

Loss of Function of *KRE5* Suppresses Temperature Sensitivity of Mutants Lacking Mitochondrial Anionic Lipids

Quan Zhong,^{*†} Jelena Gvozdenovic-Jeremic,^{*†} Paul Webster,[‡] Jingming Zhou,^{*} and Miriam L. Greenberg^{*§}

^{*}Department of Biological Sciences, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI 48202; and [‡]House Ear Institute, Los Angeles, CA 90057

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Disruption of *PGS1*, which encodes the enzyme that catalyzes the committed step of cardiolipin (CL) synthesis, results in loss of the mitochondrial anionic phospholipids phosphatidylglycerol (PG) and CL. The *pgs1Δ* mutant exhibits severe growth defects at 37°C. To understand the essential functions of mitochondrial anionic lipids at elevated temperatures, we isolated suppressors of *pgs1Δ* that grew at 37°C. One of the suppressors has a loss of function mutation in *KRE5*, which is involved in cell wall biogenesis. The cell wall of *pgs1Δ* contained markedly reduced β -1,3-glucan, which was restored in the suppressor. Stabilization of the cell wall with osmotic support alleviated the cell wall defects of *pgs1Δ* and suppressed the temperature sensitivity of all CL-deficient mutants. Evidence is presented suggesting that the previously reported inability of *pgs1Δ* to grow in the presence of ethidium bromide was due to defective cell wall integrity, not from "petite lethality." These findings demonstrated that mitochondrial anionic lipids are required for cellular functions that are essential in cell wall biogenesis, the maintenance of cell integrity, and survival at elevated temperature.

INTRODUCTION

Cardiolipin (CL), a unique anionic phospholipid with dimeric structure, is ubiquitous in eukaryotes and primarily found in the mitochondrial inner membrane (Schlame *et al.*, 2000). CL plays a key role in mitochondrial bioenergetics (Jiang *et al.*, 2000; Koshkin and Greenberg, 2000, 2002; Schlame *et al.*, 2000; Pfeiffer *et al.*, 2003) and is also involved in mitochondrial biogenesis (Kawasaki *et al.*, 1999; Jiang *et al.*, 2000). Defective remodeling of CL is associated with Barth syndrome, a severe genetic disorder characterized by cardiomyopathy, neutropenia, skeletal myopathy, and respiratory chain defects (Vreken *et al.*, 2000). The phenotype of Barth syndrome is dependent upon multiple factors that are not well understood (Barth *et al.*, 1983, 1996). Elucidation of the functions of CL will help to clarify the abnormalities associated with this disorder.

The biosynthesis of CL is conserved in eukaryotic organisms. It occurs via three enzymatic reactions (Schlame *et al.*, 2000), including formation of phosphatidylglycerolphosphate (PGP) from CDP-DAG and glycerol-3-P, dephosphorylation of PGP to phosphatidylglycerol (PG), and condensation of CDP-DAG

and PG to form CL. Disruption of *PGS1*, the structural gene encoding PGP synthase, results in the complete loss of both PG and CL (Janitor *et al.*, 1996; Chang *et al.*, 1998a). The *crd1Δ* mutant, which lacks CL synthase, has no detectable CL but accumulates PG (Jiang *et al.*, 1997; Chang *et al.*, 1998b; Tuller *et al.*, 1998; Jiang *et al.*, 2000; Pfeiffer *et al.*, 2003; Zhong *et al.*, 2004). The human taffazin gene (*TAZ1*), which is associated with Barth syndrome, encodes a transacylase that may be involved in the remodeling of CL (Xu *et al.*, 2003). Deletion of the yeast homolog of this gene, *TAZ1*, leads to decreased CL, aberrant CL acyl species, and accumulation of monolysocardiolipin (Gu *et al.*, 2004). Mutants deficient in CL biosynthesis exhibit growth defects at elevated temperatures. The *taz1Δ* mutant is temperature sensitive for growth on ethanol but grows well on other carbon sources at elevated temperature (Gu *et al.*, 2004). The *crd1Δ* mutant loses viability on both fermentable and non-fermentable carbon sources at elevated temperature, and it does not form colonies from single cells seeded on YPD plates (Jiang *et al.*, 1999, 2000; Zhong *et al.*, 2004). The *pgs1Δ* mutant exhibits the most severe growth defects and cannot grow at all at 37°C, even on glucose (Chang *et al.*, 1998a; Dzugasova *et al.*, 1998). The temperature-sensitive growth defects observed in CL-deficient mutants suggest that CL plays an essential role in maintaining cell viability at elevated temperature. The greater degree of temperature sensitivity of the *pgs1Δ* mutant compared with the *crd1Δ* mutant indicates that PG can substitute for some essential functions of CL. Mitochondria from *crd1Δ* (Koshkin and Greenberg, 2000, 2002) and *taz1Δ* (Ma *et al.*, 2004) exhibit defective energetic coupling at elevated temperatures. Although thermal sensitivity of the bioenergetic functions may explain temperature sensitivity of these mutants in nonfermentable medium, the reason for loss of viability on glucose is not known.

In addition to the temperature-sensitive growth defects, CL-deficient mutants exhibit decreased mitochondrial genome stability. Mutant cells of *crd1Δ* grown in the presence

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[†] These authors contributed equally to this study.

[§] Corresponding author. E-mail address: mlgreen@sun.science.wayne.edu.

Abbreviations used: CFW, calcoflour white; CL, cardiolipin; CSIII, chitin synthase III; GS, glucan synthase; mtDNA, mitochondrial DNA; PGP, phosphatidylglycerolphosphate; PG, phosphatidylglycerol; Ura⁻, synthetic drop out medium without uracil; YPD, yeast extract, peptone, and dextrose; YPGE, yeast extract, glycerol and ethanol; YPDS, YPD supplemented with 1 M sorbitol.

Table 1. Plasmids and yeast strains used in this study

Plasmid or strain	Characteristics or genotype	Source or reference
pYES2/CT	2 μ m, <i>URA3</i>	Invitrogen
pRS415-PGS1	derivative of pYES2/CT, expresses <i>PGS1</i> from Gal1 promoter	He and Greenberg (2004)
Ycp50	Centromere, <i>URA3</i>	Rose <i>et al.</i> (1987)
Ycp50-KRE5	derivative of Ycp50, expresses <i>KRE5</i> from its own promoter	This study
GAD74D3A	<i>MAT α</i> , <i>ade8</i> , <i>ura 3</i> , <i>trp1</i> , <i>his3</i> , <i>leu2</i>	Dzugasova <i>et al.</i> (1998)
GAD74D3C	<i>MAT α</i> , <i>ade8</i> , <i>ura 3</i> , <i>trp1</i> , <i>his3</i> , <i>leu2</i> , <i>pgs1::HIS3</i>	Dzugasova <i>et al.</i> (1998)
FGY3	<i>MAT α</i> , <i>ura 3-52</i> , <i>lys2-801</i> , <i>ade2-101</i> , <i>trp1Δ1</i> , <i>his3Δ200</i> , <i>leu2Δ1</i>	Jiang <i>et al.</i> (1997)
FGY3 (ρ^0)	ρ^0 mutant derived from FGY3	This study
QZY24B (ρ^0)	<i>MAT a</i> , <i>ura 3-52</i> , <i>lys2-801</i> , <i>trp1Δ1</i> , <i>his3Δ200</i> , <i>leu2Δ1</i> , <i>pgs1Δ::TRP1</i>	This study
QZY11A (ρ^0)	<i>MAT a</i> , <i>ura 3-52</i> , <i>lys2-801</i> , <i>trp1Δ1</i> , <i>his3Δ200</i> , <i>leu2Δ1</i> , <i>pgs1Δ::TRP1</i> , <i>kre5^{W1166X}</i>	This study
FGY2	<i>MAT α</i> , <i>ura 3-52</i> , <i>lys2-801</i> , <i>ade2-101</i> , <i>trp1Δ1</i> , <i>his3Δ200</i> , <i>leu2Δ1</i> , <i>crd1Δ::URA3</i>	Jiang <i>et al.</i> (1997)
100	<i>MAT a</i> , <i>ade1</i> , <i>oxi2</i> (-)	C. Dieckmann
101	<i>MAT a</i> , <i>ade1</i> , <i>oxi1</i> (-)	C. Dieckmann
102	<i>MAT a</i> , <i>ade1</i> , <i>oxi3</i> (-)	C. Dieckmann
103	<i>MAT a</i> , <i>ade1</i> , <i>cob</i> (-)	C. Dieckmann
104	<i>MAT α</i> , <i>met6</i> , <i>oxi2</i> (-)	C. Dieckmann
105	<i>MAT α</i> , <i>met6</i> , <i>oxi1</i> (-)	C. Dieckmann
106	<i>MAT α</i> , <i>met6</i> , <i>oxi3</i> (-)	C. Dieckmann
107	<i>MAT α</i> , <i>met6</i> , <i>cob</i> (-)	C. Dieckmann
T158c/S14a	Diploid prototroph <i>S. cerevisiae</i>	ATCC (46427)

