Structural basis for molecular assembly of fucoxanthin chlorophyll *a*/*c*-binding proteins in a

diatom photosystem I supercomplex

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Abstract

Photosynthetic organisms display considerable diversity in light-harvesting complexes (LHCs).

LHCs are attached to photosystem I (PSI), contributing to the formation of the PSI-LHCI

supercomplex. The number of LHCIs and their protein and pigment compositions have been found

to differ greatly among the PSI-LHCI structures. However, it remains unclear how LHCIs recognize

their specific binding sites in the PSI core. In this study, we elucidated the cryo-electron

microscopic structure of a PSI supercomplex incorporating fucoxanthin chlorophyll *a*/*c*-binding

proteins (FCPs), designated as PSI-FCPI, isolated from the diatom *Thalassiosira pseudonana*

CCMP1335. The structural analysis of PSI-FCPI revealed a composition of five FCPI subunits

associated with a PSI monomer, specifically identified as RedCAP, Lhcr3, Lhcq10, Lhcf10, and

Lhcq8. Through structural and sequence analyses, we identified distinct protein-protein interactions

at the interfaces between FCPI and PSI subunits, as well as among FCPI subunits themselves.

Comparative structural analyses of PSI-FCPI supercomplexes and phylogenetic analysis of FCPs

across *T. pseudonana* and the diatom *Chaetoceros gracilis* highlight the evolutionary conservation

of protein motifs crucial for the selective binding of individual FCPI subunits. These findings

significantly advance our understanding of the molecular mechanisms governing the assembly and

selective binding of FCPIs in diatoms.

Introduction

Oxygenic photosynthesis in cyanobacteria, algae, and land plants converts solar energy into chemical energy concomitant with the evolution of oxygen molecules (1). The light-energy conversion reactions occur within two multi-subunit membrane protein complexes known as photosystem I and photosystem II (PSI and PSII, respectively), which perform light harvesting, charge separation, and electron transfer reactions (2-5). To harvest light energy efficiently, a number of light-harvesting antenna subunits are attached to the periphery of PSI and PSII core complexes and transfer excitation energy to the two types of photosystem cores (1). Light-harvesting antennae have a wide variety among photosynthetic organisms in relation to protein sequences and pigment compositions and can be categorized into two major groups: membrane proteins and water-soluble proteins (1).

The membrane protein category is composed mainly by the light-harvesting complex (LHC) protein superfamily (6, 7), which absorbs light energy using chlorophylls (Chls) and carotenoids (Cars). The number and types of Chls and Cars are highly diversified among LHCs, resulting in color variations in photosynthetic organisms, which can be classified into green and red lineages (8). The green lineage organisms include green algae and land plants, whereas the red lineage organisms include red algae, diatoms, haptophytes, cryptophytes, and dinoflagellates (8). LHCs that are specific to PSI (LHCIs) interact with a eukaryotic PSI monomer, thereby forming a PSI-LHCI supercomplex (9, 10), whose structures have been revealed by cryo-electron microscopy (cryo-EM) in a number of eukaryotes (9, 10). In the red lineage, the number of LHCIs and their protein and pigment compositions have been found to differ greatly among the PSI-LHCI structures of red algae (11-14), a diatom (15, 16), a cryptophyte (17), and dinoflagellates (18, 19).

We have recently shown the conservation and diversity of LHCIs among red-lineage algae based on structural and phylogenetic analyses of PSI-LHCI supercomplexes (14). This work clearly showed that the binding sites of LHCIs to PSI were conserved to some extent among red-lineage algae but their evolutionary relationship was poor. It is known that LHCIs have similar protein structures, especially their three-transmembrane helices, among photosynthetic organisms

irrespective of the green and red lineages (9, 10); nevertheless, individual LHCIs have changed their

sequences and structures to adapt their binding sites to the PSI cores during assembly of the

PSI-LHCI supercomplexes. These observations raise a critical question as to how LHCIs recognize

their binding sites in the PSI core.

Diatoms are one of the most important phytoplankton in aquatic environments and

contribute to the primary production in the ocean remarkably (20). Diatoms have unique LHCs

called fucoxanthin Chl *a*/*c*-binding proteins (FCPs), whose pigment compositions and amino acid

sequences are different from those of LHCs in land plants (21-23). Isolation and characterization of

PSI-FCPI supercomplexes isolated from the diatom *Chaetoceros gracilis* and their structures have

been reported (15, 16, 24-29). Kumazawa et al. showed the high diversity of FCPs between two

types of diatoms, *C. gracilis* and *Thalassiosira pseudonana* (30). *C. gracilis* and *T. pseudonana*

have 46 and 44 FCPs, respectively, which were categorized into multiple, closely related subgroups

(30), and the amino acid sequences of FCPs are not completely identical between the two diatoms.

Therefore, comparing FCPIs including their amino acid residues and protein structures at similar

binding sites in PSI-FCPIs between the two diatoms may lead to molecular insights into how FCPIs

are bound to PSI. However, an overall structure of the *T. pseudonana* PSI-FCPI has not been solved

yet.

