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1 The cryo-EM structure of the chloroplast ClpP complex

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1

27 Abstract

28 Protein homeostasis in plastids is strategically regulated by the protein quality control 29 system involving multiple chaperones and proteases, among them the Clp protease. 30 Here we determined the structure of the chloroplast ClpP complex from 31 Chlamydomonas reinhardtiiby cryo-EM. ClpP contains two heptameric catalytic rings without any symmetry. The top ring contains one ClpR6, three ClpP4 and three ClpP5 32 33 subunits while the bottom ring is composed of three ClpP1_C subunits and one each of 34 the ClpR1-4 subunits. ClpR3, ClpR4 and ClpT4 subunits connect the two rings and stabilize the complex. The chloroplast Cpn11/20/23 co-chaperonin, a co-factor of 35 36 Cpn60, forms a cap on the top of ClpP by protruding mobile loops into hydrophobic 37 clefts at the surface of the top ring. The co-chaperonin repressed ClpP proteolytic 38 activity in vitro. By regulating Cpn60 chaperone and ClpP protease activity, the cochaperonin may play a role in coordinating protein folding and degradation in the 39 40 chloroplast.

41

42 INTRODUCTION

43 Sophisticated pathways within cells control and regulate the biogenesis, trafficking and degradation of proteins to ensure protein homeostasis (proteostasis). These 44 pathways belong to the protein quality control (PQC) system that involves the 45 participation of various chaperones and proteases¹⁻⁵. Molecular chaperones act as key 46 47 components of the PQC system. They assist protein folding when new polypeptide chains emerge from ribosomes, when proteins have translocated through membranes, 48 and when proteins become misfolded. Proteases are another important component of 49 50 the PQC system that recognize and degrade substrate proteins which cannot fold or 51 refold to the native state.

52 The molecular chaperone chaperonin is a tetradecameric cylinder formed by two 53 rings stacked back to back, whose central cavity is used to shield a bound unfolded 54 protein from the crowded environment and to assist its folding to the native state in an 55 ATP-dependent process ⁶. A co-chaperonin complex seals the central cavity of group I 56 chaperonins to form the isolated folding environment. In bacteria, this lid is formed by 57 the homo-heptameric GroES co-chaperonins. In plastids, two types of co-chaperonin subunits exist, Cpn10 and Cpn20, the latter formed by two co-chaperonin domains in 58 59 tandem. In addition to its role as a co-chaperonin for Cpn60, Cpn20 has been shown in 60 Arabidopsis to mediate superoxide dismutase (FeSOD) activation independent of the Cpn60 chaperonin ⁷. In addition, the expression level of the Cpn20 gene influenced the 61 physiological function of ABA signaling during seed germination and promoted 62 stomatal closure without Cpn60 involvement^{8,9}. These results indicate that the Cpn20 63 protein might exhibit biochemical functions in addition to that as a co-factor for Cpn60 64 65 in protein folding.

In bacterial cells or endosymbiotic organelles, proteins are degraded by many 66 types of proteases including serine-, aspartate-, and threonine-proteases ^{10, 11}. The Clp 67 protease is a conserved serine protease that consists of the ClpP core complex and 68 69 assistant chaperones ¹². The first crystal structure of the *E. coli* ClpP core complex 70 revealed a barrel composed of two stacked heptameric rings, with one catalytic triad in each subunit ¹³. The degradation of protein substrates by the Clp protease in *E. coli* is 71 72 assisted by two hexameric AAA+ (ATPase Associated with multiple cellular Activities) chaperones, ClpX and ClpA, both of which can bind to the ClpP core complex via one 73 of its surfaces ¹⁴. Fueled by ATP hydrolysis, substrate proteins are unfolded by ClpX or 74 ClpA and threaded into the central cavity of the ClpP core complex ¹⁴, where the 75 76 substrate is degraded. Recent studies have explored the functional significance of the symmetry mismatch between the AAA+ chaperone hexamer and the heptamer of the 77 ClpP core complex in E. coli¹⁵⁻¹⁸. In particular, it has been proposed to induce a 78 79 rotational movement between the AAA+ ATPase and the ClpP core and to participate 80 in substrate transport ¹⁶.

In mitochondria, the ClpP core consists of 14 identical subunits that are similar to their bacterial homologs ¹⁹. In contrast, the ClpP core complex in chloroplasts is made up of three types of subunits termed ClpP, ClpR, and ClpT. ClpR subunits are homologous to ClpP but cannot contribute to catalysis because they lack one or more

of the active residues of the Ser-His-Asp catalytic triad. ClpT proteins are completely 85 86 different proteins of around 20 kDa that share homology with the N-terminal domain 87 of the AAA+ chaperones. ClpT subunits have been proposed to link the two heptameric rings and thus maintain the stability of the tetradecameric ClpP core ²⁰⁻²³. In the green 88 alga Chlamydomonas reinhardtii, the subunits of the chloroplast ClpP core complex are 89 90 encoded by three ClpP genes (clpP1, CLPP4, CLPP5, the former chloroplast-encoded), five ClpR genes (CLPR1-4, CLPR6) and two ClpT genes (CLPT3, CLPT4)^{24, 25}. The 91 plastidial *clpP1* gene produces ClpP1_H, which can be further processed by unknown 92 peptidases to generate ClpP1_N, ClpP1_C and ClpP1_C, subunits which are part of the ClpP 93 core complex ²⁶. Translational attenuation of *clpP1* in *Chlamydomonas* led to the 94 stabilization of misassembled photosynthetic enzymes ²⁷, while its conditional 95 repression caused serious autophagy responses and activated the protein quality control 96 system ²⁸. In Arabidopsis chloroplasts, the ClpP complex consists of five ClpP type 97 98 subunits (ClpP3-6 and ClpP1), four ClpR type subunits (ClpR1-4) and two ClpT type subunits (ClpT1-2)^{20, 22, 29}. Loss of ClpP5 gene function was embryo-lethal³⁰. 99 100 Although the R-type subunits were considered unable to degrade substrate proteins, 101 either *ClpR2* or *ClpR4* gene knockout resulted in delayed embryogenesis suggesting their functional importance ³⁰. These results indicate that the Clp protease plays an 102 essential role in maintaining protein homeostasis in chloroplasts, even though some 103 104 subunits can be substituted by others. It was observed previously that the co-chaperonin 105 Cpn20 interacts with the ClpP complex ²⁰, but how this interaction takes place and whether it has functional implications are not known. 106

107 Recently, several structures of the Clp machinery composed of core complex and 108 AAA+ chaperone have been resolved by cryo-EM. However these studies focused on 109 bacterial Clp machineries, while there is no high-resolution structure of chloroplast Clp, 110 yet ^{15-17, 31}. In this study, we solved the cryo-EM structure of the *Chlamydomonas* 111 chloroplast ClpP core complex. The complex is asymmetrical and polypeptide chains 112 could be assigned to a known Clp gene. Furthermore, the co-chaperonin complex was 113 observed to bind to the top ring of the ClpP core without inducing a major 114 conformational change. We hypothesize that co-chaperonins act as regulatory factors115 in chloroplast proteostasis.

