^c PA-fOSs were isolated in dual-gradient, reversed-phase HPLC (14) and digested with jack bean α -mannosidase. The digests were analyzed by size fractionation HPLC.^d PA-fOSs were isolated in dual-gradient, reversed-phase HPLC (14) and digested with α 1,2-mannosidase. The digests were analyzed by size fractionation HPLC.^e PA-fOSs were isolated in dual-gradient, reversed-phase HPLC (14) and double digested with α 1,2-mannosidase and α 1,6-mannosidase. The digests were analyzed by size fractionation HPLC.^f ND, not done.^g Glucose units of the fOSs were determined by dual-gradient, reversed-phase HPLC (14).

cence of the labeled glycans was detected at the excitation wavelength (310 nm) and the emission wavelength (380 nm).

For Figs. 2E, 3 (B and D), 4 (B and C), 5 (A, B, and F), and 6 (A–C) and Table 5, the amounts of PA-oligosaccharides were estimated by size fractionation HPLC, based on the peak area of PA-glucose hexamer (PA-Glc₆) included in the PA-glucose oligomer (degree of polymerization = 3–15; Takara). To determine the sizes of the fOSs generated in *png1Δ atg19Δ* cells (Table 5), the isolated peaks in the size fractionation HPLC were digested with jack bean α -mannosidase, as described under “Glycosidase Digestions.” The digests were reanalyzed by size fractionation HPLC under the same conditions. As a control, the standard Man₁GlcNAc₂, the expected product generated by jack bean α -mannosidase, was also analyzed in parallel to make sure that the fOSs are structurally related to the N-glycans.

Dual-gradient, Reversed-phase HPLC—Glycan isomers were separated by dual-gradient, reversed-phase HPLC with an Inertsil ODS-3 column (2.1-mm inner diameter \times 150 mm; GL Sciences) (14). Elution was achieved by two solvent gradients: solvent A (0.1 M ammonium acetate buffer, pH 6.4) and solvent B (0.1 M ammonium acetate buffer, pH 4.0, and 0.5% 1-butanol). The flow rate was 200 μ l/min. The column temperature was 25 °C. The gradient program was as follows: 0–10 min, isocratic 99% solvent A; 10–110 min, 99–30% solvent A; 110–150 min, isocratic 99% solvent A. Fluorescence of the labeled glycans was detected at the excitation wavelength (320 nm) and the emission wavelength (400 nm). Glucose units and amounts of each PA-fOS were determined as described previously (14). For Table 4 and Fig. 2 (C and D), fOSs and DLOs were quantitated by dual-gradient, reversed-phase HPLC.

To unambiguously determine the structure of Man₁GlcNAc₂ in Table 5, the isolated corresponding peaks in the size fractionation HPLC were analyzed by the dual-gradient, reversed-phase HPLC in parallel with the standard PA-Man₁GlcNAc₂. The structural identity was judged by their identical elution position.

Glycosidase Digestions—The PA-glycans were incubated with 5 milliunits of endoglycosidase H (Roche Applied Science) in 20 μ l of 10 mM sodium acetate buffer, pH 5.5, for 16 h at 37 °C. The numbers of mannose residues of the labeled glycans were determined by exoglycosidase digestions with the Jack bean α -mannosidase (40 milliunits; Seikagaku Co.) in 20 μ l of 10 mM sodium citrate buffer, pH 4.5, or *Aspergillus saitoi* α 1,2-

TABLE 5
Quantitation of the PA-fOSs from *png1Δ ams1Δ*, *png1Δ*, and *png1Δ atg19Δ* cells

Glycan structures	Amounts (relative amounts) ^a		
	<i>png1Δ ams1Δ</i>	<i>png1Δ</i>	<i>png1Δ atg19Δ</i>
	<i>pmol/25 A₆₀₀ (%)</i>		
Man ₁ GlcNAc ₂	ND ^b	0.4 (3.9)	39.4 (46.1)
Man ₂ GlcNAc ₂	ND ^b	1.4 (15.5)	23.2 (27.2)
Man ₃ GlcNAc ₂	ND ^b	0.5 (5.9)	6.9 (8.0)
Man ₄ GlcNAc ₂	ND ^b	0.4 (4.1)	2.1 (2.5)
Man ₅ GlcNAc ₂	ND ^b	1.1 (11.5)	2.2 (2.5)
Man ₆ GlcNAc ₂	ND ^b	1.0 (10.5)	4.0 (4.7)
Man ₇ GlcNAc ₂	1.1 (16.5)	1.3 (14.2)	4.4 (5.2)
Man ₈ GlcNAc ₂	5.0 (75.3)	2.9 (31.7)	3.1 (3.7)
Man ₉ GlcNAc ₂	0.5 (8.2)	0.2 (2.7)	0.1 (0.1)
Total amount	6.6 (100)	9.2 (100)	85.4 (100)

^a The amounts of fOSs were estimated from peak area of PA-Glc₆ in size fractionation HPLC.^b ND, not detected.

mannosidase (0.5 milliunit; Seikagaku Co.) in 20 μ l of 10 mM sodium acetate buffer, pH 5.5, for 16 h at 37 °C. For the enzyme digestion with *Xanthomonas manihotis* α 1,6-mannosidase (New England Biolabs), the PA-glycans were incubated with 40 units of *X. manihotis* α 1,6-mannosidase together with 40 milliunits of *A. saitoi* α 1,2-mannosidase in 20 μ l of 50 mM sodium citrate buffer, pH 4.5, supplemented with 0.1 mg/ml bovine serum albumin for 16 h at 37 °C. The reaction was terminated by the addition of 80 μ l of water, followed by the addition of 300 μ l of ethanol. After centrifugation at 15,000 \times g for 15 min, the supernatant was evaporated to dryness and dissolved in a small volume of water.

Western Blot—Yeast cells (10 A₆₀₀ units) were harvested and incubated in 200 μ l of 0.1 M NaOH for 5 min at room temperature. After harvesting the cells, the pellet was resuspended in 100 μ l of water, and then 100 μ l of 2 \times SDS sample buffer (125 mM Tris-HCl, pH 6.8, 4% SDS, 20% glycerol, 0.01% bromophenol blue, and 10% β -mercaptoethanol) were added. The cell suspension was heated for 5 min at 100 °C. After a centrifugation at 15,000 \times g for 5 min, the supernatant (equivalent to 0.5 A₆₀₀ unit) was separated by SDS-PAGE and analyzed by Western blot with anti-carboxypeptidase Y (CPY) (10A5, Invitrogen), anti-Kar2 (γ -115, Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Inc.), and anti-3-phosphoglycerate kinase (22C5, Invitrogen) antibodies. Visualization was performed with a LAS-3000 mini (Fujifilm).

