

Supporting Information

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SI Materials and Methods

Overexpression of FRP in *Synechocystis*. To overexpress the FRP with an N- or C-terminal HisTag in *Synechocystis*, *slr1964* was amplified by PCR. The 64NterNdeI/psbA2HPAI (GCATTCCATATGGGC TTCTCGTTGCAGAGCAGGC/GCATCGGTTAACGGTGT-ACACCTACAGCAAGCAA) oligonucleotides pairs were used. The 506-bp resulting fragment was introduced (after a NdeI-HpaI digestion) into the pPSBA2 plasmid (1). To overexpress OCP followed by FRP, the plasmid containing a DNA fragment including the *slr1963* and *slr1964* genes cloned into the pPSBA2 plasmid (2) was used. The His-Tag was added to the 3' and 5' ends of *slr1964* by directed mutagenesis (Quickchange XL site-directed mutagenesis kit; Stratagene) using the oligonucleotides F64Nter-His/R64NterHisII (CACCACCACCAC CACCACGGCTTCTC-GTTGCAGAGCAGGCTCACTTTTT/GTGGTGGTGGTGGTGGTGGT CATATGGTTATAATTCCTTATGTATTTGTCG) and F64CterHis/R64CterHis (GTGCA CCACCACCACCACCTGATTCTAGTAAATATCTAAAACCTCCAC/GTGGTGGTGGTGGTGGTGGTGCACCCGGCCAGGGCCTTAATTTTAGATTGC), respectively. A 2,000-bp spectinomycin and streptomycin resistance cassette was then inserted into the unique restriction site HpaI of these plasmids (Fig. S2A and B). All these plasmids were used to transform the Δ FRP strain (2). Complete segregation was tested by PCR amplification (Fig. S2C).

Overexpression of FRP in *E. coli*. To overexpress the long FRP with an N-terminal His tag in *E. coli*, the *slr1964* gene (beginning in the GTG coding for M1) from *Synechocystis* PCC6803 was amplified by PCR using the 64NterNdeI/64CterBamHI oligonucleotides (GCATTCCATATGGGCT TCTCGTTGCAGAGCAGGC/ATTTTAGGATCCTCACAGCCGGCCAGGGCCTTA). The 405-bp resulting fragment was introduced in the pET-15b plasmid (Novagene) after a digestion with NdeI and BamHI and the construct was named pCB9. The ultracompetent XL10-gold strain (Stratagene) was transformed with pCB9, then, the plasmid was extracted and used for the transformation of the BL21 strain (Stratagene) adapted for protein overexpression. To overexpress the short FRP containing a His6 tag attached to its N terminus in the *E. coli* strain BL21 (DE3), the *slr1964* gene (beginning in the ATG coding for M26) was amplified by PCR using the PETM26for/PETM26rev oligonucleotides (GTGCCGCGCGG-CAGCCATATGTTACAAACCGCCGAAGCACCTTGG/ATGGCTGC CGCGCGGCACCAGGCCGCTGCTGTGATGATGATGATGATG) and the pCB9 plasmid as template. All plasmids were checked by sequencing (MWG).

Purification of the Long His-Tagged FRP Overexpressed in *E. coli*. *E. coli* cells (375 mL) were grown at 37 °C and FRP overexpression was induced at a DO_{600nm} of 0.5 with 0.8 mM isopropyl- β -D-thiogalactoside. After 12 h incubation, the cells were centrifuged (6 min for 3,000 $\times g$ at 4 °C) and resuspended in 50 mL of a solution