116

117 **RESULTS**

118 Co-chaperonins inhibit ClpP proteolytic activity

In previous work, the ClpP complex has been purified from Chlamydomonas reinhardtii 119 chloroplasts by Strep-tag affinity purification and the complex subunits have been 120 assigned to P-, R- and T-type by mass spectrometry ³². Based on that work, we improved 121 the purification strategy by combining affinity purification with multiple 122 123 chromatography steps to obtain large amounts of highly purified Chlamydomonas ClpP 124 complexes. The purified complexes were separated on a 12%-18% SDS gel and on a 125 native gel and proteins were visualized by Coomassie staining (Figs. 1A and 1B). In the native gel, the purified ClpP complex migrated as a diffuse band with a molecular mass 126 below the 820 kDa of oligomeric Cpn60 (Fig. 1B). By Asymmetric Flow Field Flow 127 Fractionation (AFFFF) we calculated a molecular mass of 549 kDa for the ClpP 128 129 complex, which is much larger than the 240 kDa of E. coli ClpP (Extended Data Fig. 130 1A). Each visible protein band in the SDS gel was cut out and analyzed by mass spectrometry, and the bands identified as Clp or co-chaperonin subunits are marked 131 (Fig. 1A) (Supplementary Dataset 1). Though the migration pattern of Clp subunits was 132 133 slightly different from the previous report due to difference in protein preparation and 134 SDS-PAGE conditions, the same major Clp subunits were identified, except for ClpT3 (Supplementary Table 1)³². In addition to the Clp subunits, the three co-chaperonin 135 proteins Cpn11, Cpn20, and Cpn23 were identified with notable abundance 136 (Supplementary Table 1)(Supplementary Dataset 1). The presence of *clpP1* gene 137 products ClpP1_H, ClpP1_C and ClpP1_C[,] and of Cpn20 in the purified ClpP complex was 138 confirmed by immunoblotting using antisera against the Strep-tag and against Cpn20 139 (Fig. 1C). It is of note that the two bands detected for both ClpP1_C and ClpP1_{C'} might 140 result from the differentiated peptidase processing. To confirm the interaction of the 141 142 Clp complex with the co-chaperonins, we performed a co-immunoprecipitation

experiment using Cpn20 antiserum. As shown in Fig. 1D, Clp subunits ClpP1_C, ClpP4, 143 144 ClpR6, and ClpT4 were detected in the immunoprecipitate by immunoblotting. The interaction between the ClpP complex and chaperonins in vitro was further validated 145 146 by size exclusion chromatography (Fig. 1E). Some of recombinantly produced Cpn20 147 co-migrated with the Chlamydomonas ClpP complex, and co-migration was even more marked with a mixture of the three co-chaperonins Cpn11/20/23. Note that Cpn20 was 148 149 also detected after long time exposure in the ClpP-only fractions (CrClpP row) because 150 the co-chaperonin complex co-purifies with endogenous ClpP. No co-migration of Cpn subunits was observed with the E. coli ClpP complex, and the E. coli co-chaperonin 151 152 GroES co-migrated neither with Chlamydomonas nor E.coli ClpP. These results indicate that the interaction between the co-chaperonin and the ClpP complex can be 153 154 reconstituted in vitro and is a specific feature of the chloroplast system. This conclusion is in line with the finding that Arabidopsis Cpn20 interacts with the Arabidopsis Clp 155 complex in vivo ²⁰. 156

Beta-casein is a commonly used model substrate for the Clp protease (Caseino-157 Lytic Peptidase) ^{33, 34}. To analyze protease activities of purified ClpP complexes, we 158 performed protein degradation assays. ClpP of E.coli (EcClpP) could not degrade β-159 160 casein, unless 4 µM of the ClpP activator acyldepsipeptide (ADEP) was present in the reaction (Figs. 2A, 2B and Extended Data Fig. 2A). ADEP increases the interaction 161 162 between ClpP monomers, competes with the Clp ATPases for their binding sites on 163 ClpP, and triggers a closed- to open-gate transition of the substrate entrance pore, which is otherwise tightly closed ^{35, 36}. In contrast, purified *Chlamydomonas* ClpP was able to 164 degrade β -casein without need for ADEP. ADEP slightly accelerated protein 165 166 degradation by CrClpP, but only at a high concentration of 18 µM, not of 4 or 8 µM (Figs. 2A, 2B and Extended Data Fig. 2A). Given the specific interaction between 167 Chlamydomonas ClpP and the co-chaperonin complex (Fig. 1), we wondered whether 168 co-chaperonins had an effect on ClpP proteolytic activity. Recombinant co-chaperonins 169 Cpn20 and Cpn11/20/23 both slowed down the proteolytic activity of CrClpP (Figs. 2C 170 171 and 2D), but co-chaperonin GroES had no effect (Extended Data Figs. 2A and 2B). This

172 inhibitory effect was overcome by the addition of 18 µM ADEP (Figs. 2C and 2D). 173 CrClpP hydrolyzed β-casein into several fragments of lower molecular mass ranging 174 from 15 to 20 kDa, which were not observed with EcClpP (Extended Data Fig. 2A). Hence, casein degradation by CrClpP appeared less processive than by EcClpP+ADEP. 175 176 Moreover, Cpn20 was still bound to the CrClpP complex after incubation with 18 µM ADEP (Extended Data Fig. 2C), indicating that either ADEP and the co-chaperonin 177 bind to different sites on the ClpP core complex or ADEP cannot expel the co-178 179 chaperonin from its binding sites. As tiny amounts of AAA+ chaperones might have co-purified with CrClpP, we cannot conclude that CrClpP is proteolytically active in 180 the complete absence of AAA+ chaperones. However, treatment 181 with hexokinase/glucose, which will remove all ATP from the buffer, had no effect on casein 182 183 degradation (Extended Data Fig. 2A), suggesting that CrClpP can degrade this substrate in a completely energy-independent process. 184

185 Cryo-EM structure of ClpP complex and subunit assignment

To analyze structural features of the *Chlamydomonas* plastidic ClpP complex, we 186 187 performed cryo-EM single particle analysis on the system. Purified ClpP complexes 188 were applied to specimen grids and vitrified for cryo-EM analysis (Extended Data Fig. 3 and 4). After 3D classification and iterative refinement, the optimally visualized 189 particle groups were selected to generate two major groups, named ClpP-S1 and ClpP-190 S2, at resolutions of 3.3 Å and 3.6 Å, respectively. The main difference between these 191 192 two groups was the appearance of a small cap in the latter particles (Figs. 3A-B and Extended Data Figs. 3C, 4A and 4D). Focused 3D classification, particle re-extraction, 193 re-centering and refinement of the cap, which was later identified as co-chaperonin 194 Cpn11/20/23, generated particles with better structural features and more complete 195 mobile loops at 4.8 Å resolution (Extended Data Figs. 3C and 4B). We further combined 196 the 4.8 Å Cpn11/20/23 and ClpP-S2 maps using the vop maximum command in 197 Chimera and generated a ClpP-S2-composite map (ClpP-S2c)(Fig. 3B and Extended 198 Data Fig. 3C). The ClpP-S1 map displayed an obviously asymmetric structural 199 conformation with a height of about 108 Å, a width of about 105 Å and a length of 200

about 148 Å. The diameters of the central pore of ClpP-S1 are 28 Å and 20 Å for the 201 202 top and bottom rings in the cut away views, respectively (Fig. 3A). This difference in 203 pore size implied that there may exist a functional division between top and bottom ring 204 in terms of substrate admittance. The cap in the ClpP-S2 particles increased the height to about 150 Å and the width to 118 Å, while the length was the same as ClpP-S1 (Figs. 205 3A and 3B). Overall, the resolution in the middle of the particles was higher than on the 206 surface (Extended Data Fig. 4D), especially for ClpP-S1 where the resolution in the 207 particle core reached about 3 Å, which allows the identification of amino acid side 208 209 chains.