In this study, we solved a PSI-FCPI structure of *T. pseudonana* CCMP1335 at a resolution

of 2.30 Å by cryo-EM single-particle analysis. The structure shows a PSI-monomer core and five

FCPI subunits. Structural and sequence comparisons exhibit unique protein-protein interactions of

each FCPI subunit with PSI. Based on these findings, we discuss the molecular assembly and

selective binding mechanisms of FCPI subunits in diatom species.

Results and discussion

Overall structure of the *T. pseudonana* PSI-FCPI supercomplex

The PSI-FCPI supercomplexes were purified from the diatom *T. pseudonana* CCMP1335 as

described in the Methods section. Biochemical and spectroscopic analyses showed that this

complex is intact with several bands corresponding to FCPI (Fig. S1). Cryo-EM images of the

PSI-FCPI supercomplex were obtained by a JEOL CRYO ARM 300 electron microscope operated

at 300 kV. The final cryo-EM map was determined at a resolution of 2.30 Å with a C1 symmetry

(Fig. S2, S3, Table S1), based on the "gold standard" Fourier shell correlation (FSC) = 0.143

criterion (Fig. S3A).

The atomic model of PSI-FCPI was built based on the resultant cryo-EM map (see

Methods; Fig. S3, Table S1–S3). The structure reveals a monomeric PSI core associated with five

FCPI subunits (Fig. 1A, B). The five FCPI subunits were named FCPI-1 to 5 (Fig. 1A) following

the naming of LHCI subunits in the PSI-LHCI structure of *Cyanidium caldarium* RK-1

(NIES-2137) (14); in particular, the sites of FCPI-1 and FCPI-2 in the *T. pseudonana* PSI-FCPI

structure (Fig. 1A) corresponded to those of LHCI-1 and LHCI-2 in the *C. caldarium* PSI-LHCI

structure. The PSI core contains 94 Chls *a*, 18 β-carotenes (BCRs), 1 zeaxanthin (ZXT), 3 [4Fe-4S]

clusters, 2 phylloquinones, and 6 lipid molecules, whereas the five FCPI subunits contain 45 Chls *a*,

7 Chls *c*, 2 BCRs, 15 fucoxanthins (Fxs), 7 diadinoxanthins (Ddxs), and 3 lipid molecules (Table

S3).

Structure of the *T. pseudonana* PSI core

The PSI core contains 12 subunits, 11 of which are identified as PsaA, PsaB, PsaC, PsaD, PsaE,

PsaF, PsaI, PsaJ, PsaL, PsaM, and Psa29 (Fig. 1B), whereas the remaining one could not be

assigned and was modeled as polyalanines because of insufficient map resolution for identification

of this protein (Fig. S4A). The unidentified subunit was named Unknown, which is located at the

same site as Psa28 in the *C. gracilis* PSI-FCPI (15). The protein structure of Unknown is virtually

identical to that of Psa28 in the *C. gracilis* PSI-FCPI (Fig. S4B). Psa28 is a novel subunit found in

the *C. gracilis* PSI-FCPI structure (15), and its name follows the nomenclature as suggested

previously (31). It is known that the genes encoding various PSI proteins have been designated as

psaA, *psaB*, etc. PsaZ has been identified in PSI of *Gloeobacter violaceus* PCC 7421 (32, 33). After

psaZ, the newly identified genes should be named *psa27*, *psa28*, etc., and the corresponding

proteins are called Psa27, Psa28, etc. Psa27 has been identified in PSI of *Acaryochloris marina*

MBIC11017 (34-36). Thus, we named the novel subunit as Psa28 (15). In contrast, Psa28 was also

named PsaR in the PSI-FCPI structure of *C. gracilis* (16) and the structure of a PSI supercomplex

containing alloxanthin Chl *a*/*c*-binding protein (PSI-APCI) from *Chroomonas placoidea* (17).

Psa29 is newly identified in the *T. pseudonana* PSI-FCPI structure using ModelAngelo

(37) and the NCBI database (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/) (Fig. 2). The subunit corresponding to

Psa29 was found in the *C. gracilis* PSI-FCPI structures (15, 16), which was modeled as

polyalanines and named as either Unknown1 (15) or PsaS (16), respectively. Psa29 shows a unique

structure distinct from the other PSI subunits in the *T. pseudonana* PSI-FCPI (Fig. 2A), and engages

in multiple interactions with PsaB, PsaC, PsaD, and PsaL at distances of 2.5–3.2 Å (Fig. 2B–G).

Based on sequence analyses, Psa29 can exhibit evolutionary divergence between Bacillariophyceae

(diatoms) and Bolidophyceae, the latter of which is a sister group of diatoms within Stramenopiles

(Fig. 2H); however, it was not found from other organisms. The arrangement of each PSI subunit in

the *T. pseudonana* PSI-FCPI is virtually identical to that in the *C. gracilis* PSI-FCPI structures

already reported (15, 16).

