

# The Stimulation of Photophosphorylation and ATPase by Artificial Redox Mediators in Chromatophores of *Rhodospseudomonas capsulata* at Different Redox Potentials<sup>1</sup>

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## Abstract

(1) Inhibition of cyclic phosphorylation in chromatophores of *Rhodospseudomonas capsulata* by antimycin A can be fully reversed by artificial redox mediators, provided the ambient redox potential is maintained around 200 mV. The redox mediator need not be a hydrogen carrier in its reduced form, N-methyl-phenazonium methosulfate and N,N,N',N'-tetramethyl-*p*-phenylenediamine being equally effective. However, the mediator needs to be lipophilic. Endogenous cyclic phosphorylation is fastest around 130 mV. A shift to 200 mV can also be observed if high concentrations of artificial redox mediator are present in the absence of antimycin A. (2) ATPase activity of *Rhodospseudomonas capsulata*, in the light as well as in the dark, activated or not activated by inorganic phosphate, can also be stimulated by N-methylphenazonium methosulfate. This stimulation is highest at redox potentials between 60 to 80 mV and is sensitive to antimycin A. In this case N,N,N',N'-tetramethyl-*p*-phenylenediamine is much less effective.

<sup>1</sup>Abbreviations: PES, N-methyl-phenazonium ethosulfate; PMS, N-methyl-phenazonium methosulfate; TMPD, N,N,N',N'-tetramethyl-*p*-phenylenediamine; DAD, diaminodurene (2,3,5,6-tetramethyl-*p*-phenylenediamine); Bchl, bacteriochlorophyll; FCCP, carbonylcyanide-*p*-trifluoromethoxy-phenylhydrazone;  $E_h$ , redox potential;  $E_m$ , midpoint redox potential.

## Introduction

Cyclic photophosphorylation of *Rhodospirillum rubrum* (1, 2) and *Rhodospseudomonas capsulata* (3) is inhibited by antimycin A, but only with the former has an appreciable restoration by artificial redox compounds been observed (2–5). It is noteworthy that both PMS, a hydrogen carrier, and TMPD, an electron carrier (6), are active, in contrast to cyclic phosphorylation in chloroplasts, where a hydrogen carrier is required (7). On this basis possible pathways for artificial cyclic electron flow have been discussed, either comparing chloroplasts and photosynthetic bacteria in general (8), or comparing *R. rubrum* with *Rps. capsulata* (5, 8). However, the necessity of a redox poise for optimal turnover of cyclic electron flow, first described by Bose and Gest (9), and associated photophosphorylation have not been considered in these discussions.  $E_h$  optima between 0 and 100 mV for photophosphorylation in chromatophores of *R. rubrum* (10), *Chromatium vinosum* (11), and of *Rps. sphaeroides* (12) have been reported.

ATPase activity is known to be stimulated by artificial redox compounds like PMS in mitochondria (13) and in chromatophores of *R. rubrum* (14). This effect is dependent on the ambient redox potential and has been interpreted either by a stimulation of reversed electron flow (13) or by an interaction of electron transport components with ATPase (14).

In the present paper we show that endogenous phosphorylation in chromatophores of *Rps. capsulata* as well as phosphorylation in the presence of antimycin A and of artificial redox mediators both depend strictly on the ambient redox potential, with markedly different  $E_h$  optima. In addition, such a dependence is found for ATPase activity.

Possible pathways for the action of the artificial redox mediators employed are reconsidered, especially in view of the more recent sophisticated schemes for cyclic electron flow in photosynthetic bacteria (15, 16).

## Materials and Methods

*Rps. capsulata*, strain Kb1, was grown under the culture conditions detailed earlier (17), and chromatophores were prepared therefrom according to the procedure described previously (18). Photophosphorylation was carried out at 30°C under strict anaerobic conditions in a specially devised reaction vessel furnished with a Pt-electrode and connected to a calomel reference electrode via a salt bridge. The assay medium contained in a total volume of 2 ml: 120  $\mu$ mol glycylglycine, pH 8.5, 20  $\mu$ mol  $MgCl_2$ , 3  $\mu$ mol ADP, 60  $\mu$ g