210 To analyze the structural features of the CrClpP complex, the crystal structure of the *E.coli* ClpP complex (PDB: 1TYF) was manually docked into the CrClp-S1 density 211 map (Fig. 3C)¹³. The EcClpP structure fits well into the ClpP-S1 map around the central 212 pore, with clear separation of double rings. Compared to the symmetrical EcClpP 213 214 structure, three prominent additional densities appeared in ClpP-S1 that were labeled respectively as A1, A2 and A3. The A1 density is very large and locates adjacent to the 215 216 interface of the two rings like a handle, while densities A2 and A3 appear to be more 217 similar and locate to the peripheral region of the top ring.

In Chlamydomonas, three P-type (ClpP1, P4, P5), five R-type (ClpR1-4, R6) and 218 two T-type (ClpT3, T4) subunits constitute the ClpP complex. ClpP1_H is processed by 219 220 unknown peptidases to generate ClpP1_N, ClpP1_C and ClpP1_{C'} subunits, which are part 221 of the ClpP core complex. An alignment of amino acid sequences of P- and R-type subunits with EcClpP revealed a conserved region corresponding roughly to amino 222 223 acids 27-175 in EcClpP (Extended Data Fig. 5), which served to build the structures of 224 the P- and R-type subunits (Extended Data Fig. 6A). The structure of ClpP1_N could not 225 be built after many trials. To assign the subunits into the ClpP core complex, the 14 subunits in the complex were designated as D1-D14 (Fig. 4A, left) and the individually 226 227 built structures were manually fit into the central region of the ClpP-S1 map. Some specific sequences of ClpP and ClpR subunits were used for assigning them to the ClpP-228 229 S1 map (Extended Data Fig. 5). Visualizations of map fitting of specific side chains

allowed us to identify subunit locations in the Clp-S1 map (Extended Data Fig. 6B).

231 After subunit assignment into the ClpP-S1 map, the individual subunit structures 232 were built manually with continuous map densities. The structures of the N- and C-233 termini of some subunits could not be solved due to discontinuity in the densities. 234 Information on the resolved sequences is summarized in Supplementary Table 2. The superimposition of the individual subunit structure onto its corresponding electron 235 236 density indicates that the models fit well into the corresponding maps (Extended Data 237 Fig. 7A). Overall, we could assign one ClpR6, three ClpP4, and three ClpP5 subunits to the top ring (designated as P-ring), and one of each ClpR1-4 and three ClpP1_C 238 239 subunits to the bottom ring (Figs. 4A-C). Values of around 0.7 in the correlation 240 coefficient (CC) chart corroborate our model-to-map fitting for each subunit (Extended 241 Data Fig. 7B). Still, some regions in the ClpP structure could not be solved, as shown by white regions in the core complex map density (Fig. 4B and Extended Data Fig. 7C). 242 Notice that no subunits or sequences could be fit into the additional A2 and A3 maps 243 (Extended Data Fig. 7C), including the long C-terminal sequences (Val196-Trp296) of 244 245 the adjacent ClpP4 subunit, which remains unsolved. Conversely, no density could be ascribed to the large IS1 sequence characteristic of $ClpP1_H^{24, 26}$. The T4 subunit could 246 247 be assigned to the A1 density, which is located adjacent to the interface of the two rings (Figs. 4B-C). The additional A1 map density, located at the interface of the two rings, 248 249 is formed by a very long helix originating from the C-terminus of the ClpR3 subunit in 250 the bottom ring, as well as by the T4 subunit and several amino acids from the ClpR6 subunit in the top ring (Fig. 4D). Some unassigned map density in A1 might be 251 contributed by the C-terminus of ClpR3, and by ClpT3 or ClpP1_N subunits. The A1 252 253 region connects the two rings like a handle and can be assumed to stabilize the ClpP core complex. Moreover, the C-terminus of ClpR4 protrudes into a region next to the 254 ClpP5 subunits in the top ring, and this might contribute to stabilize the core complex, 255 as well (Fig. 4E). 256

The electrostatic potential is not equally distributed around the central pores of the
two rings through which substrates enter the catalytic chamber, suggesting a differential

259 affinity to substrates (Fig. 4F). The AAA+ chaperones interacts with EcClpP by protruding their flexible IGF loops into the hydrophobic clefts of ClpP which are 260 formed at the interface of two subunits ¹⁶. Similarly, seven hydrophobic clefts were 261 262 found to form at the surface of the top ring of ClpP by amino acids from two adjacent 263 subunits. These hydrophobic clefts are arranged in a circular manner with seven-fold symmetry and were observed only on the top ring (Fig. 4G). However, we cannot 264 265 completely rule out that similar hydrophobic clefts exist on the bottom ring, because 266 the models of the three ClpP1c subunits in the bottom ring are not complete. A schematic model of the overall structure of the ClpP core complex with assigned 267 268 subunits is shown in Fig. 4A.

269 The cap on the top of the ClpP core is the co-chaperonin

We have shown that the co-chaperonin complex interacts with the ClpP core in vivo and 270 in vitro (Fig. 1). Previous work from us and others showed that the authentic co-271 chaperonin complex in vivo consists of two Cpn20 subunits, one Cpn23 subunit, and 272 one Cpn11 subunit ^{37, 38}. Compared to Clp-S1, the ClpP-S2c map showed a dome-like 273 274 density located on the top of the ClpP core complexes (Fig. 3, labeled A4 in Extended 275 Data Fig. 8A) which we attributed to the co-chaperonin. Since Cpn20 and Cpn23 each have two GroES-like domains, we split them into Cpn20-N, Cpn20-C, Cpn23-N, and 276 Cpn23-C regions after cleavage of transit peptide ³⁹ and performed a sequence 277 278 alignment with Cpn11 and GroES (Fig. 5A). Sequences contributing to the roof of the 279 dome-shaped co-chaperonin complex were present in GroES, Cpn23-N, Cpn23-C and Cpn20-C. This sequence was much shorter in Cpn11 and missing in Cpn20-N. Based 280 on these specific roof characteristics we could assign Cpn11, Cpn23, and two Cpn20 281 282 subunits (Cpn20-1 and Cpn20-2) to the co-chaperonin map (Fig. 5B). The CC chart 283 indicates a good model-to-map fitting for both Clp and co-chaperonin subunits (Extended Data Fig. 8B) and the superimposition of the individual co-chaperonin 284 subunit structure onto its corresponding electron density indicates that the models fit 285 well into the corresponding maps (Extended Data Fig. 8C). We further refined the 286 287 model and fit five of the seven mobile loops into the densities that extended from the

bottom of the co-chaperonin dome (belonging to the Cpn20 and Cpn11 subunits, Fig.
5B, left) (Fig. 5B, left). No densities were observed for the loops of the Cpn23 subunit,
although the sequences are conserved (Fig. 5A).