containing 20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8, 100 mM NaCl, 5 mM caproic acid, 5 mM benzamidine, 2 mM MgCl₂, 0.5% Triton X-100, and 50 μ g/mL of DNase I. The cells were broken by sonication. The long overexpressed N-terminal His-tagged FRP in *E. coli* forms was obtained as inclusion bodies. The inclusion bodies were collected by centrifugation (20,000 $\times g$) and washed three times. The pellet containing the washed inclusion bodies was resuspended in 15 mL of a solution containing 100 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8, 12.5% sucrose, 5 mM benzamidine, 5 mM caproic acid, and 2% LiDS. The LiDS was precipitated by adding 150 mM KCl + 6 M urea + 0.03% β -DM. After centrifugation, the supernatant was dialyzed for 12 h against a buffer containing 40 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8, and 0.03% β -DM. The solubilized FRP was purified on a Ni-ProBond resin (Invitrogen) preequilibrated with a buffer containing 40 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8, 150 mM K-phosphate buffer, 500 mM NaCl, 10% glycerol, and 0.03% β -DM. The FRP was eluted with 160 mM imidazole in the equilibration buffer. The eluted fraction was dialyzed against 40 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8, and 0.03% β -DM at 4 °C for 12 h. The FRP quantity was then estimated using a Bradford test, and its quality was checked on SDS/PAGE gels and by Western blot.

Purification of the Short His-Tagged FRP Overexpressed in *E. coli*.

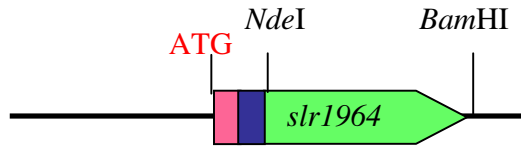
Culture (100 mL) of *E. coli* cells overexpressing the short FRP grown overnight at 37 °C was used to inoculate 2.4 L of new growth media. Protein expression was induced at an OD_{600} of 0.3 by adding 1 mM isopropyl- β -D-thiogalactoside and 2% ethanol. After 12 h of growth at 20 °C, the cells were harvested by centrifugation at 4,000 $\times g$ for 20 min at 4 °C and resuspended in ice-cold lysis buffer (40 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8, with 10% glycerol, 1 mM EDTA, 0.25 M NaCl, and 2 mM MgCl₂) containing 5 mM caproic acid, 5 mM benzamidine, 1 mM of PMSF, and 50 U/mL of DnaseI (bovine pancreas type IV; Sigma). Cells were lysed by two cycles through a French Press at 700 psi. The lysate was centrifuged at 20,000 $\times g$ for 45 min at 4 °C. The supernatant was loaded on a column of Ni-ProBond resin (Invitrogen) pretreated with binding buffer (40-mM Tris-HCl, pH 8, 150 mM K⁺ phosphate buffer, 500 mM NaCl, and 10% glycerol). The FRP was eluted with binding buffer containing 300 mM imidazole. The elution fraction was dialyzed against 40 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8, at 4 °C for 24 h and concentrated. The purity of the protein was checked by SDS/PAGE and stored at -80 °C.

Size Exclusion Chromatography. Purified short FRP or long FRP was injected into a Superdex 75 HR 10/30 column (Pharmacia) equilibrated with 40 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8, 150 mM NaCl. The Akta FLPC system was equipped with a UV detector at 280 nm and was running at a flow rate of 0.5 mL/min. The gel filtration standards (Biorad and Sigma) included thyroglobulin (670 kDa), bovine γ -globulin (158 kDa), bovine albumin (66 kDa), chicken ovalbumin (45 kDa), carbonic anhydrase (29 kDa), equine myoglobin (17 kDa), and vitamin B₁₂ (1.35 kDa).

1. Lagarde D, Beuf L, Vermaas W (2000) Increased production of zeaxanthin and other pigments by application of genetic engineering techniques to *Synechocystis* sp. strain PCC 6803. *Appl Environ Microbiol* 66:64-72.

2. Wilson A, et al. (2008) A photoactive carotenoid protein acting as light intensity sensor. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 105:12075-12080.

