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► To cite this version:

Martina Pitolli, Marta Cela, Delphine Kapps, Johana Chicher, Laurence Despons, et al.. Comparative proteomics uncovers low asparagine content in Plasmodium tRip-KO proteins. IUBMB Life, In press, 10.1002/iub.2891 . hal-04645678

HAL Id: hal-04645678 https://hal.science/hal-04645678v1

Submitted on 11 Jul2024

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This is the pre-peer reviewed version of the following article: Pitolli, M. Cela, M., 1 2 Kapps, D., Chicher, J. Despons, L. and Frugier, M. (2024), Comparative 3 proteomics uncovers low asparagine content in *Plasmodium* tRip-KO proteins. 4 IUBMB Life, which has been published in final form at 5 https://doi.org/10.1002/iub.2891. This article may be used for non-commercial 6 purposes in accordance with Wiley Terms and Conditions for Use of Self-7 Archived Versions.

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Comparative proteomics uncovers low asparagine content in

10 Plasmodium tRip-KO proteins.

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19

20 Abstract

21 tRNAs are not only essential for decoding the genetic code, but their abundance also has a strong 22 impact on the rate of protein production, folding, and on the stability of the translated messenger RNAs. 23 Plasmodium expresses a unique surface protein called tRip, involved in the import of exogenous tRNAs 24 into the parasite. Comparative proteomic analysis of the blood stage of wild-type and tRip-KO variant of 25 P. berghei parasites revealed that down-regulated proteins in the mutant parasite are distinguished by 26 a bias in their asparagine content. Furthermore, the demonstration of the possibility of charging host 27 tRNAs with Plasmodium aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases, led us to propose that, imported host tRNAs 28 participate in parasite protein synthesis. These results also suggest a novel mechanism of translational 29 control in which import of host tRNAs emerge as regulators of gene expression in the Plasmodium 30 developmental cycle and pathogenesis, by enabling the synthesis of asparagine-rich regulatory proteins 31 that efficiently and selectively control the parasite infectivity.

32 Introduction

33 We have discovered the only example to date of an exogenous tRNA import pathway, 34 summarized in Fig. 1 [1-4]. In Plasmodium, the malaria parasite, P. berghei sporozoites (the 35 extracellular infective form of the parasite, Supplementary Fig. S1a) isolated from the salivary glands of 36 infected mosquitoes import exogenous tRNAs via a surface protein, named tRip (tRNA import protein). 37 However, the absence of homologous mechanisms in other organisms raises the question of the role of 38 this unique tRNA import and its mode of action. It has been established that (i) tRip is a homodimeric 39 protein made of an N-terminal GST-like domain and a C-terminal EMAPII-like tRNA binding domain; (ii) 40 tRip binds human tRNAs with high affinity *in vitro* and with a stoichiometry of one tRNA per tRip dimer; 41 (iii) tRip is anchored to the parasite's plasma membrane with its tRNA binding domain exposed to the 42 host system; (iv) immunolocalization experiments found tRip expressed both in the liver and blood 43 stages in the vertebrate host, as well as in the intestine and salivary glands of the mosquito; (v) in vitro, 44 exogenous tRNAs enter living sporozoites; (vi) the knockout parasite, tRip-KO, does not import tRNAs, 45 its protein biosynthesis is significantly reduced, and its growth is decreased in vertebrate blood 46 compared to the wild-type parasite.