of fermentable or nonfermentable carbon sources segregate large numbers of petites (respiratory incompetent cells) after prolonged culture at elevated temperature (Jiang *et al.*, 2000; Zhong *et al.*, 2004). The *pgs1 Δ* mutant was initially determined to be "petite lethal" because the mutant cells did not survive ethidium bromide mutagenesis, which induces petite formation (Janitor and Subik, 1993; Dzugasova *et al.*, 1998). However, 4',6'-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI) staining of *pgs1 Δ* revealed only the presence of nuclear DNA (Chang *et al.*, 1998b). The absence of mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) staining was attributed to a lack of elongated mitochondrial structure, but loss of mtDNA was not ruled out.

In a large-scale screen to identify genes involved in cell wall biogenesis, Lussier *et al.* (1997) reported that disruption of the *PGS1* promoter results in several cell wall defects, including decreased glucosamine levels and hypersensitivity to cell wall-perturbing agents such as zymolyase, calcofluor white (CFW), papulacandin, and caffeine. The yeast cell wall is an essential organelle that determines the shape and preserves the osmotic integrity of the cell by counteracting the internal turgor pressure. Mutants with weakened cell walls tend to form swollen cells with more spherical appearance and larger cell size than the wild-type (Popolo *et al.*, 1993; de Nobel *et al.*, 2000). The yeast cell wall has a two-layered structure. The highly glycosylated mannoproteins form the outer layer. The internal fibrillar layer contains glucans and chitin (Klis *et al.*, 2002). β -1,3-Glucan forms a hollow helical structure that resembles a flexible wire spring. Together with chitin, it confers mechanical strength to the cell wall. β -1,6-Glucan in its mature form is a highly branched water-soluble polymer that interconnects all other cell wall components in a lattice (Klis *et al.*, 2002). Chitin is enriched in the chitin ring in and around bud scars, and a minor portion is also uniformly dispersed in the lateral wall (Molano *et al.*, 1980; Shaw *et al.*, 1991; Cabib *et al.*, 2001). Chitin deposition, however, is increased upon weakening of the cell wall (Popolo *et al.*, 2001; Klis *et al.*, 2002).

The yeast cell wall is a highly dynamic structure. It undergoes a number of modifications during different stages of the cell cycle and in response to environmental changes (Cabib *et al.*, 2001; Smits *et al.*, 2001). Elaborate control mechanisms are strictly coordinated in the regulation of cell wall

biogenesis. Stress due to heat shock or ethanol induces the production of trehalose (Attfeld, 1987; Hottiger *et al.*, 1987; Neves and Francois, 1992; Hottiger *et al.*, 1994; Singer and Lindquist, 1998) and glycerol (Alonso-Monge *et al.*, 2001), which increase turgor pressure. Defects in the assembly of the cell wall compromise the response to stress and severely threaten cell survival. Supplementation with sorbitol, an osmotic stabilizer, supports the growth of cell wall mutants, presumably by balancing the turgor pressure on the plasma membrane and stabilizing cell wall structure (Popolo *et al.*, 2001; Klis *et al.*, 2002).

To understand the essential functions of CL at elevated temperature, we took the genetic approach of isolating spontaneous suppressor mutants of *pgs1 Δ* that grow at elevated temperatures, one of which was identified to have a loss of function allele of *KRE5*, which is involved in cell wall biogenesis. In this report, we demonstrated that the absence of mitochondrial anionic phospholipids PG and CL results in defective cell wall assembly. Disruption of *KRE5* induces β -1,3-glucan synthesis, strengthening the cell wall structure in *pgs1 Δ* and enabling it to survive at elevated temperature. These data suggest that mitochondrial anionic phospholipids are required for processes that are essential in cell wall biogenesis and the maintenance of cell integrity.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials

All chemicals used were reagent grade or better. The polymerase chain reaction (PCR) was performed using the native *pfu* enzyme kit from Invitrogen (Carlsbad, CA). The ZymoPrep yeast plasmid mini prep kit was from ZymoResearch (Orange, CA). The Wizard Plus Miniprep DNA purification system was from Promega (Madison, WI). All other buffers and enzymes were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO). Glucose, yeast extract, and peptone were purchased from Difco (Detroit, MI).

Yeast Strains and Growth Media

The *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strains used in this work are listed in Table 1. Synthetic complete medium (SCD) contained amino acids adenine (20.25 mg/l), arginine (20 mg/l), histidine (20 mg/l), leucine (60 mg/l), lysine (200 mg/l), methionine (20 mg/l), threonine (300 mg/l), tryptophan (20 mg/l), and uracil (20 mg/l), vitamins, salts (essentially components of Difco Vitamin Free Yeast Base without amino acids), inositol (75 μ M), and glucose (2%). Synthetic drop out medium (Ura⁻) contained all ingredients, except uracil for

selection. Sporulation medium contained potassium acetate (1%), glucose (0.05%), and the essential amino acids. Complex media contained yeast extract (1%), peptone (2%), and glucose (2%) (YPD) or glycerol (3%) and ethanol (1%) (YPGE). Complex YPD5 medium was YPD supplemented with 1 M sorbitol. Solid medium contained agar (2%) in addition to the above-mentioned ingredients.

DAPI Stain

Yeast cells were grown to early stationary phase, fixed in 70% ethanol at room temperature for 30 min, and stained with 1 μ g/ml DAPI for 5 min. Cells were viewed with an Olympus BX41 epifluorescence microscope, WU filter, and a 100 \times oil immersion objective. Images were captured with a Q-color3 camera and represent at least 200 observed cells.

Isolation of Extragenic Suppressors of *pgs1* Δ

Disruption of the *PGS1* gene was performed as described previously (Zhong and Greenberg, 2003). Haploid *pgs1* Δ mutants of opposite mating types were obtained. YPD medium was inoculated from single colonies of *pgs1* Δ cells and grown for 24 h. About 10⁸ cells from each independent culture were plated on a fresh YPD plate and incubated at 39°C. Single colonies from each plate were reexamined for growth at 39°C. Cells that grew at 39°C were analyzed further. To test the dominant and recessive character of the suppressor mutation, suppressor mutants were crossed to the parent strain, and growth of the diploid cells at 39°C was examined. Genetic complementation analysis was carried out with recessive mutants.

Plasmid Complementation

A yeast genomic DNA library in plasmid YCp50 (Rose *et al.*, 1987) was used to clone the suppressor genes by complementation. Suppressor mutant cells were transformed with library DNA, plated on Ura⁻ plates, and incubated at 25°C until colonies formed. Transformants were replicated onto YPD plates, and growth at 39°C was examined. Plasmid DNA was extracted from transformants that lost the capability to grow at 39°C, amplified in *Escherichia coli* DH5 α , and retransformed into the suppressor mutant to confirm complementation of the suppressor phenotype. The DNA inserts of the positive clones were sequenced using primer YCp50 forward (5'-TTGGAGCCATATCGAC-TACG-3') and YCp50 reverse (5'-ATGCGTCCGGCGTAGAGGATC-3').