291 Inspection of the map revealed that the co-chaperonin cap is tilted by about 4° relative to the ClpP symmetry axis (Figs. 5C and 5F). This tilt increases the distance 292 293 between ClpP and Cpn23 versus ClpP and Cpn20, suggesting an intimate interaction at the Cpn20 side. A similar interaction, but with a tilt angle of 11°, has been observed for 294 the asymmetrical EcClpP with its AAA+ chaperone ClpX¹⁶. While that interaction is 295 296 accompanied by a symmetry mismatch, this is not the case for the interaction between 297 co-chaperonin and ClpP, which share a 7-fold symmetry. In E.coli, the IGF loops of ClpX insert into hydrophobic clefts located at the surface of EcClpP¹⁵. Close inspection 298 299 of the density map of the ClpP core complex in ClpP-S2c clearly revealed five extra 300 densities in the hydrophobic clefts of the top ClpP ring (red and orange in Fig. 5D). 301 Three of these densities were confidently identified as mobile loops stemming from Cpn11, contacting the ClpP5/R6 interface, and Cpn20-1C and Cpn20-2C, both 302 303 contacting a ClpP5/P4 interface (red in Fig. 5E). The mobile loops from Cpn20-1N and 304 Cpn20-2N might contact ClpP clefts as well, but at a slightly outward location, which 305 could account for two more extra densities observed in clefts of the top ClpP ring 306 (orange in Fig. 5D; Extended Data Fig. 8D). An assignment of the densities in the two 307 cleft regions was complicated by the close-by unassigned A2/A3 densities. For the two 308 remaining hydrophobic clefts, in register with Cpn23, no extra map densities were observed (broken red lines in Fig. 5D), indicating that there is no direct interaction 309 between Cpn23 and the ClpP core. In summary, the co-chaperonin appears to interact 310 311 with the ClpP core by inserting at least three mobile loops into hydrophobic clefts on the surface of the top ring of ClpP (Fig. 5F), similar to the interaction of EcClpP with 312 its AAA+ chaperone ClpX. Notice that the same loops of the co-chaperonin mediate its 313 interaction with the Cpn60 chaperonin ⁶. The interactions of the co-chaperonin with 314 ClpP, the co-chaperonin with Cpn60, and ClpP with AAA+ chaperones are thus 315 316 mutually exclusive.

317

318 **DISCUSSION**

319 The chloroplast co-chaperonin has multiple functions

320 Many lines of evidence indicate that Cpn20 functions as a co-chaperonin for Cpn60 to assist protein folding in chloroplasts ^{38, 40-42}. However, Cpn20 appears to exhibit 321 functions independent of the Cpn60 chaperonin: in Arabidopsis, Cpn20 has been shown 322 to play roles in abscisic acid (ABA) signaling and the activation of iron superoxide 323 dismutase (FeSOD) ⁷⁻⁹. Here we show that a fraction of the *Chlamydomonas* chloroplast 324 Cpn11/20/23 co-chaperonin complex co-purified with the ClpP core complex, and this 325 326 interaction was robust enough to withstand several chromatography purification steps (Fig. 1). This interaction was shown before in Arabidopsis²⁰. The complexes between 327 328 co-chaperonin and ClpP were confirmed by cryo-EM and in vitro reconstitution, and the co-chaperonin was shown to slow down the proteolytic activity of chloroplast ClpP 329 (Figs. 2B and 5). The co-chaperonin caps the top-ring of the ClpP complex like a dome, 330 similar to its interaction with Cpn60. Thus, the co-chaperonin might inhibit ClpP 331 332 activity by blocking the entrance of unfolded proteins into the central cavity of the ClpP 333 core complex via the pore of the top ring. The co-chaperonin complex interacts with 334 ClpP and the Cpn60 chaperonin via the same mobile loops extending from the bottom of the dome (Fig. 5E). Therefore, the Cpn20/23/11 co-chaperonin complex appears to 335 336 play a dual role in chloroplast protein quality control. Since its interaction with the 337 Cpn60 chaperonin contributes to protein folding, the binding of the co-chaperonin to ClpP would simultaneously limit the efficiency of protein folding and inactivate a 338 substantial part of the chloroplast's degradation capacity. Releasing the co-chaperonin 339 340 from ClpP would activate both activities at the same time, which might be important 341 upon rapid challenges of proteostasis by environmental changes. In future studies, it will be interesting to quantify the relative stoichiometry of the chaperonin, co-342 chaperonin, and ClpP complexes in the Chlamydomonas chloroplast and their 343 interactions under various growth or stress conditions. It is of note that the very 344 345 abundant RbcL subunit of Rubisco is a substrate for both chaperonin and ClpP, and that

translational attenuation of *clpP1* is lethal in the presence of *rbcL* mutations preventing
its folding ²⁷. While we initially postulated that the lack of sufficient ClpP would cause
poisoning of the chaperonin by an unfoldable substrate, we must now also consider an
additional hypothesis, that the mutant RbcL, by increasing the residence time of the cochaperonin on and ever-busy Cpn60, would deregulate ClpP proteolysis.

The fact that the three Cpn60 subunits were also detected by mass spectrometry in 351 352 our preparation (Supplementary Dataset 1) raises another possibility, namely that ClpP 353 and Cpn60 interact to regulate chloroplast protein homeostasis. Non-foldable substrate proteins, released from the chaperonin, need to be recognized by Clp to be degraded to 354 355 prevent poisoning of the chaperonin. The co-chaperonin, by maintaining its interaction with the non-foldable substrate, could help direct it to the protease. In line with this 356 357 idea, a cooperation between Trigger Factor, an ATP-independent ribosome-associated chaperone, and ClpXP was recently reported to promote the degradation of some 358 substrates ⁴³. 359

360 Molecular architecture of chloroplast ClpP

361 The first structure of the E. coli ClpP core complex, obtained by X-ray crystallography, revealed 14 identical subunits in two stacked rings ¹³. The ClpP structures solved 362 afterwards all consisted of a single or two types of ClpP subunits. In contrast, the 363 chloroplast ClpP core complex solved here combines 10 different subunits, either of 364 365 the P-type (harboring a functional catalytic site) or R-type (lacking catalytic residues) 366 or T-type (homologous to the N-domain of AAA+ chaperones), distributed with uneven stoichiometry between two rings of different subunit composition. The subunit 367 composition of the two rings of plastid ClpP from Arabidopsis was reported previously 368 by the van Wijk and Clarke groups ^{20, 22, 30, 44, 45}. The designated P-ring contains ClpP3, 369 4, 5 and 6 in a 1:2:3:1 ratio, while the designated R-ring consists of ClpP1 and ClpR1, 370 371 2, 3 and 4 in a 3:1:1:1:1 ratio. It was suggested that the two rings might exhibit different proteolytic capacities because only three catalytic subunits are present in the R-ring 372 compared to seven in the P-ring. In the Chlamydomonas ClpP core complex reported 373 374 here, the top ring consists of three ClpP4, three ClpP5 and one ClpR6 subunits. Because