47 Recently, the crystal structure of the dimeric N-terminal GST-like domain of P. vivax tRip was 48 solved and revealed a unique homodimerization interface [5]. We confirmed by SAXS that this unusual 49 interface exists in solution and that it allows Multi-Synthetase Complex (MSC) formation [3,4]. Indeed, 50 tRip is an aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase interacting multifunctional protein (AIMP) since it specifically co-51 immunoprecipitate with three aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases (aaRS), namely glutamyl- (ERS), glutaminyl-52 (QRS) and methionyl- (MRS) tRNA synthetases; These aaRSs all contain an N-terminal GST-like 53 domain involved in MSC assembly. Unexpectedly, these proteins form two exclusive heterotrimeric 54 MSCs with a 2:2:2 stoichiometry: a Q-complex (tRip:ERS:QRS) and an M-complex (tRip:ERS:MRS) 55 characterized by different biophysical properties and interaction networks (Fig. 1). We could also identify 56 a set of host tRNAs preferentially bound by tRip (Fig. 1) and potentially best imported into the parasite. 57 Interestingly, tRip does not bind to tRNAs in a sequence-dependent manner, but would rather recognize 58 post-transcriptional modifications that modulate this interaction [2]. In contrast to what has been shown 59 for its cytosolic homologue Arc1p in Saccharomyces cerevisiae [6], the tRNAs that best bind tRip do not 60 match the aaRSs that compose MSCs. This suggests that, although tRip is an AIMP, it is not dedicated

61 to the aminoacylation of specific tRNAs (2), thereby leading us to search for a novel function for this 62 unique membrane protein and the tRNA import with which it is associated.

63 The AIMP tRip is not the only protein that has been characterized as cytosolic in other organisms 64 and is localized on the surface of *Plasmodium*. This is also the case for other RNA-binding proteins such 65 as the poly-A binding protein-1 (PABP-1) [7] and the glyceraldehyde-3 phosphate dehydrogenase 66 (GAPDH) [8], which are both found on the surface of the sporozoites. The presence of different RNA-67 binding proteins at the parasite-host interface is another indication that RNA exchange might control 68 unsuspected host-parasite interactions that take place during the parasite life cycle. In the present study, 69 we compared the proteomes of the wild-type (WT) and the tRip-KO blood stage parasites with the 70 objective of understanding the fate of imported tRNAs in *Plasmodium* protein synthesis and its infectious 71 process.

72

Results 73

74

Host tRNAs are aminoacylated by the cognate parasite aaRSs in vitro

75 Cross-aminoacylation reactions were tested using the aspartyl-, tyrosyl-, and asparaginyl-tRNA 76 synthetases from H. sapiens and P. falciparum (Supplementary Fig. S2) in vitro to determine their ability 77 to aminoacylate human tRNA^{Asp}, tRNA^{Tyr}, and tRNA^{Asn}, respectively using crude human tRNA (Fig. 2). 78 These three aminoacylation systems are representative of the tRNAs recognized weakly (aspartate), 79 moderately (tyrosine) and preferentially (asparagine) by tRip [2]. Aminoacylation plateaus show that all 80 three Plasmodium aaRSs can aminoacylate nearly the same level of tRNA as their human counterparts, 81 although asparaginylation by the parasite enzyme is effective on about 80% of human tRNA^{Asn} 82 isodecoders. It indicates that host tRNAs, when imported into parasites by tRip can be aminoacylated 83 by parasite aaRSs to be used in protein translation.

84 Comparative proteomics of tRip-KO versus wild-type (WT) schizonts. We investigated the 85 relative protein abundance of tRip-KO versus WT in the schizont stage of synchronized parasites 86 (Supplementary Fig. S1b) using liquid chromatography coupled to tandem mass spectrometry (LC-87 MS/MS). To highlight the most relevant effects associated with the deletion of tRip, we chose to compare 88 equal amounts of proteins, even though tRip-KO parasites grow slower than wild-type parasites and 89 their translation efficiency is significantly reduced [1]. Three biological replicates for tRip-KO and WT 90 were defined for the schizonts samples (Supplementary Dataset 1). The amounts of proteins (KO and