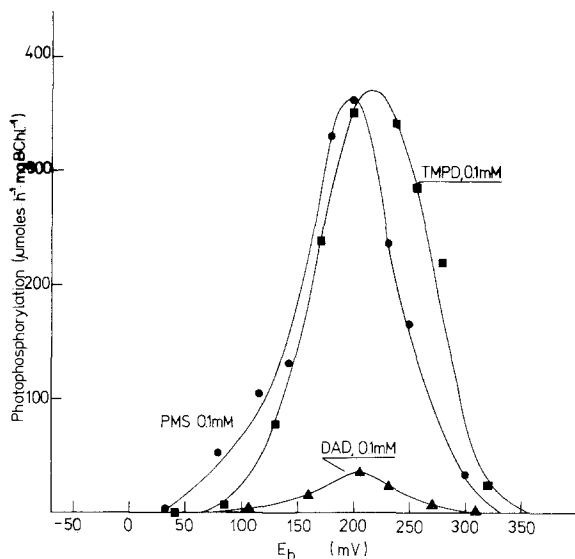
BChl chromatophores, and redox mediators at the concentrations reported in the captions to the figures; the oxidation reduction potential was adjusted by addition of small amounts of oxidizing or reducing agents (ferricyanide, ascorbate, and NADH) in the light before and after the reaction was started by injection of  $5 \mu\text{mol } ^{32}\text{P}_i$  (ca.  $10^6$  cpm) through a rubber septum. After 2 min under controlled redox conditions light was turned off and 1 ml of the reaction assay was quickly mixed with 0.2 ml of ice-cold 25% trichloroacetic acid. Incorporation of  $^{32}\text{P}_i$  into organic phosphate was measured according to Avron (19). Illumination was provided by a 150-W lamp filtered through a red plastic foil and focused by a water-containing round bottom flask; the intensity of actinic light measured with a Yellow Springs Instrument Radiometer (model 65 A) was  $2 \times 10^5$  ergs  $\cdot \text{cm}^{-2} \cdot \text{sec}^{-1}$ .

ATPase activity was measured under similar experimental conditions in the dark or in the light. In the latter case a preillumination time of 5 min was necessary to achieve maximal activation of the enzyme (20). The assay mixture contained in a final volume of 2 ml:  $120 \mu\text{mol}$  glycylglycine, pH 8.5,  $5 \mu\text{mol}$   $\text{MgCl}_2$ ,  $0.4 \mu\text{mol}$  EDTA,  $2 \mu\text{mol}$  inorganic phosphate, and  $88 \mu\text{g}$  BChl chromatophores. The reaction was started by addition of  $5 \mu\text{mole}$   $\gamma$ -labeled ( $^{32}\text{P}$ )-ATP (ca.  $10^6$  cpm) and was carried on for 3 min at  $30^\circ\text{C}$ . Special assay conditions are detailed in the caption to Fig. 7. The amount of  $^{32}\text{P}_i$  released was determined according to Horio et al. (21). Bacteriochlorophyll was measured in acetone:methanol extracts according to Clayton (22).

## Results

### *Photophosphorylation*

Inhibition of photophosphorylation by antimycin A in chromatophores of *Rhodospseudomonas capsulata* can be reversed by artificial redox compounds, provided that the redox potential ( $E_h$ ) of the reaction mixture is kept within a narrow, optimal range. Figure 1 shows this for three different redox compounds. PMS and TMPD are about equally effective, while DAD is a poor mediator. The optimal  $E_h$  seems to be independent of the midpoint potential ( $E_m$ ) of the mediator employed— $80$  mV for PMS,  $260$  mV for TMPD, and  $220$  mV for DAD at standard conditions (23)—and is about  $200$  mV. It is only some  $20$  mV higher with TMPD than with PMS in the experiment of Fig. 1, although the standard midpoint potential of these two compounds differs by  $180$  mV. Pyocyanine, with a standard midpoint potential of  $-38$  mV, did not reverse the inhibition by antimycin. As has been observed in chromatophores of *R. rubrum* earlier (6), and in contrast to cyclic