Identification of the Suppressor Mutation

Genomic DNA of *pgs1* Δ (QZY24B) and the suppressor QZY11A was extracted. DNA of the *KRE5* region was amplified and sequenced using the following primers F1 (5'-TGATTTGGTTCATACCGGCA-3'); F2 (5'-ATAT-AGGGTCTGAATTG-3'); R2 (5'-ATTGGAAGTTAGCGCCACA-3'); F3 (5'-ACGATATGGCATACCCGAAT-3'); F4 (5'-TTATGGAAGCAATGAATG-3'); R4 (5'-AGAACCCCTGGAATTGTGTGGA-3'); F5 (5'-TCCGTACAATTGCT-TACTGC-3'); F6 (5'-CGCCCGTTTAGAAGATAG-3'); R6 (5'-CACCAA-CAAAGGAAGTATGCA-3'); F7 (5'-GCGTAAGGGACTTATTGCAT-3'); F8 (5'-AAAGGTAAAAAGTACAC-3'); R8 (5'-GAATCGACAAGTGTAGGC-AT-3'); F9 (5'-TGCCGACACTGGAATTAACA-3'); F10 (5'-CGGATAAAA-AAATGTCTC-3'); R10 (5'-ACCAGCATCTAACTCCGAAA-3'); F11 (5'-TC-AAACGTGCACCTCTAGGA-3'); and R12 (5'-CAGCCCATACCTACTTTC-CAT-3').

K1 Killer Toxin Assay

Sensitivity to K1 killer toxin was evaluated by a seeded plate assay using a modified YPD medium supplemented with 50 mM sodium citrate buffer (pH 3.7–3.8) and 0.003% methylene blue as described previously (Boone *et al.*, 1990).

Sensitivity to Nikkomycin Z

Log phase cells were harvested and resuspended in SCD liquid medium at 1 \times 10⁸ cells/ml. Nikkomycin Z was added to a final concentration of 0.1 or 1 mM and incubated at 30°C for 48 h. *A*₅₅₀ was measured, and sensitivity was determined by comparing *A*₅₅₀ in treated versus untreated cells.

Transmission Electron Microscopy

Cells were grown in YPD media at 30°C to an *A*₅₅₀ of 0.5–1 and fixed in 2.5% glutaraldehyde in 100 mM sodium cacodylate buffer (pH 7.2) by addition of an equal amount of double-strength fixative to cells in suspension. Cells were centrifuged into a pellet, left to fix for 24 h, and then washed successively in 100 mM sodium cacodylate and in water, and resuspended in 10% gelatin at 37°C. The cells were pelleted while the gelatin was still warm, and the pellets were left to cool on ice. The gelatin-embedded pellets were cut out of their tubes and sliced into thin strips, which were fixed in 2.5% buffered glutaraldehyde for 1 h. Postfixation, dehydration, and resin infiltration were carried out in a microwave processor using a protocol modified from Giberson and Demaree (1999). A Pelco BioWave Microwave processor (Ted Pella, Redding, CA) was used for all irradiation steps. A flat chamber through which cold water was circulated was placed on the floor of the processor, and specimens were placed on top. The gelatin-embedded yeast cells were placed into glass vials containing ice-cold aqueous 2% osmium tetroxide and irradiated at full power for 40 s at a maximum

temperature of 30°C, left at room temperature for 5 min, cooled on ice, and irradiated for an additional 40 s at full power. The osmium tetroxide was removed and replaced with cold water. Acetone dehydration was performed using the following steps: 1 \times 50%, 1 \times 70%, 1 \times 90%, 2 \times 100% acetone. Each step was performed in the microwave processor with 100% power for 40 s at a temperature maximum of 37°C. Infiltration with uncatalyzed epoxy resin consisted of full-power irradiation for 15 min at 45°C and full power in 1:1 acetone:resin followed by a similar irradiation in 100% resin. The specimens were then removed from the microwave processor and placed on a rotating table where they were infiltrated for 3 d in epoxy resin, changing the resin each day. Finally, the specimens were embedded in epoxy resin containing a catalyst and left to polymerize overnight at 60°C. Sections were prepared using an Ultracut S ultramicrotome (Leica Microsystems, Deerfield, IL) equipped with a diamond knife (Diatome US, Hatfield, PA). Sections, on metal grids were contrasted with uranyl acetate and lead citrate, and imaged in a CM120 BioTwin transmission electron microscope (FEI, Hillsboro, OR) operating at 80 kV.

Alkali-Insoluble β -Glucan Quantification

Yeast cells were grown in 50–100 ml of YPD or synthetic Ura⁻ medium to early stationary phase. Cells were harvested and washed once with distilled water. Half the cells were used to determine the dry weight, and the other half were prepared for alkali extraction following the protocol described previously (Boone *et al.*, 1990). The insoluble pellet that remained after zymolase digestion was removed with centrifugation and dialyzed against distilled water using Slide-a-Lyze 7000-Da molecular weight cut-off cassettes (Pierce Chemical, Rockford, IL). Total alkaline insoluble β -1,3 and β -1,6-glucan was determined by analysis of the carbohydrate content of the supernatant before dialysis by using the phenol-sulfuric acid method (Dubois *et al.*, 1956). Analysis of the carbohydrate content of the retained fraction after dialysis determined the proportion of β -1,6 glucan.

Alkali-Soluble β -1,3-Glucan Quantification

Alkali-soluble β -1,3-glucan immunodetection was performed as described previously (Lussier *et al.*, 1998). Briefly, cells were grown to early stationary phase at 30°C in YPD, harvested, and washed once with 5 ml of water. Cell pellets were resuspended in 100 μ l of water with 100 μ l of glass beads and subjected to five cycles of vortexing for 30 s, interspersed with 30-s incubations on ice. Total cellular protein was determined with the Bradford assay before alkali extraction (1.5 N NaOH, 1 h, 75°C). A set of 1:2 serial dilutions of the alkali-soluble fractions was spotted on nitrocellulose membrane. The immunoblotting was performed in Tris-buffered saline/Tween 20 containing 5% nonfat dried milk powder by using a 1000-fold dilution of anti- β -1,3-glucan primary antibody (Biosupplies Australia, Victoria, Australia), and a 5000-fold dilution of alkaline phosphatase conjugated goat anti-mouse secondary antibody (Promega). The membranes were developed with an AP detection kit (Promega). Dot blots were scanned with a ScanMaker 6800 scanner, and signals were quantitated with Adobe Photoshop software, by using the histogram function.

Chitin Quantification

Yeast cells were grown in 50- to 100-ml cultures to early stationary phase. Chitin levels were determined as described previously (Reissig *et al.*, 1955). Briefly, ~600–800 mg of cells was harvested. Half the cells were used to determine the cell dry weight, and the other half were transferred to 13 \times 100 borosilicate tubes, resuspended in 4 ml of 6% KOH, and incubated at 80°C for 90 min to remove the mannan layer of the cell wall. After alkali treatment, 0.4 ml of glacial acetic acid was added. Cells were centrifuged at 4000 \times g for 4 min and washed twice with cold water. Chitinase from *Serratia marcescens* (0.4 U) was resuspended in 2 ml of 50 mM sodium phosphate buffer (pH 6.3) and added to samples. Digestion was carried out at 30°C overnight, and 400 μ l of supernatant was incubated for 1 h at 37°C with cytohelicase (Sigma-Aldrich). A 100- μ l portion of each sample, blank or standard, was mixed to 100 μ l of 0.27 M potassium-tetraborate pH 9.0, boiled for 3 min, and then cooled on ice. Color was developed by addition of 3 ml of freshly diluted DMAB reagent (Ehrlich's reagent, consisting of 10 g of *p*-dimethylaminobenzaldehyde in 12.5 ml of concentrated HCl and 87.5 ml of glacial acetic acid, diluted 1:10 with glacial acetic acid). Absorbance at *A*₄₉₀ and *A*₅₈₅ was measured using a Bio Spec-1601 Shimadzu spectrophotometer after 20-min incubation at room temperature.

Chitin Distribution

Yeast cells grown to early stationary phase were harvested by centrifugation at 2000 \times g. Chitin stain was performed using Oregon Green 488 from Molecular Probes following the procedures from the manufacturer and observed using Olympus BX41 NIB filter. Images captured represent at least 200 observed cells.