91 WT) were comparable as most proteins were stable in the proteomic data. This is notably the case for 92 four constitutively highly expressed proteins: EF1-α (PBANKA 1133300), Hsp70 (PBANKA 0914400), 93 enolase (PBANKA 1214300) and histone H4 (PBANKA 941900) (Supplementary Dataset 1). Protein 94 abundance was calculated using the intensity of P. berghei peptides, which identified between 347 and 95 469 proteins. Metric multidimensional scaling (MDS) (included in Supplementary Dataset 1) indicated 96 clustering of the tRip-KO and WT parasites, suggesting there are distinct groups of differentially 97 abundant proteins between the two genotypes. Among these proteins, only 8 were significantly up-98 regulated and 49 were down-regulated in the tRip-KO parasites compared to the WT (p-value < 0.05) 99 with a at least a 2-fold change in abundance; they are highlighted in the volcano plots in orange and 100 green, respectively (Fig. 3a). Most of down-regulated proteins are involved in translation (31% ribosomal 101 proteins, initiation, and elongation factors); the two other abundant categories were surface proteins 102 involved in transport and invasion (16%) and proteins with unknown functions (14%) (Supplementary 103 Dataset 1). Interestingly, the deregulated proteins include several aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases 104 (aaRSs). The glutamyl-tRNA synthetase (ERS), which is tightly associated to tRip in the two plasmodium 105 MSCs is reduced in the tRip-KO sample. However, the other two aaRSs associated with Plasmodium 106 MSCs, i.e. glutaminyl- and methionyl-tRNA synthetases, are detected but their expression is not 107 significantly affected. Moreover, both the lysyl- (KRS) and the asparaginyl (NRS) -tRNA synthetases are 108 increased in the mutant compared to the WT parasite (Supplementary Dataset 1), NRS and ERS being 109 just below the threshold with *p*-values of 0.0723 and 0.0627, respectively.

110 Amino acid compositions of tRip-KO down-regulated proteins in schizonts. Amino acid 111 usage (percentage of amino acids) in the 100 most expressed stable proteins in the tRip-KO parasite 112 was compared with that of the 49 significantly down-regulated proteins (Fig. 3b). There is no major 113 increase in glutamate, methionine or glutamine usage in down-regulated proteins compared to the 114 proteins efficiently expressed in the tRip-KO parasite, indicating that the dissociation of the two MSCs 115 caused by tRip deletion does not directly affect protein synthesis in the mutant parasite. On the other 116 hand, we clearly observe a 70% increase in asparagine in the proteins down-regulated in the tRip-KO 117 parasite (Supplementary Dataset 2, 11.6% in downregulated proteins versus 6.8% stable proteins), thus, 118 suggesting that the tRip-KO parasite has difficulty synthesizing asparagine-rich proteins. However, our 119 analysis is global and our results do not mean that all down-regulated proteins in the tRip-KO parasite 120 are asparagine-rich. Only some of them are, but they are so rich in asparagine that they bias the content

121 of the whole group.

122 Quantitative proteomics of tRip-KO versus WT in "blood stages" samples. Three biological replicates for tRip-KO and WT containing all blood stages (rings, trophozoites, and schizonts) were used 123 124 for comparative proteomics (Supplementary Fig. S1b and Dataset 3). Triplicate proteomic data sets (KO 125 and WT) were compared and identified between 617 and 1017 proteins each time. Sixty-nine proteins 126 were significantly deregulated (at least a 2-fold change in abundance), 8 were up-regulated and 61 were 127 down-regulated in the tRip-KO parasites compared to the WT (p-value < 0.05) (Fig. 3c). The few up-128 regulated proteins are especially rhoptry associated proteins (a specialized organelle in Plasmodia) and 129 proteins involved in mobility and invasion (Supplementary Dataset 3), while down-regulated proteins 130 were distributed across different functional families: Apart from the 20% of proteins with unknown 131 function, most are involved in DNA replication (41%). Yet, none were common to the schizonts samples 132 (compare Supplementary Data sets. S1 and S3). Amino acid usage in the tRip-KO down-regulated 133 proteins shows also that these proteins contain more asparagine residues (10.5% at tRip-KO versus 134 7.8% at WT, i.e. 34% more) than the 150 most expressed stable proteins (Fig. 3d, and Supplementary 135 Dataset 2), leading to the same conclusion as above: in the absence of tRip, asparagine-rich proteins 136 are less efficiently synthesized.