For the detection of LmStt3D-HA, the yeast cells (500 A_{600} units) were resuspended in 1 ml of PBS, and an equal volume of the glass beads (0.5 mm) was added. The cells were lysed by three 1-min periods of bead beating separated by 1-min cooling period. The lysate was centrifuged at $1,000 \times g$ for 5 min, and the supernatant was further centrifuged at $6,000 \times g$ for 5 min. The supernatant was ultracentrifuged at $100,000 \times g$ for 20 min. The pellet (microsomes) was resuspended in 100 μ l each of a lysis buffer (20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4, and 10 mM EDTA) and $2 \times$ SDS sample buffer. To denature, the sample was incubated for 1 h at 37 °C. 20 μ l of the sample were analyzed by SDS-PAGE, followed by Western blot with anti-HA (F-7, Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Inc.) and anti-dolichol phosphate mannose synthase 1 (DPM1) (5C5, Invitrogen) antibodies.

Plasmid Shuffling Assay—*stt3 Δ* cells (*MATa met15 lys2 stt3 Δ ::KanMX4*) that have been complemented with YEp352-GPD-LmSTT3D-HA were transformed with pLmSTT3Ds or p425GPD empty vector and selected on the SD plate lacking leucine and uracil for 2 days at 30 °C. The transformants were grown in SD medium lacking leucine and uracil for 2 days at 30 °C. The cells (15 A_{600} units) were serially diluted 5-fold in water, and 5 μ l of the cell suspension were spotted on the SD plate lacking leucine and uracil and one lacking leucine supplemented with 1 mg/ml 5-fluoroorotic acid. The cells were grown for 6 days at 23 °C.

Purification of the OST Complex Containing Ost4-FLAG—The yeast OST complex containing Ost4-FLAG was purified as described previously (15) with slight modifications. The microsomes (16,000 eq) (44) that were prepared from yeast strain W303-1A expressing Ost4-FLAG (*MATa leu2-3,112 trp1-1 can1-100 ura3-1 ade2-1 his3-11,15 OST4-3 \times FLAG::HisMX6*) were solubilized for 20 min at 0 °C in 10 ml of buffer A (20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4, 500 mM NaCl, 1 mM MnCl₂, 1 mM MgCl₂, and 10% (v/v) glycerol) supplemented with 1.5% (w/v) digitonin (Calbiochem). After ultracentrifugation at $100,000 \times g$ for 20 min at 4 °C, the supernatant was diluted by the addition of 20 ml of buffer A to reduce the concentration of digitonin. To immunoprecipitate the OST complex containing Ost4-FLAG, the diluted supernatant was incubated with 500 μ l of anti-FLAG M2 beads (Sigma-Aldrich) for 2 h at 4 °C. After washing the beads three times with 3 ml of buffer B (20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4, 100 mM NaCl, 1 mM MnCl₂, 1 mM MgCl₂, and 0.2% (w/v) digitonin), the bound materials were eluted by incubation of the washed beads twice with 750 μ l of buffer B supplemented with 0.2 mg/ml 3 \times FLAG peptide (Sigma-Aldrich) for 30 min at 4 °C.

To further purify the OST complex, the eluate (500 μ l) from anti-FLAG M2 beads was loaded onto the top of a glycerol density gradient that consisted of 1 ml each of 10, 20, 30, and 40% (v/v) glycerol in buffer B. After ultracentrifugation at $200,000 \times g$ for 2 h at 4 °C, nine fractions (500 μ l each) were manually taken from the top to the bottom of the glycerol density gradient. All fractions were analyzed in parallel with bovine serum albumin as an external standard for the quantitation of OST by SDS-PAGE, followed by silver staining. The amounts of the OST complex were estimated as those of the Wbp1 subunit. The OST complex was enriched in the third and fourth fractions from the top of the glycerol density gradient.

Large Scale Preparation of DLOs—A large scale preparation of DLOs was carried out as described previously (16) with slight modifications. Yeast haploid cells BY4741 (Open Biosystems) that were transformed with pALG7 were inoculated in 6 liters of SD medium lacking leucine and incubated for 24 h at 30 °C. The cells (30,000 A_{600} units) were harvested, washed twice with 500 ml of water, and resuspended in 150 ml of lysis buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4, 50 mM potassium acetate, 200 mM sorbitol, 1 mM DTT, and 2 mM EDTA). The resuspended cells were added to an equal volume of glass beads and lysed with a bead beater by three 1-min homogenizations separated by 1-min cooling periods. After centrifugation at $1,000 \times g$ for 5 min, the supernatant was recovered and further centrifuged at $6,000 \times g$ for 5 min. The resultant supernatant was ultracentrifuged at $100,000 \times g$ for 30 min, and the microsomal pellet was resuspended in 10 ml of 20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4. The microsomes were added to 50 ml of chloroform/methanol (3:2, v/v), and the mixture was vigorously agitated. After centrifugation at $2,000 \times g$ for 5 min, the upper and lower liquid phases were discarded so as not to disturb the wafer at the interface between the two liquid phases. The wafer was extracted three times with 30 ml of chloroform/methanol (2:1, v/v) containing 4 mM MgCl₂. After centrifugation under the same conditions as described above, the pellet was dried with nitrogen gas and further extracted three times with 30 ml of methanol/water (1:1) containing 4 mM MgCl₂. After the centrifugation, the pellet was extracted twice with 10 ml of chloroform/methanol/water (10:10:3, v/v/v). After the centrifugation, the supernatant that contains DLOs was dried with a rotary evaporator and dissolved in 8 ml of chloroform/methanol/water (10:10:3, v/v/v). To quantitate Glc₃Man₉GlcNAc₂-PP-Dol (G3M9-DLO) by size fractionation HPLC, the oligosaccharide moiety was released from DLOs by mild acid hydrolysis, desalted, and labeled with 2-aminopyridine as described under "Preparation of DLOs" and "Pyridylation."

fOS Generation Assay—The purified OST complex (1.5 pmol) was incubated for 24 h at 30 °C in 100 μ l of reaction buffer (20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4, 5 mM MnCl₂, 5 mM MgCl₂, 0.3 μ M G3M9-DLO, 0.1% (v/v) Triton X-100, and 0.25 mg/ml phosphatidylcholine) (3). For competition assays, various concentrations of *N* ^{α} -acetyl-Asn-Tyr-Thr (Ac-NYT) or *N* ^{α} -acetyl-Gln-Tyr-Thr (Ac-QYT) peptide (RIKEN Research Resource Center) were added to the reaction mixture. The reaction was terminated by the addition of 300 μ l of ethanol, followed by incubation for 15 min at 0 °C. After centrifugation at $15,000 \times g$ for 15 min, the supernatant was evaporated to dryness. The resultant pellet was dissolved in 1 ml of water and desalted on InertSep GC column. The fOS fraction was labeled with PA as described under "Pyridylation" and analyzed by size fractionation HPLC.