A

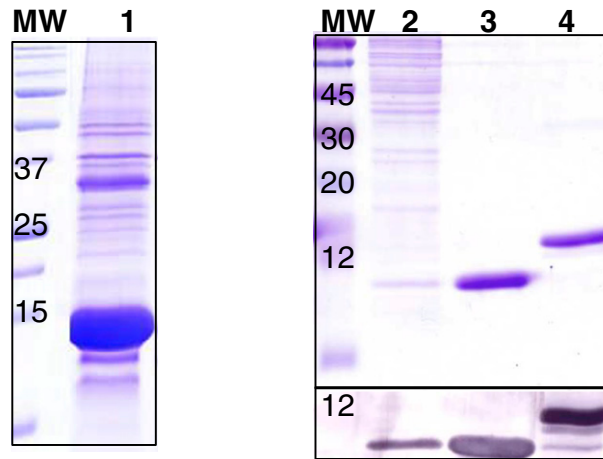


1 26
 MGFSLQSRLTFFIMVMIITNQYHKLMLQTAEPWSQAETQSAHALFRKAYQREL
 DGLLATVQAQASQITQIDDLWKLHDFLSAKRHEIDGKYDDRQSVIIFVFAQLLKE
 GLVQAEELTFLAADKQSKIKALARL

Long FRP: cloning from the first GTG encoding Met1; His-tag (rose square) and thrombin site (blue square) just after Met1

Short FRP : cloning from the fourth ATG encoding Met26; His-tag and thrombin site after Met26

B



C

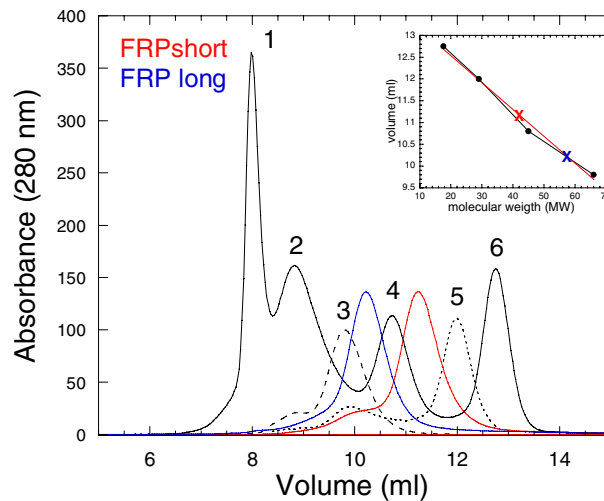


Fig. S4. FRP overexpression in *E. coli* and isolation of long and short FRP. (A) Gene arrangement of the *slr1964* gene in the pET-15b plasmid (Novagene) for overexpression of long (from Met-1) and short (from Met26) FRP. (B) Coomassie blue-stained gel electrophoresis of inclusion bodies containing the long FRP (1), of the supernatant containing the short FRP (2), and of isolated FRP after elution of the Ni column (3 and 4). Short FRP isolated from the soluble fraction (3), long FRP isolated from the inclusion bodies after solubilization with LiDS and renaturation (4). This partial purified long FRP was used to produce antibodies.

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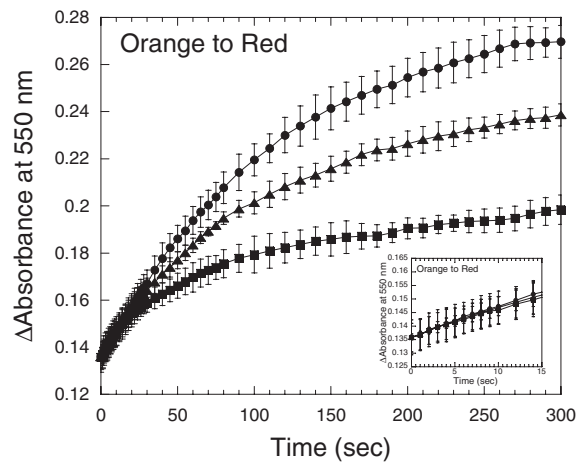


Fig. 57. The presence of FRP did not affect the initial rate of OCP^r accumulation. Light photoconversion of OCP^o to OCP^r (2.3 μ M) (increase of the absorbance at 550 nm) in the absence (circle) or in the presence of 2.3 μ M FRP (square) or 1.15 μ M FRP (triangle) at 18 $^{\circ}$ C. The curves in the presence of FRP are the average of three independent experiments. The control (OCP without FRP) was done three times in the presence of 0.2 mg/mL soluble *E. coli* proteins and three times in the absence of these proteins. The control curves shown in Fig. 57 and Fig. 5D are an average of these six experiments. (Inset) First 15 s of illumination. Whereas FRP did not affect the initial rates of the photoconversion, the steady-state concentration of OCP^r depended on the concentration of FRP as it accelerated the OCP^r-to-OCP^o conversion (Fig. 5D).