RESULTS

Disruption of *PGS1* Leads to Loss of Mitochondrial DNA

The *pgs1* Δ mutant in the FGY3 strain background was generated as described previously (Zhong and Greenberg,

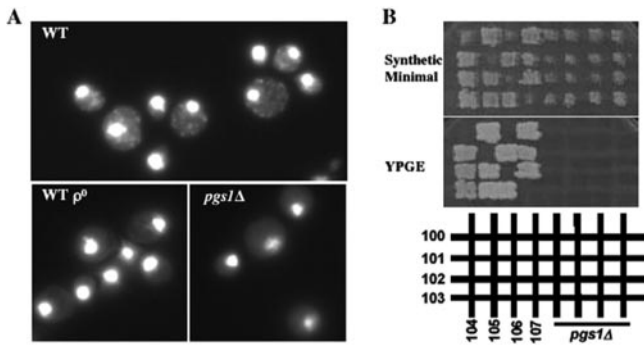


Figure 1. Disruption of *PGS1* results in loss of mtDNA. (A) Isogenic wild-type (FGY3), ρ^- , and *pgs1* Δ (QZY24B) cells were grown in YPD to early stationary phase. DNA was visualized by staining with DAPI as described in *Materials and Methods*. (B) Haploid *pgs1* Δ and ρ^- tester strains (100–107) were crossed on a YPD plate. Diploid cells were selected on synthetic minimal medium. Mitochondrial function was determined by assessing growth on nonfermentable medium (YPGE).

2003). Consistent with a previous report (Chang *et al.*, 1998a), the haploid *pgs1* Δ mutant was viable but did not grow on a nonfermentable carbon source. To determine whether *pgs1* Δ cells contained a mitochondrial genome, cells were stained with DAPI (Figure 1A). In contrast to isogenic wild-type cells, only nuclear DNA was visible in *pgs1* Δ cells, whereas mtDNA was not evident. To exclude the possibility that *pgs1* Δ cells contained incomplete mtDNA, 28 independent haploid *pgs1* Δ mutant cells derived from sporulation of heterozygous diploids were tested by complementation with ρ^- tester strains for growth on nonfermentable medium (YPGE). Representative crosses are shown in Figure 1B. None of the 28 *pgs1* Δ strains was complemented by any of the ρ^- tester strains. As a control, diploid cells that carried complementary ρ^- mtDNA mutations grew on YPGE. This demonstrates that *pgs1* Δ cells grown on glucose medium exhibited loss of mtDNA, even at the optimal growth temperature.

Disruption of *KRE5* Suppresses Temperature Sensitivity of *pgs1* Δ

To gain insight into the role of anionic phospholipids at elevated temperature, we used the genetic approach of isolating spontaneous suppressors of *pgs1* Δ temperature sensitivity. Eighteen recessive suppressor mutants that grew at nonpermissive temperatures were isolated, and these identified three complementation groups. One of the suppressors, QZY11A, was characterized further. In addition to complementation of growth at 37°C (Figure 2A), the suppressor complemented the enlarged cell size phenotype of the *pgs1* Δ mutant (Figure 2B). To clone the gene identified by the suppressor mutation, the suppressor was transformed with a genomic library and transformants were screened for inability to grow at nonpermissive temperatures. A plasmid bearing 5.5-kb DNA containing the *KRE5* locus complemented the suppressor phenotype (Figure 2A). No other open reading frame was present on the plasmid. Subsequent sequencing analysis revealed a single G-to-A mutation resulting in a nonsense codon at the *KRE5* locus of the suppressor mutant, leading to a deduced 201-amino acid deletion from the C terminus of the protein (Figure 3A). We designated this mutation *kre5*^{W1166X}.

KRE5 encodes an N-glycoprotein of ~200 kDa that localizes to the endoplasmic reticulum (Levinson *et al.*, 2002).

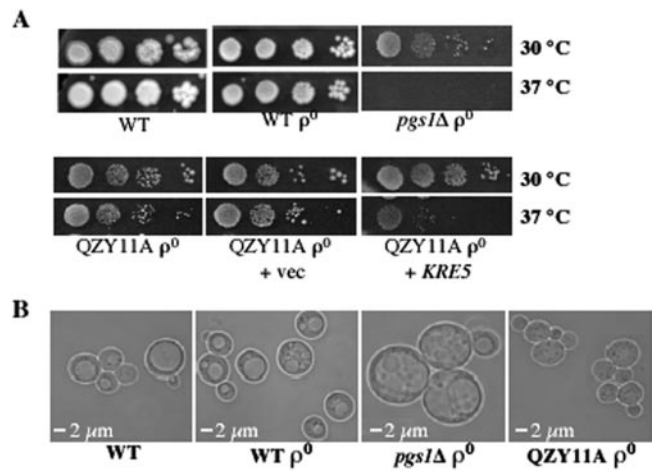


Figure 2. *KRE5* complements the suppressor phenotype. (A) Cells from wild-type (FGY3), ρ^- , *pgs1* Δ (QZY24B), the suppressor (QZY11A), and the suppressor transformed with empty vector YCp50 (+vec), or with YCp50 containing *KRE5* (+*KRE5*) were serially diluted, spotted on YPD plates, and incubated at the indicated temperatures. (B) Wild-type (FGY3), ρ^- , *pgs1* Δ (QZY24B), and suppressor (QZY11A) cells were grown to mid-log phase in YPD and examined microscopically.

Biochemical activity of Kre5p has not been determined. However, analysis of truncated versions of Kre5p indicated that all major regions of the protein are required for function (Levinson *et al.*, 2002). Disruption of *KRE5* results in decreased β -1,6-glucan and resistance to K1 killer toxin, the

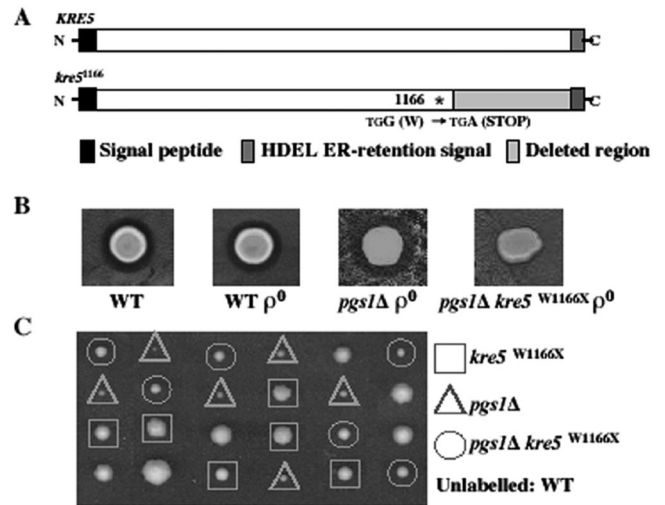


Figure 3. The suppressor mutant carries a loss of function allele of *KRE5*. (A) DNA of the *KRE5* locus from *pgs1* Δ (QZY24B) and the suppressor (QZY11A) was sequenced as described in *Materials and Methods*. The single nonsense mutation in the coding sequence of *KRE5* causes deletion of 201 amino acids from the C terminus of the protein. (B) K1 killer toxin producing cells (T158c/S14a) were spotted on plates preseeded with wild-type (FGY3), ρ^- , *pgs1* Δ (QZY24B), and suppressor (QZY11A) cells and incubated at 30°C for 2 d. Sensitivity to K1 killer toxin is indicated by the presence of a killing zone surrounding cells. (C) The suppressor mutant (QZY11A) was crossed to the wild-type strain (FGY3). Diploid cells were sporulated, and meiotic tetrad analysis was performed. Genotypes of the haploid spores from six tetrads are shown.