RESULTS

fOSs Are Generated in the ER Lumen of *png1 Δ ams1 Δ* Cells—To clarify the origin and turnover mechanism of fOSs generated via the Png1-independent process, fOSs were prepared from *png1 Δ ams1 Δ* double mutant cells of *S. cerevisiae* and were analyzed by size fractionation HPLC (Fig. 1A, top). The glycans that eluted as peaks a–c in Fig. 1A (top) were suscepti-

Hydrolysis of Dolichol-linked Oligosaccharides by OST

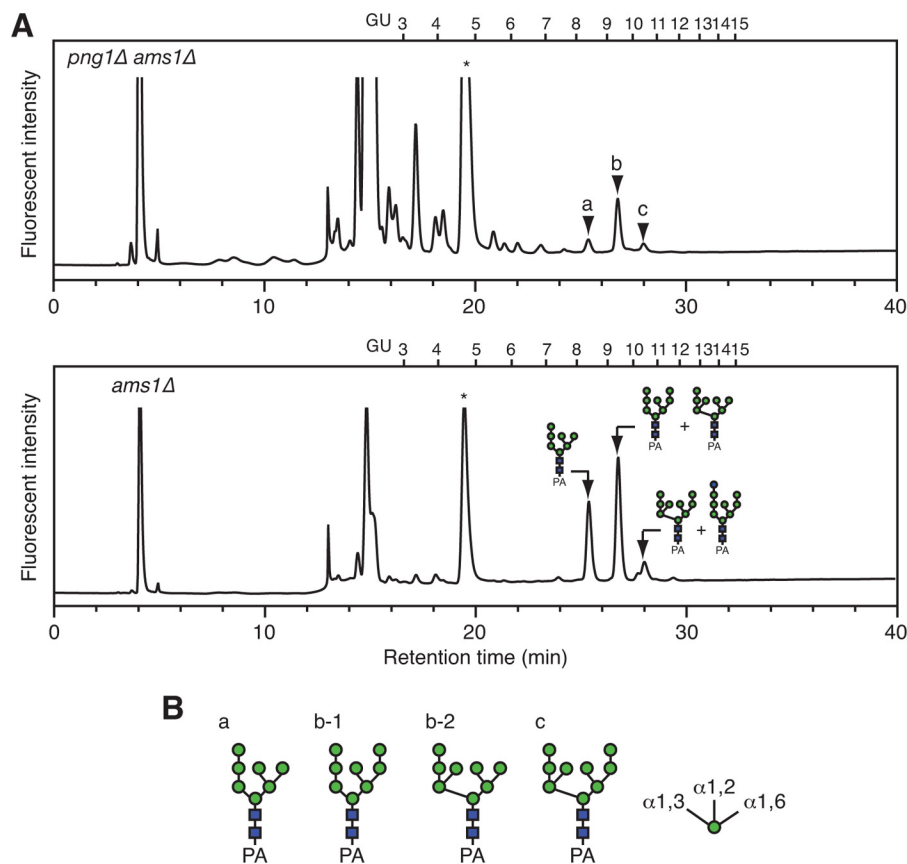


FIGURE 1. Characterization of fOSs in yeast mutant cells. *A*, comparison of size fractionation HPLC profiles of the PA-fOSs from *png1Δ ams1Δ* cells (25 A_{600} units; *top*) and *ams1Δ* cells (2.5 A_{600} units; *bottom*). The endoglycosidase H-sensitive peaks *a–c* in *png1Δ ams1Δ* cells are indicated by arrowheads. The major structures of fOSs in *ams1Δ* cells are indicated in the HPLC chart. PA-glucose oligomers (degree of polymerization = 3–15) were used as a reference, and the glucose units (GU) are indicated on the HPLC chart. An asterisk indicates the nonspecific peak derived from the labeling reagents. *B*, the major glycan structures of the PA-fOSs found in peaks *a–c* in *A*. The glycan structures were determined by their elution positions in dual-gradient, reversed-phase HPLC (14) and various α -mannosidase digestions (Table 4). Orientations of the α -mannosidic linkages are indicated on the right.

ble to endoglycosidase H treatment (data not shown), suggesting the presence of high mannose type glycans. Consistent with a previous report (9, 10), the amount of fOSs in *png1Δ ams1Δ* cells was ~4% of that in *ams1Δ* cells (Fig. 1*A* and Table 4). The main structures of fOSs generated in *png1Δ ams1Δ* cells were determined by dual-gradient, reversed-phase HPLC (14) and various glycosidase digestions and were found to consist of $\text{Man}_{7-9}\text{GlcNAc}_2$ (Fig. 1*B* (for the results of quantification, see Table 4)).

We next determined if these glycan isoforms were formed as a result of the action of ER glycosidases (Fig. 2*A*), particularly α -glucosidases (Gls1 and Gls2) and α -mannosidases (Mns1 and Htm1) (17). To this end, fOSs were prepared from a quintuple deletion mutant, *png1Δ ams1Δ gls1Δ mns1Δ htm1Δ*, of *S. cerevisiae*. $\text{Glc}_3\text{Man}_9\text{GlcNAc}_2$ oligosaccharide was identified as the major fOS (peak *a* in Fig. 2, *B* and *C*), suggesting that in *png1Δ ams1Δ* cells, the fOSs are first generated as $\text{Glc}_3\text{Man}_9\text{GlcNAc}_2$, which is then processed by glycosidases in the ER. $\text{Glc}_3\text{Man}_8\text{GlcNAc}_2$ oligosaccharide was also detected as a minor peak (peak *b* in Fig. 2, *B* and *C*). When the DLO fraction was extracted from *png1Δ ams1Δ gls1Δ mns1Δ htm1Δ* cells and analyzed by dual-gradient, reversed-phase HPLC, the identical structure was also observed (Fig. 2*D*). Because the ratio of $\text{Glc}_3\text{Man}_9\text{GlcNAc}_2$ and $\text{Glc}_3\text{Man}_8\text{GlcNAc}_2$ was similar between the fOS and DLO fractions, the truncated oligosaccha-

ride was probably derived from the truncated DLO rather than processing by an unknown α -mannosidase in the ER glycosidase-deficient cells. We also noted that the glycans corresponding to peaks *b-2* and *c* in Fig. 1*B* were modified by the Golgi α 1,6-mannosyltransferase Och1 (18, 19). Consistent with this result, a minor peak corresponding to $\text{Glc}_3\text{Man}_{10}\text{GlcNAc}_2$ was detected in the fOS fraction obtained from *png1Δ ams1Δ gls1Δ mns1Δ htm1Δ* cells (peak *c* in Fig. 2*B*).