The number and arrangement of Chls and Cars within the PSI core in the *T. pseudonana*

PSI-FCPI structure (Fig. S4C, D) are largely similar to those in the *C. gracilis* PSI-FCPI structure

(15). However, Chl a102 of PsaI was found in the *T. pseudonana* PSI-FCPI structure but not in the

C. gracilis PSI-FCPI structure (15), whereas a845 of PsaA and BCR863 of PsaB were identified in

the *C. gracilis* PSI-FCPI structure (15) but not in the *T. pseudonana* PSI-FCPI structure. One of the

Car molecules in PsaJ was identified as ZXT103 in the *T. pseudonana* PSI-FCPI structure but it is

BCR112 in the *C. gracilis* PSI-FCPI structure (15).

Structure of the *T. pseudonana* FCPIs

143   Kumazawa et al. classified 44 *Lhc* genes in *T. pseudonana* with their characteristic names of *Lhcf*,

144   *Lhcq*, *Lhcr*, *Lhcx*, and *Lhcz* (30). Based on this report, the five FCPI subunits in the PSI-FCPI

145   structure were identified using five genes, namely, *RedCAP*, *Lhcr3*, *Lhcq10*, *Lhcf10*, and *Lhcq8*, at

the sites of FCPI-1 to 5, respectively (Fig. 1A). It should be noted that RedCAP is not included in

the 44 *Lhc* genes (30) but grouped into the LHC protein superfamily (6, 7). For the assignments of

each FCPI subunit, we focused on characteristic amino acid residues based on their cryo-EM map,

especially S61/V62/Q63 in FCPI-1; A70/R71/W72 in FCPI-2; Y64/R65/E66 in FCPI-3;

M63/R64/Y65 in FCPI-4; and A62/R63/R64 in FCPI-5 (Fig. S5). The root mean square deviations

(RMSDs) of the structures between FCPI-4 and the other four FCPIs range from 1.91 to 3.73 Å

(Table S4).

Each FCPI subunit binds several Chl and Car molecules, namely, 7 Chls *a*/1 Chl *c*/2 Fxs/3

Ddxs/2 BCRs in FCPI-1; 10 Chls *a*/1 Chl *c*/3 Fxs/1 Ddx in FCPI-2; 7 Chls *a*/3 Chls *c*/2 Fxs/2 Ddxs

in FCPI-3; 11 Chls *a*/2 Chls *c*/4 Fxs in FCPI-4; and 10 Chls *a*/4 Fxs/1 Ddx in FCPI-5 (Fig. S6,

Table S3). The axial ligands of the central Mg atoms of Chls within each FCPI are provided mainly

by the main and side chains of amino acid residues (Table S5). Possible excitation-energy-transfer

pathways can be proposed based on close physical interactions among Chls between FCPI-3 and

PsaA, between FCPI-3 and PsaL, between FCPI-1 and PsaI, and between FCPI-2 and PsaB (Fig.

S7).

Structural characteristics of RedCAP and its evolutionary implications

Among the FCPI subunits, only FCPI-1 has BCRs in addition to Fxs and Ddxs (Fig. S6A). This is a

first report for the binding of BCRs to FCPIs in diatoms. FCPI-1 is a RedCAP, which belongs to the

LHC protein superfamily but is distinct from the LHC protein family (6, 7). FCPI-1 is located near

PsaB, PsaI, and PsaL through protein-protein interactions with these subunits at the stromal and

lumenal sides (Fig. 3A). I138 and S139 of FCPI-1 interact with K121, G122, and F125 of PsaL at

the stromal side (Fig. 3B), whereas at the lumenal side, multiple interactions are found between

I109 of FCPI-1 and F5 of PsaI, between T105/L106/T108 of FCPI-1 and W92/P94/F96 of PsaB,

and between E102/W103 of FCPI-1 and S71/I73 of PsaL (Fig. 3C). The protein-protein interactions

at the lumenal side (Fig. 3C) appear to be caused by a loop structure of FCPI-1 from Q96 to T116

(pink in Fig. 3D), which is characteristic of FCPI-1 but not present in other four FCPI subunits

(pink in Fig. 3E). This loop structure is inserted into a cavity formed by PsaB, PsaI, and PsaL (Fig.

3C, D). These findings indicate that the Q96–T116 loop recognizes the cavity for its binding at the

specific FCPI-1 site.