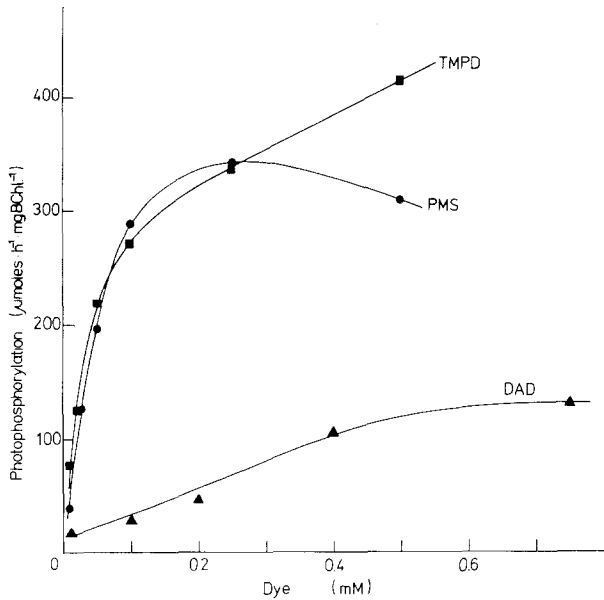


**Fig. 1.**  $E_h$  dependence of cyclic photophosphorylation restored by artificial redox mediators after inhibition by antimycin A. Assays conditions as described under Materials and Methods. The concentration of the redox dyes used was  $100 \mu\text{M}$ ; antimycin was present at a concentration of  $1 \mu\text{g/ml}$ . The rate of photophosphorylation, assayed by a standard method (18), was  $400 \mu\text{mol ATP synthesized per hour per mg BChl}$ , and was inhibited 90% by addition of antimycin ( $1 \mu\text{g/ml}$ ).

phosphorylation in chloroplasts (7, 24, 25), the artificial redox mediator need not be a hydrogen carrier in its reduced form; TMPD, not carrying hydrogen, gives stimulation to the same extent as PMS, a hydrogen carrier. However, as found for chloroplasts (7, 26), the compounds need to be lipophilic; sulfonated PMS, which is lipid-insoluble, is ineffective (data not shown).

Figure 2 shows the titration of this effect with all three compounds at optimal  $E_h$ . Saturation is reached at relatively high concentrations only, especially with DAD. PMS shows a tendency to inhibit at high concentration, in contrast to the other two compounds. This is reminiscent of the concentration optimum of PMS in cyclic photophosphorylation with chloroplasts (27). After more than 90% inhibition of cyclic photophosphorylation in chromatophores of *Rhodospseudomonas capsulata* with antimycin A, about 85% restoration with PMS and over 100% restoration with TMPD is obtained. DAD gives restoration to some 30%; this is less than reported before (5).

The optimal  $E_h$  is independent of dye concentration. It is always found at 200 mV, as shown for 0.1 and 0.5 mM PMS in Fig. 3. The same  $E_h$  optimum



**Fig. 2.** Dependence of antimycin-inhibited cyclic photophosphorylation, measured at optimal  $E_h$  (+200 mV), on the concentration of artificial redox mediators.

is observed if PMS is associated with a mixture of redox dyes at low concentration (9,10-anthraquinone-2-sulfonate, DAD, pyocyanine, PES, 2.5  $\mu$ M each), which give a better redox poise of the external phase in a broader range (data not shown). The optimum at 200 mV suggests that the rate of restored photophosphorylation is not limited by reduced PMS.

At 10  $\mu$ M PMS only a small restoration is observed—40  $\mu$ mol ATP/mg BChl per hour at 200 mV (Fig. 2). Even lower rates are observed with each of the other redox compounds at micromolar concentrations, in the presence of antimycin A. This, in our opinion, provides the possibility to study the  $E_h$  dependence of endogenous cyclic photophosphorylation in the absence of antimycin A, employing such low concentrations of redox mediators.

The optimum for endogenous photophosphorylation, either in the presence of a mixture of redox dyes, 2.5  $\mu$ M each (Fig. 4a), or in the presence of 10  $\mu$ M PMS (Fig. 4b), lies around 130 mV, which is significantly lower than the optimum for the reversal of antimycin inhibition. At higher concentration of PMS, in the absence of antimycin A, the  $E_h$  optimum is shifted to about 200 mV again (Fig. 4a,b), which corresponds to the optimum found in the presence of antimycin A (Figs. 1 and 3). At lower  $E_h$ , around 100 mV,