Subcellular fractionation experiments using *png1Δ ams1Δ* cells revealed that over 60% of fOSs were found in the P15 fraction (Fig. 2*E*), which contains ER proteins, as judged by the enrichment of the ER chaperone Kar2 (Fig. 2*F*). This result supported our idea that fOSs produced in *png1Δ ams1Δ* cells are generated in the ER lumen.

fOSs Generated in the ER Lumen Are Transported to the Cytosol and Degraded by Ams1—We next examined how fOSs generated in *png1Δ ams1Δ* cells are catabolized. Because fOSs were not detected in the culture medium of *png1Δ ams1Δ* cells (data not shown), we hypothesized that they are catabolized intracellularly. To determine if Ams1 is involved in their catabolism, as is the case for the glycoprotein-derived fOSs, we first compared the structures of fOSs between *png1Δ ams1Δ* cells and *png1Δ* cells. As shown in Table 5, the demannosylation of fOSs occurred in *png1Δ* cells, as judged by an accumulation of

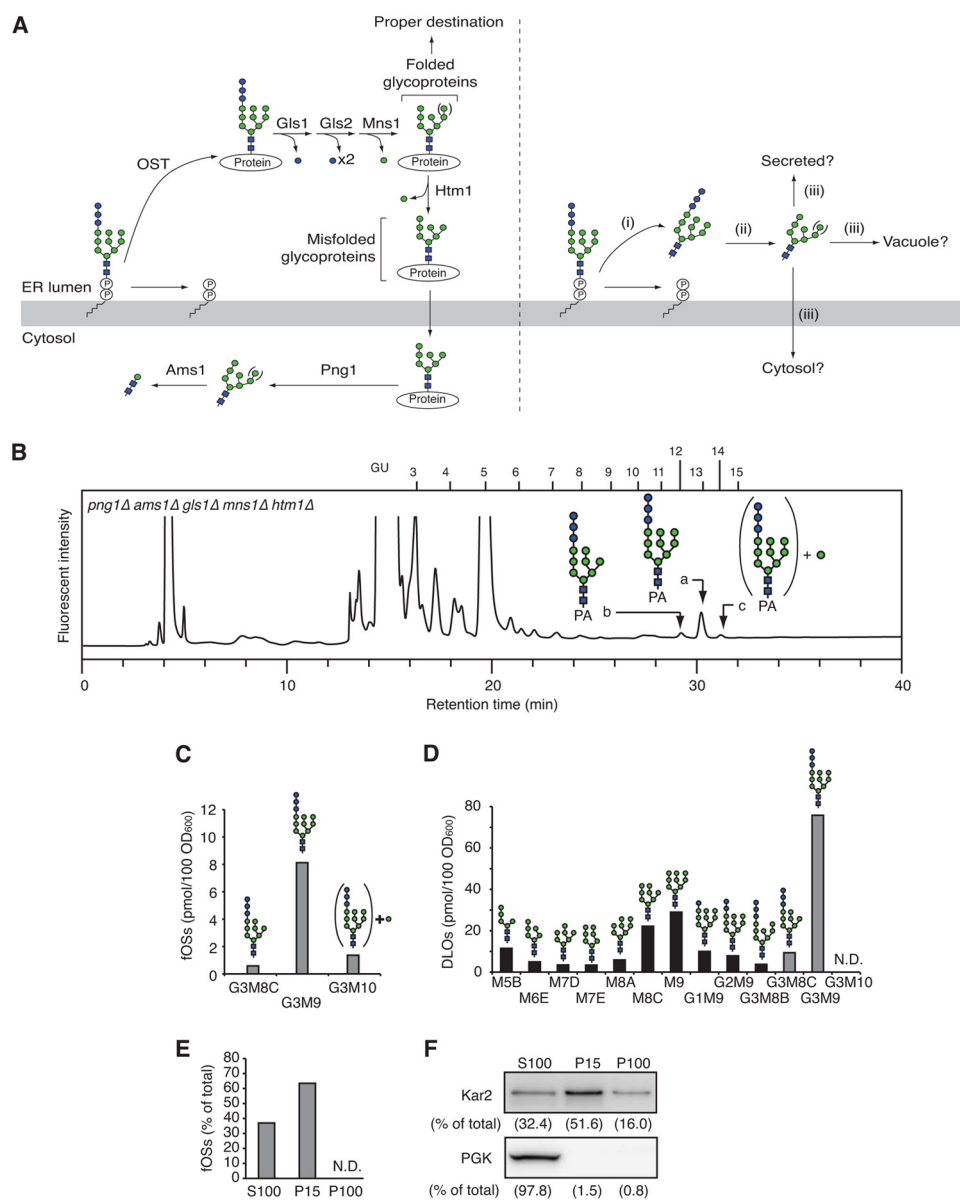


FIGURE 2. fOSs are generated in the ER lumen and processed by the ER glycosidases. *A*, models for the generation of fOSs by the Png1-dependent (*left*) and independent (*right*) pathways. OST transfers the oligosaccharide from Glc₃Man₉GlcNAc₂-PP-Dol to proteins in the ER lumen (*left*). The *N*-glycans are sequentially processed by the ER glucosidase I (*Gls1*), glucosidase II (*Gls2*), and mannosidase I (*Mns1*). If the glycoproteins are properly folded, they are destined for the target organelle. When misfolded, the glycoproteins are further processed by another ER mannosidase, Htm1. The misfolded glycoproteins are retrotranslocated to the cytosol, where Png1 releases the glycans. In the cytosol, the glycoprotein-derived fOSs are catabolized by Ams1. In the *right panel*, it is totally unknown whether fOSs are generated independently from the action of Png1 in the ER lumen in *S. cerevisiae* (*i*); whether the fOSs, if any, are processed by the ER glycosidases (*ii*); and whether they are transported and catabolized (*iii*). *B*, a size fractionation HPLC profile of fOSs from *png1Δ ams1Δ gls1Δ mns1Δ htm1Δ* cells. The major glycan structures in *peaks a–c* are indicated in the HPLC chart. PA-glucose oligomers were used as a reference, and the glucose units (GU) are indicated on the HPLC chart. *C*, quantitation of fOSs in *png1Δ ams1Δ gls1Δ mns1Δ htm1Δ* cells. *D*, quantitation of DLOs in *png1Δ ams1Δ gls1Δ mns1Δ htm1Δ* cells. Structural determination and quantitation of fOSs and DLOs were carried out by dual-gradient, reversed-phase HPLC (14). Note that several unusual DLO intermediates (M7D, M8A, G3M8B, and G3M8C) were generated as minor biosynthetic products in the ER glycosidase-deficient cells. *E*, subcellular fractionation experiments using *png1Δ ams1Δ* cells. The cells were fractionated into S100, P15, and P100 fractions by differential centrifugation. Total fOSs were set to 100%. *N.D.*, not detected. *F*, Western blot analysis of the S100, P15, and P100 fractions. *Top*, anti-Kar2 antibody; *bottom*, anti-3-phosphoglycerate kinase antibody. Percentages of the recovery of each protein are indicated in *parentheses*.

