

The UV-A Receptor CRY-DASH1 Up- and Downregulates Proteins Involved in Different Plastidial Pathways

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Abstract

Algae encode up to five different types of cryptochrome photoreceptors. So far, relatively little is known about the biological functions of the DASH (Drosophila, Arabidopsis, Synechocystis and Homo)-type cryptochromes. The green alga Chlamydomonas reinhardtii encodes two of them. CRY-DASH1 also called DCRY1 has its maximal absorption peak in the UV-A range. It is localized in the chloroplast and plays an important role in balancing the photosynthetic machinery. Here, we performed a comparative analysis of chloroplast proteins from wild type and a knockout mutant of CRY-DASH1 named cry-dash1_{mut}, using label-free quantitative proteomics as well as immunoblotting. Our results show upregulation of enzymes involved in specific pathways in the mutant including key enzymes of chlorophyll and carotenoid biosynthesis consistent with increased levels of photosynthetic pigments in cry-dash1_{mut}. There is also an increase in certain redox as well as photosystem I and II proteins, including D1. Strikingly, CRY-DASH1 is coregulated in a D1 deletion mutant, where its amount is increased. In contrast, key proteins of the central carbon metabolism, including glycolysis/gluconeogenesis, dark fermentation and the oxidative pentose phosphate pathway are downregulated in cry-dash1_{mut}. Similarly, enzymes of histidine biosynthesis are downregulated in *cry-dash1*_{mut} leading to a reduction in the amount of free histidine. Yet, transcripts encoding for several of these proteins are at a similar level in the wild type and crydash1_{mut} or even opposite. We show that CRY-DASH1 can bind to RNA, taking the psbA RNA encoding D1 as target. These data suggest that CRY-DASH1 regulates plastidial metabolic pathways at the posttranscriptional level.

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Introduction

Cryptochromes are flavin-binding photoreceptors that can be found in bacteria, fungi, algae and land plants as well as in animals.^{1–3} They mainly absorb in the UV-A and blue light range but can also absorb red light depending on the redox state of the flavin.^{4,5} Although they evolutionary derived from the DNArepair enzyme class of photolyases, only some cryptochromes still possess DNA-repair function.^{6,7} Cryptochromes were first described in the plant *Arabidopsis thaliana* where they regulate development and plant growth.⁸ They are also involved in the circadian clock, functioning either as light sensors of the input pathway such as in *A. thaliana* or being a member of the endogenous oscillator as in mammals.^{9,10} Moreover, cryptochromes are involved in magnetosensing as for example in *A. thaliana* and migrating birds.^{11,12}

Photosynthetic protists, named microalgae, are major contributors to global CO₂ fixation, stand at the base of many food webs and influence biogeochemical processes.^{13–15} Microalgae use light as a source of energy and information. They have a broad variety of photoreceptors including cryptochromes with different properties and functions.^{16,17} In the green model alga Chlamydomonas reinhardtii,^{18,19} four cryptochromes are encoded in the genome: (i) a plant cryptochrome (pCRY) that is degraded by light, is part of the circadian clock machinery and is involved in controlling the sexual cycle,^{20,21} (ii) an animal-like cryptochrome (aCRY) that also controls the sexual cycle, regulates blueand red-light dependent gene expression and has photolyase activity^{4,7,22} and (iii) two Drosophila, Arabidopsis, Synechocystis and Homo (DASH)type cryptochromes,²³ CRY-DASH1 and CRY-DASH2. recently also named DCRY1 and DCRY2.19

The CRY-DASH subfamily of cryptochromes is found from bacteria to vertebrates.²⁵ Some CRY-DASH proteins have DNA-repair activity²⁶⁻²⁸ but CRY-DASHs can be also involved in lightregulated development of fungi and macroalgae.29,30 In C. reinhardtii, the function of CRY-DASH1 has been studied recently.³¹ CRY-DASH1 is encoded in the nucleus and localized in the chloroplast; it has its absorption peak in the UV-A area.³¹ UV-A based growth promotion of the algal cells was found in the wild type but is missing in a CRY-DASH1 knockout mutant called crvdash1_{mut}.³¹ Also in the mutant, a reduced growth phenotype was observed compared to the wild type. Yet the mutant is greener as wild type as it has an increased content of the photosynthetic pigments including chlorophylls and carotenoids. In cry-dash1_{mut}, the chloroplast architecture is altered showing hyper-staking of thylakoid membranes. Some key proteins of photosystem II (PSII) namely D1 and its antenna protein CP43 are upregulated in the mutant while certain light harvesting proteins remain unchanged in their abundance. Taken together, these data led to the hypothesis that CRY-DASH1 balances the photosynthetic machinery by acting as a negative regulator.³¹

Here, we corroborate that the reduced growth of cry-dash1_{mut} is due to shielding effects of the mutant cells towards light. Moreover, we discovered that D1 and CRY-DASH1 are coregulated. We performed comparative label-free proteomics of chloroplast proteins from wild type and cry-dash1_{mut} cells to investigate the variety of chloroplast proteins that are regulated by CRY-DASH1. While several key enzymes of the chlorophyll and carotenoid biosynthesis as well as some photosystem proteins were upregulated in cry-dash1_{mut}, enzymes of the central carbon metabolism as well as of histidine biosynthesis were significantly downregulated resulting in decreased levels of free histidine in the mutant. All

so far examined transcripts encoding the up- and downregulated proteins, respectively, are not altered in the wild type compared to the mutant or even oppositely regulated. We also found that CRY-DASH1 can bind to a selected mRNA. Taken together, our data suggest that CRY-DASH1 functions as posttranscriptional regulator.

Results and Discussion

Isolation and quantification of chloroplast proteins from wild type and cry-dash1_{mut}

The knockout mutant, cry-dash1_{mut} lacks CRY-DASH1 protein as verified in immunoblots (Supplementary Figure 1(A), left part³¹). Here, we performed a label-free quantitative comparison of chloroplast proteins from wild type SAG73.72 and cry-dash1_{mut}. For this purpose, we have grown the cells photoautrophically in minimal medium lacking acetate as carbon source (see Methods). Subcellular chloroplast fractions of both strains were isolated following a published protocol³² that was adapted to the cell wall containing wild type and mutant strain³¹ (see also Methods). We collected the layer with intact chloroplasts at the 45-65% interface of a Percoll gradient (Supplementary Figure 1(B)) for further analysis. The presence of CRY-DASH1 in the wildtype chloroplast fraction was confirmed by immunoblotting (Supplementary Figure 1(A), right part).

For quantitative comparison of the identified proteins from the wild type and the mutant, we had to determine the protein amount from both fractions. For this purpose, the chlorophyll concentration is often used as a standard for protein determination of plastidial proteins.32,33 However, in our study it was not a viable option because cry-dash1_{mut} has higher levels of chlorophylls as mentioned before.³¹ This makes chlorophyll concentration unreliable as a marker for determining the concentration of proteins. Due to the presence of bovine serum albumin (BSA) in the chloroplast isolation buffer, traditional methods for measuring protein concentration were also not reliable in this experiment. As an alternative method for determining the protein concentration, we thus chose to quantify the abundance of the large subunit of RuBisCO (rbcL) by immunoblotting. We found that rbcL is similar abundant in its amount in both the wild-type and cry-dash1_{mut} lines when comparing its content in total protein extracts (Supplementary Figure 1(C)). After quantification (Supplementary Figure 1(D)), an amount equivalent to 75 µg of isolated chloroplast proteins from wild type and cry-dash1_{mut} were separated in a 10% SDSpolyacrylamide-piperazine diacrylamide gel that was sliced into 12 pieces per lane (Supplementary Figure 1(E)). Proteins from each piece were in-gel digested using trypsin. Liquid chromatography electrospray ionization tandem mass spectrometry (LC-ESI-MS/MS) analysis was performed as outlined in Methods. We performed two independent biological replicates. All identified proteins of the two wild type and mutant replicates, along with the number of their unique peptides are shown in Supplementary Tables 1 and 2 (wild type) and Supplementary Tables 3 and 4 (mutant), respectively.

We identified 1325 proteins that were present in both replicates with at least two different peptides of either wild type or mutant. For further analysis, we focused on the 643 proteins from this list that (https://phytozomenext. annotated were jgi.doe.gov/info/CreinhardtiiCC_4532_v6_1) as chloroplast proteins (Supplementary Tables 1-4 (chapter A)); the others were considered as contaminants (Supplementary Tables 1-4(chapter B)). It should be mentioned that chloroplast encoded genes are recognizable by their ID number that starts with "CreCp" in Supplementary Tables 1-4(chapter A) in contrast to nuclear encoded chloroplast proteins that start with "Crexx" whereby xx represent numbers. This also holds true for Tables 1 and 2.

For quantitative comparison, we applied the labelfree quantitative normalized spectral abundance factor (NSAF) procedure, which provides a estimation of the relative reliable protein abundance without the use of isotopic labeling. A NSAF threshold of ≥1.33 was used to identify upregulated proteins, whereas a threshold of <0.75 was used to identify the downregulated proteins.^{34,35} Of the 643 chloroplast proteins, 121 proteins showed differential expression levels in the cry-dash1_{mut} strain compared to wild type (Tables 1 and 2). Hereby, 61 plastidial proteins were downregulated in the mutant (Table 1), and 60 plastidial proteins were upregulated (Table 2). In some cases, we detected a given plastidial protein only in the mutant or in the wild type. These proteins are also included in Tables 1 and 2.