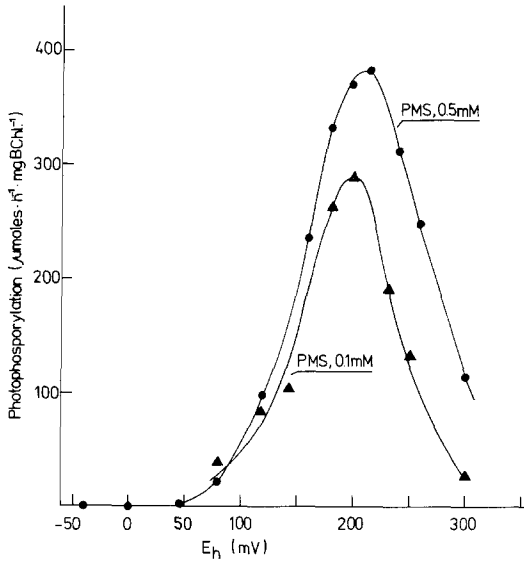
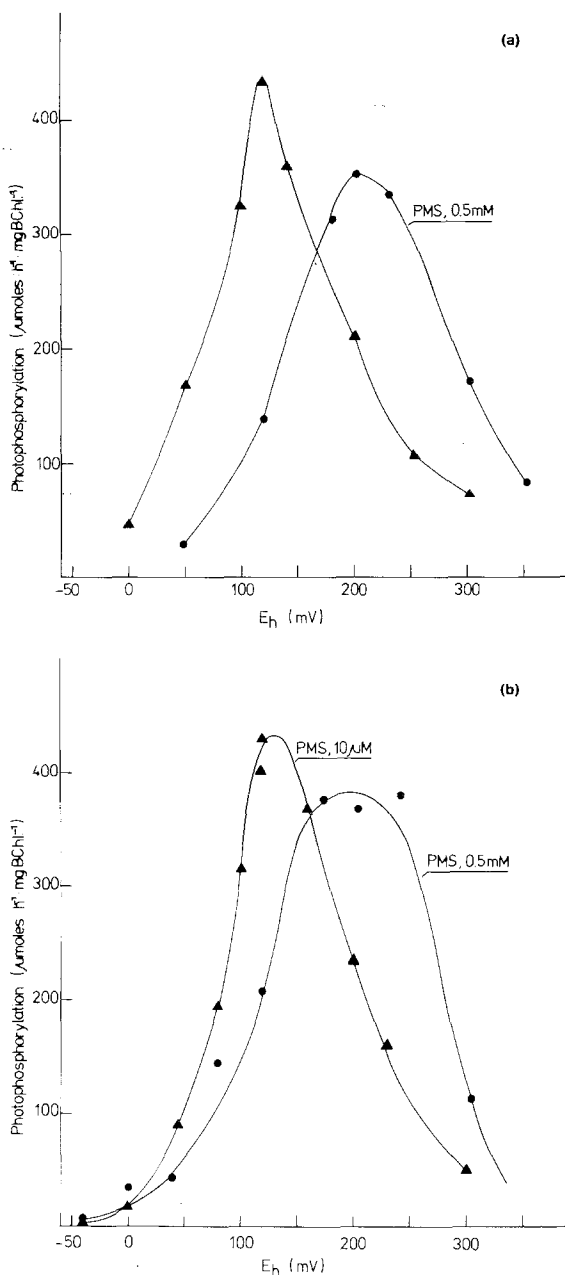


Fig. 3.  $E_h$  dependence of photophosphorylation measured in the presence of antimycin, at two different concentrations of PMS.

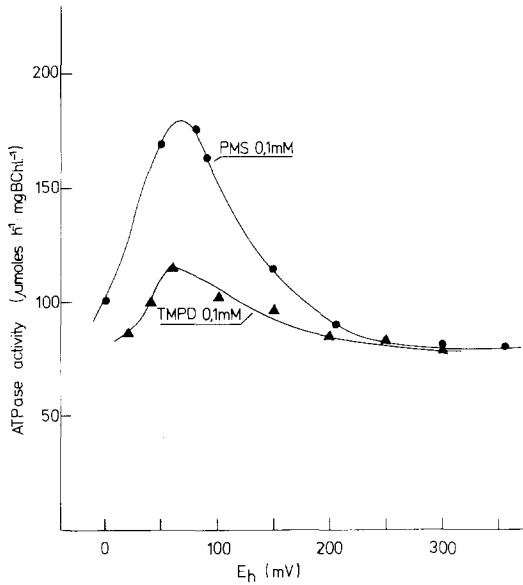
PMS seems to be inhibitory, while at higher  $E_h$ , PMS stimulates, reflecting the competition of the endogenous and the artificial pathway and their different  $E_h$  dependence.

#### ATPase

A dependence of ATPase on  $E_h$  is suggested by earlier experiments with chromatophores from *Rhodospirillum rubrum* (14). In Fig. 5 we show this dependence for ATPase of chromatophores of *Rhodopseudomonas capsulata*, measured in the dark and activated by phosphate (28). In contrast to photophosphorylation in the presence of antimycin A (Figs. 1 and 2), ATPase is much more stimulated by PMS than by TMPD, and the optimal  $E_h$  is found between 60 and 80 mV. The stimulation at the  $E_h$  optimum is about 100% with PMS and only about 30% with TMPD. A stimulation equivalent to that observed in the presence of 0.1 mM PMS and with similar  $E_h$  dependence is found with a mixture of redox compounds: PMS, PES, pyocyanine, DAD, and 9,10-anthraquinone-2-sulfonate, 10  $\mu\text{M}$  each (data not shown). As in the case of photophosphorylation, the redox compound has to be lipophilic to stimulate ATPase. Sulfonated PMS is ineffective (26).