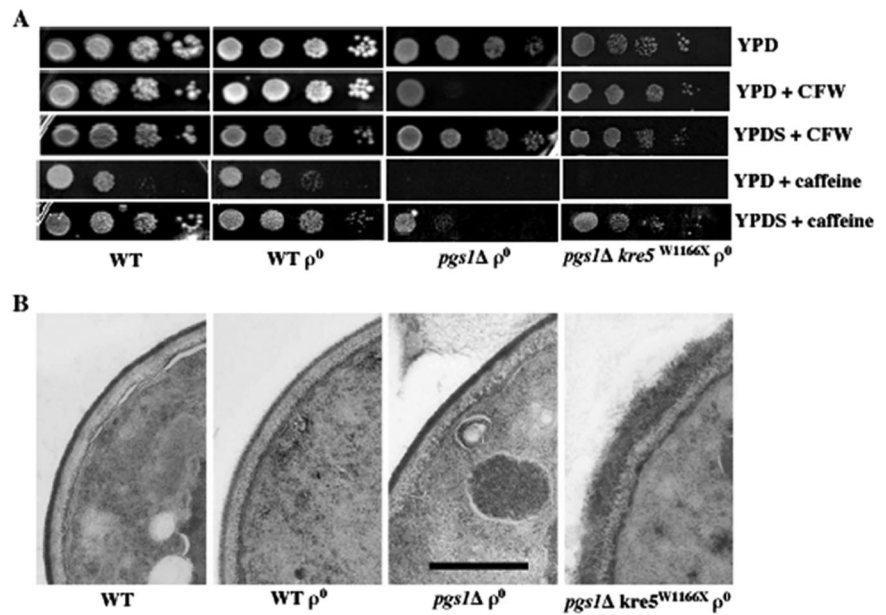


Figure 4. Cell wall properties of *pgs1Δ* and the suppressor *pgs1Δ kre5^{W1166X}*. (A) Cells from wild-type (FGY3), ρ^0 , *pgs1Δ* (QZY24B), and the suppressor (QZY11A) mutant were serially diluted and spotted on YPD or YPDS plates supplemented with 5 μ g/ml CFW or 5 mM caffeine. Cells were incubated at 30°C. (B) Transmission electron microscopy of the cell wall in wild-type (FGY3), ρ^0 , *pgs1Δ* (QZY24B), and the suppressor (QZY11A) was performed as described in *Materials and Methods*. The horizontal bar represents 500 nm.

binding of which requires β -1,6-glucan (Meaden *et al.*, 1990). The *kre5^{W1166X}* mutant was assayed for K1 killer toxin sensitivity. The absence of a killer zone in the suppressor mutant (Figure 3B) suggests that *kre5^{W1166X}* is a loss of function allele. To confirm that the suppressor phenotype resulted from the *kre5^{W1166X}* allele, diploid cells heterozygous for *pgs1Δ* and *kre5^{W1166X}* were sporulated, and suppression of temperature sensitivity of the *pgs1Δ* mutant was analyzed in 18 tetrads. Suppression of temperature sensitivity cosegregated with K1 killer toxin resistance (Figure 3C). Loss of *kre5p* often leads to extremely slow growth (Meaden *et al.*, 1990) or inviability in some strain backgrounds (Shahinian *et al.*, 1998). Interestingly, the single mutant *kre5^{W1166X}* in the FGY3 strain background exhibited only slightly compromised growth phenotypes. The above-mentioned genetic analysis demonstrated that the loss of function allele *kre5^{W1166X}* is an extragenic suppressor of *pgs1Δ*, which enables it to grow at elevated temperature.

Disruption of PGS1 Leads to a Defective Cell Wall

Identification of a mutant in cell wall synthesis as a suppressor of *pgs1Δ* temperature sensitivity suggests that *pgs1Δ* temperature sensitivity results from perturbation of cell wall biosynthesis and/or structure. We therefore examined the cell wall properties of *pgs1Δ* and the suppressor mutant.

Mutants with defective cell wall structure exhibit sensitivity to cell wall-perturbing agents. Consistent with a previous report (Lussier *et al.*, 1997), *pgs1Δ* was hypersensitive to caffeine and CFW. In the presence of 1 M sorbitol, an osmotic stabilizer, sensitivity to CFW and caffeine in *pgs1Δ* was significantly reduced (Figure 4A). Furthermore, the suppressor *pgs1Δ kre5^{W1166X}* was no longer sensitive to CFW, although sensitivity to caffeine in *pgs1Δ* was not suppressed. Thus, the suppressor mutation conferred a beneficial effect on the cell wall of *pgs1Δ* cells (Figure 4A).

Deletion of *KRE5* leads to a number of changes in the cell wall, such as diffuse cell wall surface, a complete loss of the electron-dense mannoprotein layer (Simons *et al.*, 1998), and enlarged cell wall structure (Levinson *et al.*, 2002). Electron microscopic analysis was performed to compare the ultrastructure of the cell wall of *pgs1Δ* and the *pgs1Δ kre5^{W1166X}*

suppressor strain. As seen in Figure 4B, the wild-type cell wall has a finely delineated dark-staining mannoprotein layer. In contrast, the cell wall of the suppressor was twice as thick and exhibited a rough appearance, similar to that reported for the *kre5* mutant (Simons *et al.*, 1998; Levinson *et al.*, 2002). However, aberrations in cell wall morphology were not observed in *pgs1Δ* cells.

To gain further insight into how *kre5^{W1166X}* suppressed *pgs1Δ* temperature sensitivity, we characterized the cell wall composition of *pgs1Δ* and the suppressor strain. Levels of the major cell wall components were measured, including β -1,3 and β -1,6-glucan and chitin (Table 2). Because *pgs1Δ* cells lose mtDNA and are all ρ^0 cells (Figure 1), we compared cell wall composition in *pgs1Δ* and isogenic wild-type ρ^0 cells. Surprisingly, the loss of mtDNA from wild-type cells resulted in decreased alkaline-soluble and -insoluble β -1,3-glucan (50 and 12% decrease, respectively) and a decrease (37%) in β -1,6-glucan. Disruption of *PGS1* led to an even more pronounced decrease in β -1,3-glucan. Alkaline-soluble and -insoluble β -1,3-glucan was reduced to 76 and 68% of the isogenic ρ^0 wild-type levels. In contrast, β -1,3 glucan was dramatically increased in the suppressor mutant to levels greater than those observed in wild-type cells. Alkaline-insoluble β -1,6-glucan was reduced approximately twofold in the *pgs1Δ* mutant compared with the isogenic ρ^0 wild-type and to an even greater extent in the suppressor mutant.

In contrast to β -glucans, chitin levels were not affected by loss of mtDNA (Table 2). In both *pgs1Δ* and the suppressor mutant, chitin levels were \sim 3 times higher than in wild-type cells (Table 2). Examination of the distribution of chitin by using specific fluorescent probes revealed the presence of chitin predominantly in the bud scars of wild-type cells (Figure 5A). In *pgs1Δ* and suppressor mutants, however, chitin staining was uniformly distributed to the lateral cell wall, and the bud scar was hardly distinguishable from the rest of the cell wall. Hyperaccumulation of chitin in cell wall mutants is mediated by chitin synthase III (CSIII) (Osmond *et al.*, 1999; Valdivieso *et al.*, 2000). When grown in the presence of 0.1 mM Nikkomycin Z, a known inhibitor of CSIII (Gaughran *et al.*, 1994), viability of the *pgs1Δ* mutant was reduced by 40% (our unpublished data). In contrast, the

Table 2. Cell wall composition in *pgs1Δ* and suppressor mutants

Strain	Medium	Alkaline-insoluble glucan			Alkaline-soluble	
		β -1,6	β -1,6 + β -1,3	β -1,3	β -1,3-glucan	Chitin
WT	YPD	37.8 ± 0.9	141.4 ± 4.4	103.6	100%	4.65 ± 0.39
WT ρ^0	YPD	23.7 ± 1.4	114.7 ± 8.1	91.0	50 ± 3%	4.54 ± 0.26
<i>pgs1Δ</i> ρ^0	YPD	12.1 ± 1.9	74.7 ± 1.4	62.6	38 ± 2%	12.36 ± 1.67
<i>pgs1Δ kre5^{W1166X}</i> ρ^0	YPD	7.7 ± 2.5	155.8 ± 1.4	148.1	174 ± 15%	12.35 ± 0.39
<i>pgs1Δ</i> ρ^0	YPDS	21.0 ± 1.6	98.8 ± 18.8	77.8	90 ± 25%	8.09 ± 1.52
<i>pgs1Δ</i> ρ^0 + <i>PGS1</i>	Ura ^{-[ρ]}	25.8 ± 5.3	131.6 ± 33.5	105.8	100%	7.76 ± 0.32
<i>pgs1Δ</i> ρ^0 + vec	Ura ^{-[ρ]}	21.4 ± 2.1	69.6 ± 22.7	48.2	41 ± 6%	12.04 ± 0.80
<i>pgs1Δ kre5^{W1166X}</i> ρ^0 + vec	Ura ^{-[ρ]}	7.4 ± 1.8	118.4 ± 17.3	111.0	151 ± 21%	12.09 ± 3.14
<i>pgs1Δ kre5^{W1166X}</i> ρ^0 + <i>KRE5</i>	Ura ^{-[ρ]}	27.1 ± 0.9	99.3 ± 9.6	72.2	52 ± 5%	10.52 ± 0.37