CRY-DASH1 acts as a positive regulator on the central carbon metabolism and the histidine biosynthesis

Strikingly, CRY-DASH1 acts not only as negative regulator as we showed previously³¹ (see also next chapter), causing upregulation of certain pathways when it is missing. Here, we found that CRY-DASH1 can also act as an activator and thus its absence also causes downregulation of some pathways (Table 1). The major affected pathway is the central carbon metabolism,36,37 including the part of glycolysis compartmentalized to the chloroplast in C. reinhardtii (from hexose-phosphate to 3phosphoglycerate), gluconeogenesis, the pentose phosphate pathway and the dark fermentative metabolism. Several enzymes of the first two mentioned pathways are downregulated in cry-dash1_{mut} (Table 1 and Figure 1(A)) like phosphoglucomutase 1 (PGM1), phosphofructokinase (PFK1), glycerol-3phosphate dehydrogenase (GPD4), glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GAPC1) or

fructose1,6-bisphosphate aldolase (FBA2). Enzymes involved in the pentose phosphate pathway such as transaldolase (TAL1) and 6phosphogluconate dehydrogenase (GND1) are also downregulated in *cry-dash1*_{mut} as well as key enzymes playing a role in dark fermentation of *C. reinhardtii.* The latter include pyruvate kinase (PYK1), pyruvate-formate lyase (PFL1) and phosphate acetyltransferase (PAT2) (Table 1 and Figure 1(A)).

In its natural habitat as a soil alga, C. reinhardtii spends significant parts of its life cycle under lightlimiting and hypoxic/anoxic conditions, especially in the evening. Under these conditions, the fermentative metabolism is activated.37,38 During anoxia generated acetyl-CoA may be metabolized to acetate catalyzed by PAT2 (Figure 1(A)). We positively confirmed the decrease of the PAT2 protein by performing immunoblots using commercially available antibodies against PAT2 (Figure 1(B)). Also, the acetyl-CoA synthetase/ligase (ACS3) that is involved in acetate assimilation is downregulated in the mutant. This data highlights that a cryptochrome photoreceptor has an important regulatory role as a positive regulator of the central carbon metabolism of C. reinhardtii.

In contrast to the proteins, the transcript levels of cytoplasmic *PAT2*, *PYK1* and *PFL1* did not show a significant difference in wild type and *cry-dash1*_{mut} (Figure 1(C)). Thus, CRY-DASH1 appears to act at the posttranscriptional, presumable translational level, at least in these three cases.

Certain components, such as enzymes involved amino acid biosynthesis seem to in be differentially regulated (Tables 1 and 2), depending on the type of amino acid. Here, we focused on histidine biosynthesis that seems downregulated in the mutant based on the decreased levels of the involved enzymes N-5phosphoribosyl-ATP transferase (HIS1) and imidazole glycerol phosphate synthase (HIS7) (Table 1, Figure 1(D)). We analyzed whether this regulation is reflected by the amount of free histidine. Indeed, the amount of free histidine is significantly reduced in cry-dash1_{mut} compared to the wild type (Figure 1(E)). We also verified whether this reduction in free histidine in crydash1_{mut} can be complemented using a priorly established complementing line³¹ abbreviated as compl₃₈ that expresses CRY-DASH up to 53%. In compl₃₈, free histidine is significantly enhanced compared to cry-dash1_{mut} while there is no significant difference compared to wild type. These data corroborate that the reduction of free histidine in cry-dash1_{mut} is due to the lack of CRY-DASH1.

Histidine is one of the proteinogenic amino acids. In plants, histidine was found to play an important role in growth and development.³⁹ In angiosperms and green algae, enzymes participating in the biosynthesis of histidine are localized in the chloroplast.⁴⁰ The histidine synthesis pathway starts with

Table 1	Chloroplast	proteins	downregulated i	n <i>cry</i>	-dash1 _{mut}	or only	found ir	n wild ty	ype SA	373.72.

Category		Name	NSAF	
			R 1	R 2
Glycolysis/	Cre02.	Fructose-1, 6-bisphosphate aldolase (FBA2)	0.6	o_wt
Gluconeogenesis	g093450_4532 Cre06.	Phosphofructokinase (PFK1)	0.6	o_wt
	g262900_4532 Cre06.	Phosphoglucomutase 1 (PGM1)	0.5	0.7
	Cre10. 0421700 4532	Glycerol-3-phosphate dehydrogenase/dihydroxyacetone-3-phosphate	0.3	0.6
	Cre12.	Glyceraldehyde 3 phosphate dehydrogenase, chloroplastic (GAPC1)	0.6	o_wt
Dark fermentation	Cre01. q044800 4532	Pyruvate-formate lyase (PFL1)	0.6	0.7
	Cre09. q396650 4532	Phosphate acetyltransferase (PAT2)	0.1	0.4
	Cre12. q533550 4532	Pyruvate kinase 1 (PYK1)	0.3	0.6
Pentose phosphate pathway	Cre01. q032650 4532	Transaldolase (TAL1)	0.4	o_wt
	Cre12. q526800 4532	6-Phosphogluconate dehydrogenase, decarboxylating (GND1)	0.4	0.5
Acetate assimilation	Cre07. q353450_4532	Acetyl-CoA synthetase/ligase (ACS3)	0.2	0.7
Glyoxylate	Cre01. q042750_4532	Aconitate hydratase (ACH1)	0.7	0.5
	Cre03.	Malate synthase (MAS1)	0.4	0.5
Histidine	Cre09.	N-5-phosphoribosyl-ATP transferase (HIS1)	0.7	o_wt
biodynailoolo	Cre11. 0481500 4532	Imidazole glycerol phosphate synthase (HIS7)	0.4	0.7
Nitrate assimilation	Cre01. a007950 4532	Cytochrome P450, CYP55 superfamily, CYP55A family (CYP55B1)	0.6	0.2
	Cre13. q592200 4532	Glutamate synthase, NADH-dependent (GSN1)	o_wt	0.6
	Cre16. q655050_4532	NO-nitrate 1 (NON1)	o_wt	0.6
Ascorbate- gluthatione	Cre02. a142200 4532	Glutathione S-transferase (GST5)	o_wt	0.6
pathway	Cre06. q285150 4532	Ascorbate peroxidase-related (APX2)	o_wt	0.2
	Cre10. q456750 4532	Dehydroascorbate reductase (DAR1)	o_wt	o_wt
Starch metabolism	Cre07. q332300 4532	Alpha-glucan water dikinase 2 (GWD2)	0.7	0.4
	Cre17. a721500 4532	Granule-bound starch synthase IA (GBSS1A)	0.5	0.6
Aromatic amino acid biosynthesis	Cre13. q602350 4532	(1 of 1) K01609 – indole-3-glycerol phosphate synthase (trpC)*	0.6	0.3
	Cre14. q630859 4532	3-Hydroxyisobutyrate dehydrogenase (HID1)	o_wt	o_wt
	Cre17.	3-Deoxy-D-arabino-heptulosonate 7-phosphate synthetase (DHAPS1)	0.6	0.4
	Cre16. q694850_4532	N2-acetyl-L-ornithine:L-glutamate N-acetyltransferase (NAGS1)	0.7	0.5
PS related	Cre07. q328200 4532	PsbP-like protein of thylakoid lumen	0.7	0.3
	Cre10. g430150 4532	Low photosystem II accumulation 1 (LPA1)	0.5	o_wt
	Cre13. g564050_4532	(1 of 1) PTHR37764//PTHR37764:SF1 – family not named //MOG1/PSBP/ DUF1795-like Photosystem II reaction center psbP family protein*	0.7	o_wt

Table 1 (continued)