137 The mRNAs encoding 3 down-regulated proteins (MCM7, ChAF1-C and one protein with 138 unknown function) were quantified by qRT-PCR. They all showed a strong decrease in the tRip-KO 139 parasite compared to the WT parasite (Supplementary Fig. S3b), suggesting that down-regulated 140 proteins are controlled at the level of mRNA turnover (either transcription or degradation).

141 Identification of conserved asparagine-rich proteins in several Plasmodia species. Since 142 both "schizonts" and "blood stages" samples strongly suggest that the tRip-KO parasite is hindered in 143 inserting asparagine into proteins, the complete proteomes of six Plasmodium lineages (P. falciparum-144 5476 proteins, P. berghei-5076 proteins, P. yoelii-6097 proteins, P. chabaudi-5222 proteins, P. 145 knowlesi-5340 proteins and P. vivax-6708 proteins) as well as Toxoplasma gondii (control, 8322 146 proteins) were retrieved from ApiDB [9] and analyzed for their asparagine content (Supplementary Fig. 147 S4a). Plasmodium proteins contain more asparagine residues than Toxoplasma. Yet, the P. knowlesi 148 and P. vivax proteomes contain fewer asparagine residues (about 8 %) than the 4 other Plasmodia 149 strains (about 12%) (Supplementary Dataset 2 and Fig. S4a). Proteins were then ranked from highest

150 to lowest asparagine contents to identify those that might be impacted by decreased asparagine 151 decoding efficiency. For all proteomes, only the top 0.5% proteins were considered to search for 152 conserved proteins with the highest asparagine content. Depending on the strain, 25 to 30 proteins were 153 selected (Fig. 4). Besides many proteins with unknown functions and different AP2 domain transcription 154 factors, only 2 proteins are strictly conserved in all strains. They correspond to the CCR4-associated 155 factor-1 (CAF-1) and the poly-A binding protein-3 (PABP-3). Both share the same ligand (poly-A 156 sequence) and a peculiar modular organization. They feature a high-complexity N-terminal domain and 157 a long low-complexity C-terminal domain containing a very large amount of asparagine residues 158 (Supplementary Figs. S4b and S4c). The proportion of asparagine varies locally between 35 and 60% 159 in P. falciparum, P. yoelii, P. chabaudi and P. berghei and between 20 and 25% in P. knowlesi and P. 160 vivax (i.e. at least 3 times higher than their respective average usage of asparagine). Yet these two 161 proteins are not detected or by only a few spectral counts in our proteomic data (Supplementary Data 162 sets S1 and S3 in both WT and KO parasites).

163

164 **Discussion**

165 To achieve efficient and specific protein synthesis, codon usage of mRNA must be balanced with 166 the availability of corresponding aminoacylated tRNAs in the cell (i.e.[10-13]). Any discrepancy can 167 affect the rate of protein elongation in ribosomes and result in pauses in translation that lead to mRNA 168 degradation [14]. It is interesting to note that blood contains reticulocytes, precursors of red blood cells 169 (RBCs), which are very active in translation and therefore rich in tRNAs [15]. Both reticulocytes (about 170 2%) and mature RBC can be infected by *Plasmodia*. While reticulocytes are characterized by a dynamic 171 protein synthesis, RBC are hyper-specialized anucleate cells that retain about 10 % of the protein 172 synthesis observed in reticulocytes [16]. Despite their scarcity, P. berghei [17], P. chabaudi [18], P. yoelii 173 [19] and P. vivax [20] have been shown to preferentially invade these tRNA-rich reticulocytes compared 174 to mature RBCs.