375 algal ClpP4 forms a sister clade to land plant ClpP3/ClpP4, and ClpR6 is clearly derived from ClpP6 by loss of a catalytic residue ³², the top ring of *Chlamydomonas* is clearly 376 377 homologous to the Arabidopsis P-ring. Similarly, the bottom ring, with three ClpP1c 378 and one each of ClpR1, 2, 3, and 4 subunits (Fig. 4C) can be called the R-ring. Because 379 the diameter of the protein entrance pore in the P-ring is much larger than that in the Rring (Fig. 3A), we propose that the former is the functional entry site of substrates. Only 380 381 the P-ring was observed to interact with the co-chaperonin (Fig. 5), in line with a central 382 regulatory role for this interaction. Our structure supports the notion that substrates are degraded inside a unique central cavity by a variety of active sites, possibly showing 383 distinct chemical specificities as in the proteasome ⁴⁶. Each subunit within each ring 384 may also be functionally unique in terms of substrate selection, delivery and unfolding, 385 386 and of interaction with the co-chaperonin. A good example is the specific interactions of the ClpP4/5 clefts with Cpn20 subunits (Fig. 5E, Extended Data Fig. 8D). 387

Interesting differences can be noted between algal and land plant ClpP. With only 388 6 active subunits in its P-ring, the Chlamydomonas enzyme is slightly less asymmetrical 389 390 than that of land plants in terms of catalysis (both have 3 catalytic sites in the R-ring). 391 Importantly, the inactive ClpR6 subunit of the P-ring contributes, together with two 392 other alga-specific features, namely the C-terminal extension of the R-ring ClpR3 and 393 ClpT4, to the A1 side density that connects the two rings. In land plants, T-type Clp subunits were suggested to stabilize the ClpP core by interacting with both rings ^{20, 21}, 394 395 and it will be interesting to see if they form a structure similar to the A1 side-mass. Note however that the *Chlamydomonas* ClpT3/4 are vastly different from the ClpT1/2 396 of land plants³², to the extent that they may not even be orthologous. Given that the N-397 terminal domain of AAA+ chaperones, to which ClpTs are homologous, play a role in 398 399 substrate selection, the possibility arises that their dual structural/functional role was 400 acquired several times in the evolution of the plastid Clp system. Furthermore, the C-401 terminus of ClpR4 protrudes to the P-ring, which also might stabilize the ClpP core complex. The massive contacts between the two rings may explain the high stability of 402 403 the ClpP core, exemplified by our observation that the two-rings could not be separated

404 by high salt treatment, in contrast to its homologs in *E. coli* and *Arabidopsis* plastids ⁴⁵.
 405 ⁴⁷.

406 Proteolytic activity of the ClpP is regulated by the co-chaperonin

407 Structures of several different AAA+ chaperones with their ClpP cores have emerged 408 recently, providing detailed information on the six-seven symmetry mismatch between the two complexes, and how it impacts their interaction dynamics ^{15, 16, 18}. ClpX is tilted 409 by 11° without major conformational changes upon binding to ClpP. As a result, the 410 411 symmetry axes of the protease and the AAA+ chaperone are not aligned so that the 412 translocation pathway for unfolded peptides is not straight but twisted. We also found 413 a tilt of 4° between the axes of the co-chaperonin and the ClpP core (Fig. 5C). However, 414 the fact that a single type of particle was obtained, with specific interactions between 415 co-chaperonin and Clp subunits, together with the absence of a symmetry mismatch, suggest that the two complexes do not rotate and that the co-chaperonin instead operates 416 like a cap stably sealing the entrance to the ClpP core. 417

Because none of the three known chloroplast AAA+ chaperones (ClpC1, ClpD1, 418 419 ClpB3) were co-purified with ClpP in this and previous studies, they might not 420 cooperate with ClpP in the chloroplast as they do in bacteria and mitochondria. Since 421 the purified ClpP core complex was able to degrade the model substrate casein in vitro with no need for addition of ADEP, it appears possible that chloroplast ClpP can 422 423 degrade proteins in vivo without the assistance of any type of chaperone. Regulation of 424 protease activity may be carried out by the co-chaperonin or by small-molecule 425 activators acting like ADEP.

426

427 METHODS

428 Construction of expression plasmids

The *ClpP* gene sequence from *E. coli* was amplified by PCR on genomic DNA and cloned into the pHUE vector with restriction enzymes to generate EcClp-pHUE. The produced EcClp protein contains ubiquitin and a 6×His tag at its N-terminus that facilitated subsequent protein affinity purification. The forward and reverse primers were 5'-GCGGATCCATGTCATACAGCAGCGGCGAACG-3' and 5'CCCAAGCTTTCAATTACGATGGGTCAGAATCGAATCGACCAG-3' containing
BamHI and HindIII restriction sites, respectively. The construction of the cochaperonin expression plasmids, GroES-pET11a, CrCPN20-pQlinkT and CrCPN11/
20/23-pQlinkT, were described earlier ³⁷.

438 Chlamydomonas reinhardtii strains and growth conditions

439 Chlamydomonas strain ClpP1-strep (#8), used for the purification of the Clp complex 440 via Strep-tag affinity purification, has been describe previously ²⁶ and is freely available 441 upon request. The strain was kept on solid TAP medium containing 100 μ g/ml of 442 spectinomycin at 25°C under continuous illumination (40 μ mol photo m⁻² s⁻¹) or a 443 photoperiod rhythm (12 h light/12 h dark).

444 Purification of the ClpP complex from C. reinhardtii

Purification of the ClpP complex from Chlamydomonas reinhardtii was conducted as 445 described previously with some modifications ⁴⁸. The ClpP1-strep strain was inoculated 446 into 24 L TAP liquid medium for 4 days under continuous light (40 µmol photo m⁻² s⁻ 447 ¹). When cell numbers reached around 6×10^6 cells/mL, the cells were collected by 448 449 centrifugation at 3600 g for 6 min and resuspended in buffer A (20 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 150 mM NaCl). The volume of the cell slurry was adjusted to 200 ml by the 450 addition of 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM PMSF, and two tablets of EDTA-free protease inhibitor 451 452 cocktail (Roche). Unless otherwise stated, subsequent steps were performed at 4°C. The 453 cells were sonicated and centrifuged at 36,000 g for 30 min to remove debris. 1 mg/L avidin and 6 mM MgCl₂ were added to the supernatant to improve the Strep tag binding 454 efficiency with Strep-Tactin beads (Novagen). Next, the supernatant was further 455 clarified by ultracentrifugation at 150,000 g for 1 h (Beckman Coulter rotor, 70Ti). 456 Ammonium sulfate was slowly added to the supernatant at 25% saturation. After gently 457 stirring for 30 min, the produced aggregates were removed by centrifugation at 36000 458 g for 20 min. Buffer E (20 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 1 mM DTT, 10% glycerol) was added 459 to the supernatant to dilute the ammonium sulfate concentration to 0.5 M and the 460 461 solution was applied to pre-equilibrated hydrophobic column after passing through a 462 0.22 µm filter (Hitrap phenyl, GE Healthcare). Proteins were eluted by an ammonium 463 sulfate gradient from 0.5 M to 0 M with ten column volumes. Clp-containing fractions 464 were collected after visualization with SDS-PAGE and transferred to a Strep-Tactin 465 gravity column which was pre-equilibrated with buffer B (20 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 100 466 mM NaCl, 1 mM DTT). The protein was eluted with buffer C (buffer B+10% glycerol+2.5 mM Desthiobiotin (Novagen)) in four column volumes. The ClpP 467 468 complex was concentrated and subjected to a Superdex-200 column pre-equilibrated 469 with buffer D (20 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 80 mM NaCl, 10% glycerol) and the desired fractions were collected. Purified ClpP complexes were concentrated to ~2 mg/ml by 470 471 Amicon Ultra-15 Centrifugal Filter Units (Merck Millipore, Beijing China) with 100 kDa cut-off, supplemented with 10% glycerol and frozen at -80°C. 472