Category		Name	NSAF	:
			R 1	R 2
Ribosomal proteins	Cre12.	Cytosolic 80S ribosomal protein L18 (RPL18)	0.7	0.6
	CreCp. 0802300 4532	30S Ribosomal protein S18 (rps18)	0.7	0.7
	CreCp. q802303 4532	30S Ribosomal protein S9 (rps9)	0.7	0.6
Protein folding	Cre05. q241650 4532	(1 of 1) K01303 – Acylaminoacyl-peptidase [EC:3.4.19.1] (APEH)*	o_wt	o_wt
	Cre13. q577850 4532	Peptidyl-prolyl cis-trans isomerase, FKBP-type (FKB20)	0.6	0.7
Others	Cre01. g050150_4532	NADH:flavin oxidoreductase/NADH oxidase (NFO1)	0.5	o_wt
	Cre02. g097550_4532	(1 of 1) PTHR12532:SF0 – Transcriptional regulatory protein HAH1-related*	0.6	0.4
	Cre02. g143650_4532	Unknown protein	o_wt	o_wt
	Cre03. g197500_4532	Predicted protein (MOT6)	0.5	0.6
	Cre03. g203850_4532	ATP-sulfurylase (ATS1)	0.5	o_wt
	Cre06. g257000_4532	Sulfate binding protein, component of chloroplast transporter (SULP3)	0.6	0.7
	Cre06. g261750_4532	RuBisCO binding membrane protein 1 (RBMP1)	o_wt	0.6
	Cre06. g311850_4532	Halo-acid dehalogenase-like hydrolase	o_wt	o_wt
	Cre07. g327400_4532	NADH:ubiquinone oxidoreductase ND9 subunit (NUO9)	0.3	0.4
	Cre07. g335200_4532	Putative chloroplast TypA translation elongation GTPase (EFG12)	o_wt	0.6
	Cre08. g372000_4532	Chloroplast ATPase CF1 assembly factor (BAF3)	o_wt	o_wt
	Cre08. g380201_4532	Putative dehydroquinate dehydratase/shikimate:NADP oxidoreductase (SHKD1)	o_wt	0.6
	Cre10. g435300_4532	Aspartyl aminopeptidase-like protein (AAP1)	o_wt	0.5
	Cre11. g467767_4532	NADH:ubiquinone oxidoreductase 18 kDa subunit (NUO13)	0.6	0.6
	Cre12. g486100_4532	Active subunit of the chloroplast ClpP complex (CLPP5)	0.5	0.4
	Cre12. g519900_4532	(1 of 1) 6.3.2.13 – UDP-N-acetylmuramoyl-L-alanyl-D-glutamate-2,6- diaminopimelate ligase /UDP-N-acetylmuramyl-tripeptide synthetase*	0.3	0.4
	Cre12. g534250_4532	Unknown protein	0.6	0.5
	Cre12. g538700_4532	Conserved in the plant lineage and diatoms (CPLD62)	0.6	0.6
	Cre13. g569350_4532	NAD dependent epimerase/dehydratase	o_wt	o_wt
	Cre13. g603176_4532	(1 of 2) PTHR23023:SF4 – flavin-containing monooxygenase*	o_wt	o_wt
	Cre15. g801860_4532	(1 of 17) PF04755 – PAP fibrillin (PAP fibrillin)*	0.6	o_wt
	Cre16. g693500_4532	Hydroxyproline-rich flagellar associated protein 40 (FAP40)	o_wt	0.4
	Cre16. g694400_4532	Trigalactosyldiacylglycerol 2 (TGD2)	0.7	0.5
	Cre17. g698450_4532	(1 of 3) 3.5.4.9 – Methenyltetrahydrofolate cyclohydrolase*	0.6	o_wt
	Cre17.	Thioredoxin-like protein similar to Arabidopsis HCF164 (CCS5)	o_wt	0.4

(continued on next page)

Table 1 (contin	ued)			
Category		Name	NSAF	:
			R 1	R 2
	g702150_4532 Cre17. g739752_4532	Chloroplast-import FtsH-like ATPase (FTSHI1)	o_wt	0.7

Proteins inside the functional groups are sorted by their accession numbers according to Phytozome genome ID: 707 (*Chlamy-domonas reinhardtii* CC-4532 v6.1). Gene symbols are put in parentheses; *, the auto defline is stated for proteins with no description; **NSAF**, normalized spectral abundance factor; **R1**, replicate 1; **R2**, replicate 2; **o_wt**, only found in wild type SAG73.72. CreCp numbers indicate genes that are encoded in the chloroplast, all others are encoded in the nucleus.

the amino acid precursor phosphoribosyl pyrophosphate (PRPP), which derives from the pentose phosphate pathway.⁴¹ Therefore, the downregulation of the pentose phosphate pathway in crydash1_{mut} may have a direct impact on the histidine biosynthesis pathway, resulting in a lower amount of histidine. It is important to note that histidine has been identified as a precursor in the biosynthesis of ovothiols. Ovothiols, which are $5(N\pi)$ methylated thiohistidines, were recently discovered in marine diatoms and have been shown to exhibit potent antioxidant properties.⁴² Consequently, the observed reduction in histidine levels in crydash1_{mut} may increase the vulnerability to oxidative stress. One of the enzymes synthesizing ovothiols (UMM7) was recently found to be localized in the cilium in C. reinhardtii, indicating additional functions.43 Moreover, histidine is an important amino acid in several photoreceptors of C. reinhardtii which belong to the His-kinase rhodopsins.⁴⁴ It remains open if these photoreceptors that can also have quanylate cyclase activity⁴⁵ are affected by CRY-DASH1.

CRY-DASH1 acts as a negative regulator of chlorophyll and carotenoid biosynthesis, of redox components and of some proteins of photosystem I and II

Several enzymes of chlorophyll biosynthesis are upregulated in *cry-dash1*_{mut}, resulting in a dark green phenotype of the mutant (Figure 2(A1) and (A2)). Intriguingly, cell growth is reduced in the mutant.³¹ We found strong evidence that the reduction in growth is caused by shielding effects of the altered cell morphology of cry-dash1_{mut} due to the excess of pigments and hyperstacking³¹. Thus, the light intensity in the middle of the culture is different in wild type and cry-dash1_{mut}. It is significantly reduced at day eight of the photoautotrophic growth in cry-dash1_{mut} compared to wild type, even when the cell number of wild type is significantly higher compared to cry-dash1_{mut} (Figure 2(A1)). Negative effects on the photosynthetic machinery by cell shading have been found before in microalgal cultures.⁴⁶

The process of chlorophyll biosynthesis is complex and comprises around 30 structural genes and transcription factors.^{47,48} The first precursor in chlorophyll biosynthesis pathway is 5aminolevulinic acid. The initial steps of the pathway result in the formation of uroporphyrinogen III, which is the first cyclic tetrapyrrole (Figure 2(A2)). In one of the next steps, coproporphyrinogen III is converted to protoporphyrinogen IX, catalyzed by coproporphyrinogen III oxidase (CPX1), an enzyme that is upregulated in cry-dash1_{mut} (Table 2, Figure 2 (A2)). The final chlorophyll branch starts with the insertion of a Mg²⁺ into protoporphyrin IX.⁴⁹ Two subunits of the Mg-chelatase (CHLH1 and CHLD1) that is catalyzing this step are upregulated. In case of the third subunit CHLI1, an increase in crydash1_{mut} compared to wild type was only seen in one of the two replicates. As anti-CHLI1 antibodies are available, its regulation was verified by immunoblotting in three independent experiments. CHLI1 was confirmed to be upregulated in crydash1_{mut} (Figure 2(B)). Moreover, we analyzed its amount in the complementing line 38, in which the level of CHLI shows no significant difference to wild type (Supplementary Figure 2). In barley, it was shown that the activity of the Mg-chelatase is induced by light *in vivo*.⁵⁰ Furthermore, in *A. thali*ana, light controls the redox state of CHLI in chloroplasts.⁵¹ The last two steps of chlorophyll biosynthesis are catalyzed by POR1 and CHLG1 (Figure 2(A2), Table 2). Both enzymes are upregulated in cry-dash1_{mut}. POR1 is a key enzyme in the chlorophyll biosynthesis pathway that catalyzes the reduction of protochlorophyllide to chlorophyllide in a light-dependent manner.52 In C. reinhardtii, the reduction of protochlorophyllide can also occur independently from light by the light-independent protochlorophyllide reductase, named chlL47 that we did not identify among the changed proteins. CHLG1 is the final enzyme in the pathway for chlorophyll biosynthesis and is also upregulated in the mutant. Its role is to catalyze the process of esterification upon light exposure, which involves adding the hydrophobic phytol tail to the chlorophyllide.^{53,54} The NADPH-dependent thioredoxin reductase (NTRC1), a regulator of Mg-protoporphyrin IX methyltransferase, is also upregulated in cry-

Table 2	2 Chloroplas	st proteins	upregulated	d or only	found in	cry-dash1 _{mut}	compared t	to wild type	SAG73.72.

Category		Name	NSAF	
			R 1	R 2
Chlorophyll biosynthesis	Cre01. q015350 4532	Light-dependent protochlorophyllide reductase (POR1)	1.7	1.3
	Cre01. q054150 4532	NADPH-dependent thioredoxin reductase C, chloroplastic (NTRC1)	1.9	3.8
	Cre02.	Coproporphyrinogen III oxidase (CPX1)	2.1	1.7
	Cre05. q242000 4532	Magnesium chelatase subunit D, chloroplast precursor (CHLD1)	3.7	2.3
	Cre06.	Chlorophyll synthetase (CHLG1)	o_mut	o_mut
	Cre07.	Magnesium chelatase subunit H (CHLH1)	2.4	1.7
Redox	Cre11. 0476750_4532	Ferredoxin-NADP reductase, chloroplast (FNR1)	1.3	1.4
	Cre12. q496700_4532	Thioredoxin-like protein	o_mut	o_mut
	Cre12. q513750_4532	Glutaredoxin, CPYC type (GRX1)	2.3	o_mut
	Cre12.	Protein disulfide oxidoreductase (PDO2)	1.6	1.7
PS related	Cre06.	Photosystem II stability/assembly factor (HCF136)	2.1	1.5
	Cre07.	Photosystem I reaction center subunit H (PSAH1)	1.4	1.5
	Cre09.	PSII assembly protein (PSB33)	2.7	1.4
	Cre12.	Photosystem I reaction center subunit V (PSAG1)	1.8	1.8
Carotenoids biosynthesis	Cre12.	Geranylgeranyl pyrophosphate synthase, putative chloroplast	o_mut	2.3
	Cre12.	2-C-methyl-D-erythritol 2, 4-cyclodiphosphate synthase	o_mut	o_mut
	Cre12.	Phytoene desaturase (PDS1)	2.5	2.8
Photoprotection	Cre03.	Homolog of hypersensitive to high light 1 (HHL1)	1.9	1.6
	Cre09.	Early light-induced LHC-like protein (ELIP8)	2.4	2.6
Acyl-lipid metabolism	Cre03.	Plastid lipid associated protein 10 (PALP10)	1.6	2.6
	Cre13.	Acyl-carrier protein 2 (ACP2)	1.8	1.6
	Cre13.	Omega-6-fatty acid desaturase, chloroplast isoform (FAD6)	1.5	o_mut
	Cre14.	Plastid lipid associated protein 3 (PLAP3)	1.9	o_mut
Amino acid and polyamine	Cre01.	N-acetyl-I-glutamate kinase (NAGK1)	1.7	1.8
metabolism	Cre02.	Dihydrodipicolinate synthase (DPS1)	o_mut	o_mut
	Cre10.	Shikimate kinase (SHKF1)	o_mut	3.3
	Gre12.	Aldehyde dehydrogenase	o_mut	o_mut
	Cre12.	(1 of 1) 3.5.1.3 - Omega-amidase*	o_mut	2
	Cre12. g558450_4532	Spermidine synthase (SPD1)	o_mut	o_mut

