

# Photoreduction of NADP<sup>+</sup> in Photosystem II of Higher Plants: Requirement for Manganese

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The effects of reversible manganese extraction on NADP<sup>+</sup> photoreduction were studied with higher plant subchloroplast preparations of photosystem II (PS II). Under anaerobic conditions, when the reaction centers (RCs) of PS II are “closed” (*i.e.* in the state [P680 Pheo] Q<sub>A</sub><sup>-</sup>), and in the presence of ferredoxin–ferredoxin–NADP<sup>+</sup> reductase, NADP<sup>+</sup> reduction is observed at a rate of 0.8–1.1 μmol/mg × chlorophyll × h. After complete removal of manganese from PS II, the rate of NADP<sup>+</sup> reduction is reduced 40–50-fold. Upon the addition of Mn at a concentration of approx. 4 Mn atoms per reaction center, the NADP<sup>+</sup> reduction is restored up to 85–90% of the initial value. When half of this amount of Mn is combined with about 40 times of the equivalent concentration of other divalent ions (Ca<sup>2+</sup>, Sr<sup>2+</sup>, Mg<sup>2+</sup> etc.) the reaction is also reactivated. Dinoseb (10<sup>-6</sup> M) an inhibitor of electron transfer in PS II prevents NADP<sup>+</sup> photoreduction. It is concluded that under conditions when the first quinone acceptor, Q<sub>A</sub>, is in its reduced state (Q<sub>A</sub><sup>-</sup>), electrons are transferred from reduced pheophytin (Pheo<sup>-</sup>) to NADP<sup>+</sup>, indicating that PS II can reduce NADP<sup>+</sup> without the participation of PS I. On the basis of these and literature data, an alternate pathway for electron phototransfer in PS II reaction centers of higher plants is suggested. Some problems concerning the Z-scheme are discussed.

## Introduction

The Z-scheme for photosynthetic electron transport is generally accepted and is in accordance with the necessity for the absorption of 8 quanta in order to release one O<sub>2</sub> molecule. Four quanta are absorbed by each of the two photosystems which promote the transfer of 4 electrons from 2 water molecules to two NADP<sup>+</sup> molecules ( $E'_0 = -0.32$  V) [1–5]. Normally electrons from reduced ferredoxin (Fd) are transferred to NADP<sup>+</sup> via ferredoxin–NADP<sup>+</sup> reductase. This specific flavoprotein mediates the one-electron reaction of ferredoxin and the two-electron reaction of NADP<sup>+</sup>.

The mid-point redox-potential of the intermediate electron acceptor of PS II, pheophytin

(Pheo), is  $-0.61$  V [6, 7]. Theoretically, this potential is sufficient to allow PS II to photoreduce electron acceptors with  $E'_0 \approx -0.4$  V (ferredoxin, NADP<sup>+</sup>, methylviologen, benzylviologen, etc.) typical for PS I [8, 9]. This idea has been supported by data on the acceleration of the dark oxidation of Pheo<sup>-</sup> after its reduction in the light in PS II-enriched subchloroplast particles of higher plants [8, 10] and in mutants of the green alga *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* lacking PS I [9, 10] when ferredoxin, NADP<sup>+</sup>, MV<sup>2+</sup>, BV<sup>2+</sup>, etc. are added to the samples.

Recently, we have shown that PS II particles can photoreduce NADP<sup>+</sup> at a low rate [11]. This was confirmed by using PS II reaction center preparations [12], although the relation of this photoreaction to the intact PS II was not quite clear. In this paper, further evidence is presented for NADP<sup>+</sup> photoreduction in PS II enriched in subchloroplast particles as directly related to electron transfer within PS II.

## Materials and Methods

Chloroplasts were isolated from 10 to 14 day old pea seedlings according to [13] with some modifications [14]. Isolation of the “heavy”, oxygen-

**Abbreviations:** Chl, chlorophyll; NADP<sup>+</sup>, oxidized nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate; DCMU (diuron), 3-(3',4'-dichlorophenyl)-1,1-dimethylurea; Dinoseb, 2,4-Dinitro-6-(2-butyl)phenol; MV<sup>2+</sup>, methylviologen; BV<sup>2+</sup>, benzylviologen; PPC, protein-pigment complexes; ΔA, photoinduced absorbance changes; ΔF, photoinduced changes of Chl fluorescence yield; PS, photosystem; P680, the primary electron donor in PS II; Q<sub>A</sub> and Q<sub>B</sub>, primary and secondary electron acceptors of PS II; Pheo, pheophytin; ETC, electron transport chain.