Moreover, by comparing the proteomes of wild-type and tRip-KO *P. berghei*, we observed in two independent experiments that down-regulated proteins in the tRip-KO parasite are asparagine-rich proteins. Asparagine is the most used amino acid in the *P. berghei* proteome and is often found in long homorepeats [21,22]. This asparagine abundance is also found in *P. falciparum*, *P. chabaudi*, *P. yoelii* and to a lesser extent in *P.knowlesi* and *P. vivax* (Supplementary Fig. S4a), however proteins in the

180 latter two parasites do not contain long asparagine homorepeats. Based on these results, we propose 181 that import of host tRNA^{Asn} by tRip would ensure correct translation of asparagine-rich protein domains. 182 In other words, the absence of tRNA import in the tRip-KO parasite would prevent the accumulation of 183 host tRNA^{Asn} and would thus explain why asparagine-rich proteins are poorly translated. This doesn't 184 mean that two proteins with the same percentage of asparagine will necessarily be synthesized in the 185 same way; the synthesis of a protein containing asparagine clusters will be reduced in the tRip-KO 186 parasite, whereas the synthesis of a protein whose asparagines are evenly distributed in the sequence 187 will be unaffected. This hypothesis is strongly supported by several observations: (i) asparaginyl- and 188 lysyl-tRNA synthetases are overexpressed in the proteomes of tRip-KO schizonts (Fig. 3a, 189 Supplementary Dataset 1). Both aaRSs aminoacylate tRNAs that are most used to synthesize P. 190 berghei proteins. In general, increased expression of aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase correlates with a 191 decrease in cognate aminoacyl-tRNA and/or amino acid [23,24]. This observation suggests, that 192 tRNA^{Asn} and tRNA^{Lys} levels are low in tRip-KO schizonts. (ii) Furthermore, mammalian (human) tRNA^{Asn} 193 is among the tRNAs with the highest affinity for *P. falciparum* tRip, along with tRNA^{Ser}AGA and tRNA^{Leu}hGA 194 (Fig. 1) [2]; It is reasonable to assume that the tRNAs with the highest affinity for tRip are also those that 195 are most efficiently imported into the parasite. (iii) Finally, compensation for low tRNA^{Asn} by tRip-196 mediated tRNA import is only possible if the host tRNA^{Asn} is a substrate for the parasite AsnRS. This is 197 indeed the case (Fig. 2) indicating that once in the parasite, at least some host tRNA^{Asn} isoacceptors 198 can be efficiently aminoacylated and used in parasite mRNA translation. We have previously shown that 199 the *P. falciparum* AsnRS aminoacylates the human tRNA^{Asn} transcript 8-fold less efficiently than its 200 homologous *P. falciparum* transcript ³⁸. In contrast, in the present study, human tRNA^{Asn} is efficiently 201 charged by the P. falciparum enzyme, indicating that post-transcriptional modifications of human 202 tRNA^{Asn} are positively recognized by the parasite synthetase.

Two asparagine-rich proteins stand out and are conserved in the six *Plasmodium* species analyzed (Fig. 4): the CCr4-associated factor 1 (CAF-1), involved in the poly-(A) decay of mRNAs [25], and to the poly-(A) binding protein-3 (PABP3). Not only are both proteins involved in poly-(A) recognition, but they also adopt a common global structure with long asparagine-rich C-terminal domains found only in *Plasmodia* (Supplementary Figs. S4b and S4c). While PABP3 has not yet been characterized, CAF-1 has been studied in detail in *P. falciparum*. CAF-1 is an essential nuclease that degrades mRNAs enriched with non-optimally decoded codons. It belongs to the eukaryotic CCr4-Not complex, which 210 binds to the empty E-site of the ribosome and properly positions CAF-1 to initiate the decay of the 3'-211 poly(A)-tails of stalled mRNAs [26]. However, the asparagine-rich C-terminal domain of P. falciparum 212 CAF-1 is not essential and it has been shown that its deletion leads to the premature release of non-213 infectious merozoites in vitro [27] and to the inappropriate development of gametocytes in vivo [28]. 214 Interestingly, disruption of tRip and of the C-terminal domain of CAF-1 not only lead to the same 215 phenotype: parasites have reduced infectivity and multiplication in the blood stage [1,27], but also results 216 in overexpression of the same gene products involved in parasite egress and invasion: the rhoptry 217 proteins, RAP1, RAP2/3 and the major surface proteins AMA-1 and MSP1 (Supplementary Dataset 3 and Fig. S4d). This suggests that tRip and CAF-1 may be linked in their cellular functions, i.e. in the 218 219 tRip-KO parasite the absence of host tRNA^{Asn} import would hinder the synthesis of the asparagine-rich 220 C-terminus of CAF-1, and lead to the specific and premature expression of mRNAs encoding the 221 proteins responsible for merozoite release and infectivity. Interestingly, this hypothesis is supported not 222 only by the low level of tRip expression observed in this study at the schizont stage (compare tRip in 223 Figs. 3a and 3c), but also by several transcriptomic datasets obtained on the individual blood stages of 224 P. berghei and P. falciparum (https://plasmodb.org). Transcriptomes clearly show a significant reduction 225 in tRip mRNA content in schizonts compared with ring and trophozoite stages. Thus, in the WT parasite, 226 low tRip expression at the schizont stage could mimic what is proposed in this study for the tRip-KO 227 parasite, i.e. lead to partial CAF-1 synthesis and timely release of mature merozoites from schizonts.