(continued on next page)

Table 2 (continued)

Category		Name	NSAF	
			R 1	R 2
Transcription	Cre06. g274650 4532	Complex I intermediate-associated CIA30 protein, mitochondrial (NUOAF4)	1.6	1.3
	Cre14. q610501 4532	Short-chain dehydrogenase/reductase found in psaA trans- splicing complex (RAA14)	1.5	2.2
Translation	Cre06.	(1 of 1) PTHR11803//PTHR11803:SF17 – Translation initiation inhibitor //subfamily not named*	o_mut	o_mut
	Cre07.	Chloroplast translation initiation factor 2 (CIF2)	2.4	o_mut
	Cre16.	Eukaryotic translation initiation factor 3, subunit F (EIF3F)	1.5	o_mut
Conserved in plant lineage	Cre02.	Conserved in the plant lineage (CPL23)	1.9	2.2
	Cre08. q379200_4532	Conserved in the plant lineage and diatoms (CPLD18)	1.5	1.6
Ribosomal proteins	CreCp. 0802277 4532	50S ribosomal protein L14 (rpl14)	1.5	2.5
	CreCp. q802283 4532	30S ribosomal protein S4 (rps4)	1.3	1.7
Protein folding	Cre07. q315700 4532	Peptidyl-prolyl cis-trans isomerase, FKBP-type (FKB16A)	o_mut	o_mut
	Cre12.	Cyclophilin 28 (CYN28)	1.4	1.4
	Cre16.	Peptidyl-prolyl cis-trans isomerase, FKBP-type (FKB16B)	1.7	1.7
Others	Cre01.	Calmodulin-like protein	2.9	2
	Cre02.	(1 of 2) K15631-Molybdenum cofactor sulfurtransferase (ABA3)	1.9	1.4
	Cre03. 0145247 4532	S-isoprenylcysteine O-methyltransferase (TEF11)	1.6	o_mut
	Cre03.	(1 of 2) K17279 – Receptor expression-enhancing protein 5/6	o_mut	2.6
	Cre04.	Pepsin-type aspartyl protease (ASP1)	1.9	2.8
	Cre05.	NADH:ubiquinone oxidoreductase 17 kDa subunit (NUO17)	1.5	1.5
	Cre06.	Starch branching enzyme 2 (SBE2)	1.5	o_mut
	Cre06.	(1 of 4) PTHR16222//PTHR16222:SF17 – ADP-	1.4	2.2
	Cre07.	(1 of 1) PF11317 – Protein of unknown function (DUF3119)*	1.6	o_mut
	Cre08.	6-Phosphogluconolactonase (PGL2)	1.4	1.7
	Cre09.	LrgB-like protein (TEF24)	o_mut	o_mut
	Gre09.	Unknown protein	1.6	1.4
	Cre10.	Unknown protein	1.9	o_mut
	9402000_4002 Cre10.	Chloroplast protein biogenesis factor (STIC2)	o_mut	o_mut
	y450550_4532 Cre11.	Mitochondrial substrate carrier protein	o_mut	1.5
	y407535_4532 Cre11.	(1 of 1) K00761 – uracil phosphoribosyltransferase (upp,	1.8	1.6
	g407776_4532 Cre12. g516450 4532	Gamma carbonic anhydrase 1 (CAG1)	o_mut	o_mut

lable 2 (continued)				
Category		Name	NSAF	
			R 1	R 2
	Cre12. g556250_4532	Septin-like protein	o_mut	o_mut
	Cre13. g586050_4532	(1 of 1) PTHR13833:SF49 - NHL repeat-containing protein 2*	o_mut	2.1

Proteins inside the functional groups are sorted by their accession numbers according to Phytozome genome ID: 707 (*Chlamy-domonas reinhardtii* CC-4532 v6.1). Gene symbols are put in parentheses; *, the auto defline is stated for proteins with no description; **NSAF**, normalized spectral abundance factor; **R1**, replicate 1; **R2**, replicate 2; **o_mut**, only found in *cry-dash1*_{mut}. CreCp numbers indicate genes that are encoded in the chloroplast, all others are encoded in the nucleus.

dash1_{mut}. It was shown that NTRC1 plays a crucial role in the redox modulation under low light conditions, as well as in protecting plants from photo-oxidative damage.^{55,56} In this context it is also noteworthy to mention that four components of redox regulation each belonging to a different group of redox proteins (thioredoxins, glutaredoxins, protein disulfide isomerases and ferredoxins⁵⁷ are uprequlated in *cry-dash1*_{mut} (Table 2). Taken together, light and redox regulation are closely linked with chlorophyll biosynthesis. CRY-DASH1 obviously plays an important role as negative regulator in these processes. Also in carotenoid biosynthesis, three key enzymes of the pathway are upregulated, being geranylgeranyl pyrophosphate synthase (GGPS1), 2-C-methyl-D-erythritol 2,4-cyclodiphosphate synthase (MEC1) and phytoene desaturase (PDS1).58

Beside the above-mentioned pathways, certain proteins of PSII and PSI are also upregulated in the mutant (Figure 2(A3), Table 2).³¹ Thus, PSAH1 and PSAG1 of PSI are increased in the mutant. They are connected to supercomplex formation, are known to be parts of the light harvesting chlorophyll a/b complex I and can be involved in state transitions.^{59–61}

In case of PSII, the PSII assembly protein PSB33 that is known to be part of a UV-A-light-triggered mechanism to sustain a functional PSII in plant chloroplasts⁶² is increased in the mutant. This is of interest as CRY-DASH1 has its absorption peak in the UV-A range. Moreover, the PSII stability/ assembly factor HCF136 (High Chlorophyll Fluorescence136) was found to be increased. The luminal protein is necessary for inserting the nascent central D1 protein into the reaction center. 63-65 Studies about the presence of this factor in chloroplast membranes resulted in the hypothesis that chloroplasts may have diverse biogenic membranes.66 Two other PSII proteins, D1 and its antenna protein CP43 were only found clearly upregulated in one replicate in this study. However, they have been verified before by immunoblots in three independent experiments and were found to be upregulated in the mutant³¹ (Figure 2(A3)). In contrast, the two other central proteins of PSII, D2 (Supplementary Figure 3) and CP47³¹ are not differentially expressed in wild type and *cry-dash1*_{mut} as verified

by immunoblots. We also analyzed the PSI/PSII ratio and found that there is no significant difference between wild type and *cry-dash1*_{mut} (Figure 2(A4) and Supplementary Figure 4).

It is unexpected that only D1 and its antenna protein CP43 are upregulated, but not D2 and CP47. As there are two CRY-DASH proteins encoded in C. reinhardtii, one hypothesis is that both CRY-DASH proteins may have partially overlapping functions and CRY-DASH2 may control further proteins of PSII. Such a postulation must be carefully analyzed in the future. Altogether our data indicate that only some proteins of the photosynthetic machinery are upregulated in cry-dash1_{mut}; some proteins of PSII are even downregulated (Supplementary Table 5). Among the upregulated proteins, CP43 as well as an early light inducible LHC (ELIP8) have the capacity to integrate chlorophyll molecules. ELIPs are located in the thylakoid membrane and protect the photosynthetic machinery from stresses such as cold induced photooxidative stress.⁶⁷ The increase in an ELIP may thus be related to stress effects realized by the changes of the photosynthetic machinery in *cry-dash1*_{mut}.