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evolving chloroplast fragments enriched in PS II was carried out as described [7, 15] by centrifugation of a chloroplast suspension, treated with 0.4% digitonin and 0.1% Triton X-100, at  $20,000 \times g$ . These particles are designated as DT-20 and evolve O<sub>2</sub> at a rate of  $100\text{--}120 \mu\text{mol}/\text{mg} \times \text{Chl} \times \text{h}$  with the saturating light in the presence of 0.5 mM ferricyanide. PS II particles isolated by the treatment with Triton X-100 (T-20) alone according to the method as published in [16] evolved O<sub>2</sub> at a rate of  $250\text{--}300 \mu\text{mol}/\text{mg} \times \text{Chl} \times \text{h}$ . Analysis of the T-20 and DT-20 samples showed that they contained 220–250 and 80–100 chlorophyll molecules per one molecule of P680 or Pheo, as well as 6–8 thousand and 15–15.500 chlorophyll molecules per one molecule of P700, respectively. The removal of Mn from the PS II preparations ( $\approx 99\%$ ) was carried out as described earlier [7, 17–19]. The Mn content was assayed with a flame atomic-absorption spectrophotometer AAS-1 (Carl Zeiss "Jena") using calibrated solutions of MnCl<sub>2</sub> [7, 19]. The activity of PS II was determined by changes in the variable Chl fluorescence yield ( $\Delta F$ ) related to photoreduction of the primary electron acceptor Q<sub>A</sub>, and by the rate of 2,6-dichlorophenol indophenol (DCPIP) photoreduction [7, 20]. The kinetics of photoinduced absorbance changes of chlorophyll P680 ( $\Delta A_{678}$ ), DCPIP ( $\Delta A_{590}$ ), NADPH ( $\Delta A_{340}$ ) and  $\Delta F$  was measured in a 10 mm path length cuvette at 20 °C by means of a phosphoroscope set-up [6–10, 17–20]. The concentration of PS II RCs was calculated from the value of  $\Delta A_{685}$  related to photoreduction of pheophytin as the intermediate electron acceptor [21] and  $\Delta A_{678}$  related to photooxidation of the primary electron donor P680 [22]. The molar extinction coefficient for NADPH of  $6.3 \times 10^3 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$  at 340 nm was used in calculations [23]. Anaerobic conditions were produced by adding glucose (10 mM), glucose oxidase (about 50 units/ml) and catalase (about 1000 units/ml) into a stoppered cuvette [8–11, 24]. The measurements were carried out in a medium containing 20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.8), 35 mM NaCl and 2 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub> at 20 °C. Chlorophyll concentration was 10  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ .

Triton X-100 and digitonin were purchased from Merck, Germany; Tris buffer from Serva, Germany; glucose oxidase and ferredoxin-NADP<sup>+</sup> reductase from Sigma, U.S.A.; NADP<sup>+</sup> from

Reanal, Hungary. All other reagents were of analytical or chemical grade from the U.S.S.R.

## Results and Discussion

Illumination of untreated PS II particles under aerobic conditions by intense actinic light induces a 3-fold increase in chlorophyll fluorescence yield up to the level of  $F_{\text{max}}$ , ( $F_0 + \Delta F = F_{\text{max}}$ ) related to the photoreduction of Q [6–11] (Fig. 1, curve 1). Under anaerobic conditions, the increase in the chlorophyll fluorescence yield up to the level of  $F_{\text{max}}$  also occurs, indicating that the state Q<sub>A</sub><sup>-</sup> is accumulated [8–11, 24], but in the absence of actinic light (Fig. 1, curve 2). In this case reaction centers of PS II are "closed", *i.e.* they are in the state [P680 Pheo] Q<sub>A</sub><sup>-</sup> (Fig. 1). After  $F_{\text{max}}$  is reached the actinic light induce a decrease in fluorescence yield (Fig. 1, curve 2). This is due to the pheophytin photoreduction [6–11, 17–21]. Photoreduction of NADP<sup>+</sup> was investigated in the DT-20 particles under anaerobic conditions, when Q<sub>A</sub> was in the reduced state Q<sub>A</sub><sup>-</sup> (see K in Fig. 1, curve 2).