473 **Purification of recombinantly expressed proteins**

EcClpP The EcClp-pHUE plasmid was transformed into the E. coli BL21 (DE3) strain, 474 and then transferred to 4 L lysogeny broth (LB) medium containing 100 µg/L ampicillin. 475 When *E.coli* was grown to an OD 600 of ~ 0.6, 1 mM isopropyl β -D-1-476 477 thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG) was added to induce protein expression. After 4 hours, 478 cells were collected by centrifugation at 4000 g. Unless otherwise stated, all purification steps were performed at 4°C. Cells were resuspended in lysis buffer (20 mM Tris-HCl, 479 pH 8.0, 300 mM NaCl, 1 mM DTT, 10 mM imidazole, 1 mM phenylmethylsulfonyl 480 481 fluoride (PMSF)) and lysed by sonication. Debris was removed by centrifugation at 36000 g for 40 min and the supernatant was passed through a 0.22 µm filter followed 482 by transferring into the Ni-NTA gravity column. Protein was eluted with elution buffer 483 (20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 300 mM NaCl, 1 mM DTT, 250 mM imidazole) after two 484 washes with buffer (20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 300 mM NaCl, 1 mM DTT, 25 mM 485 imidazole). Proteins in the eluted fractions were collected and digested with 486 deubiquitinating enzyme USP2cc (1:50 molar ratio) to remove the ubiquitin-6×His tag. 487 The digested solution was applied to Ni-NTA column again and the flow through was 488 collected which contained EcClpP protein without tag. The collected protein was 489 490 concentrated using Amicon Ultra-15 Centrifugal Filter Units (Merck Millipore, Beijing

491 China) with 100 kDa cut off and frozen at -80 $^{\circ}$ C.

492 GroES, Cpn20 and Cpn11/20/23. All co-chaperonins were purified using the same 493 method. Individual expression plasmid GroES-pET11a, Cpn20-pQlinkT or 494 Cpn11/20/23-pQlinkT was transformed into E. coli strain BL21 (DE3). Transformants 495 were picked and transferred to 6 L of LB medium containing 100 µg/L ampicillin. When cells were grown to an OD 600 of ~ 0.6 , 1 mM IPTG was added to induce protein 496 497 expression at 37°C for 4 hours. Cells were harvested by centrifugation at 3600 g for 6 498 min. Unless otherwise stated, all subsequent steps were performed at 4°C. Cell pellets were resuspended in lysis buffer (30 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 60 mM NaCl, 1 mM DTT, 499 500 1 mM EDTA and 1 mM PMSF) sonicated. Lysates were centrifuged at 36,000 g for 30 min to remove cell debris. The supernatant was passed through a 0.22 µm filter followed 501 502 by transfer to a pre-equilibrated source 30Q column (GE Healthcare) with 1 ml/min flow rate. Co-chaperonins were eluted by a linear salt gradient from 30 mM to 1 M 503 NaCl with 10-fold column volume. Fractions containing protein according to UV 504 absorption were separated by 15% SDS-PAGE and visualized by Coomassie staining. 505 506 Eluted proteins were concentrated, then injected into a pre-equilibrated Superdex75 507 column (GE Healthcare) with a flow rate of 0.8 ml/min. According to UV absorption, 508 the protein fraction was further analyzed with 15% SDS-PAGE and Coomassie staining. The pure co-chaperonin proteins were concentrated with Amicon Ultra-15 Centrifugal 509 510 filters with 30 kDa cutoff, then flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80°C.

511 Identification of CrClpP subunits by mass spectrometry

The protein subunits of the CrClpP complex were separated on an SDS-PAGE gel and visualized by Coomassie staining. Individual bands were cut out and digested by trypsin. Liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (LC-MS) was done on a Thermo Scientific Q Exactive (QE) mass spectrometer at the Beijing Huada Protein R&D Center Co., Ltd. (Beijing, P.R.China). The Q Exactive mass spectrometry data were searched against the Phytozome v12.1(*Chlamydomonas reinhardtii*) database and NCBI-*Chlamydomonas* (taxid: 3052) database using 15 ppm peptide mass tolerance and 20 m/z fragment mass

519 tolerance.

520 Immunoprecipitation assays

521 Protein A-sepharose beads coupled with CrCpn20 or strep-tag antibodies were preequilibrated in lysis buffer containing 20 mM Hepes-KOH (pH7.5), 150 mM NaCl, 10 522 523 mM MgCl₂, 20 mM KCl and 2 mM EDTA, then incubated with total protein or stroma 524 protein which was prepared with the same lysis buffer under gentle stirring at 4°C. Protein A beads were washed three times with lysis buffer containing 0.1% Tween 20. 525 526 Bound protein complexes were eluted with 2% SDS for 1 h at 4°C. The eluted proteins 527 were separated by 12% SDS-PAGE and analyzed by immunoblotting with serum in 1:3000 dilution. 528

529 Analytical gel filtration

530 The ClpP interaction with co-chaperonins was analyzed by analytical gel filtration as 531 described previously with some modifications ³⁸. 1 μ M ClpP and 2 μ M co-chaperonin 532 were incubated for 30 min at 4°C in 20 mM MOPS-KOH, pH 7.5, 80 mM NaCl, 10 533 mM MgCl₂, 10 mM KCl, 1 mM DTT, 10% glycerol. Then the protein complexes were 534 loaded onto a Superdex 200 PC 3.2/10 column (GE Healthcare) at a flow rate of 0.05 535 ml/min. 50 μ L fractions were collected and analyzed by immunoblotting with Strep-tag 536 and Cpn20 antibodies.