PSII biogenesis of D1 is regulated by light in A. cryptochrome involving thaliana, the and phytochrome photoreceptors.⁶⁸ In this process, HCF173, which initiates D1 translation, is involved as well as the luminal HCF136, as modelled recently.68-70 HCF173 of C. reinhardtii is not included in Tables 1 and 2, as it was found in one replicate with two peptides but in the other one with only one peptide. However, we would like to mention that these peptides were only found in the mutant in both replicates (see Supplementary Tables 1–4(A)); thus, HCF173 that is relevant for D1 translation seems upregulated in the mutant. We were interested to find out whether there may be some coregulation of D1 and the CRY-DASH1 photoreceptor in C. reinhardtii. It is known that translation of chloroplast encoded D1 by psbA mRNA is modulated in the light.⁷¹ Also, it has become evident that the synthesis of D1 is highly complex involving co-translational chlorophyll association to nascent D1.70 To study a potential interplay between D1 and CRY-DASH1, we used a D1

deletion mutant that was grown mixotrophically in TAP medium (see Methods) as done before.⁷⁰ We compared the protein expression level of CRY-DASH1 in the D1 mutant cells and the corresponding wild type 137c during daytime (LD6; 6 hours after light has been switched on in a 12:12 h light–dark cycle) and nighttime (LD18; 6 hours after light has been switched off in a 12:12 h light–dark cycle). The protein amount of CRY-DASH1 was significantly increased in the D1 deletion mutant at both time points (Figure 2(C)), suggesting that D1 and CRY-DASH1 are regulating each other through a feedback loop. It remains open whether coupling of *psbA* translation to light-induced D1 damage⁶⁹ may be connected to this regulation in the green

alga *C. reinhardtii*. But the intriguing finding that CRY-DASH1 uses light not only as a source of information but connects this information with energy metabolism, may open new routes in the future for biotechnological approaches.

CRY-DASH1 seems to act at the posttranscriptional/translational level

It was shown before that the blue light receptor phototropin acts in a positive way on chlorophyll biosynthesis in *C. reinhardtii*.⁷² This occurs at the transcript level. To find out whether CRY-DASH1 may also act at the transcriptional level in chlorophyll biosynthesis, we analyzed mRNA levels of several genes that encode enzymes upregulated



in the mutant, including CHLI1, CHLH1, CHLD1 and CHLG1. In none of these cases, the amount of mRNA was increased in cry-dash1_{mut} compared to wild type. Either it was similar or even slightly downregulated in the mutant (Figure 2(D) and Supplementary Figure 5). This data clearly suggests that CRY-DASH1 acts at the posttranscriptional/ translational level as also found for the selected downregulated proteins PAT2, PYK1 and PFL1 as well as for upregulated D1 and CP43. Their RNAs are similar in wild type and mutant (31, Figure 1 (C), Figure 2(E)). As mentioned before, psbA mRNA encoding D1 is under translational control and its translation is modulated by light.⁷¹ CRY-DASH1, which is encoded in the nucleus and has a chloroplast target sequence, is found in the chloroplast fraction by immunoblots (Supplementary Figure 1(A)).³¹ It may directly act on the plastidial psbA mRNA. Currently, we do not know whether CRY-DASH1 is also present in the cytoplasm. Thus, we assume that CRY-DASH1 could via retrograde signaling act to control posttranscriptional/translational regulation in the cytoplasm of nuclear encoded genes such as CHLs, PAT2 etc. in a positive or negative manner. Plastidial signaling components or metabolites such as Mg protoporphyrin-IX could hereby serve as signals.

As CRY-DASH1 bears four "RGG" RNA-binding motifs at its C-terminus, it seems likely that CRY-DASH1 may indeed directly interact with RNA. RGG motifs can be involved, for example, in mRNA translational repression.^{74,75} Light has been formerly proposed to stimulate the translation of *psbA* mRNA also in *C. reinhardtii* by activating a protein complex associated with the 5'-UTR of this mRNA.^{76,77} We thus took *psbA* RNA and checked whether CRY-DASH1 can bind to it. For this purpose, we used an *in vitro* RNA-binding assay (modified from 78 along with a CTP-biotinylated transcript including the 5'-UTR and 191 bp of the open reading frame of *psbA* RNA (Supplementary Figure 6).⁷ that was bound to paramagnetic streptavidin beads. As a control, we used the 3'-UTR of glutamine synthetase2 mRNA (GS2) that is recognized by the heteromeric RNA binding protein CHLAMY1.78 Yeast RNA was added as non-specific competitor RNA in the first five washing steps (see Methods; Figure 2 (F)). Heterologously expressed CRY-DASH1³¹ was used for the assay: it had been purified by Ni- and heparin-affinity chromatography followed by a centrifugal filter step with a size exclusion of 50 kDa (see Methods). Thus, removal of potentially coisolated Hfg from E. coli, which was reported to have RNA binding properties,⁷⁹ was ensured via the size exclusion step.

We found that CRY-DASH1 binds efficiently to psbA RNA in vitro (Figure 2(G)). There was no unbound CRY-DASH1 left in the supernatant and in the eluate a strong CRY-DASH1 signal was observed in immunoblots using anti-CRY-DASH1 antibodies. In contrast, CRY-DASH1 was still present unbound in the supernatant with the control GS2 transcript, and it was not visible in the control GS2 transcript after the washing steps with nonspecific yeast RNA (Figure 2(G)). These results suggest that CRY-DASH1 binds selectively to the 5'-end of the psbA RNA and corroborate that CRY-DASH1 acts at the posttranscriptional level, possibly by controlling translation through its direct binding to involved RNAs. In this case, CRY-DASH1 seems to exert a repressor function as its absence results in a higher amount of the encoded D1 protein. One possibility is that CRY-DASH1 might act as a competitor of HCF173 that promotes translation of *psbA* RNA in the chloroplast⁶⁸ as outlined in the graphical abstract. Here, yet unknown additional factor(s) could also play a role.

A dual role of photoreceptors as activators or repressors in individual processes is also known

Figure 1. Several enzymes of central carbon and histidine metabolism are downregulated in cry-dash1_{mut}. (A) The main enzymes which are downregulated are shown with magenta boxes as well as relevant metabolites. (PGM1, Phosphoglucomutase 1; PFK1, Phosphofructokinase; GPD4, Glycerol-3-phosphate dehydrogenase; GAPC1, Glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase; TAL1, Transaldolase; GND1, 6-phosphogluconate dehydrogenase; FBA2, Fructose-1,6-bisphosphate aldolase; PYK1, Pyruvate kinase 1; PFL1, Pyruvate-formate lyase; PAT2, Phosphate acetyltransferase; ACS3, Acetyl-CoA synthetase/ligase); Fru-P, Fructose-phosphate; GP, Glyceraldehyde-phosphate; PGA, Phosphoglycerate; PEP, Phosphoenolpyruvate; Ru5P, Ribulose-5-phosphate; RuBP, Ribulose-1,5-bisphosphate; BPGA, Bisphosphoglycerate.³⁶ (B) Cultures were harvested at LD8 (8 h after the light has been switched on). 100 µg of total protein were separated by 10% SDS PAGE and immunoblotted with anti-PAT2 antibodies. Selected bands from a nitrocellulose membrane stained with Ponceau S were used as loading control (LC). (C) Relative transcript levels of PAT2, PYK1 and PFL1 in wild type (WT) and cry-dash1_{mut} (Mut) analysed by quantitative RT-PCR using RACK1 as internal reference gene. (D) Simplified histidine pathway where the downregulated enzymes are shown with magenta boxes. (HIS1, N-5-phosphoribosyl-ATP transferase; HIS7, Imidazole glycerol phosphate synthase; PRPP, phosphoribosyl pyrophosphate; AICAR-P, aminoimidazole carboxamide ribonucleotide monophosphate). (E) The amount of free histidine measured by HPLC in WT, cry-dash1_{mut} and the complementing line compl₃₈ that expresses CRY-DASH1 up to 53% are shown. For quantification, the protein levels in wild type were normalized to 1 and compared with the levels in the mutant. n = 3 biological replicates; error bars represent SD; asterisks indicate significant differences as estimated by the Student's t-test (*, P < 0.05; **, P < 0.01; ns, not significant).



from other cryptochromes. Thus, pCRY and aCRY act as negative elements in the gametogenesis process of *C. reinhardtii*, while both are positive regulators for its germination.^{21,22} The blue light photoreceptor phototropin of *C. reinhardtii* is even multifunctional. It promotes different steps in the sexual life cycle,⁸⁰ it is involved in eyespot development and in phototactic behavior,⁸¹ mediates feedback regulation of photosynthesis⁸² and also influences photoprotection and the CO₂ concentrating mechanism.⁸³ It will be intriguing to find out in the future whether these photoreceptors might be part of a functional network.

Materials and Methods

Strains and culture conditions

C. reinhardtii strain SAG73.72 (mt⁺) obtained from the 'Sammlung von Algenkulturen in Göttingen' was used as wild type. A transgenic *C. reinhardtii* line lacking the CRY-DASH1 protein, named *cry-dash1*_{mut} (LMJ.RY0402.181834, mt⁻) that was backcrossed three times into SAG73.72 was used for functional comparisons.³¹ Main algal cultures were grown photoautotrophically in minimal medium prepared basically according to Levine and Ebersold.⁸⁴ Briefly, 899 mL H₂O were mixed with 50 mL Beijerinck's solution (13 a/L NH₄Cl. 1 g/L CaCl₂ \times 2 H₂O, 2 g/L MgSO₄ \times 7 H₂O) and 1 mL Hutner's trace elements⁸⁵ and then 50 mL phosphate buffer (14.34 g K₂HPO₄ 7.26 g KH₂PO₄) were added. Cells were grown under a 12 h: 12 h, light-dark (LD) cycle with a light intensity of $60 \mu mol m^{-2} s^{-1}$ (Osram L36W/840, lumilux, cool white) at 23 °C and harvested at LD4 unless otherwise indicated. LD0 defines the start of the light regime and LD12 the start of the dark regime. LD4 means that the light has been switched on for 4 h. In the case of the psbA deletion mutant FuD7 (CC4147, mt⁺) that was obtained from the Chlamydomonas resource center and its corresponding wild-type strain 137c (mt⁺), cultures were grown in Tris-Acetate-Phosphate (TAP) medium.⁸⁵ The FuD7 mutant and its wild type were harvested at midday (LD6) and midnight (LD18), respectively. Light measurements were carried out using a LI-189 guantum radiometer photometer (LI-COR).