Glucan and chitin levels were measured as described in *Materials and Methods* in wild-type (FGY3), ρ^0 *pgs1Δ* (QZY24B), and suppressor mutant *pgs1Δ kre5^{W1166X}* (QZY11A) cells grown in YPD or YPDS; *pgs1Δ* (QZY24B) cells transformed with empty vector pYES2/CT (+vec) or pYES2/CT-*PGS1* (+*PGS1*); and *pgs1Δ kre5^{W1166X}* suppressor mutant (QZY11A) cells transformed with empty vector YCp50 (+vec) or the genomic clone of *KRE5* (+*KRE5*) grown in synthetic ura⁻ medium. Alkaline insoluble glucan and chitin are expressed as micrograms per milligram of cell dry weight. Alkaline soluble β -1,3-glucan in cells grown in complex medium (top) was expressed as a percentage of that of wild-type (FGY3) cells. Alkaline soluble β -1,3-glucan in cells grown in synthetic ura⁻ medium (bottom) was expressed relative to *pgs1Δ* (QZY24B) cells transformed with pYES2/CT-*PGS1*. Data represent three independent experiments.

wild-type and suppressor mutant tolerated 1 mM Nikkomycin Z with no obvious loss of viability. Hypersensitivity to Nikkomycin Z suggested that increased chitin is essential for the survival of *pgs1Δ*. We wished to determine whether a further increase in chitin synthesis led to increased viability of *pgs1Δ* cells at 37°C. Glucosamine was recently shown to induce chitin synthesis via CSIII in wild-type cells as well as in cell wall mutants (Bulik *et al.*, 2003). As shown in Figure 5B, in the presence of 10 mM glucosamine, growth of *pgs1Δ* was slightly improved at 30°C. Chitin levels in *pgs1Δ* were doubled at 37°C compared with 30°C in the presence of 10 mM glucosamine (our unpublished data). However, at 37°C, *pgs1Δ* cells exhibited only limited growth and lost viability after 20 h (Figure 5B). Thus, 10 mM glucosamine did not restore growth to levels observed in the presence of the suppressor mutation. Supplementation with 5–20 mM glucosamine led to a shortened lag in growth and increased saturation optical density of the *pgs1Δ* mutant at 30°C, but was not sufficient to support growth at elevated temperature (our unpublished data).

When transformed with a plasmid-borne copy of the *PGS1* gene under the control of the P_{GAL1} promoter, β -1,3-glucan levels in the *pgs1Δ* mutant significantly increased and chitin decreased (Table 2). This was observed even during growth in glucose, in which low levels of expression of *PGS1* from this plasmid are sufficient to restore growth of *pgs1Δ* at elevated temperature and synthesis of PG and CL (He and Greenberg, 2004). Expression of the plasmid-borne copy of *KRE5* in the suppressor mutant restored β -1,6-glucan and decreased β -1,3-glucan levels (Table 2). Together, these experiments indicate that disruption of *PGS1* leads to multiple cell wall defects resulting in defective growth at elevated temperature. Increasing cell wall synthesis, particularly β -1,3-glucan and chitin, restored growth at 37°C.

Osmotic Stabilization of the Cell Wall Restores Growth of *pgs1Δ* at Elevated Temperature

Suppression of *pgs1Δ* temperature sensitivity by increased β -1,3-glucan synthesis suggested that osmotic stabilization of the cell wall might alleviate cell wall stress and support growth of *pgs1Δ* at elevated temperature. To address this

possibility, we examined the effect of sorbitol on cell wall composition and growth of *pgs1Δ* at 37°C. Mutant cells of *pgs1Δ* grown in the presence of 1 M sorbitol contained 1.8 and 2.4-fold increased alkaline soluble β -1,3-glucan and alkaline insoluble β -1,6-glucan levels, respectively, compared with levels observed in *pgs1Δ* cells grown in YPD lacking sorbitol, whereas chitin levels were significantly reduced (Table 2). Consistent with this finding, the majority of *pgs1Δ* cells displayed the wild-type pattern of chitin staining of bud scars and exhibited normal cell size in the presence of sorbitol (data not shown). Supplementation with sorbitol restored growth of *pgs1Δ* in two strain backgrounds, FGY3 and GA74D (Figure 6A). Sorbitol also supported colony formation of *crd1Δ* on YPD (Figure 6B), as well as growth of *taz1Δ* on ethanol (data not shown) at 37°C.

As this report has shown, *pgs1Δ* cells in the FGY3 background grown on YPD are all ρ^0 cells. However, the *pgs1Δ* mutant in the GA74D strain background, GA74D3C, was previously thought to be “petite lethal”, because the mutant cells did not survive ethidium bromide mutagenesis, which induces loss of mtDNA (Janitor and Subik, 1993; Dzugasova *et al.*, 1998). A likely explanation for the inability of *pgs1Δ* cells to grow in the presence of ethidium bromide is that *pgs1Δ* ρ^0 cells in the GA74D strain background fail to survive due to loss of cell wall integrity. To resolve this discrepancy, we examined the effects of ethidium bromide on *pgs1Δ* cells in the presence or absence of osmotic support. Consistent with the previous report (Janitor and Subik, 1993; Dzugasova *et al.*, 1998), *pgs1Δ* (GA74D3C) cells failed to grow on plates containing 25 μ g/ml ethidium bromide. However, when supplemented with 1 M sorbitol, the cells grew in the presence of ethidium bromide (Figure 7). Failure to complement ρ^- tester strains for growth on YPGE (our unpublished data) confirmed the loss of mtDNA. The *pgs1Δ* ρ^0 mutant in this genetic background was viable on YPD but exhibited slower growth than the isogenic ρ^+ strain. Consistent with these observations, a greater decrease in alkaline-soluble and -insoluble β -1,3-glucan was observed in *pgs1Δ* ρ^0 cells than in *pgs1Δ* ρ^+ cells (our unpublished data). These data suggest that *pgs1Δ* cells can survive ethidium bromide treatment in the presence of increased osmotic support.