**Fig. 4.**  $E_h$  dependence of photophosphorylation measured in the absence of antimycin. (a) The redox mediators, DAD, PMS, PES, pycyanine, and juglone, 2.5  $\mu\text{M}$  each, were included in the reaction mixture. (b) Only 10  $\mu\text{M}$  PMS were present. In the experiments represented by the solid circles in (a) and (b), 0.5 mM PMS was present additionally.

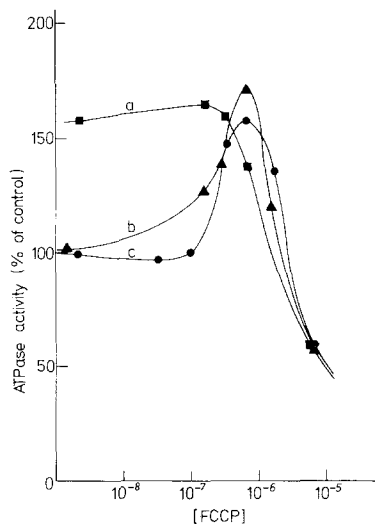


**Fig. 5.**  $E_h$  dependence of ATPase activity, measured in the dark in the presence of  $P_i$  (2 mM). The rate of ATPase activity under the same assay conditions, but in the absence of redox mediators, was  $80 \mu\text{mol } P_i$  released per hour per mg BChl.

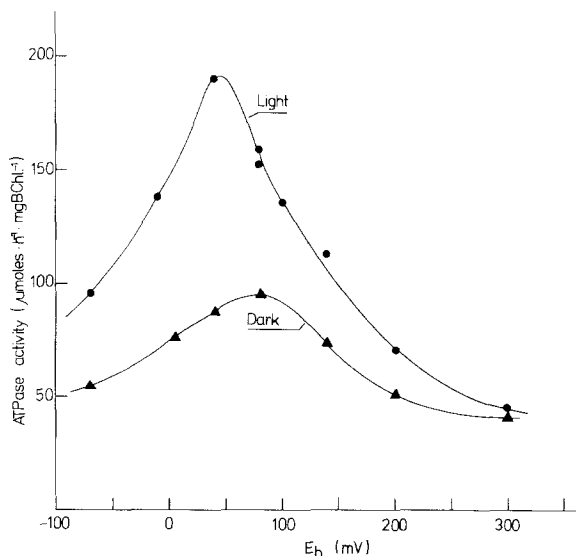
As seen in Fig. 6 at suboptimal conditions, either in the presence of antimycin A (curve b), or at high  $E_h$  (curve c), FCCP exhibits a dual effect on ATPase, as reported before (29). At about  $10^{-6}$  M it stimulates, but at higher concentrations it inhibits ATPase, reflecting that the active state of the ATPase requires some energization of the membrane (29, 30). At optimal conditions, in the absence of antimycin A and at an  $E_h$  and 60 mV (curve a) only the second inhibitory effect of FCCP is observed, and the stimulation by PMS and by low concentrations of FCCP is not additive. It seems that stimulation represents maximal turnover of the ATPase. Consequently no  $E_h$  optimum is found in the presence of  $10^{-6}$  M FCCP, the ATPase activity remaining high throughout the whole  $E_h$  range tested (data not shown).

Figure 7 demonstrates the  $E_h$  dependence of ATPase activity, in the absence of  $P_i$ , either in the light or in the dark. The optimum is found around 50 mV in the light, and at 75 mV in the dark, which is the same range found for ATPase in the dark, in the presence of  $P_i$ . This is also found for higher concentrations of PMS (not shown). Stimulation in the dark by PMS and stimulation in the light (24) might, therefore, proceed via the same pathway, which is also reflected by the fact that both stimulations are sensitive to antimycin A. On the other hand, the stimulation of ATPase by  $P_i$  can be