Light measurements within the algal cell culture

Cultures were adjusted to a cell number of 1 \times 10 5 cells/mL and grown photoautotrophically

Figure 2. Several enzymes of chlorophyll biosynthesis are upregulated in cry-dash1_{mut}. (A1) On the top left an exemplary culture of the wild type SAG73.72 (WTs) and the mutant (cry-dash1mut) are shown; the cell number was adjusted to 5 \times 10⁶ cells/mL. Below, photoautotrophic cell growth of WT_S and cry-dash1_{mut} from day 0, day 3 and day 8 is indicated as cells/mL and the light intensity in the culture (see Methods) in shown. (A2, 3) Enzymes which are upregulated in cry-dash1_{mut} are shown with green boxes. Enzymes that are upregulated in only one replicate (31, Figure 2(B)) and verified by immunoblots are shown in light green boxes. The enzyme regulator NTRC1 is shown with a circle. (CPX1, Coproporphyrinogen III oxidase; CHLD1, CHLI1, CHLH1, Mg-chelatase; POR1, Light-dependent protochlorophyllide reductase; CHLM, Mg-protoporphyrin IX methyltransferase; CHLG1, Chlorophyll synthetase; NTRC1 regulator, NADPH-dependent thioredoxin reductase C. The chlorophyll pathway and the formula were adapted from 46; 91. (A3) Up-regulated components of the photosystems: D1 of PSII and its antenna protein CP43; both are encoded in the chloroplast in contrast to all other candidates of (A2) and (A3) that are encoded in the nucleus. PSB33, PSII assembly protein; HCF136, Photosystem II stability/assembly factor; PSAH1; Photosystem I reaction center subunit H; PSAG1, Photosystem I reaction center subunit V) (A4) PSI to PSII ratio from WT and crydash1_{mut}. The corresponding immunoblots are shown in Supplementary Figure 4. (B) 100 µg of total protein were separated by 10% SDS-PAGE and immunoblotted with anti-CHLI antibodies. Selected bands from a nitrocellulose membrane stained with Ponceau S are used as a loading control (LC). (C) CRY-DASH1 level in WT_C (137C, mt⁺) and a psbA deletion mutant (CC4147, mt⁺). 50 µg of total protein were separated using a 10% SDS gel and immunoblotted with anti-CRY-DASH1 antibodies. Selected bands from a PVDF membrane stained with Coomassie Brilliant Blue R250 are used as a loading control (LC). (D, E) Relative transcript levels of CHL11 and CHLH1 (D) and psbA (E), respectively, in WTs and cry-dash1_{mut} analyzed by quantitative RT-PCR using RACK1 as internal reference gene. (F) Schematic view of the in vitro RNA binding assay with purified RNA-binding proteins. Biotinylated transcripts were bound to the magnetic beads coated with streptavidin. Target proteins were bound to the RNA, washed in the presence of competitor RNA and eluted from the beads (see Methods). Elution was checked by immunoblot with the antibodies against the target proteins. (G) In vitro RNA binding assay using biotinylated psbA 5'-end (psbA) or glutamine synthetase2 3'-end containing seven UG repeat (GS2) indicates that CRY-DASH1 binds selectively to psbA 5'-end. Biotin-14-CTP labelled psbA or GS2 transcripts were bound to the streptavidin beads and incubated with purified His-tagged CRY-DASH1 protein (1 μg). 80 μL of the supernatant (S) representing unbound CRY-DASH1, last washing steps (W11), and elution (E) were separated by 10% SDS-PAGE and immunoblotted with anti-CRY-DASH1 antibody. For quantification, the protein levels in wild type were normalized to 1 and compared with the levels in the mutant. n = 3 biological replicates; error bars represent SD; asterisks indicate significant differences as estimated by the Student's *t*-test (*, P < 0.05; **, P < 0.01; ns, not significant).

as described above. Measurement of the light intensity in μ mol m⁻² s⁻¹ inside the cultures was performed by using the US-SQS spherical quantum sensor (Walz GmbH, Effeltrich, Germany), which was placed in the middle of each tube.

Chloroplast isolation and protein extraction

Chloroplast fractions of strains, SAG73.72 and cry-dash1_{mut} were isolated as described.^{31,32} Briefly, 1 L of SAG73.72 and cry-dash1mut cultures were precultured in TAP with a cell concentration of 1 \times 10⁵ cells/mL and were grown until they reached the cell concentration of 5×10^6 cells/mL and harvested at LD4. Cells were then transferred to minimal medium⁸⁴ and exposed to high light (ca. 150 μ mol m⁻² s⁻¹) as described to ensure synchrony of cells.³² They were grown until they reached a density of 8 \times 10⁶ cells/mL. As SAG73.72 and cry-dash1_{mut} strains have a cell wall, cells were treated with 50 mL autolysin (prepared according to 85) for up to two hours prior to chloroplast extraction. The autolysin treated cells were centrifuged at 3,000g for 5 min at 4 °C and resuspended in 2 mL of 50 mM HEPES-KOH (pH 7.5) by gentle pipetting. All the following steps were carried out at 4 °C. The suspension was diluted with 8 mL isolation buffer (300 mM sorbitol, 50 mM HEPES-KOH (pH 7.5), 2 mM Na-EDTA (pH 8.0), 1 mM MgCl₂ \times 6H₂O, 1% BSA). Cells were rapidly squeezed into a syringe with a 27-gauge needle at a flow rate of 0.1 mL s⁻¹ and crude chloroplasts were collected by centrifugation at 750g for 2 min at 4 °C. Pellets were resuspended in 2 mL of isolation buffer using a fine paintbrush to avoid disrupting the chloroplasts. The suspension was overlaid at the top of the Percoll gradient and was centrifuged for 20 min at 4,000g without braking. The chloroplast fraction was taken at the interface between 45% and 65% Percoll and diluted with 10 mL isolation buffer. The suspension was centrifuged (680g for 1 min at 4 °C) and the supernatant was removed. The pellet was resuspended in isolation buffer to a final volume of 3 mL and used for a second Percoll gradient. The final obtained fractions were rinsed once with isolation buffer and twice with 250 µL of 50 mM HEPES-KOH pH 8.0 + 0.3 M sorbitol. The proteins were extracted by adding 200 µL of $2 \times SDS$ sample buffer (100 mM Tris-Cl, pH 7.5, 200 mM DTT, 4% (w/v) SDS, 0.2% (w/v) Bromophenol Blue, 20% (w/v) glycerol) and incubating for 5 min at 80 °C.

Mass spectrometry sample preparation

For MS analysis, proteins were separated in a 10% AA-PDA (acrylamide-piperazine diacrylamide) gel, prepared with MS-Grade solutions. The gel was stained for a maximum of 12 h with Novex Colloidal Blue Staining Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific) following the protocol of the supplier. The gel was destained overnight with ddH₂O and 12 gel bands from each lane were excised and washed with wash solution A (10 mM ammonium hydrogen carbonate) and subsequently with wash solution B (5 mM ammonium hydrogen carbonate in 50% acetonitrile) until the gel pieces were completely destained. Proteins from each gel piece were digested with sequencing-grade modified trypsin (Promega) at 37 °C overnight and the resulting peptides were desalted with ZipTip-columns (Merck Millipore) supplemented with additional Poros R2 10 μ m (Applied Biosystems) as described before.⁸⁶

Liquid chromatography electrospray ionization tandem mass spectrometry (LC-ESI-MS/MS)

Dried peptides were resuspended in a solution containing 5% (v/v) DMSO and 5% (v/v) formic acid and subjected to nano-LC-ESI-MS/MS using an UltiMate 3000 nano UHPLC (Thermo Fisher Scientific) with a flow rate of 300 nL min⁻¹ coupled online with a Thermo Fisher Scientific Q Exactive Plus mass spectrometer. Peptides were separated on a Acclaim PepMap 100 C18 column (75 μ m inner diameter \times 15 cm, 2 μ m particle size; Thermo Fisher Scientific) using a 1 hour gradient with the following specifications: 5 min 96% A/4% B (v/v); within 1 min gradually to 10% B (v/v); within 34 min gradually to 55% A/45% B (v/v); within 2 min gradually to 95% B (v/v); 6 min 95% B (v/v); within 1 min gradually to 96% A/4% B (v/v); 11 min 96% A/4% B (v/v) whereby A consists of 0.1% (v/v) formic acid in water and B consists of 0.1% (v/v) formic acid in 80% acetonitrile. Ions were introduced by positive electrospray ionization and mass spectra were acquired over m/z 300-1,750 at 70,000 resolution (m/z 200) using an automatic gain control (AGC) target of 1e⁶. The top 10 most abundant precursor ions with positive charge states of 2-7 were selected for tandem MS by higher-energy collisional dissociation (HCD) fragmentation. For HCD, an isolation width of 1.6 m/z, a maximum fill time of 110 ms, and an AGC target of 1e⁵ was used. These selected precursor masses were excluded from the analysis for 20 s after each cycle. Peptides were fragmented by a normalized collisional energy of 30, and fragment spectra acquired at a resolution of 17,500 (m/z 200).