When 3 mM NADP<sup>+</sup> and the catalytic system ferredoxin (10 mM), ferredoxin-NADP<sup>+</sup> reductase (*ca.* 4  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ ) are added to DT-20 particles under anaerobic conditions, a photoinduced absorbance change at 340 nm related to the reduction of NADP<sup>+</sup> is observed (Fig. 2, curve 1). The rate of NADP<sup>+</sup> photoreduction in this case was equivalent to  $0.8\text{--}1.1 \mu\text{mol}/\text{mg} \times \text{Chl} \times \text{h}$ .

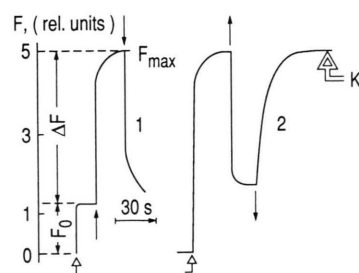


Fig. 1. Kinetics of photoinduced  $\Delta F$  in chloroplast fragments DT-20 under aerobic (1) and anaerobic (2) conditions. Chlorophyll concentration is about 10  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ . (K-) indicates addition of the system ferredoxin (Fd) (10 mM) - Fd/NADP<sup>+</sup> reductase (*ca.* 4  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ ) - NADP<sup>+</sup> (3 mM);  $\delta$  - switch on of the measuring light (approx. 480 nm;  $\approx 0.15 \text{ J} \times \text{m}^{-2} \times \text{s}^{-1}$ ) exciting chlorophyll fluorescence ( $\lambda > 650 \text{ nm}$ ).  $\uparrow$  and  $\downarrow$  - actinic light on and off, respectively ( $\lambda > 600 \text{ nm}$ ;  $\approx 10^{-2} \text{ J} \times \text{m}^{-2} \times \text{s}^{-1}$ ).

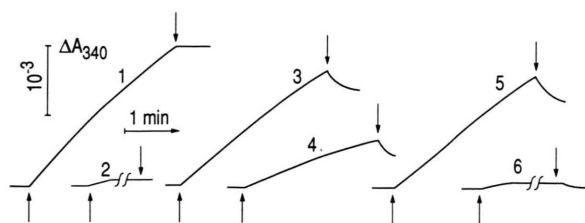


Fig. 2. Kinetics of photoinduced absorbance changes ( $\Delta A$ ) at 340 nm ( $\Delta A_{340}$ ) related to NADP<sup>+</sup> photoreduction (added at a concentration of 3 mM) in the presence of 10 mM ferredoxin and ferredoxin-NADP<sup>+</sup> reductase (4  $\mu$ g/ml) by Mn-depleted DT-20 fragments under anaerobic conditions before (1) and after the complete removal of Mn (2–6); in the absence of divalent metals (2) and after addition of 0.4  $\mu$ M MnCl<sub>2</sub> (3); 0.2  $\mu$ M MnCl<sub>2</sub> (4); 0.2  $\mu$ M MnCl<sub>2</sub> plus 4  $\mu$ M CaCl<sub>2</sub> (5); 6  $\mu$ M CaCl<sub>2</sub> (6). Chlorophyll content, 10  $\mu$ g/ml, 20 °C.  $\uparrow$  and  $\downarrow$  -actinic light on and off, respectively.