Man_{1–6}GlcNAc₂, indicating that Ams1 is involved in the catabolism of fOSs.

Ams1 is an α -mannosidase synthesized in the cytosol and transported to the vacuole via the cytoplasm-to-vacuole targeting pathway (20). We next addressed the question of which cellular compartment is the site for the catabolism of fOSs generated in the ER lumen. We analyzed the structures of fOSs in *png1Δ atg19Δ* cells. Atg19 is involved in the cytoplasm-to-vacuole

targeting pathway, and in yeast cells lacking *ATG19*, Ams1 accumulates in the cytosol (20). Interestingly, when fOSs from *png1Δ atg19Δ* cells and *png1Δ* cells were compared, we found accumulation of Man_{1–7}GlcNAc₂ in *png1Δ atg19Δ* cells (Table 5). This result indicated that fOSs generated in the ER lumen are transported to the cytosol and efficiently degraded by the cytoplasmic Ams1. It is of note that a similar transport mechanism has been found in mammalian cells, which is mediated by

Hydrolysis of Dolichol-linked Oligosaccharides by OST

a putative oligosaccharide transporter in the ER membrane (21, 22). It should also be noted that the total amounts of fOSs are greatly increased in *png1Δ atg19Δ* cells by unknown mechanisms. Further studies will be needed to clarify this issue.

OST Is Involved in the Generation of fOSs in *png1Δ ams1Δ* Cells—In mammals, the fully assembled DLO substrate is thought to be hydrolyzed by unidentified mechanisms that lead to the release of the $\text{Glc}_3\text{Man}_9\text{GlcNAc}_2$ oligosaccharide (23). Previous biochemical analyses on the hydrolytic activity of calf thyroid microsomes or tissue slices (24) have suggested that OST may hydrolyze DLOs. However, no direct experimental evidence for the involvement of OST has been presented. To test whether OST is involved in the generation of fOSs in *S. cerevisiae*, the *N*-glycosylation activity of OST was impaired by gene disruptions in *png1Δ ams1Δ* cells. In *S. cerevisiae*, OST is a multimembrane protein complex composed of five essential gene products (Stt3p, Wbp1p, Swp1p, Ost1p, and Ost2p) and three non-essential gene products (Ost4p, Ost5p, and either Ost3p or Ost6p), which are required for optimal glycosylation activity (1). For example, a deletion of *OST5* is known to cause the mild *N*-glycosylation defects (25). Here, *png1Δ ams1Δ ost5Δ* cells showed a very weak hypoglycosylation of CPY, as visualized by the numerous bands of CPY signals in the Western blot analysis (Fig. 3A). Notably, the level of fOSs was also reduced by approximately half in the *OST5* deletion strain (Fig. 3B). A deletion of the *OST3* resulted in a more severe hypoglycosylation of CPY (Fig. 3A) and in a marked reduction of fOSs (Fig. 3B). Taken together, these data suggested that OST is involved in the generation of fOSs. In addition, we noticed that deletion of *OST6*, a paralog of *OST3*, had less effect on both *N*-glycosylation and the generation of fOSs (Fig. 3, A and B). Because it has been estimated that the Ost3-containing OST complex consists of ~80% of the total OST in *S. cerevisiae* (26), the effects of *OST6* overexpression in *png1Δ ams1Δ ost3Δ* cells on the generation of fOSs were examined. Interestingly, we found that *OST6* overexpression partially rescued the hypoglycosylation of CPY (Fig. 3C), whereas the level of fOSs was only slightly increased (Fig. 3D). By comparing the average number of *N*-glycans on CPY (Fig. 3, A and C) and the amount of fOSs (Fig. 3, B and D), it was revealed that a positive correlation exists between the glycosylation efficiency and fOS level and that the efficient generation of fOSs required a high glycosylation efficiency (>3.44 *N*-glycans/CPY molecule).

The Fully Assembled DLO Substrate Is Required for the Efficient Generation of fOSs by OST—In *S. cerevisiae*, OST has a preferred glycan specificity toward the completely assembled $\text{Glc}_3\text{Man}_9\text{GlcNAc}_2\text{-PP-Dol}$, whereas the incompletely assembled DLOs are suboptimal donor substrates for *N*-glycosylation (27). Consistent with the previous reports, a deletion of *ALG6*, which leads to the generation of DLO lacking three glucose residues, resulted in the hypoglycosylation of CPY (Fig. 3A) (28). Interestingly, the amount of fOSs was markedly reduced in *png1Δ ams1Δ alg6Δ* cells (Fig. 3B), consistent with the *in vivo* OST activity. Taken together, these data showed that OST is involved in the generation of fOSs in *S. cerevisiae* lacking Png1.

The Purified OST Complex Generates fOSs Directly from DLOs—Although we showed that the *N*-glycosylation activity of OST is important for the generation of fOSs, it was unclear

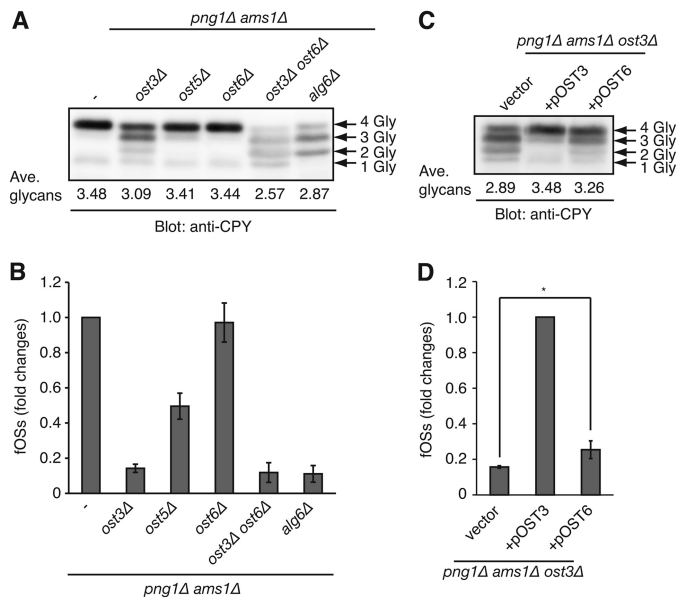


FIGURE 3. OST is involved in the generation of fOSs. A, *N*-glycosylation status of carboxypeptidase Y (CPY) in *png1Δ ams1Δ* cells and those lacking *OST3*, *OST5*, *OST6*, both *OST3* and *OST6*, or *ALG6*. Whole cell lysate was analyzed by Western blot with anti-CPY antibody. The number of *N*-glycans (Gly) on CPY is indicated by arrows. The average number of *N*-glycans on CPY was calculated by quantification of each CPY band. B, relative amounts of the total PA-fOSs in yeast mutant cells used in A. The total fOSs in *png1Δ ams1Δ* cells were set to 1.0. C, *N*-glycosylation status of CPY in *png1Δ ams1Δ ost3Δ* cells carrying empty vector (vector) or the plasmid encoding either *OST3* (*pOST3*) or *OST6* (*pOST6*). D, relative amounts of the total PA-fOSs in yeast mutant cells used in C. The total fOSs in *png1Δ ams1Δ* cells carrying *pOST3* were set to 1.0. *, $p = 0.03$ (Student's *t* test). Error bars, S.D. from three independent experiments.