RedCAP of *C. gracilis* (CgRedCAP) was not identified in the *C. gracilis* PSI-FCPI

structures (15, 16). As discussed previously (14), we identified CgRedCAP by sequence analysis

and suggested the binding of CgRedCAP to the *C. gracilis* PSI core at the site similar to LHCI-1 of

the red alga *C. caldarium* PSI-LHCI, whose site corresponds to the FCPI-1 site in the PSI-FCPI of

T. pseudonana in this study. A sequence alignment between RedCAP of *T. pseudonana*

(TpRedCAP) and CgRedCAP is shown in Fig. S8A, which shows that CgRedCAP has a sequence

similarity of 72% to TpRedCAP and has a protein motif of Q106–I113 (QWGTLATI)

corresponding to E102–I109 (EWGTLATI) of TpRedCAP (Fig. 3C). This suggests the possible

binding of CgRedCAP to PSI of *C. gracilis* at the position similar to FCPI-1 in the *T. pseudonana*

PSI-FCPI structure. However, it is unknown (i) whether CgRedCAP is indeed bound to the *C.*

gracilis PSI-FCPI supercomplex and (ii) if a loop structure corresponding the Q96–T116 loop of

TpRedCAP exists in CgRedCAP. Further structural study of the *C. gracilis* PSI-FCPI will pave the

way for elucidating the mechanism of molecular assembly of diatom RedCAPs.

RedCAPs have been found in the structures of PSI-LHCI of the red alga *Porphyridium*

purpureum (13) and a PSI supercomplex with alloxanthin Chl *a/c*-binding proteins (PSI-ACPI) of

the cryptophyte *Chroomonas placoidea* (17), which have been summarized in our previous study

(14). Both of the RedCAPs of *P. purpureum* (PpRedCAP) and *C. placoidea* (CpRedCAP) display

loop structures similar to the Q96–T116 loop in TpRedCAP found in the present study (Fig. 8B).

Multiple sequence alignments of TpRedCAP with PpRedCAP and CpRedCAP are shown in Fig.

8C. PpRedCAP and CpRedCAP show sequence similarities of 39% and 60%, respectively, to

TpRedCAP. PpRedCAP has a protein motif of V105–L112 (VWGPLAQL), while CpRedCAP has

a protein motif of Q117–A124 (QWGPLASA). These two motifs correspond to E102–I109

(EWGTLATI) of TpRedCAP; however, the conservation of sequences is lower between

TpRedCAP and PpRedCAP/CpRedCAP than between TpRedCAP and CgRedCAP. Among the

four RedCAPs, the four amino acids of Trp, Gly, Leu, and Ala are conserved in the protein motifs

(xWGxLAxx), implying that the characteristic loop structure including the conserved protein motifs

(xWGxLAxx) contributes to the binding of RedCAP to PSI among the red-lineage algae.

Protein-protein interactions of other FCPI subunits

FCPI-2 (Lhcr3) is located near PsaB and PsaM through protein-protein interactions with these

subunits at distances of 3.0–4.3 Å at the stromal and lumenal sides (Fig. 4). The amino acid residues

of I63/T65/D66/Y69/W134/Y138/D140 in FCPI-2 are associated with

W153/L154/K159/F160/W166 in PsaB at the stromal side (Fig. 4B), whereas F116 and F120 of

FCPI-2 interact with F5/I9/M12 of PsaM at the lumenal side (Fig. 4C). The amino acid sequences

of I63–Y69, F116–F120, and W134–D140 in Lhcr3 are not conserved in the Lhcr subfamily

comprising of Lhcr1, Lhcr4, Lhcr7, Lhcr11, Lhcr12, Lhcr14, Lhcr17, Lhcr18, Lhcr19, and Lhcr20

according to Kumazawa et al. (30) (Fig. S9).

FCPI-3 (Lhcq10) is located near PsaL through protein-protein interactions with it at

distances of 2.3–4.2 Å at the stromal side (Fig. 5A, B). The amino acid residues of

L126/I130/L142/Y146/W147/V148/W155 in FCPI-3 are associated with F4/K6/P20/S25/L26/L30

in PsaL (Fig. 5B). Because TpLhcq10 is homologous to CgLhcr9 (30), we compared the amino acid

sequence of Lhcq10 with the Lhcq and Lhcr subfamilies in *T. pseudonana* (Fig. S10A, B). It was

shown that the amino acid sequence of L126–W155 in Lhcq10 is not conserved in the Lhcq

subfamily consisting of Lhcq1, Lhcq2, Lhcq3, Lhcq4, Lhcq5, Lhcq6, Lhcq7, Lhcq8, and Lhcq9

(Fig. S10A), as well as in the Lhcr subfamily consisting of Lhcr1, Lhcr3, Lhcr4, Lhcr7, Lhcr11,

Lhcr12, Lhcr14, Lhcr17, Lhcr18, Lhcr19, and Lhcr20 according to Kumazawa et al. (30) (Fig.

S10B).

FCPI-4 (Lhcf10) is located near FCPI-5 through protein-protein interactions with it at

distances of 2.6–3.6 Å at the lumenal side (Fig. 5A, C). The amino acid residues of

Y196/P198/F199 in FCPI-4 interact with F82/F86/G87 in FCPI-5 (Fig. 5C). The amino acid

sequence of Y196–F199 in Lhcf10 is not conserved in the Lhcf subfamily comprising of Lhcf1,

Lhcf2, Lhcf3, Lhcf4, Lhcf5, Lhcf6, Lhcf7, Lhcf8, Lhcf9, Lhcf11, and Lhcf12 according to

Kumazawa et al. (30) (Fig. S11).