537 Asymmetric flow field-flow fractionation with multi-angle light scattering 538 (AFFFF-MALS)

50 µg protein of purified CrClpP were loaded into a AFFFF-MALS device with a flow 539 540 rate of 0.8 ml/min and a cross-flow rate of 2 ml/min using a 350 mm spacer and 10 kDa RC membrane (Wyatt Technology, Santa Barbara, CA, USA). The monitor methods 541 employed a multiple-angle light scattering detector (DAWN HELEOS II, 658 nm; 542 Wyatt Technology), a UV detector (1100 series, 280 nm; Agilent Technologies In., 543 Santa Clara, CA, USA) and a differential refractive index detector (Optilab rEX, 658 544 nm; Wyatt Technology)⁴⁹. The CrClpP molecular weight was calculated in the presence 545 of Dn/dc values equal to 0.185 ml/g. 546

547 β-casein degradation assays

548 Degradation of the substrate protein β -casein was visualized by Coomassie Blue R

549 staining after separating proteins via SDS-PAGE (12% acrylamide). The reaction 550 mixture contained 20 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 120 mM NaCl, 10 mM KCl, 10 mM MgCl₂, 551 1 mM DTT, 10% glycerol, 0.4 μM EcClpP or CrClpP, 0.4 μM β-casein protein with or without 0.4 µM co-chaperonin (GroES, Cpn20 and Cpn11/20/23). 4 to 18 µM protease 552 553 activator ADEP (#sc-397312, Santa Cruz) dissolved in DMSO was added to the reaction as indicated. The reaction was performed at 30°C, and the aliquots were taken 554 555 at the indicated time points. The reaction was stopped by heating to 98°C for 10 min. 556 Each reaction was performed at least three times and densitometric quantification of βcasein from the reactions was made with Photoshop CS6. 557

558 Cryo-EM sample preparation and data collection

Holey carbon grids (Quantifoil R2/1, 200 mesh) were plasma cleaned using a Solarus 559 560 plasma cleaner (Gatan), and an aliquote of 2 µl CrClpP sample was placed onto the glow-discharged grid. Then the grid was flash-frozen in liquid ethane by a Vitrobot 561 Mark IV (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Movies were taken on a Titan Krios transmission 562 electron microscope (Thermo Fisher Scientific) equipped with a Cs corrector and 563 564 operated at an accelerating voltage of 300 kV with a nominal magnification of 18,000x (Supplementary Table 3). Movies were collected by using a K2 Summit direct electron 565 detector (Gatan) in super-resolution mode (yielding a pixel size of 1.318 Å after 2 times 566 binning). Each movie was dose-fractioned into 38 frames and the exposure time was 567 7.6 s with 0.2 s for each frame, producing a total dose of ~38 e $^{-}/\text{Å}^{2}$. The defocus value 568 of the data set varied from -0.8 to -2.5 µm. We employed the SerialEM automated data 569 collection software package to collect the images ⁵⁰. 570

571 Image processing and 3D reconstruction

A total of 8,064 movies were applied for CrClpP structure determination. Unless otherwise specified, single-particle analysis was mainly executed in RELION 3.1^{51, 52}. All images were aligned and summed using MotionCorr2 ⁵³ and CTF parameters were determined using CTFFIND4 ^{51, 52}. We obtained 1,351,977 particles by automatic particle picking followed by manual checking, and 578,978 particles remained for further processing after reference-free 2D classification. Through one round of 3D

classification, a ClpP-S1 dataset of 306,743 particles and a CrClpP-S2 dataset of 578 579 134,904 particles were obtained. Then multiple rounds of reference free 2D and 3D 580 classification were applied to clean up the particles for each dataset. Classes with better 581 structural features were combined and yielded ClpP-S1 dataset consisting 131,245 particles. After further Bayesian polishing and CTF refinement, a map at 3.3 Å 582 resolution was obtained. Two classes with better structural features were combined and 583 yielded ClpP-S2 dataset consisting 49,759 particles. After Bayesian polishing and CTF 584 refinement, a ClpP-S2 map at 3.6 Å resolution was obtained. To improve the local 585 resolution of the Cpn cap in the ClpP2-S2 map, the particles were subtracted by a soft 586 587 mask focusing on the cap region and re-centered. We then applied 3D classification and obtained a cleaned-up dataset of 13,040 particles with better structural features 588 589 especially more complete density of the Cpn mobile loops, which was further refined to 4.8 Å resolution of the Cpn11/20/23 map. ClpP-S2 map was then combined with the 590 Cpn11/20/23 map together by using the *vopmaximum* function in Chimera ⁵⁴, 591 generating the composite ClpP-S2 map (termed ClpP-S2c). The overall resolution was 592 593 determined based on the gold-standard criterion using an FSC of 0.143. The local 594 resolution estimation was determined by Local resolution function in RELION 3.1.

595 Model building of Clp subunits with the co-chaperonin

596 The structures of conserved regions of Clp subunits were predicted using the Rosetta server ^{55, 56}. The predicted structures of conserved domains were docked rigidly into the 597 598 density map in UCSF Chimera. The coordinates were further refined by the Real Space Refine module of the Phenix suite 57. On this basis of refinement, the Rosetta 599 enumerative sampling method was applied to build the remaining residues of each Clp 600 subunit *de novo* ^{56, 58, 59}. The resulting model was adjusted manually in Coot ⁶⁰. About 601 the co-chaperonin Cpn11/20/23 model, each Cpn11, Cpn20, Cpn23 homology model 602 was built with the tFold server (Tencent AI Lab) or Rosetta server . These models were 603 docked into the cryo-EM map of ClpP-S2c using the fit in map command in UCSF 604 605 Chimera ⁵⁴. The resulting model was subjected to Rosetta and Phenix refinement ^{57, 56}. The geometries and atomic model refinement statistics were evaluated by Molprobity 606

607 in Phenix 61 .

608 Cryo-EM data acquisition, 3D process information and model refinement statistics
609 are summarized in Supplementary Table 3. Figures were generated with either UCSF
610 Chimera and ChimeraX ^{54, 62}.

611 Data availability

Electron density maps have been deposited in the Electron Microscopy Data Bank
under accession codes EMD-31171 for CrClpP-S1, EMD-31175 for ClpP-S2, EMD31173 for ClpP-S2c and EMD-31174 for Cpn11/20/23. Related atom coordinates file
also has been submitted to the Protein Data Bank, with accession codes 7EKO for
CrClpP-S1, and 7EKQ for CrClpP-S2c.

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- 627 Author Contribution
- 628 C. L. and Y.C. supervised the project. N. W. executed all biochemical experiments. Y.

629 W. and X. Z. collected the cryo-EM data. Y. W. did data processing with initial map

- 630 from X. Z. Y.W. and N.W. did model building and structural analysis. Q. Z. started the
- 631 project and optimized the protein purification. C. P. performed the MS analysis. W. Z.
- and Y. L. helped to purify protein. O. V. and M. S. were involved in the project design,
- 633 data analysis and interpretation. C. L., N. W., O. V. and M. S. wrote the manuscript with
- 634 modification from Y. W. and Y. C.

635 Competing Interests

636 The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

637

638 FIGURE LEGENDS

639 Figure 1. Co-chaperonins interact with CrClpP

(A) Purified *Chlamydomonas* ClpP complexes were separated on 12-18% SDSpolyacrylamide gels and visualized by Coomassie staining. Proteins in visible bands
were identified by mass spectrometry and the bands identified as Clp or co-chaperonin
subunits are marked. The gel is a representative of four independent experiments and
mass spectrometry was performed twice with similar results.