228 The complex life cycle of *Plasmodium* is highly regulated, involving tight transcriptional and 229 especially post-transcriptional controls each time the parasite moves from one stage to another [29,30]. 230 Translational regulation of specific proteins which depends on the availability of host tRNAs would 231 enable efficient and rapid control of the transition from one stage to another during development. Failure 232 to import host tRNAs could indicate to the parasite that the cell has run out of resources and that it's 233 time to leave and infect another cell. In this respect, tissue-specific variations in tRNA levels and in their 234 post-transcriptional modifications [31,32] represent diverse sources of tRNAs for import. Depending on 235 the available tRNAs isodecoders, their concentration and their post-transcriptional modifications in the 236 host cell, tRNA import could differentially control parasite translation and enable it to develop optimally 237 not only in blood, but also in liver or mosquito. In this model, host tRNA supply could play a major role 238 in parasite development by modulating the translation efficiency of certain mRNAs, while complying with 239 the "just-in-time" translation model [29].

240

241 Methods

Ethic Statement: Experiments were carried out in conformity with the 2010/63/EU directive of the European regulation on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes. Our animal care facility received agreement #I-67-482-2 from the veterinary services of the département du Bas Rhin (Direction Départementale de la Protection des Populations). All experimental protocols including the animals was approved by the French ministry of higher education, research, and innovation under the agreements number APAFIS#11124-2018010312571506 v2. All experiments were performed in accordance with the ARRIVE guidelines.

249 Parasite production: Four- to six-week-old female mice (C57BL/6), weighing approximately 20 250 g, were injected intraperitoneally with 200 µL of frozen infected red blood cells (10-15% parasitemia 251 diluted in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS)) either with wild-type (WT, Pb gfpGOMO14) or with tRip-KO 252 (Pb tRip-KO mCherry) malaria parasites derived from the P. berghei (ANKA strain). Parasitemia was 253 monitored daily by cytometry (BD Accuri C6). Mice with parasitemia between 5 and 10% were selected. 254 Therefore, in this study, only mice without or low symptoms were used. These parasitemia levels were 255 reached 3-6 days after parasite injection. Mice were put to sleep and blood was collected by intracardiac 256 puncture (about 1 to 1.5 mL) and parasites were directly purified (all blood stages) or cultured for 24 257 hours in RPMI at 37°C under 5% CO2 (only schizonts) (Supplementary Fig. S1b) as described in [33].

258 infected blood was filtered through a Plasmodipur filter (Europroxima) to remove mouse 259 leukocytes, centrifuged for 10 min at 450 g and recovered in 4 mL of RPMI. A 7.2 mL cushion of 60% 260 isotonic Percoll was gently pipetted under the red blood cells and the tube was centrifuged for 20 min 261 at 1450 g (swinging buckets), to separate infected red blood cells (iRBC) at the Percoll/RPMI interface 262 from non-infected RBC at the bottom of the tube. Parasitized RBCs were recovered in 2 tubes, washed 263 3 times in 1 mL of PBS and combined with 200 µL each of PBS. Infected RBCs were then lysed with 264 0.02% saponin for 5 min in ice (in 400 µL). Free parasites were recovered by centrifugation for 5 min at 265 2000 g and washed in 500 µL of PBS. The two pellets were resuspended either in 50 µL of protein 266 loading buffer and stored at -80°C until mass spectrometry analysis, or as is and placed at -80°C for 267 RNA preparation.