FCPI-5 (Lhcq8) is located near PsaL and FCPI-4 through protein-protein interactions with

them at distances of 2.6–4.1 Å at the stromal and lumenal sides (Fig. 5A, C, D). The amino acid

residues of P108/Q109/A112/I115 in FCPI-5 are associated with F134/I137/S141 in PsaL at the

lumenal side (Fig. 5D). The interactions of FCPI-5 with FCPI-4 are shown in Fig. 5C. The amino

acid sequences of F82–G87 and P107–I115 in Lhcq8 are not conserved in the Lhcq subfamily

consisting of Lhcq1, Lhcq2, Lhcq3, Lhcq4, Lhcq5, Lhcq6, Lhcq7, Lhcq9, and Lhcq10 according to

Kumazawa et al.(30) (Fig. S12A, B).

Molecular insights into the assembly of FCPIs in diatom PSI-FCPI supercomplexes

To evaluate the molecular assembly of FCPI subunits in the *T. pseudonana* PSI-FCPI structure, we

focused on both protein-protein interactions based on their close distances (Fig. 3–5) and amino

acid residues of non-conserved region among 44 FCPs (Fig. S9–S12). This is because selective

associations of FCPIs with PSI require specific amino acid residues of each FCPI. The

protein-protein interactions among FCPI subunits and between FCPI and PSI subunits exist at the

stromal and lumenal sides (Fig. 3–5) and appear to be recognized by unique amino acid residues of

FCPIs, which are not conserved in each LHC subfamily (Fig. S9–S12). Thus, the binding and

assembly of each FCPI subunit to PSI is likely determined based on amino acid sequences among

44 FCPs in *T. pseudonana*, especially in their loop regions.

The diatom *C. gracilis* has shown two different PSI-FCPI structures, one with 16 FCPI

subunits (15) and the other with 24 FCPI subunits (16). This is because of alterations of antenna

sizes of FCPIs in the *C. gracilis* PSI-FCPI supercomplexes in response to growth conditions,

especially CO_2 concentrations and temperatures (38). The *C. gracilis* PSI-FCPI structure has five

FCPI subunits at the same binding sites of FCPI-1 to 5 in the *T. pseudonana* PSI-FCPI structure

(Fig. 6A). A relationship of the *Lhc* genes encoding FCPs and RedCAP with the binding positions

of FCPI-1 to 5 in *T. pseudonana* and *C. gracilis* is summarized in Fig. 6B. It should be noted that

the gene names of the *C. gracilis* FCPIs are based on Kumazawa et al. (30) as discussed in our

recent study (14).

Phylogenetic analysis clearly showed that at the sites of FCPI-1, 2, 3, and 5 in the *T.*

pseudonana PSI-FCPI structure, TpRedCAP, TpLhcr3, TpLhcq10, and TpLhcq8 are orthologous to

CgRedCAP, CgLhcr1, CgLhcr9, and CgLhcq12, respectively (Fig. 6C). The characteristic protein

loops of TpRedCAP and CpRedCAP appear to be involved in interactions with PSI at the FCPI-1

site, as described above (Fig. S8) At the FCPI-2 site, comparative analyses revealed that the amino

acid residues facilitating interactions between TpLhcr3 and TpPsaB/TpPsaM closely parallel those

observed in the CgLhcr1-CgPsaB and CgLhcr1-CgPsaM pairs (Fig. S13). Similarly, a high degree

of similarity characterized the residues involved in the interaction pairs of

TpLhcq10-TpPsaL/CgLhcr9-CgPsaL   at   the   FCPI-3   site   (Fig.   S14A,   B)   and

TpLhcq8-TpPsaL/CgLhcq12-CgPsaL at the FCPI-5 site (Fig. S14C, D). However, TpLhcf10 was

not homologous to CgLhcf3 (Fig. 6C), both of which are located at the FCPI-4 site in each

PSI-FCPI structure (Fig. 6A). Thus, the two diatoms appear to possess both a conserved mechanism

of protein-protein interactions across characteristic protein motifs between FCPI and PSI subunits

and a different interaction mechanism among FCPIs.

It is of note that the PSI-FCPI structure of *C. gracilis* binds much more FCPI subunits than

that of *T. pseudonana*, namely, 16 or 24 subunits in *C. gracilis* found in the previous studies (15,

16) vs. 5 subunits in *T. pseudonana* found in the present study. We do not know the reason for this

difference at present. It is possible that some of the FCPI subunits are released during detergent

solubilization in *T. pseudonana*, but they are reserved in *C. gracilis*. Alternatively, it is also possible

that the number of FCPI subunits is inherently less than that of *C. gracilis* probably due to the

differences in their living environments. Further studies will clarify this question.