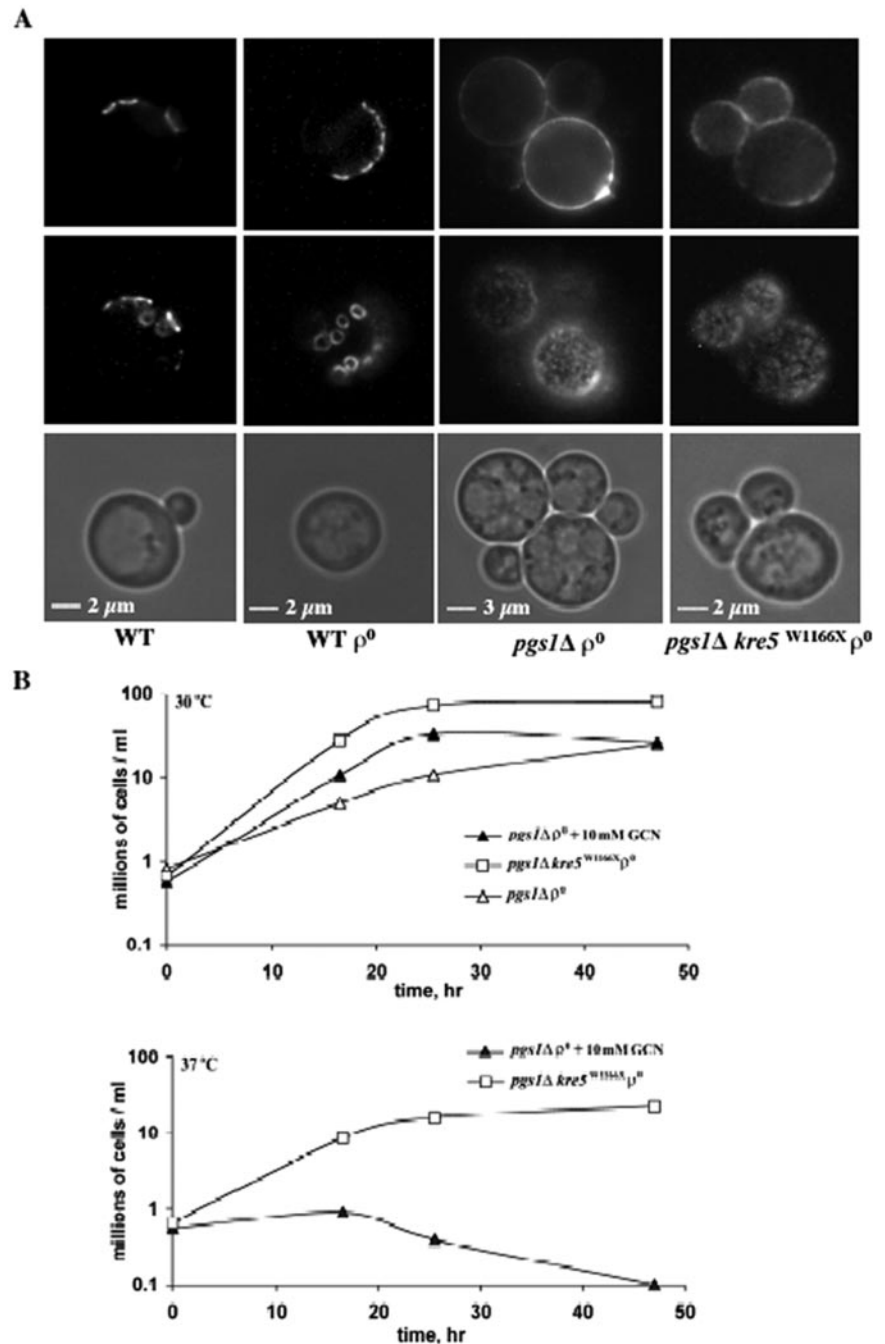


Figure 5. Increased chitin deposition in *pgs1Δ* and the suppressor mutant. (A) Cells from wild-type (FGY3), ρ^0 , *pgs1Δ* (QZY24B), and the suppressor (QZY11A) were grown in YPD to early stationary phase. Chitin was visualized by staining with Oregon Green 488 as described in *Materials and Methods*. Chitin distribution was visualized by focusing on two planes. (B) Cells from *pgs1Δ* (QZY24B) and the suppressor mutant (QZY11A) were grown in YPD in the presence or absence of 10 mM glucosamine at the indicated temperatures. Viable cells were determined by serial dilution and plating.

In summary, disruption of *PGS1* leads to a defective cell wall and inability to grow at elevated temperature. Stabilization of the cell wall, either by increased synthesis of β -1,3-glucan or increased osmotic support, restores growth at 37°C. These findings show that mitochondrial anionic phospholipids are essential in cellular functions required for cell wall biogenesis and maintenance of cell integrity.

DISCUSSION

The *pgs1Δ* mutant, which lacks mitochondrial anionic phospholipids PG and CL, exhibits severe temperature sensitivity for growth even on fermentable carbon sources (Chang *et*

al., 1998a; Dzugasova *et al.*, 1998), suggesting that anionic phospholipids are required for essential cellular functions. This report shows that mutants lacking these lipids are defective in cell wall biogenesis. Reorganization of the cell wall in the *pgs1Δ kre5*^{W1166X} suppressor or osmotic stabilization with sorbitol restores growth at elevated temperature. The *pgs1Δ* mutant exhibited a marked decrease in β -1,3-glucan (Table 2), the lack of which greatly impairs the mechanical strength of the cell wall and severely threatens viability of cells at elevated temperature (Klis *et al.*, 2002). As a result, *pgs1Δ* mutant cells become enlarged and rounded (Figure 2), resembling another cell wall mutant, *gas1Δ*, which is also defective in β -glucan synthesis (Popolo *et al.*,

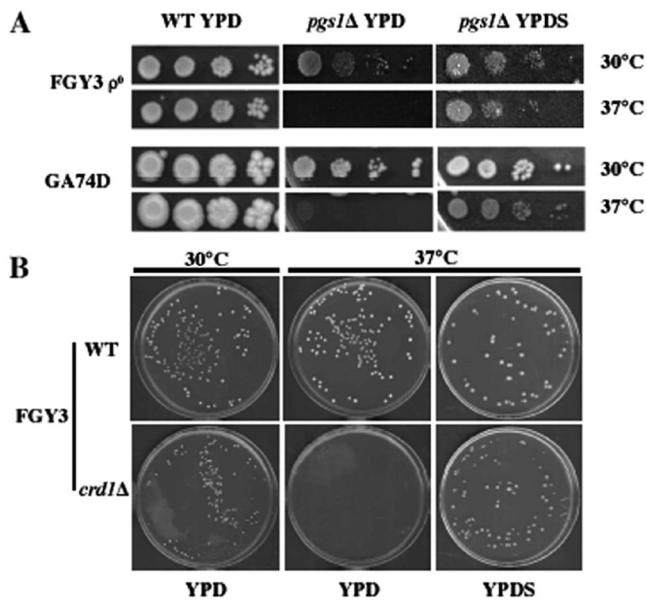


Figure 6. Supplementation with sorbitol supports growth of CL-deficient mutants at 37°C. (A) Isogenic wild-type and *pgs1Δ* mutant cells from two genetic backgrounds (*FGY3 ρ⁰* and *GA74D ρ⁺*) were serially diluted and spotted on YPD or YPDS plates and incubated at the indicated temperature. (B) Wild-type (*FGY3*) and *crd1Δ* (*FGY2*) cells were grown overnight in YPD. Single cells were seeded on YPD or YPDS plates and incubated at the indicated temperature.

1993; Ram *et al.*, 1998). Likely as a result of dramatically increased β -1,3-glucan in the *pgs1Δ kre5^{W1166X}* suppressor strain (Table 2), the cell wall structure was thicker (Figure 4B), and cell size and growth at elevated temperature were restored (Figure 2). Consistent with these findings, osmotic stabilization with sorbitol suppressed temperature sensitivity of all CL deficient mutants at elevated temperature (Figure 6), suggesting that deficiency in mitochondrial anionic phospholipids results in cell wall defects that lead to a temperature-sensitive growth phenotype.

Cell wall biogenesis is a highly regulated process. β -1,3-Glucan is synthesized by β -1,3-glucan synthase (GS) localized on the plasma membrane (Qadota *et al.*, 1996). GS is composed of a catalytic subunit encoded by the two homologous genes *FKS1* and *FKS2* (Inoue *et al.*, 1995; Mazur *et al.*, 1995), and a regulatory subunit, the small GTPase, Rho1p

(Drgonova *et al.*, 1996; Qadota *et al.*, 1996). The Rho-type GTPase is generally regulated by switching between a GDP-bound inactive state and a GTP-bound active state (Wei *et al.*, 1997; Ihara *et al.*, 1998). Various factors are involved in the regulation of β -1,3-glucan synthesis by Rho1p in yeast cells. The putative cell surface sensor protein Wsc1p plays a critical role in stimulating nucleotide exchange of Rho1p through the GDP/GTP exchange factor, Rom2p (Philip and Levin, 2001). Exchange of GDP for GTP stimulates Rho1p, leading to activation of GS activity. Lrg1p, a GTPase-activating protein, promotes formation of GDP-bound Rho1p, thus negatively regulating β -1,3-glucan synthesis (Watanabe *et al.*, 2001). Thus, overexpression of *ROM2* or *WSC1* (Sekiya-Kawasaki *et al.*, 2002), or loss of function of *LRG1* (Watanabe *et al.*, 2001) restores the impaired β -1,3-glucan synthesis observed in GS mutants. In addition, posttranslational modification of Rho1p by the geranylgeranyl group is required for binding of Rho1p to GS and activation of GS activity (Inoue *et al.*, 1999). Other factors affect β -1,3-glucan synthesis by regulation of the catalytic subunit of GS. Movement of Fks1p driven by actin is required for the construction of a uniform and solid cell wall (Utsugi *et al.*, 2002). Transcription of *FKS2* is up-regulated in response to cell wall stress induced by heat, cell wall mutations, and cell wall-perturbing agents (Zhao *et al.*, 1998; de Nobel *et al.*, 2000; Lagorce *et al.*, 2003; Garcia *et al.*, 2004). Deletion of *KRE5* leads to a 114-fold up-regulation of *FKS2* in response to an impaired cell wall (Kapteyn *et al.*, 1999). Restored β -1,3-glucan levels in *pgs1Δ* mutant cells in the presence of the *kre5^{W1166X}* suppressor mutation (Table 2) could be mediated by up-regulation of *FKS2* expression. In fact, increased β -1,3-glucan is a general characteristic shared by several *kre* mutants, along with defective β -1,6-glucan synthesis (Roemer *et al.*, 1994; Dijkgraaf *et al.*, 1996; Shahinian *et al.*, 1998; Shahinian and Bussey, 2000).