whether fOSs are directly released from DLOs because the release of fOSs can occur as a post-transfer reaction by an unclarified enzyme from glycoproteins. To address this issue, we performed an *in vitro* fOS generation assay using the immunopurified OST complex containing the FLAG-tagged Ost4 (Fig. 4A) and a DLO preparation. Interestingly, the incubation of OST and DLOs resulted in the formation of $\text{Glc}_3\text{Man}_9\text{GlcNAc}_2$ oligosaccharide (Fig. 4B), which was observed only when both OST and DLOs were present in the reaction mixture (Fig. 4B). Under our experimental conditions, the reaction proceeded linearly up to 24 h (data not shown). These results clearly indicated that *in vitro*, OST can hydrolyze $\text{Glc}_3\text{Man}_9\text{GlcNAc}_2\text{-DLO}$, resulting in the generation of the fOS. Next, to clarify whether the catalytic activity of OST is required for the generation of fOSs *in vitro*, the effect of EDTA, an inhibitor for the *N*-glycosylation reaction (29), was examined. Upon the addition of EDTA, the generation of fOSs by OST was completely abolished (Fig. 4B), supporting our findings that the *N*-glycosylation activity of OST is highly correlated with the generation of fOSs. Furthermore, co-incubation with an acceptor NYT peptide, but not with a non-acceptor QYT peptide, also reduced the generation of $\text{Glc}_3\text{Man}_9\text{GlcNAc}_2$ oligosaccharide (Fig. 4C), strongly indicating that *N*-glycosylation and fOS generation reactions compete the same DLO pool. Collectively, these results indicated that OST has a hydrolytic activity to DLOs *in vitro*. The specific activity of the hydrolysis by the purified OST was calculated to be 3.5 pmol/min/mg protein.

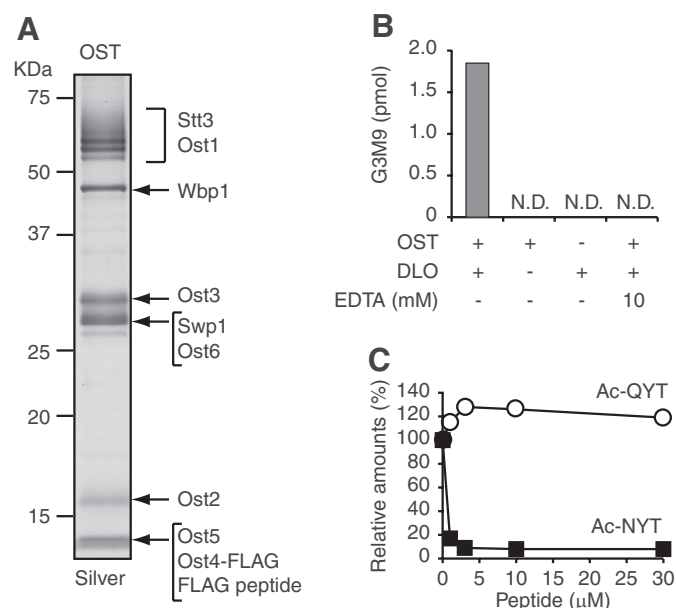


FIGURE 4. The purified OST complex generates fOSs directly from DLOs. *A*, SDS-PAGE of the purified OST complex (1.5 pmol), followed by silver staining. The migration positions of OST subunits were predicted based on previous reports (42, 43). *B*, *in vitro* fOS generation assay. OST, DLOs, and EDTA were incubated for 24 h in combinations as indicated at the bottom of the graph. After the reaction, the generated $\text{Glc}_3\text{Man}_9\text{GlcNAc}_2$ oligosaccharide (G3M9) was quantitated. N.D., not detected. *C*, competition assay using acceptor and non-acceptor peptides. OST was incubated with DLOs in the presence or absence of various concentrations of Ac-NYT and Ac-QYT for 24 h. The amounts of G3M9 generated in the absence of the peptide were set to 100%. Closed squares, Ac-NYT; open circles, Ac-QYT.

Stt3, the Catalytic Subunit of OST, Functions in the Generation of fOSs in *png1Δ ams1Δ* Cells—To study the role of OST in the generation of fOSs in more detail *in vivo*, we performed analyses with a single-subunit form of OST found in kinetoplastids. The catalytic subunit of OST, Stt3, is evolutionarily conserved in all domains of life (30–32). The protozoan *Leishmania major* encodes four *STT3* paralogs (*STT3A–D*) but does not encode any other OST subunits (33–35). The expression of LmStt3D alone in *S. cerevisiae* that lacks the essential OST genes is sufficient for *N*-glycosylation activity (31, 36). We found that the expression of LmStt3D in *png1Δ ams1Δ* cells increases the level of fOSs (Fig. 5A), albeit in the presence of the fully active, endogenous OST complex. This finding demonstrated that the Stt3 protein from *L. major* mediates the generation of fOSs. Interestingly, overexpression of *S. cerevisiae* Stt3 (ScStt3) in *png1Δ ams1Δ* cells, but not in *png1Δ ams1Δ alg6Δ* cells, also resulted in an increase in fOSs (Fig. 5B). Compared with *S. cerevisiae* OST, LmStt3 has a relaxed-glycan specificity to DLOs and can efficiently utilize the incompletely assembled, non-glycosylated substrates, such as $\text{Man}_9\text{GlcNAc}_2\text{-PP-Dol}$, for *N*-glycosylation (31, 34, 36), probably due to the fact that their natural glycan donor substrate is $\text{Man}_7\text{GlcNAc}_2\text{-PP-Dol}$ (34). Accordingly, a hypoglycosylation of CPY in *png1Δ ams1Δ alg6Δ* cells was partially suppressed upon the overexpression of LmStt3D (Fig. 5C). Notably, LmStt3D also generated fOSs efficiently in this mutant strain (Fig. 5D), further supporting the hypothesis that LmStt3D utilizes $\text{Man}_9\text{GlcNAc}_2$ glycans for both *N*-glycosylation and the generation of fOS.