Extension to molecular assembly of PSI-LHCI supercomplexes

The mechanisms of protein-protein interactions for diatom PSI-FCPI supercomplexes are likely

developed by specific bindings of FCPs selected from 44 TpFCPs and 46 CgFCPs in addition to

RedCAPs. Like a lock-and-key mechanism, one FCP cannot be substituted by the other FCPs to

form the PSI-FCPI supercomplexes in the two diatoms, e.g., TpLhcq10 cannot bind at the FCPI-2

site. The selective binding mechanism of FCPIs may dictate the fate of the molecular assembly of

PSI-FCPI. It is important to note that the selective bindings of FCPIs are found for the first time by

comparing structures of PSI-FCPI supercomplexes and amino acid sequences of FCPIs in the two

diatom species. This approach can be extended to the LHC protein superfamily in the green and red

lineages, so that comparing protein structures and sequences of PSI-LHCI supercomplexes among

closely related species lays the foundation for elucidating the general mechanism of molecular

assembly of PSI-LHCI supercomplexes. Thus, this study will shed light on answering the

evolutionary question as to how LHCIs recognize their binding sites to PSI in photosynthetic

organisms.

Methods

Cell growth and preparation of thylakoid membranes

The marine centric diatom, *T. pseudonana* CCMP1335, was grown in artificial seawater containing

sodium metasilicate and KW21 (39) at 20 °C at a photosynthetic photon flux density of 30 μmol

photons m^{-2} s^{-1} provided by white LED with bubbling of air containing 3% (v/v) CO_2. The cells

were harvested by centrifugation, and then disrupted by agitation with glass beads (40), followed by

centrifugation to pellet the thylakoid membranes. The thylakoid membranes thus prepared were

suspended with a 50 mM Mes-NaOH (pH 6.5) buffer containing 1 M betaine and 1 mM EDTA.

Purification of the PSI-FCPI supercomplex

Thylakoid membranes were solubilized with 1% (w/v) *n*-dodecyl-*β*-D-maltoside (*β*-DDM) at a Chl

concentration of 0.5 mg mL^{-1} for 20 min on ice in the dark with gentle stirring. After centrifugation

at 162,000 × g for 20 min at 4°C, the resultant supernatant was loaded onto a Q-Sepharose

anion-exchange column (1.6 cm of inner diameter and 25 cm of length) equilibrated with a 20 mM

MES-NaOH (pH 6.5) buffer containing 0.2 M trehalose, 5 mM $CaCl_2$, and 10 mM $MgCl_2$, and

0.03% β-DDM (buffer A). The column was washed with buffer A until the eluate became colorless.

Elution was performed at a flow rate of 1.0 mL min^{-1} using a linear gradient of buffer A and buffer

B (buffer A plus 500 mM NaCl): 0–600 min, 0–60% buffer B; 600–800 min, 60–100% buffer B;

800–900 min, 100% buffer B. The fraction enriched in PSI-FCPI was eluted at 194–247 mM NaCl,

which was collected and loaded onto a linear gradient containing 10–40% (w/v) trehalose in a

medium of 20 mM MES-NaOH (pH 6.5), 5 mM $CaCl_2$, 10 mM $MgCl_2$, 100 mM NaCl, and 0.03%

β-DDM. After centrifugation at 154,000 × g for 18 h at 4°C (P40ST rotor; Hitachi), a green fraction

(Fig. S1A) was collected and concentrated using a 150 kDa cut-off filter (Apollo; Orbital

Biosciences) at 4,000 × g. The concentrated samples were stored in liquid nitrogen until use.

Biochemical and spectroscopic analyses of the PSI-FCPI supercomplex

The polypeptide bands of PSI-FCPI were analyzed by SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis

(PAGE) containing 16% (w/v) acrylamide and 7.5 M urea according to Ikeuchi and Inoue (41) (Fig.

S1B). The PSI-FCPI supercomplexes (4 µg of Chl) were solubilized by 3% lithium lauryl sulfate

and 75 mM dithiothreitol for 10 min at 60°C, and loaded onto the gel. A standard molecular weight

marker (SP-0110; APRO Science) was used. The absorption spectrum of PSI-FCPI was measured at

room temperature using a UV-Vis spectrophotometer (UV-2450; Shimadzu) (Fig. S1C), and the

fluorescence-emission spectrum of PSI-FCPI was measured at 77 K upon excitation at 430 nm

using a spectrofluorometer (RF-5300PC; Shimadzu) (Fig. S1D). The pigment composition of

PSI-FCPI was analyzed by HPLC according to Nagao et al. (42), and the elution profile was

monitored at 440 nm (Fig. S1E).