If NADP<sup>+</sup> is reduced by PS II electron transport components, the rate of its photoreduction (similar to photoreduction of DCPIP, Pheo or Q<sub>A</sub> and P680 photooxidation [7, 17–20, 22, 24]), should be changed as a result of extraction and subsequent addition of Mn<sup>2+</sup>. Indeed, upon complete removal of Mn from DT-20 (or T-20) particles, the rate of NADP<sup>+</sup> photoreduction is inhibited by a factor of 40–50 (Fig. 2, curve 2). Subsequent addition of  $4 \times 10^{-7}$  M Mn<sup>2+</sup> to the Mn-depleted DT-20 particles (Fig. 2, curve 3) leads to a marked activation of this photoreaction (up to 85–90% of the initial value). The addition of Mn<sup>2+</sup> at a concentration of  $2 \times 10^{-7}$  M (Fig. 2, curve 4) has only a slight effect on the rate of NADP<sup>+</sup> photoreduction, but this photoreaction can be dramatically activated when 4  $\mu$ M Ca<sup>2+</sup> (Fig. 2, curve 5), Sr<sup>2+</sup> or Mg<sup>2+</sup> are added along with the Mn<sup>2+</sup>. However, with Mn<sup>2+</sup> absent, the addition of any other divalent metal cation does not activate the reaction of NADP<sup>+</sup> photoreduction (Fig. 2, curve 6). Na<sup>+</sup> ions up to 0.1 M with or without  $2 \times 10^{-7}$  M Mn<sup>2+</sup> has no effect on the value of the  $\Delta A_{340}$  change due to NADP<sup>+</sup> photoreduction.

Fig. 3 shows the dependence of NADP<sup>+</sup> photoreduction rate ( $\Delta A_{340}$ ) in Mn-depleted DT-20 particles on Mn<sup>2+</sup> concentration in the medium. This dependence exhibits some peculiarities. The reactivation is observed at extremely low concentrations of Mn<sup>2+</sup>. It appears at a concentration of  $10^{-7}$  M

and is at maximum at  $4 \times 10^{-7}$  M, which corresponds to about 4 Mn<sup>2+</sup> atoms per RC (Fig. 3, curve 1). When cations like Ca<sup>2+</sup>, Sr<sup>2+</sup>, Mg<sup>2+</sup>, Co<sup>2+</sup>, etc. are present in the medium (40–60 atoms per RC), the maximum reactivation of  $\Delta A_{340}$  is observed at even lower concentrations of Mn<sup>2+</sup> (ca.  $2 \times 10^{-7}$  M), when no more than two Mn<sup>2+</sup> atoms per RC are added to the medium (Fig. 3, curve 2). This dependence of the reactivation of the NADP<sup>+</sup> photoreduction capacity on the concentration of Mn<sup>2+</sup> added in combination with Ca<sup>2+</sup> or other divalent metal cations is similar to that observed earlier under the same conditions for the reactivation of photoreduction of Q<sub>A</sub>, Pheo and DCPIP [7, 17, 18, 20] and P680 photooxidation [22].

The decrease of the  $\Delta A_{340}$  rate after complete removal of Mn from PS II preparations and its increase after subsequent addition of Mn<sup>2+</sup> indicate that the functional activity of the donor side PS II is required for the photoreaction resulting in NADP<sup>+</sup> reduction. This strongly suggests that the donor side of the PS II RC provides the source of the electrons. The effect of the extraction and subsequent addition of Mn<sup>2+</sup> at extremely low concentrations on NADP<sup>+</sup> photoreduction as well as on Q<sub>A</sub>, Pheo, DCPIP photoreduction and P680 photooxidation (see ref. above) supports the conclusion that NADP<sup>+</sup> photoreduction under these conditions occurs directly *via* the PS II electron transport.

The suggestion that NADP<sup>+</sup> can be photoreduced by PS II is supported by inhibition analysis

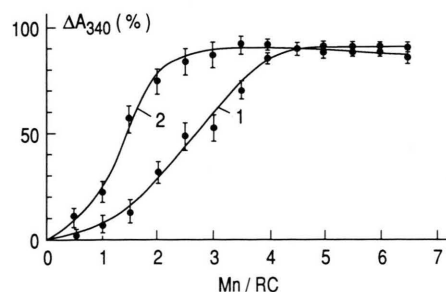


Fig. 3. Dependence of NADP<sup>+</sup> photoreduction in Mn-depleted DT-20 particles on concentration of MnCl<sub>2</sub> added to the medium in the absence (1) or in the presence of 4  $\mu$ M CaCl<sub>2</sub> (2). Vertical bars show a mean root-square error of  $\Delta A_{340}$  measurements (8 experiments). A concentration of 1 Mn/RC corresponds to the addition of  $10^{-7}$  M MnCl<sub>2</sub> to the suspension of DT-20 particles at a chlorophyll concentration of 10  $\mu$ g/ml.