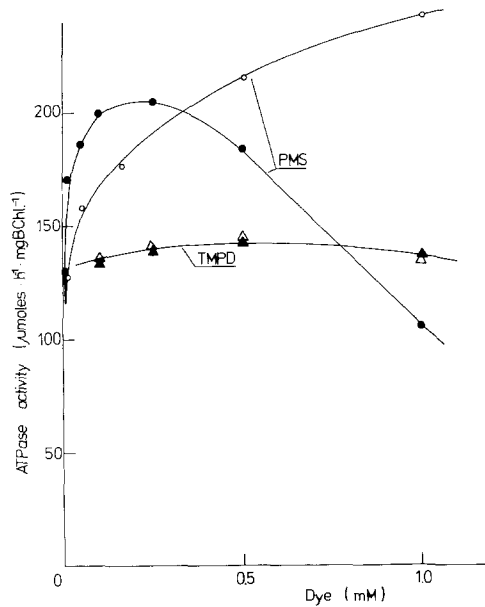
**Fig. 6.** Dependence on FCCP concentration of ATPase activity, measured in the dark in the presence of  $P_i$ . PMS was present at a concentration of 100  $\mu$ M. Curve a:  $E_h = 60$  mV; curve b:  $E_h = 60$  mV in the presence of antimycin A (1  $\mu$ g/ml); curve c:  $E_h = 400$  mV. The control rate was 60  $\mu$ mol per hour per mg BChl.



**Fig. 7.**  $E_h$  dependence of ATPase activity in the light and in the dark. ATPase activity was measured as described under Materials and Methods, except that  $P_i$  was absent and the concentrations of ATP and  $Mg^{2+}$  were 1.5 and 5 mM, respectively. PMS was present at a concentration of 100  $\mu$ M.

observed at high  $E_h$  and undoubtedly represents a different mechanism of activation (compare the rates of ATPase at about 300 mV in Figs. 5 and 7).

Different dependencies of ATPase activity on PMS concentration in light, and in dark in the presence of  $P_i$ , are found (Fig. 8). While the former exhibits a normal saturation curve, the latter is inhibited at higher concentrations of PMS. The  $E_h$  optimum of either activity is independent of the concentration of PMS as long as stimulation is observed and is always found between 50 and 80 mV. Both activities are only meagerly stimulated by TMPD, and the stimulation is rather independent of TMPD concentration (Fig. 8). Possibly TMPD is just required to poise the endogenous system at optimal  $E_h$ , without any additional action. The stimulation of ATPase, in the light, as well as in the dark in the presence of  $P_i$  (Fig. 6), is sensitive to antimycin A. In the former case the rate of ATPase decreases from about 190



**Fig. 8.** Dependence of ATPase activity, measured at optimal  $E_h$  (80 mV), on the concentration of artificial redox compounds. (○—○) ATPase activity in the presence of PMS, assayed in the light under the conditions described in Fig. 7. (●—●) ATPase activity in the presence of PMS, assayed in the dark under the conditions described in Fig. 6. (▲—▲) ATPase activity in the presence of TMPD, assayed in the dark (Fig. 6). Measurements with TMPD in the light gave essentially identical results (Δ—Δ).

$\mu\text{mol/h}^{-1}$  and  $\text{mg BChl}^{-1}$  to about 120, in the presence of  $1 \mu\text{g}$  antimycin A per milliliter; in the latter case the rate decreases from about 170 to about 100.

### Discussion

The applicability of redox potentiometry for bioenergetic studies has been reviewed by Dutton and Wilson (31). The interpretation of the observed redox dependences is limited by the fact that the PT-electrode can only monitor the redox state of external mediators in some kind of steady-state distribution with the pools of the mediators located within and beyond the membrane. Complete equilibration of all redox components with an external redox mediator would result in complete short-circuiting of the electron transport chain and in the impossibility to perform chemical work. Disequilibrium is therefore a natural requirement for the investigation of an energy transducing system. Nevertheless, our results show that the external redox conditions affect the rates of photophosphorylation and ATPase effectively and reproducibly, indicating that some endogenous component in the cycle is interacting rapidly with external redox compounds. The fact that the  $E_h$  optima observed do not depend on the nature of the mediator suggests that the  $E_h$  optima are intrinsic properties of endogenous components which are kinetically limiting.

#### *Photophosphorylation*

$E_h$  optima between 0 and 100 mV have been reported earlier for cyclic photophosphorylation in chromatophores of photosynthetic bacteria (10–12). In our experiments two sites of interaction for redox mediators with the phosphorylating, cyclic electron transport chain are distinguishable: one is reacting optimally at an external  $E_h$  of about 120 mV at pH 8.5, and is observed in the absence of antimycin A at low concentrations of a single redox mediator or of a mixture (Fig. 4). This  $E_h$  is between the  $E_m$  of a redox carrier Z mediating electron transfer between cytochrome *b* and cytochrome  $c_2$ , postulated for *Rps. capsulata* (32) and for *Rps. sphaeroides* (33), and the  $E_m$  of cytochrome  $c_2$ . In this redox range the rate of electron transfer to cytochrome  $c_2$  is maximal (33, 34), the maximal electric potential across the membrane is formed (35, 36), and also proton uptake following multipulse activation is maximal (37, 38).