Cryo-EM data collection

A 3-µL aliquot of the *T. pseudonana* PSI-FCPI supercomplex (3.0 mg of Chl mL^{-1}) in a 20 mM

MES-NaOH (pH 6.5) buffer containing 0.5 M betaine, 5 mM $CaCl_2$, 10 mM $MgCl_2$, and 0.03%

β-DDM was applied to Quantifoil R1.2/1.3 Cu 300 mesh grids in the chamber of FEI Vitrobot Mark

IV (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Then, the grid was blotted with a filter paper for 4 sec at 4°C under

100% humidity and plunged into liquid ethane cooled by liquid nitrogen. The frozen grid was

transferred into a CRYO ARM 300 electron microscope (JEOL) equipped with a cold-field

emission gun operated at 300 kV. All image stacks were collected from 5×5 holes per stage

adjustment to the central hole and image shifts were applied to the surrounding holes while

maintaining an axial coma-free condition. The images were recorded with an in-column energy

filter with a slit width of 20 eV and at a nominal magnification of $\times$ 60,000 on a direct electron

detector (Gatan K3, AMETEK). The nominal defocus range was −1.8 to −1.2 μm. Physical pixel

size corresponded to 0.752 Å. Each image stack was exposed at a dose rate of 21.46 $e^-Å^{-2}sec^{-1}$ for

2.33 sec in CDS mode with dose-fractionated 50 movie frames. In total 8,950 image stacks were

collected.

Cryo-EM image processing

The resultant movie frames were aligned and summed using MotionCor2 (43) to yield

dose-weighted images. Estimation of the contrast transfer function (CTF) was performed using

CTFFIND4 (44). All of the following processes were performed using RELION-4.0 (45). In total

2,733,572 particles were automatically picked up and used for reference-free 2D classification.

Then, 1,132,721 particles were selected from good 2D classes and subsequently subjected to 3D

classification without any symmetry. An initial model for the first 3D classification was generated

de novo from 2D classification. As shown in Fig. S2C, the final PSI-FCPI structure was

reconstructed from 75,667 particles. The overall resolution of the cryo-EM map was estimated to be

2.30 Å by the gold-standard FSC curve with a cut-off value of 0.143 (Fig. S3A) (46). Local

resolutions were calculated using RELION (Fig. S3C).

Model building and refinement

Two types of the cryo-EM maps were used for the model building of the PSI-FCPI supercomplex:

one was a postprocessed map, and the other was a denoised map using Topaz version 0.2.4 (47).

The postprocessed map was denoised using the trained model in 100 epochs with two half-maps.

Initial models of each subunit in the PSI-FCPI supercomplex were built by ModelAngelo (37), and

then their structures were inspected and manually adjusted against the maps with Coot (48). Each

model was built based on interpretable features from the density maps at a contour level of 2.5 σ in

the denoised and postprocessed maps. For the assignment of Chls, Chls *a* and *c* were distinguished

by inspection of the density map corresponding to the phytol chain with the above thresholds, which

was found to be the least level not to link the map of Chls with that of noise. All Chls *c* were

assigned as Chl *c*1, because of difficulty in distinction between Chl *c*1 and Chl *c*2 at the present

resolution. For the assignment of Cars, Fx and Ddx were distinguished based on the density

covering the head group of carotenoids with the above threshold. The PSI-FCPI structure was

refined with phenix.real_space_refine (49) and Servalcat (50) with geometric restraints for the

protein-cofactor coordination. The final model was validated with MolProbity (51), EMRinger (52),

and *Q*-score (53). The statistics for all data collection and structure refinement are summarized in

Table S1, S2. All structural figures were made by PyMOL (54), UCSF Chimera (55), and UCSF

ChimeraX (56).

Since the numbering of Chls, Cars, and other cofactors in this paper were different from

those of the PDB data, we listed the relationship of their numbering in this paper with those in the

PDB data in Table S6–S8.

Phylogenetic analysis

Amino acid sequences were aligned using MAFFT L-INS-i v7.490 or MAFFT E-INS-i v7.520 (57).

The alignment was trimmed using ClipKit v1.4.1 with smart-gap mode. The phylogenetic tree was

inferred using IQ-TREE 2 (58) with the model selected by ModelFinder (59). The tree was

visualized by iTOL v6 (60). Ultrafast bootstrap approximation was performed with 1000 replicates

(61).

Data availability

Atomic coordinate and cryo-EM maps for the reported structure have been deposited in the Protein

Data Bank under an accession code 8XLS [https://www.rcsb.org/structure/8XLS] and in the

Electron Microscopy Data Bank under an accession code EMD-38457

[https://www.ebi.ac.uk/emdb/EMD-38457].

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Author Contributions

R.N. conceived the project; H.O. and R.N. prepared the PSI-FCPI supercomplexes and analyzed their biochemical characteristics; J.X., M.K., and K.I. performed phylogenetic and sequence analyses; Y.N. collected cryo-EM images; K.K. processed the cryo-EM data and reconstructed the final cryo-EM map; K.K. built the structural model and refined the final model; K.K., Y.N., M.K., K.I., and R.N. drafted the original manuscript; J.-R.S. modified the manuscript; and R.N. wrote the final manuscript, and all authors joined the discussion of the results.

Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Fig. 1 | Overall structure of the PSI-FCPI supercomplex from *T. pseudonana*.
Structures are viewed from the stromal side (left panels) and the direction perpendicular to the
membrane normal (right panels). Only protein structures are shown, and cofactors are omitted for
clarity. The FCPI (**A**) and PSI-core (**B**) subunits are labeled and colored differently. The five FCPI
subunits are labeled as FCPI-1 to 5 (red) with their gene products indicated in parentheses (black) in
panel **A**.