To evaluate the functional relationship between the *N*-glycosylation and glycan-releasing activity of OST, various mutants of LmStt3D were expressed in *png1Δ ams1Δ alg6Δ* cells. In Stt3 proteins, three evolutionarily conserved motifs (DXD-like, WWD, and DXXK) have been implicated in *N*-glycosylation (30–32). Mutations of these motifs in LmStt3D resulted in a failure to improve the hypoglycosylation of CPY in *png1Δ ams1Δ alg6Δ* cells (Fig. 5C). As a control, it was confirmed that all of the tested LmStt3D mutations could not rescue the lethal phenotype of yeast cells lacking *STT3* (Fig. 5E), indicating that these motifs are critical for the function of OST. Importantly, the mutations that altered the *N*-glycosylation activity of LmStt3D also reduced the generation of fOSs (Fig. 5F), further supporting the idea that the *N*-glycosylation activity and fOS generation by OST are tightly linked.

The Generation of fOSs by OST Is Not Enhanced by Overproduction of the DLO Substrates—To ensure the efficient *N*-glycosylation, cells produce excess DLO substrates. One of the potential roles for the generation of fOSs is to fine tune the levels of DLO substrates by the hydrolysis. To test whether the generation of fOSs in *png1Δ ams1Δ* cells is regulated by the biosynthetic flux of DLO substrates, we examined the effect of an overproduction of DLO substrates. To this end, Alg7, the enzyme initiating the DLO biosynthesis, was overexpressed in *png1Δ ams1Δ* cells, resulting in an ~5-fold increase in the amounts of $\text{Glc}_3\text{Man}_9\text{GlcNAc}_2\text{-PP-Dol}$ (Fig. 6A). In response to the overproduction of the DLO substrates, however, *N*-glycans and fOSs were increased only 1.4-fold (Fig. 6B) and 1.8-fold, respectively (Fig. 6C). This result indicated that overproduction of the fully assembled DLO does not result in a proportional increase of *N*-glycans and fOSs. These data suggested that, as with the case for *N*-glycosylation, the generation of fOSs by OST is not a stochastic process but is rather a highly regulated reaction.

DISCUSSION

In the present study, we provided conclusive evidence that eukaryotic OSTs generate fOSs as a consequence of the hydrolysis of DLOs in the ER lumen. Among OST subunits, we identified the catalytic Stt3 subunit as the enzyme responsible for the generation of fOSs. It has been shown that in the food-borne bacterial pathogen *Campylobacter jejuni*, the Stt3 ortholog, PglB, is responsible for the generation of fOSs (37). Periplasmic fOSs are thought to be important for the modulation of osmolarity, whereas the functional importance of fOSs in the ER remains unclear. Irrespective of function, however, our results suggested that the OST-mediated generation of fOSs may be a general feature of Stt3 proteins throughout evolution.

Comparison of specific activity between hydrolysis (3.5 pmol/min/mg protein) and *N*-glycosylation (300 pmol/min/mg protein) (3) for the purified OST complex showed that the efficiency of the hydrolytic reaction is $\sim 1/100$ that of the *N*-glycosylation reaction, indicating that the hydrolysis efficiency of OST is markedly lower than that for the *N*-glycosylation of nascent polypeptides. This result is in good agreement with the fact that PNGase-independent fOSs only account for ~4% of total fOSs. In mammalian cells, a UDP- ^3H glucose labeling experiment revealed that the efficiency of fOS release was ~35% that of