of PS II electron transfer. When  $10^{-5}$  M diuron is used to block electron transfer between the primary and secondary acceptors ( $Q_A$  and  $Q_B$ ) in DT-20 particles reactivated by  $Mn^{2+}$ , the rate of NADP<sup>+</sup> photoreduction was practically unchanged (data not shown). This indicates that NADP<sup>+</sup> photoreduction is not connected with electron donation from  $Q_A$  or  $Q_B$  which are kept in their reduced state during our experiments. In contrast, dinoseb (2,4-dinitro-6-(2-butyl)phenol), a well-known inhibitor of PS II reactions which is capable of accepting an electron from Pheo<sup>-</sup> [24, 25] caused a decrease in the NADP<sup>+</sup> photoreduction by 15–20% at a concentration of  $2 \times 10^{-7}$  M under anaerobic conditions. At a concentration of about  $10^{-6}$  M dinoseb, a considerable (>80%) decrease of the  $\Delta A_{340}$  change was observed (data not shown).

When pheophytin photoreduction ( $\Delta A_{685}$  and  $\Delta A_{545}$ ) and P680 photooxidation ( $\Delta A_{678}$ ) were assayed simultaneously under the same inhibitory conditions the degree of inhibition for these activities was found to correspond to that of the NADP<sup>+</sup> photoreduction.

Thus, in PS II preparations the electrons from the photoactive Pheo<sup>-</sup> can be transferred to NADP<sup>+</sup> in the presence of the exogenous catalytic system: ferredoxin–ferredoxin–NADP<sup>+</sup> reductase employing anaerobic conditions when  $Q_A$  is in the state  $Q_A^-$ . It was shown earlier that in the presence of 3 mM NADP<sup>+</sup> whole cells of the *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* mutant ACC-1 (which contains only chlorophyll- $\alpha$ -protein complex of PS II and no photosystem I and light-harvesting complex) a considerable (20–30-fold) acceleration of dark relaxation of the photoinduced  $\Delta F$  related to Pheo photoreduction [9] occurs. In other words, NADP<sup>+</sup> added to the mutant ACC-1 without an exogenous catalytic system resulted in acceleration of dark oxidation of Pheo that is reduced in the light. Apparently, electrons are transferred from Pheo<sup>-</sup> to NADP<sup>+</sup> [9] and the corresponding reductase is present in these mutants (in contrast to the DT-20 and T-20 particles [9, 10] and Pheo<sup>-</sup> is accessible to these enzyme(s). Additionally, it was found [9, 10] that typical PS I electron acceptors like  $MV^{2+}$ ,  $BV^{2+}$ ,  $NO_2^-$ ,  $NO_3^-$ ,  $SO_4^{2-}$  can functionally interact with Pheo<sup>-</sup> produced in PS II.

Thus, electron acceptors typical for PS I ferredoxin, NADP<sup>+</sup>,  $MV^{2+}$ ,  $BV^{2+}$ ,  $NO_2^-$ ,  $NO_3^-$ ,  $SO_4^{2-}$

( $E'_0 \approx -400$  mV) can accept electrons from reduced pheophytin ( $E'_0 = -610$  mV [6, 7] of PS II ( $\Delta E'_0 \approx 200$  mV;  $\Delta G^0 \approx 4.7$  kcal/mol). It should be noted that such a change in free energy is not sufficient for ATP synthesis [26–28].

On the other hand, our results support once more the conclusion made earlier [7, 17, 18, 20, 22] that Mn-containing active centers functioning at the donor side of PS II have 4 Mn atoms per 1 RC. Two of them are obligatory in the redox reactions linked with H<sub>2</sub>O oxidation to O<sub>2</sub>. Two other Mn atoms can be replaced by other divalent metal cations. Probably, the two other Mn atoms perform some structural function.