Data analysis

Raw data files were processed with the Proteome Discoverer software (version 2.4; Thermo Fisher Scientific) using the SEQUEST algorithm.⁸⁷ Data were searched against the *C. reinhardtii* database v6.1 hosted by Phytozome (Vs13) (https://phytozome-next.jgi.doe.gov/). Searches were done for tryptic peptides, allowing two missed cleavages. Search parameters included oxidized methionine as a variable modification. Assignments were made using a 10 ppm mass tolerance for the precursor and 0.02 Da mass tolerance for the fragments. The search parameters were set to achieve a false discovery rate (FDR) of 1%.

Mass spectrometry-based relative quantification

For the mass spectrometry-based relative quantification of proteins we used the normalized spectral abundance factor (NSAF)^{34,35} for comparing the protein abundance between cry-dash1_{mut} and wild type. Briefly, the total number of identified peptides per protein represented as spectral counts (SpC) was divided by its number of amino acids (L). To determine the relative abundance, the ratio SpC/ L was divided by the sum of SpC/L for all identified proteins for the cry-dash1_{mut} sample and for the corresponding wild-type sample, respectively. Thereafter, the NSAF of each individual protein of the cry-dash1_{mut} sample was divided by the corresponding NSAF of the wild-type sample to determine if the abundance of proteins is increased or decreased. Proteins were classified as upregulated in cry-dash1_{mut} if the ratio of the NSAF of each individual protein of cry-dash1_{mut} sample to the NSAF of the wild-type sample was equal or above to 1.33 and classified as downregulated in crydash1_{mut} if the ratio was equal or below to 0.75.

Extraction of free amino acids from C. reinhardtii

The experiments were performed according to 88 with some modifications. 5 mL of algal cultures were grown photoautotrophically as described above and collected in exponential phase at LD4, centrifuged (5 min, 5,000*g*) and washed twice with HPLC grade water (Roth). Free amino acids from the algae were extracted in 200 μ L of hot (80 °C) HPLC grade water, incubated at 80 °C for 30 min and centrifuged. The supernatant was collected in a new tube and the pellet was re-extracted with 200 μ L of HPLC grade water. The supernatant was then collected and used for pre-column derivatization.

HPLC analysis of free amino acids from C. reinhardtii

The analyzation of free amino acids was done as described⁸⁸ with the following specifications. A O-Phthaldialdehyde (OPA) pre-column (Sigma–Aldrich) derivatizing agent was prepared by dissolving 0.135 g in 5 mL methanol (HPLC grade) and made up to 25 mL with borate buffer (0.1 M). On the day of use, 10 μ L of 2-mercaptoethanol was added to 1.5 mL OPA stock solution. The reaction was started by the addition of 10 μ L derivatization reagent to 40 μ L of sample and the mixture was

shaken. After 1 min the reaction was halted by the addition of 25 uL of boric acid (0.4 M) and shaken. 20 µL of sample were injected onto the HPLC (HPLC Agilent 1220 Infinity, Agilent Technologies) exactly 2 min after the start of the derivatization. For amino acid detection, two mobile phases were used: (A) 0.05 M sodium acetate (pH 6.8): methanol (9:1 v/v) plus 2% tetrahydrofuran (THF); (B) methanol plus 0.5% THF. The flow rate was 1.2 mL min⁻ The gradient was 0% B at 0 min, 52% B at 14 min. 80% B at 19 min and 100% B at 20 min. Separation was performed on a reversed phase ZORBAX Eclipse AAA (150 \times 4.6 mm, 3.5 μ m) column (Agilent Technologies) thermostated at 25 °C. The detection was performed by recording the absorption spectra between 240 nm and 400 nm. The measurement was made at 260 nm. For quantification. L-histidine monohydrochloride monohydrate (reagent grade, ≥98%, Sigma-Aldrich) was used as a standard compound and a calibration curve was built based on peak areas at 100, 50 and 25 μg/mL.

Extraction of total proteins and immunoblot analysis

Total protein extraction was performed for immunoblots as described in 89 unless otherwise indicated. Nitrocellulose and polyvinylidene difluoride (PVDF, in the case of CRY-DASH1, D1, D2 and PsaC) membranes, respectively, were used for immunoblots. Membranes were blocked with 5% (w/v) milk powder in Tris-buffered saline containing 0.1% (v/v) Tween-20 (TBS, pH 7.4). When using anti-rbcL (AS03 037, Agrisera), anti-CRY-DASH1,³¹ anti-D1 (AS05 084, Agrisera), anti-D2 (AS06 146, Agrisera) and anti-PsaC (AS10 939, Agrisera) antibodies membranes were blocked overnight at 4 °C, for anti-CHLI1 (MBS7152864, Mybiosource) and anti-PAT2 (AS07 276, Agrisera) antibodies, membranes were blocked 2 h at room temperature. Membranes were incubated with the anti-rbcL in a dilution of 1: 15,000 and with anti-CRY-DASH1 in a dilution of 1:5.000 for 2 h at room temperature. With all other antibodies (with anti-CHLI1 in a dilution of 1:4,000, with anti-PAT2 in a dilution of 1:250, with anti-D1 and anti-D2 in a dilution of 1:25,000 and with anti-PsaC in a dilution of 1:5,000), membranes were incubated overnight at 4 °C and in case of anti-PAT2 two additional h at room temperature. For generation of immunoblots for Supplementary Figure 2, a new charge of the anti-CHLI1 antibody had to be ordered that required a dilution of 1:1,000. As secondary antibody, horseradish peroxidase-conjugated anti-rabbit IgGs (Sigma-Aldrich) with a dilution of 1:5,000 was used. Peroxidase activity was detected by a chemiluminescence assay as shown before.⁴ As loading controls, nitrocellulose membranes were stained with Ponceau S and PVDF membranes were stained with Coomassie Brilliant Blue R 250 Protein guantification was performed using IMAGEJ v.1.50b (National Institutes of Health).

PSI/PSII ratio

The ratio was estimated by performing quantitative immunoblot analysis using anti-PsaC and anti-D1/PsbA (see details under immunoblots above) from three replicates. Ratio calculation was done on a sample-by-sample basis according to https://www.agrisera.com/en/artiklar/psi-photosystem-i/index.html.⁹⁰

Transcript analysis

The RNeasy Plant Mini Kit (Qiagen) was used to from RNA mL isolate total 15 of а photoautrophically grown C. reinhardtii culture of wild type strain SAG73.72 and cry-dash1_{mut}, respectively, with a concentration of 3–5 \times 10^6 cells/mL harvested at LD4. To analyse the relative transcript abundance of the genes of interest by quantitative reverse transcription PCR (gRT-PCR). the Luna Universal One-Step RT-gPCR Kit (New England Biolabs) was used. Reactions containing 250 ng RNA in a volume of 20 µL were assayed in an AriaMx Real-Time PCR System (Agilent Technologies).

The RACK1 (Receptor of activated protein kinase C1) gene was used as reference⁴ along with the primers OMM2718 (5'-CTTCTCGCCCATGACCAC-3 ') and OMM2719 (5'-CCCACCAGGTTGTTCTT CAG-3'). The following primers were used to amplify the target genes: CHLI1 (OMM3018 5'-AGGTGTT CGGCATGGAGTAAGC-3' and OMM3019 5'-GCCTTTCCGCAAATGCTCCAAC-3'), CHLH1 (OMM3020 5'-ACGCCAAGAACTCCAAGGTGTG-3' and OMM3021 5'- TGAGCGAGCCGATGA AG ATGTT-3'), CHLD1 (OMM3012 5'-ACATTGAGG CGTCCATGAAGGAG-3' and OMM3013 5'-CGTC ATCCAGCAGGTTGATCTC-3'), CHLG1 (OMM 3016 5'-TGGATTTGCGTGTCCACCATCG-3' and OMM3017 5'-AAGTAGATCTGCGGCAGGAT GAG-3'). PAT2 (OMM3049 5'-TGGGCTTCTTTGA GCCCATTGC-3' and OMM3050 5'-TAGCTCAA C GTGGCGGTCAATAC-3'), PYK1 (OMM3051 5'-A CCGACTGCGTCATGCTTTC-3' and OMM3052 5'-GGCAGATCTTGGTCATCACCTTC-3') and PFL1 (OMM3053 5' TGCTGCTGGAGAAGAC AA TGCG-3' and OMM3054 5'-TCCAAGCGTCAAA GACGGCCTAAC-3').