Decreased β -glucan levels in ρ^0 cells and in mutants lacking mitochondrial anionic lipids suggest the existence of a regulatory link between mitochondrial biogenesis and cell wall synthesis. It has been suggested that cytoplasmic petite mutants isolated after ethidium bromide mutagenesis have altered cell wall assembly (Wauters *et al.*, 2001). In this study, we have shown for the first time that loss of mtDNA alone led to a significant decrease in β -glucan. These defects were exacerbated in the *pgs1Δ* mutant (Table 2). Our findings that greater cell wall defects were observed in *pgs1Δ* than in the wild-type ρ^0 cells suggests that, along with oxidative phosphorylation, other mitochondrial functions requiring PG and/or CL may be required for cell wall biogenesis. A link between mitochondrial functions and cell wall biogenesis has been implicated in several previous studies as well. In addition to *pgs1*, Lussier *et al.* (1997) reported that mutations in four other genes with mitochondrial associated functions, *IMP2*, *IFM1*, *SMP2*, and *COX11* have cell wall defects. Three of these genes (*IFM1*, *SMP2*, and *COX11*) are required for mtDNA stability (Vambutas *et al.*, 1991; Irie *et al.*, 1993; Tzagoloff *et al.*, 1993). A genome-wide screen for deletion mutants that exhibit increased resistance to K1 killer toxin, which indicates alterations in the cell surface, identified 17 deletion mutants affecting genes for respiration and ATP metabolism (Page *et al.*, 2003). All of the mutants are respiratory deficient, and four are involved in mitochondrial genome maintenance.

The identification of cell wall defects in mutants with mitochondrial dysfunction suggests that mitochondria may play a general role in the regulation of cell wall biogenesis. Several enzymes involved in β -1,3-glucan synthesis were found to have dual localization in the plasma membrane and

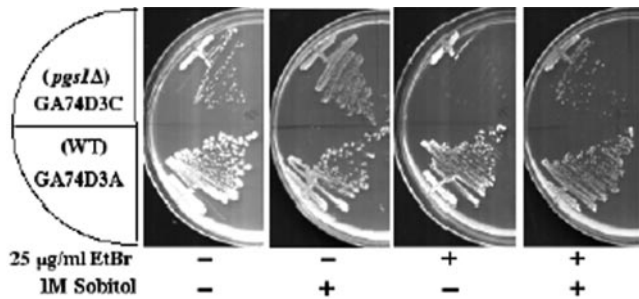


Figure 7. *Pgs1Δ* survives ethidium bromide mutagenesis in the presence of osmotic stabilizer. Wild-type GA74D3A and isogenic *pgs1Δ* mutant GA74D3c cells were streaked on synthetic minimal plates with ethidium bromide or sorbitol as indicated and incubated at 30°C.

mitochondria. Both the catalytic and the regulatory subunit of GS are localized on the plasma membrane at the site of cell wall synthesis (Qadota *et al.*, 1996). Interestingly, both Fks1p and Rho1p are also present in mitochondria (Sickmann *et al.*, 2003). Gas1p, a putative β -1,3-glucan-remodeling enzyme (Popolo and Vai, 1999; Mouyna *et al.*, 2000), the loss of which also results in reduced β -1,3-glucan in the cell wall (Popolo *et al.*, 1993; Ram *et al.*, 1998), is attached to the plasma membrane via a glycosyl-phosphatidylinositol anchor (Conzelmann *et al.*, 1988; Nuoffer *et al.*, 1991). Gas1p also is found in mitochondria (Grandier-Vazeille *et al.*, 2001; Sickmann *et al.*, 2003). It is not known whether dual plasma membrane/mitochondria localization of these enzymes has any physiological relevance. It is tempting, however, to assume that mitochondria are required for the maturation or modification of those enzymes, in which case mitochondrial dysfunction would result in decreased enzyme activity and cell wall defects. Alternatively, mitochondrial dysfunction may trigger signals that prevent proper mobilization of those enzymes to the site of cell wall biosynthesis.

Our finding that *pgs1 Δ* in the FGY3 strain background exhibited loss of mtDNA even at optimal growth temperature suggests that PG and CL are required for maintaining mtDNA. Mutants lacking only CL exhibit a strain-dependent decrease in mtDNA stability at elevated temperature (Jiang *et al.*, 2000; Zhong *et al.*, 2004). We have noticed that *crd1 Δ* mutants from different strain backgrounds differ greatly with respect to the temperature at which growth is defective and mtDNA becomes unstable (Zhong *et al.*, 2004). In addition, *crd1 Δ* was less thermotolerant on synthetic medium than on rich medium (Zhong *et al.*, 2004). Although *pgs1 Δ* in the GA74D strain background does not lose mtDNA on YPD at 30°C, it cannot grow on synthetic medium with glycerol and ethanol as carbon source (Dzugasova *et al.*, 1998), suggesting that it may lose mtDNA under this condition. Furthermore, the results presented here show that *pgs1 Δ* is not “petite lethal,” and the previously reported inability of *pgs1 Δ* to survive ethidium bromide (Janitor and Subik, 1993; Dzugasova *et al.*, 1998) was due to defective cell wall integrity. *Pgs1 Δ* ρ^0 cells in the GA74D strain background were obtained after ethidium bromide treatment in the presence of osmotic support and were viable on YPD (Figure 7B). Those petite cells exhibited slower growth than the isogenic ρ^+ strain, which presumably resulted from the exacerbated cell wall defects caused by loss of mtDNA. The further compromised growth observed in *pgs1 Δ* ρ^0 cells suggests a “synthetic sick” interaction between *pgs1 Δ* and the ρ^0 mutation. This interaction predicts that the number of *pgs1 Δ* cells surviving the loss of mtDNA would be low. This seems paradoxical in light of our finding that lack of PG and CL in the *pgs1 Δ* mutant strain resulted in 100% petite formation on YPD. Interestingly, mutations in *ATP15* and *ATP16*, two structural genes encoding ϵ and δ subunit of F1-ATPase, lead to similar phenotypes. On one hand, *atp15* and *atp16* exhibited an extremely high frequency of petite formation. However, the petite mutants have severe growth defects. Like *PGS1*, *ATP15* and *ATP16* also were thought to be essential in a petite background (Giraud and Velours, 1997; Lai-Zhang *et al.*, 1999; Contamine and Picard, 2000).

In summary, we have isolated and identified an extragenic suppressor of *pgs1 Δ* , the loss of function allele of *KRE5*, *kre5^{W1166X}*. Characterization of *pgs1 Δ* and the suppressor strain strongly suggests that temperature sensitivity of CL-deficient mutants and the previously reported “petite lethal” phenotype of *pgs1 Δ* mutant cells were primarily due to defective cell wall integrity. This work is the first demon-

stration of defective cell wall biosynthesis in mutants lacking mitochondrial anionic phospholipids PG and CL. Our findings thus provide new insights into the essential functions of these lipids and point to a regulatory role of mitochondria in cell wall biogenesis.

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