Taking into account the high rate of electron transfer from Pheo<sup>-</sup> to  $Q_A$  (200–250 ps [3, 29, 30]), it cannot be expected that NADP<sup>+</sup> (or other PS I electron acceptors) will be photoreduced with high efficiency in PS II under conditions when  $Q_A$  is in the oxidized (functionally active) form. Instead, this process must likely take place as an artificial side pathway (alternate or reserve way) of electron transfer only when  $Q_A$  is accumulated in the reduced form and incapable of accepting electrons. In other words, if normal electron transport is blocked at  $Q_A$  level, *i.e.* when the electron influx exceeds the efflux (*e.g.*, under the effect of various stress factors) there may appear an alternative way of electron transfer from the reduced pheophytin to NADP<sup>+</sup> without PS I participation.

Earlier, Arnon [31] developed the idea that long-wave and short-wave photosystems function in parallel but not consecutively. According to this author's opinion, the long-wave system provides cyclic and the short-wave one non-cyclic electron flow. It is suggested that each functions independently and each includes a single type of photoreaction. Since 1969 Arnon *et al.* [32] has suggested, and even more recently developed a scheme [33–35], that three photochemical reactions occur within the two photosystems. One photoreaction is involved in the long-wave system of cyclic photophosphorylation, whereas the short-wave non-cyclic system includes two photoreactions, II<sub>a</sub> and II<sub>b</sub>. Photoreaction II<sub>b</sub> is suggested to be responsible for H<sub>2</sub>O photooxidation to O<sub>2</sub>, while photoreaction II<sub>a</sub> – for cytochrome  $b_{559}$  oxidation and NADP<sup>+</sup> reduction.

It was reported [36, 37] that two different types of protein-pigment complexes (PPC) of PS II RC



can be isolated. The study of the functional properties of these complexes showed that the PS II RC from one these protein-pigment complexes lacks P680 [38]. An irreversible bleaching with a maximum of 670 nm, *i.e.* different from the position of P680 band was observed. However, there are indirect data indicating that this PPC must contain RC though it can be of a type quite different from P680 [37, 38].

Hiyama *et al.* [39] suggested that there are two types of P700 present, one of which acts under high light intensities, and is photooxidized in connection with general electron flow, while the second operates only under low light. Breton indicated that the population of PS I RC was heterogeneous which was manifested by different sensitivity of signal decay of the centers in the presence of ferricyanide [40]. The authors of ref. [41] propose two types of PS I, being present but only one of them should be subjected to cation regulation at the level of excitation energy distribution. Unfortunately, direct evidence is still absent. Our data and that in the references cited indicate that the Z-scheme can not be considered as a rigidly fixed electron transport chain (ETC) of photosynthesis. Probably, under most conditions this is the best available route for electrons.

Thus, on the basis of literature data and our experimental material it can be suggested that there

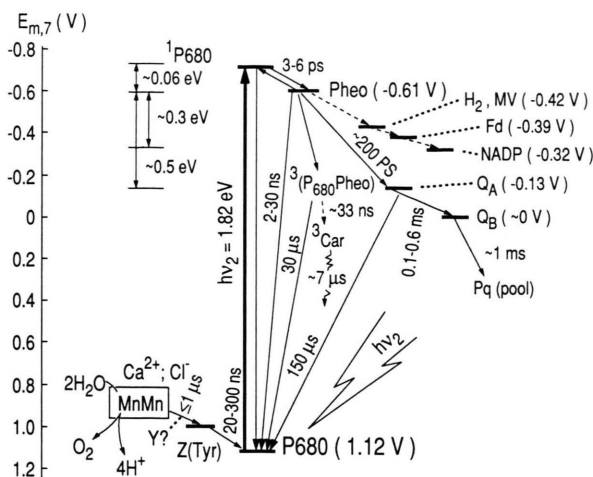


Fig. 4. The supposed scheme of the electron transfer reactions in the reaction centers of photosystem II of plants (supplementing the scheme suggested by us earlier, see [6, 7, 11, 17]).

may exist a side path of electron transport in PS II (Fig. 4).

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