Table S1. Genes coding for Slr1964 homologues in cyanobacteria and identity of these proteins to the Slr1964 protein from *Synechocystis*

Strain	Gene name	Identity, %	Upstream <i>slr1963</i>
<i>Synechocystis</i> PCC 6803	Slr1964	100	Yes
<i>Lyngbya</i> sp. PCC 8106	L8106_29205	52	Yes
<i>Microcystis aeruginosa</i> NIES-843	MAE_18920	52	Yes
<i>Microcystis aeruginosa</i> PCC 7806	IPF_5685	52	Yes
<i>Anabaena</i> sp. PCC 7120	all3148	50	Yes
<i>Anabaena variabilis</i> ATCC 29413	Ava_3842	49	Yes
<i>Synechococcus</i> sp. PCC 7335	S7335_121	45	Yes
	S7335_1726	44	
<i>Cyanothece</i> sp. PCC 7424	PCC7424_4468	50	Yes
<i>Microcoleus chthonoplastes</i> PCC 7420	MC7420_3635	50	Yes
<i>Arthrospira maxima</i> CS-328	AmaxDRAFT_3432	48	Yes
<i>Cyanothece</i> sp. CCY 0110	CY0110_09682	42	Yes
<i>Synechococcus</i> PCC 7002	SYNPCC7002_A2808	44	Yes +K ³
<i>Cyanothece</i> ATCC 51142	cce_1648	42	Yes
<i>Synechococcus</i> sp. WH 5701	WH5701_04000	42	Yes +K
<i>Cyanobium</i> sp. PCC 7001	CPCC7001_233	38	Yes +K
<i>Synechococcus</i> sp. RS9917	RS9917_00682	35	Yes +K
<i>Synechococcus</i> sp. CC9902	Syncc9902_0971	34	Yes +K
<i>Synechococcus</i> sp. CC9311	sync_1805	32	Yes +K
<i>Synechococcus</i> sp. BL107	BL107_14115	33	Yes +K
<i>Synechococcus</i> sp. WH8102	SYNW1369	32	Yes +K
<i>Synechococcus</i> sp. WH7805	WH7805_01192	31	Yes +K
<i>Synechococcus</i> sp. WH7803	SynWH7803_0927	31	Yes +K
<i>Synechococcus</i> sp. RCC307	SynRCC307_1994	26	Yes +K

The ranking of the strains (from the closest homologue of *Synechocystis slr1964*) has been performed by the program NCBI BLASTP 2.2.16 (March 25, 2007). +K, gene coding for a β -carotene ketolase is found between the *slr1963* and *slr1964* homologue genes.

Table S2. Primers used for RT-PCR and DNA amplification in Fig. 3

Name	Sequence 5'-3'
CarF	AAT TTT CCC TAA CAC CCT AGC
CarR	AGT AAT TCT TTG GGG GAA GCA
64F	TTG CAG AGC AGG CTC ACT TTT
64R	TTT AGA TTG CTT ATC GGC GGC
64-33R	AAA AGT GAG CCT GCT CTG CA
64-232R	GGA GTT TCC AAA GAT CAT CG
64-394R	CCA GGG CCT TAA TTT TAG ATT GC
64-136F	TTC CGT AAG GCC TAC CAA AGA
63-612F	CCT CAA TGC CAA TGA CTT C
63-744R	CAG GTT TTG GCA CTC TTC
63-334F	CGT TTA GGC GAA CTG ATG

The primers used to construct cDNA were 64-394R (lanes 1 and 4), CarR (lane 2), 63-744R (lane 3), 64-33R (lanes 5 and 6), 64-232R (lane 7) and 64-394R (lane 8). The primers used for PCR amplification on cDNA were 64-394R/64F (1), CarR/CarF (2), 63-744R/63-334 (3), 64-394R/64-136 (4), 64-33R/63-612F (5 and 6), 64-232R/63-612F (7) and 64-394R/63-612F (8).