In vitro RNA-binding assay

The *in vitro* RNA binding assay was done according to a published protocol.⁷⁸ The *psbA* 5'-end (Supplementary Figure 6(A)) was synthetically produced by Thermo Fisher Scientific in the vector pWL9 (Supplementary Figure 6(B)). pWL9 was linearized with *Kpn*l and *in vitro* transcription was done with T7 RNA polymerase (MEGAshortscript T7 Transcription Kit, Thermo Fisher Scientific) follow-

ing the instruction from the producer using Biotin-14-CTP (Thermo Fisher Scientific) as label according to 78. The molar ratio of CTP to biotinylated-14-CTP was 2:1. 500 µL of streptavidin-coated paramagnetic beads (Streptavidin MagneSphere Paramagnetic Particles, Promega) were washed four times with 500 μ L of transcript interacting buffer (1 M NaCl, 5 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 0.5 mM EDTA, pH 8.0). Then, 20 µg biotinylated transcripts in 200 µL of transcript interacting buffer were incubated with the washed streptavidin-coated beads for 1 h at room temperature with slight agitation. The unbound transcripts were removed by ten washing steps in 500 µL of transcript interacting buffer and equilibrated eight times in 500 µL of washing buffer (80 mM NaCl, 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 1 mM EDTA, pH 8.0, 2 mM dithiothreitol, 5% [v/v] glycerol, 0.5% [v/v] Igepal CA-630, 25 µg/mL yeast RNA (Sigma-Aldrich), $1 \times$ proteinase inhibitor cocktail (EDTA-free, Roche). One microgram purified Histagged CRY-DASH1 protein (purified by Ni- and Heparin-affinity chromatographies and a 50 kDa size exclusion centrifuge filter) in 500 µL of incubating buffer (80 mM NaCl, 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 1 mM EDTA, pH 8.0, 2 mM dithiothreitol, 5% [v/v] glycerol, 1 × proteinase inhibitor cocktail (EDTAfree, Roche) was incubated with the equilibrated streptavidin-coated beads. After incubation at 4 °C with slight agitation for 2 h, the beads were washed five times with washing buffer containing yeast RNA (one time with 200 μ L and four times with 500 μ L) followed by six washing steps of 500 µL washing buffer without yeast RNA. Finally, bound proteins were eluted from the beads by incubation in 210 µL elution buffer (3 M NaCl, 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 1 mM EDTA, pH 8.0, 5% [v/v] glycerol) for 45 min at 4 °C with slight agitation.

Accession numbers

Cre gene identifier accession numbers according to Phytozome genome ID: 707 (*Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* CC-4532 v6.1):

CRE01.G007950_4532,	CRE01.G015000_4532,
CRE01.G015350_4532,	CRE01.G016300_4532,
CRE01.G032650_4532,	CRE01.G042750_4532,
CRE01.G044800_4532,	CRE01.G050150_4532,
CRE01.G054150_4532,	CRE02.G078939_4532,
CRE02.G085450_4532,	CRE02.G093450_4532,
CRE02.G097550_4532,	CRE02.G107300_4532,
CRE02.G141100_4532,	CRE02.G142200_4532,
CRE02.G142351_4532,	CRE02.G143650_4532,
CRE03.G144807_4532,	CRE03.G145247_4532,
CRE03.G146167_4532,	CRE03.G177500_4532,
CRE03.G189300_4532,	CRE03.G197500_4532,
CRE03.G203850_4532,	CRE04.G226850_4532,
CRE05.G240800_4532,	CRE05.G241650_4532,
CRE05.G242000_4532,	CRE06.G257000_4532,
CRE06.G261750_4532,	CRE06.G262900_4532,
CRE06.G270100_4532,	CRE06.G273700_4532,
CRE06.G274650_4532,	CRE06.G278086_4532,
CRE06.G278210_4532,	CRE06.G285150_4532,

CRE06.G294750_4532,	CRE06.G306300_4532,
CRE06.G311850_4532,	CRE06.G800656_4532,
CRE07.G315700_4532,	CRE07.G323600_4532,
CRE07.G325500_4532,	CRE07.G327400_4532,
CRE07.G328200 4532,	CRE07.G330250 4532,
CRE07.G332300 4532,	CRE07.G335200 4532,
CRE07.G341850 4532,	CRE07.G353450 4532,
CRE08.G370650 4532,	CRE08.G372000 4532,
CRE08.G379200 4532.	CRE08.G380201 4532.
CRE09.G393173 4532.	CRE09.G394850 4532.
CRE09.G396650 4532.	CRE09.G410250 4532.
CRE09.G410650_4532.	CRE09.G411200_4532
CBE10 G421700 4532	CBE10 G430150 4532
CBE10 G435300 4532	CBE10 G436350 4532
CRE10.G452350_4532.	CRE10.G456750_4532.
CRE10.G458550 4532.	CRE11.G467535 4532.
CRE11.G467767_4532.	CBE11.G467778_4532
CRE11.G476750_4532.	CRE11.G481500_4532.
CRE12.G484200_4532.	CRE12.G485150_4532
CRE12.G486100 4532.	CRE12.G496700 4532.
CRE12.G501050 4532.	CRE12.G503550 4532.
CRE12.G507558 4532.	CRE12.G509650 4532.
CRE12.G512600 4532.	CRE12.G513750 4532.
CRE12.G516450 4532.	CRE12.G519900 4532.
CRE12.G526800 4532.	CRE12.G533550 4532.
CRE12.G534250 4532.	CRE12.G538700 4532.
CRE12.G553700 4532.	CRE12.G556250 4532.
CRE12.G558450 4532,	CRE12.G560950 4532,
CRE12.G561000 4532,	CRE13.G564050 4532,
CRE13.G569350 4532,	CRE13.G577100 4532,
CRE13.G577850 4532,	CRE13.G586050 4532,
CRE13.G590500 4532,	CRE13.G592200 4532,
CRE13.G602350 4532,	CRE13.G603176 4532,
CRE14.G610501 4532,	CRE14.G618050 4532,
CRE14.G630859_4532,	CRE15.G801860_4532,
CRE16.G654500 4532,	CRE16.G655050 4532,
CRE16.G675550 4532,	CRE16.G693500 4532,
CRE16.G694400_4532,	CRE16.G694850_4532,
CRE17.G698450 4532,	CRE17.G702150 4532,
CRE17.G721500_4532,	CRE17.G726750_4532,
CRE17.G739752_4532,	CRECp.G802277_4532,
CRECp.G802283_4532,	CRECp.G802300_4532,
CRECp.G802303_4532,	CRECp.G802321_4532,
CRECp.G802331_4532.	•

DATA AVAILABILITY

Data will be made available on request.

DECLARATION OF COMPETING INTEREST

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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Author contributions

M.M., A.R. and J.P. designed research; A.R., J. P., V.W., T.V., WS.L., W.L. and L.S. performed research. All authors analyzed data. A.R., J.P., V. W. and M.M. wrote the paper, with input from all co-authors.

Appendix A. Supplementary material

Supplementary material to this article can be found online at https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmb.2023. 168271.

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Keywords:

Chlamydomonas reinhardtii; central carbon metabolism; chlorophyll biosynthesis; light signaling; photoreceptor

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Abbreviations:

aCRY, Animal-like cryptochrome; ACS, Acetyl-CoA synthetase/ligase; AGC, Automatic gain control; AICAR-P, Aminoimidazole carboxamide ribonucleotide monophosphate; CHLD,I,H, Mg-chelatase; CHLG, Chlorophyll synthetase; CHLM, Mg-protoporphyrin IX methyltransferase; CP43, chlorophyll-binding protein of approximately 43 kDa; CPX, Coproporphyrinogen III oxidase; CRY, Cryptochrome; CRY-DASH1 also named DCRY1, Drosophila, Arabidopsis, Synechocystis, Homocryptochrome 1; ESI, Electrospray ionisation; FBA, Fructose-1,6-bisphosphate aldolase; FDR, False discovery rate; Fru-P, Fructose-phosphate; GAPC, Glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase; GGPS, Geranylgeranyl pyrophosphate synthase; GND, 6phosphogluconate dehvdrogenase: GP. Glyceraldehvdephosphate; GPD, Glycerol-3-phosphate dehydrogenase; GS, Glutamine synthase; HCD, Higher-energy collisional dissociation; HCF, High chlorophyll fluorescence; HIS1, Histidine biosynthesis, N-5-phosphoribosyl-ATP transferase; HIS7, Histidine biosynthesis, imidazole glycerol phosphate synthase; LC, Liquid chromatography; MEC, 2-C-methyl-D-erythritol 2,4-cyclodiphosphate

synthase; MS, Mass spectrometry; NSAF, Normalized spectral abundance factor; NTRC, NADPH-dependent thioredoxin reductase C; OPA, O-phthaldialdehyde; PAT, Phosphate acetyltransferase; pCRY, Plant cryptochrome; PDS. Phytoene desaturase: PFK. Phosphofructokinase: PFL, Pyruvate-formate lyase; PGA, Phosphoglycerate; PGM, Phosphoglucomutase; POR, Protochlorophyllide oxidoreductase; PRPP, Phosphoribosyl pyrophosphate; PSAG, Photosystem I reaction center subunit V; PSAH, Photosystem I reaction center subunit H; PSB33, PSII assembly protein; PVDF, Polyvinylidene fluoride; PYK, Pvruvate kinase: RACK1. Receptor of activated protein kinase C1: rbcL. Ribulose-1.5-bisphosphate carboxylase/ oxygenase large subunit; Ru5P, Ribulose-5-phosphate; RuBP, Ribulose-1,5-bisphosphate; SpC, Spectral counts; TAL, Transaldolase; THF, Tetrahydrofuran

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