Fig. 2 | Structure and diversity of Psa29.

(**A**) Structure of Psa29 depicted as cartoons. Psa29 was modeled from V47 to L178. (**B**) Cryo-EM map of Psa29 and its surrounded environments viewed from the stromal side. The red squared areas are enlarged in panels **C**–**G**. Yellow, PsaB; cyan, PsaC; blue, PsaD; magenta, PsaL; orange, Psa29. (**C**–**G**) Protein-protein interactions of Psa29 with PsaB/PsaC (**C**), PsaC/PsaD (**D**), PsaB/PsaD (**E**), PsaB/PsaD/PsaL (**F**), and PsaD (**G**). Interactions are indicated by dashed lines, and the numbers are distances in Å. Amino acid residues participating in the interactions are labeled; for example, A71/C means Ala71 of PsaC. B, PsaB; C, PsaC; D, PsaD, L, PsaL; 29, Psa29. (**H**) Phylogenetic analysis of Psa29 in photosynthetic organisms. A maximum-likelihood tree of the Psa29 proteins was inferred by IQ-TREE v2.2.2.7 using WAG+F+G4 model and trimmed alignment of 22 sequences with 245 amino-acid residues. Numbers at nodes are ultrafast bootstrap support (%) (1000 replicates). The tree was mid-point rooted between diatoms and Bolidophyceae Parmales. Psa29 of *T. pseudonana* CCMP1335 is indicated by a red line.

Fig. 3 | Structural characteristics of FCPI-1 (RedCAP).

(**A**) Interactions of FCPI-1 with PsaB, PsaI, and PsaL viewed from the stromal (left) and lumenal

(right) sides. The areas encircled by black squares are enlarged in panels **B**, **C**. Yellow, PsaB;

magenta, PsaI; dark red, PsaL; red, FCPI-1. (**B**, **C**) Protein-protein interactions of FCPI-1 with PsaL

(**B**) and PsaB/PsaI/PsaL (**C**), respectively. Interactions are indicated by dashed lines, and the

numbers are distances in Å. Amino acid residues participating in the interactions are labeled; for

example, S139/1 means Ser139 of FCPI-1. B, PsaB; I, PsaI; L, PsaL; 1, FCPI-1. (**D**) Characteristic

loop structure from Q96 to T116 in FCPI-1 viewed from the lumenal side. Q96 and T116 are
labeled with sticks and the Q96–T116 loop is colored pink. (**E**) Superpositions of FCPI-1 (red) with
FCPI-2 (green), FCPI-3 (blue), FCPI-4 (magenta), and FCPI-5 (orange). Only proteins are depicted.
The Q96–T116 loop of FCPI-1 is colored pink and Q96 and T116 are labeled with sticks.
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Fig. 4 | Structural characteristics of FCPI-2.
(**A**) Interactions of FCPI-2 with PsaB and PsaM viewed from the stromal (left) and lumenal (right)
sides. The areas encircled by black squares are enlarged in panels **B**, **C**. The PSI and FCPI subunits
are colored grey and yellow, respectively. Protein-protein interactions are shown as different colors:
green, FCPI-2; cyan, PsaB; pink, PsaM. (**B**, **C**) Protein-protein interactions of FCPI-2 with PsaB (**B**)
and PsaM (**C**), respectively. Interactions are indicated by dashed lines, and the numbers are
distances in Å. Amino acid residues participating in the interactions are labeled; for example,
Y138/2 means Tyr138 of FCPI-2. B, PsaB; M, PsaM.
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Fig. 5 | Structural characteristics of FCPI-3, 4, and 5.
(**A**) Interactions among FCPIs and between FCPIs and PsaL viewed from the stromal (left) and lumenal (right) sides. The areas encircled by black squares are enlarged in panels **B**–**D**. The PSI and FCPI subunits are colored grey and yellow, respectively. Protein-protein interactions are shown as different colors: blue, FCPI-3; magenta, FCPI-4; orange, FCPI-5; purple, PsaL. (**B**–**D**) Protein-protein interactions between FCPI-3 and PsaL (**B**), between FCPI-4 and FCPI-5 (**C**), and between FCPI-5 and PsaL (**D**), respectively. Interactions are indicated by dashed lines, and the numbers are distances in Å. Amino acid residues participating in the interactions are labeled; for example, L126/3 means Leu126 of FCPI-3. 4, FCPI-4; 5, FCPI-5; L, PsaL.

618   subfamilies and CgLhcr9 homologs. Maroon, RedCAP subfamily; magenta, Lhcq subfamily; red,

619   Lhcz subfamily; orange, Lhcr subfamily; brown, CgLhcr9 homologs; green, Lhcf subfamily; blue,

620   Lhcx subfamily. The FCPs and RedCAPs located at the FCPI-1 to 5 sites are labeled. The tree was

621   inferred by IQ-TREE 2 (58) using the Q.pfam + R4 model selected with ModelFinder (59). The

622   light purple circular symbols on the tree represent bootstrap support (%).