A second site of interaction appears at high concentration of PMS or at intermediate concentrations of redox mediators when the redox steady state of the electron transport cycle is perturbed by addition of antimycin A. The

fact that this pathway, in order to be kinetically dominant over the endogenous cycle, or in order to bypass the block by antimycin A, requires relatively high concentrations of mediators suggests that the interaction of this site with the external phase, mediated by the dye, is kinetically more demanding. This second site is characterized by an external  $E_h$  of 200 mV at pH 8.5. The reason why other investigators did not find appreciable restoration of photophosphorylation by PMS in chromatophores of *Rps. capsulata* (3, 5) could be due to this narrow optimum at rather high  $E_h$ . Restoration has readily been observed in their experiments with *Rhodospirillum rubrum*, and it might be concluded in turn that the two  $E_h$  optima lie closer in this case.

It is worth emphasizing that as in *R. rubrum* (6) and in *Rps. capsulata* TMPD, an electron carrier, is as efficient as PMS, a hydrogen carrier, in restoring photophosphorylation; in contrast, for cyclic photophosphorylation in chloroplasts a hydrogen carrier is needed, TMPD being inactive (7, 24) [see the discussion by Trebst (8)]. We therefore propose that TMPD catalyzes a bypass of the antimycin inhibition site, linking the ubiquinone-cytochrome *b* complex with cytochrome  $c_2$  on the inner surface of the chromatophore membrane. The intrinsic proton transport activity of the ubiquinone-cytochrome *b* complex is thereby restored. This would be similar to the bypass of the inhibition site of dibromo-methyl-isopropyl-*p*-benzoquinone in chloroplasts induced by TMPD in noncyclic (39), as well as in certain types of cyclic photophosphorylation (24). On the basis of the similarities of the reactions, we further suggest that PMS and also DAD restore photophosphorylation in the presence of antimycin A by internal bypasses as TMPD does, and not by transmembrane hydrogen-carrying shuttles, as suggested by Trebst in analogy to the chloroplast system (8). Obviously a fundamental difference in chloroplasts is the very fast reaction of the primary reductant of the photocenter with the endogenous quinone pool in chromatophores (37, 38). Presumably, artificial redox compounds could only compete in this system if the reaction is slowed down, e.g., by extraction of ubiquinone. Preliminary experiments with chromatophores that have been depleted of ubiquinone (40) show that a rather appreciable stimulation of photophosphorylation can be obtained with PMS as mediator. In this case, in analogy to chloroplasts, it is possible that proton translocation is catalyzed by a transmembrane hydrogen-carrying shuttle of PMS. TMPD should be inactive in this case; that remains to be demonstrated (in preparation).

#### *ATPase*

ATPase activity of Rhodospirillaceae can be modulated by various chemical and physical parameters, as for example by some anions, divalent

cations, ADP, and light (30, 41). A minimal scheme, which emerges from the studies performed mainly in *Rps. capsulata* (20, 28, 29) and *R. rubrum* (30, 42, 43) chromatophores, must include at least two kinetically distinct forms of the enzyme which have a different activity in energy transduction. An active state of ATPase in *Rps. capsulata* can be achieved either by light via energization of the chromatophore membrane (20) or in the dark by addition of phosphate or other anions (28).

An observed stimulation of ATPase, therefore, can be interpreted in two ways—by a shift of the equilibrium to the more active conformation on one hand, or by a release of the back pressure of the high-energy state of the membrane on the other. Accordingly, the dual effect of the uncoupler FCCP can be explained: at low concentrations it stimulates ATPase by decreasing the high energy state; at higher concentrations the high-energy state becomes too low to maintain the conformational equilibrium of the ATPase in favor of the active form (29) (Fig. 6). We tend to interpret the stimulation of ATPase by PMS, described in this paper, by the second possibility, i.e., as a release of the high-energy pressure via a stimulation of reversed electron flow, as has been suggested for ATPase in mitochondria (13). This is because no further stimulation of ATPase by uncoupler on top of PMS is observed at optimal  $E_h$ , but is found at unfavorable  $E_h$  (Fig. 6).