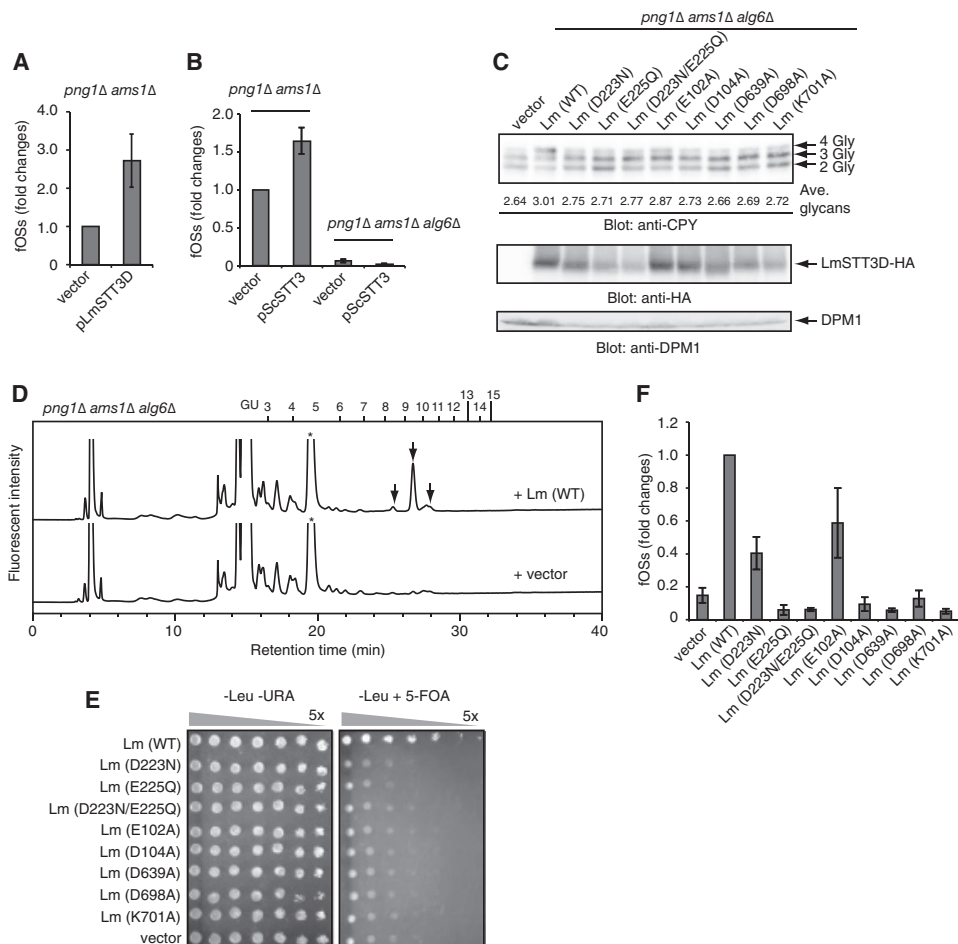


FIGURE 5. *Stt3* is responsible for the generation of fOSs. *A*, quantitation of fOSs generated in *png1Δ ams1Δ* cells carrying either empty vector (*vector*) or plasmid encoding *L. major* *STT3D* (*pLmSTT3D*). The total fOSs from *png1Δ ams1Δ* cells carrying empty vector were set to 1.0. *Error bars*, S.D. from three independent experiments. *B*, quantitation of fOSs generated in *png1Δ ams1Δ* cells or *png1Δ ams1Δ alg6Δ* cells carrying either empty vector (*vector*) or plasmid encoding *S. cerevisiae* *STT3* (*pScSTT3*). The total fOSs from *png1Δ ams1Δ* cells carrying empty vector were set to 1.0. *Error bars*, S.D. from three independent experiments. *C*, Western blot of whole cell lysates from *png1Δ ams1Δ alg6Δ* cells carrying either empty vector (*vector*) or plasmids encoding the wild type *L. major* *STT3D* (*Lm* (WT)) and the mutants. *Top*, anti-CPY; *middle*, anti-HA (for *LmStt3D*-HA); *bottom*, anti-DPM1 antibodies. The number of *N*-glycans (Gly) on CPY is indicated on the right. The average number of *N*-glycans on CPY was calculated by quantification of each CPY band. *D*, size fractionation HPLC profiles of the PA-fOSs from *png1Δ ams1Δ alg6Δ* cells carrying either empty vector (*vector*) or the wild type *pLmSTT3D* (*Lm* (WT)). *Asterisks* indicate the nonspecific peak derived from the labeling reagents. *E*, plasmid shuffle assay using *stt3Δ* cells carrying the empty vector (*vector*) or the plasmid encoding *LmStt3D* used in *C*. 5-Fold serial dilutions of the yeast cells were spotted on the agar plate lacking leucine and uracil (*left*) and one lacking leucine supplemented with 5-fluoro-orotic acid (5-FOA) (*right*) and then grown for 6 days at 23 °C. *F*, relative amounts of the total PA-fOSs in *png1Δ ams1Δ alg6Δ* cells carrying either the empty vector (*vector*) or the plasmid encoding the wild type (WT) or mutant *LmStt3D*. The total fOSs from *png1Δ ams1Δ alg6Δ* cells carrying *pLmSTT3D* (WT) were set to 1.0. *Error bars*, S.D. from three independent experiments.

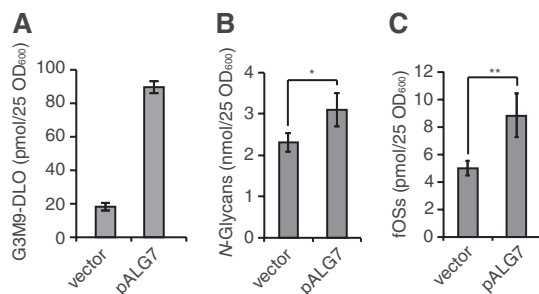


FIGURE 6. The generation of fOSs by OST is a tightly regulated process. Quantitation of $\text{Glc}_3\text{Man}_9\text{GlcNAc}_2\text{-PP-Dol}$ (*G3M9-DLO*) (*A*), total *N*-glycans (*B*), and total fOSs (*C*) in *png1Δ ams1Δ* cells carrying either the empty vector (*vector*) or the plasmid encoding *ALG7* (*pALG7*). *Error bars* indicate the range of two independent experiments (*A*) and S.D. from three (*B*) or five (*C*) independent experiments. *, $p = 0.04$; **, $p = 0.001$ (Student's *t* test).

N-glycosylation after 30 min (38). The release of fOSs in mammalian cells appears to be mediated almost exclusively by PNGase-independent processes, because the knockdown of

PNGase did not reduce the amount of fOSs (39). These findings imply that the efficiency of hydrolytic reaction by mammalian OST is higher than that of yeast OST.

Positive correlation between the level of fOSs and the average glycans per CPY in yeast cells lacking various OST subunits revealed a requirement of the maximum *N*-glycosylation activity of OST for the efficient generation of fOSs. This result may explain, at least in part, the reason why the overexpression of *Ost6* in *png1Δ ams1Δ ost3Δ* cells barely accumulated fOSs because it resulted in an average number of glycans per CPY (3.26) below the threshold (3.41–3.44; see Fig. 3*A*) required for the efficient generation of fOSs (Fig. 3*B*). Alternatively, it is also possible that the generation of fOSs is exclusively dependent on the action of the *Ost3*-containing OST complex. In either case, our data clearly indicated that the presence of *Ost3* or *Ost6* defines the fOS generation activity of yeast OST.

Identification of fOSs modified with an additional α 1,6-linked Man residue in *png1Δ ams1Δ* cells raised an important

question for their origin. This modification mediated by the Golgi α 1,6-mannosyltransferase Och1 has been shown to occur not only on *N*-glycosylated glycoproteins destined for the cell wall compartment (18), but also on the fluorescently labeled oligosaccharides *in vitro* (40), raising the possibility that fOSs may also serve as a substrate for this glycosyltransferase. Because Och1 is localized in the Golgi (19, 41), our result may imply that a portion of fOSs may reach the Golgi and receive the modification. Alternatively, the ER-localized minor Och1 may be responsible for the modification of fOSs. In either case, because we could not detect the Och1-modified DLOs, it is unlikely that Och1 directly modifies the DLOs.

The ER-to-cytosol transport of fOSs was evident in *S. cerevisiae*. Surprisingly, an impairment of cytosol-to-vacuole transport of Ams1 promoted the demannosylation of fOSs generated in the ER, leading us to speculate that cytosolic Ams1 may have regulatory roles in the ER-to-cytosol transport of fOSs via yet unidentified mechanisms. Notably, similar ER-to-cytosol transport of fOSs has been identified in mammals, and this process has been shown to require ATP in streptolysin O-permeabilized cultured cells (21) or both ATP and the cytosol fraction in reconstituted mouse liver microsomes (22). Identification of the gene encoding the fOS transporter on the ER membrane will clarify the mechanism for the transport of fOSs as well as the function of Ams1 in this process.

We presented evidence that the reaction to generate fOSs is not regulated by the DLO pool. Interestingly, however, our *in vitro* fOS generation assay revealed that the OST complex has an ability to release fOSs directly from DLOs, implying that the binding of OST to acceptor peptides is not a prerequisite for the fOS generation reaction. Site-directed mutagenesis of LmStt3D revealed that substitution of an aspartate residue at position 223 of LmStt3D, which constitutes a potential DXD-like motif important for binding to divalent metal ions, to an Asn residue resulted in a loss of function of this enzyme to improve hypoglycosylation of CPY in *png1 Δ ams1 Δ alg6 Δ* cells, but the amounts of fOSs were reduced only partially. This observation suggests that the Asp-223 residue in the DXD-like motif is indispensable for the *N*-glycosylation activity of OST, whereas this amino acid residue is not critical for the fOS-generation activity. Further studies, especially with an *in vitro* experiment using the purified OST enzyme, will be required to fully understand the regulatory mechanism of the OST-mediated generation of fOSs.

Irrespective of mechanism involved, the OST-mediated generation of fOSs has to be a strictly regulated reaction to ensure the efficiency and fidelity of the *N*-glycosylation. Notably, although the generation of fOSs by OST is much less active than that by Png1 in *S. cerevisiae*, the opposite situation is found in mammalian cells; PNGase-independent generation of fOSs is dominant (39). Clarification of how such regulation is achieved must await future studies.

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