(B) Purified ClpP and Cpn60 complexes were analyzed on a 5% non-denaturing (ND)
polyacrylamide gel and visualized with Coomassie staining. The arrowhead indicates
the position of the oligomeric 820-kDa Cpn60 complex and the asterisk the position of
the 60-kDa Cpn60 monomer. The gel is a representative of three independent
experiments.

650 (C) Immunoblots analysis. Purified ClpP complexes were separated on a 15% SDS-651 polyacrylamide gel, transferred to nitrocellulose and immunodecorated with anti-strep 652 and anti-Cpn20 antibodies. The Strep-antibody recognized the three gene products of 653 the plastid-encoded *clpP* gene, ClpP1_H, ClpP1_C and ClpP1_C. The experiment was 654 repeated three times independently with similar results.

(D) Immunoprecipitation of Cpn20. Total cell lysates from the ClpP-Strep (#8) strain
(input) were incubated with protein A-Sepharose beads coupled to antibodies of either
preimmune serum (pre) or anti-Cpn20 serum. Precipitated proteins were analyzed by
immunoblotting using antisera against ClpP4, the Strep-tag (detecting ClpP1_C), ClpR6,
ClpT4 and Cpn60. The experiment was repeated three times independently with similar
results.

(E) Co-migration of ClpP core complexes and co-chaperonins in size exclusion 661 chromatography. 1 µM ClpP protein complex was injected into a Superdex 200 PC 662 663 3.2/10 column after incubation with or without 2 μ M co-chaperonin for 30 min at 4°C. Proteins were eluted with 20 mM MOPS-KOH, pH 7.5, 80 mM NaCl, 10 mM MgCl₂, 664 10 mM KCl, 1 mM DTT, 10% glycerol. Then the corresponding fractions were 665 analyzed by SDS-PAGE and immunoblotting using antisera against Cpn20 or GroES. 666 667 The positions of the ClpP and co-chaperonin complexes are indicated at the top of the panel. The experiment was repeated three times independently with similar results and 668

- 669 a representative result was shown.
- 670

671 Figure 2. Co-chaperonins inhibit ClpP proteolytic activity

672 (A) and (C) Degradation of β -case in was monitored in reactions containing β -case in

673 (16 μ M), CrClpP (0.4 μ M), EcClpP (0.4 μ M), Cpn20 (0.4 μ M), Cpn11/20/23 (0.4 μ M)

and ADEP dissolved in DMSO (4 or 18 μ M) as indicated. Reactions were performed at

675 30°C, aliquots were taken at the indicated time points, and analyzed via SDS-PAGE

676 (15% gels) and Coomassie staining. Arrowheads indicate the position of β -casein, stars

- 677 indicate the position of the EcClpP protein and arrows indicate the position of Cpn20.
- 678 (B) and (D) Densitometric quantification of β -case in from the reactions shown in (A)
- and (C), respectively. Shown are mean values from three independent replicates, error
- bars represent SD. Quantifications were made with Photoshop CS6.
- 681

682 Figure 3. Cryo-EM structure of the *Chlamydomonas* ClpP complex

- 683 (A) Overview of ClpP-S1 particles. The dimensions are given next to the particles. The684 cut-away views of the central pore in the two rings of the ClpP core complex are shown.
- (B) Overview of ClpP-S2_C particles. The dimensions are given next to the particles.
- (C) Superimposition of EcClpP (PDB ID:1TYF) with density maps of CrClpP-S1. The
- subunits located in the top ring of EcClpP are shown in light or dark green and the
- subunits of the bottom ring are shown in yellow or orange. The dotted line indicates theinterface between the two rings. Additional densities of CrClpP not overlapping with
- 690 EcClp are shown in gray. The most prominent ones are labeled A1, A2 and A3.
- 691

692 Figure 4. Properties of the *Chlamydomonas* ClpP core complex

- (A) Cartoon presentation of the CrClp core complex. The subunits designated as D1D14 are shown in the left grey cartoon and the corresponding assigned subunits are
 colored at the right. Subunit ClpP1_C occupies positions D8, D10, D13 positions.
 Subunit ClpP4 occupies positions D3, D5 and D7. Subunit ClpP5 occupies positions
 D2, D4 and D6. Subunits ClpR1, R2, R3, R4 and R6 occupy single positions at D9,
 D12, D14, D11 and D1 positions, respectively.
- 699 (B) Density map of the ClpP core complex. Densities with assigned Clp subunits are700 shown in colors, densities that could not be assigned are shown in white.
- (C) Subunit composition and arrangement in the top and bottom rings of the ClpP corecomplex.
- (D) Assignment of Clp subunits to the additional density map A1. This region is
 composed of full-length ClpT4 (cyan), the long C-terminus of ClpR3 (pink), and
 several amino acids from the C-terminus of ClpR6 (purple). The zoom-in view shows
 the fitting of these three subunits to the density.
- 707 (E) Position of the ClpR4 subunit (turquoise) in the bottom ring of the ClpP core
 708 complex. The long C-terminus of ClpR4 protrudes to a region next to the top ring. The
 709 fitting of ClpR4 is shown in the zoom-in view.
- (F) Electrostatic potential of the ClpP core complex. Acidic amino acids are shown inred, basic amino acids in blue.
- (G) Hydrophobicity of amino acids at the ClpP core surface. Hydrophobic amino acids
 are shown in red, hydrophilic amino acids are shown in light blue. The seven
 hydrophobic binding clefts observed in the top ring of Clp-S1 are encircled by black
- 715 broken lines.716

717 Figure 5. Cryo-EM structure of the *Chlamydomonas* ClpP-Cpn11/20/23 complex

- 718 (A) Sequence alignment of Cpn11, Cpn20-N, Cpn20-C, Cpn23-N, Cpn23-C and GroES.
- 719 N and C indicate N- and C-terminal GroES-like domains of Cpn20 and Cpn23. The
- sequence regions of mobile loop and roof are indicated with green boxes.

(B) Superimposition of the Cpn11/20/23 model and the cryo-EM density map. The
mobile loops extending from the bottom of the co-chaperonin are shown (left). The
enlarged picture shows the roof regions of Cpn23 and Cpn20C.

(C) Interaction between ClpP and co-chaperonin. The central axes of co-chaperonin
and CrClpP are given as black lines. The tilted angle between the axes of co-chaperonin
and CrClpP complex has a value of 4°.

(D) Top view oo the extra densities located in the hydrophobic clefts at the top ring of
ClpP. The densities colored in red were confidently identified as mobile loops from
Cpn11 and Cpn20C. The densities colored in orange might be the mobile loops from
Cpn20N. The regions encircled with a broken red line are the two remaining clefts in
which no additional densities could be identified.

(E) Insertion of the mobile loops of Cpn11 and Cpn20C into the hydrophobic clefts atthe surface of the top ring of ClpP.

(F) Cartoon presentation of the interaction between the top ring of ClpP and
Cpn11/20/23. Red arrowheads indicate the hydrophobic clefts. High-confidence mobile
loops inserted into the clefts are indicated by solid lines, low-confidence mobile loops
inserted into the clefts are indicated by broken lines.

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