The observations for ATPase activated by light resemble those for ATPase activated by  $P_i$  (compare Figs. 5 and 7), except that the dependence on PMS concentration is different (Fig. 8): in the light, saturation is observed, while in the dark, inhibition is found at high concentrations of PMS. This can be explained by the assumption that in the light, in spite of fast reversed electron flow, the high-energy state of the membrane is always high enough to keep the ATPase molecules in the more active state, while in the dark, at high PMS concentrations, fast reversed electron flow decreases the high-energy state below the limit necessary for ATPase activation.

#### *The Pathways of Artificial Redox Compounds Catalyzing Photophosphorylation and ATPase*

The following considerations have to be included in any electron transport scheme of interpretation.

1. The pathway of PMS and TMPD in photophosphorylating electron flow must be different from that in reversed electron flow, stimulating ATPase. This conclusion is based on the large differences in  $E_h$  optima, and on the fact that the former pathway circumvents the antimycin block, while the latter remains largely sensitive to antimycin. Moreover, TMPD is equivalent to PMS in the former, but much less effective in the latter, as

found also for ATPase in mitochondria (13). Of course, since the light reaction in the photocenter is irreversible, for reversed electron flow an additional reaction of the mediator is required for transporting electrons back to cytochrome  $c_2$ . Since this would presumably occur across the membrane, the redox couple PMSH/PMS $\cdot$  would be more efficient than reactions involving PMS $^+$  and TMPD $^+$ , because of its higher lipid solubility. In this way the inefficiency of TMPD and the low  $E_h$  optimum of the ATPase, which would stabilize the PMSH/PMS $\cdot$  couple, could be explained. However, the antimycin sensitivity of the stimulation of the ATPase tells us, in addition, either that the bypass of the antimycin inhibition site is irreversible, or that in reverse this reaction, together with the transport of reducing equivalents by PMSH back to cytochrome  $c_2$ , does not lead to additional dissipation of the high-energy state.

2. The  $E_h$  optima for photophosphorylation as well as for ATPase are independent of the  $E_m$  of the mediator, and therefore must reflect intrinsic rate limits of the electron transport chain.

3. The rate limit for ATPase apparently does not involve cytochrome  $c_2$ , since the same  $E_h$  optimum is found for ATPase in the dark and in the light, although cytochrome  $c_2$  is largely reduced under the former but oxidized under the latter condition. This rate limit could involve endogenous ubiquinone, since extraction of this component from chromatophores of *R. rubrum* has been reported to decrease ATPase activity (14).

4. As reflected by the  $E_h$  optima, more electrons in the system are needed for the stimulation of ATPase than for endogenous photophosphorylation, which in turn requires more electrons than phosphorylation in the presence of antimycin A.

Simple sequential schemes, as proposed earlier (e.g., in Refs. 5 and 13), without further assumptions are not able to explain why the optimum for the bypass of the antimycin inhibition site is found at 200 mV, which is more oxidizing than the optimum for endogenous cyclic photophosphorylation, and where component Z (32, 33), cytochrome  $b$ , and PMS should be rather oxidized, even in steady-state electron flow, and why there is no dependence on the  $E_m$  of the artificial mediator. They also cannot explain why the bypass in reverse does not lead to an antimycin-insensitive ATPase.

More sophisticated, nonlinear schemes have been proposed for electron transport in mitochondria (44, 45) and in photosynthetic bacteria (15, 16, 44) to explain observations in conflict with a linear scheme. Among them Mitchell's "Q-cycle" is the best-reasoned example (16, 44), and it is possible that our observations could be better explained on this basis also. For instance, it could be assumed that the strict geometry of the cycle is abolished by the action of the artificial redox compound. For this mechanism various

possibilities exist. A particularly interesting one might be in facilitating the dismutation of the semiquinone intermediate formed in the two reaction centers at either surface of the membrane (16, 44). In each case a decrease of the  $H^+/e^-$  ratio from 2 to 1 would result, and the transmembrane redox reaction of cytochrome *b* would be lost. It should be tested in this context whether high concentrations of PMS, like antimycin A, inhibit the slow phase of the carotenoid shift (35, 36), as well as the slow binding of the second proton (15, 37).

At the present experimental stage it seems too early for a detailed discussion of our results in view of a nonlinear electron transport scheme. We are inclined to believe, however, that the  $E_h$  optimum at 200 mV for photophosphorylation in the presence of antimycin A might again reflect the anomalous behavior of cytochrome *b*, which has led to the proposal of the "Q-cycle" (16, 44).

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