268 Mass spectrometry (MS) and data analyses. Approximately 10 µg of protein was obtained from
269 the half of the blood (~0.75 mL of a 5-10% infected mouse). Protein concentrations were determined by

270 Bradford assay using bovine serum albumin as the standard. Proteins were precipitated, reduced, and 271 alkylated as described in [3]. After digestion overnight with sequencing grade porcine trypsin (300 ng, 272 w/w, Promega, Fitchburg, MA, USA), the generated peptides were analyzed either using Easy-nanoLC-273 1000 system coupled to a Q-Exactive Plus mass spectrometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Germany) with 274 160-minutes gradients (blood stages) or a NanoLC-2DPlus system (nanoFlexChiP module; Eksigent, 275 ABSciex, Concord, Ontario, Canada) coupled to a TripleTOF 5600 mass spectrometer (ABSciex) 276 operating in positive mode with 120-minutes gradients (schizonts). Data were searched using the 277 Mascot algorithm (version 2.6.2, Matrix Science) against the Uniprot database with *P.Berghei* taxonomy (release 2021 03, 4 927 sequences) with a decoy strategy. The resulting .dat Mascot files were then 278 279 imported into Proline version 2.0 software [34] to align the identified proteins. Proteins were then 280 validated with Mascot pretty rank equal to 1, and 1% false discovery rate (FDR) on both peptide 281 spectrum matches (PSM) and protein sets (based on Mascot score). As expected for blood cells from 282 infected mice, the number of contaminating mouse proteins represents between 40 and 50% of the 283 proteins identified by mass spectrometry (Sup datasets 1 and 3).

284 For statistical analyses, raw Spectral Count values were imported into R (v. 3.5.0) where the 285 number of spectra were first normalized using the DESeg2 median of ratio normalization method. A 286 negative-binomial test using an edgeR GLM regression generated for each identified protein a p-value 287 and a protein fold-change (FC). The R script used to process the dataset is published on Github [35]. 288 Proteins were statistically enriched or decreased with a p-value < 0.05 and a minimum fold change (FC) 289 of 2 or 0.5, respectively. Mass spectrometry proteomic data has been deposited within the 290 ProteomeXchange Consortium via the PRIDE partner repository [36] with the dataset ID PXD043916 291 (Username: reviewer pxd043916@ebi.ac.uk, Password: xu4rkrPE).

292 RNA purification and QRT-PCR. Total RNA was extracted from parasites using the RNeasy 293 Mini Kit (Qiagen) according to the manufacturer's protocol and was subjected to DNAse treatment with 294 the Rapid OUT DNA removal kit (Thermo Scientific). Total RNA was analyzed and quantified on 295 Bioanalyser (puce PICO). Each sample was reverse transcribed in a 20 µL reaction volume containing 296 10 µL (0.16 to 0.5 µg) of RNA, using the SuperScript II reverse transcriptase (Invitrogen) according to 297 the manufacturer's protocol. The mRNAs levels were measured by RT-PCR (25 µL containing 4 µL of 298 cDNA) on a CFx94 (Bio-Rad) using the Syber Green kit (Thermo Scientific). Oligonucleotides used for 299 qRT-PCR are listed in the Supplementary Fig. S3a. qRT-PCR reactions were designed according MIQE

300 guidelines [37], the specificity of the oligonucleotides was validated, and the amplification efficiencies of 301 the primer sets are all between 90 and 110% and r^2 values greater than 0.96. The mRNAs levels were 302 calculated according to the Δ Cq method and normalized by the mRNA level of both the EF1- α and 303 Hsp70 in each sample. Raw data are indicated as mean of three measurements, and results were 304 expressed as the average of 3 biological samples ± standard error of the mean (SEM).

Purification of aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases and aminoacylation assays. Recombinant *P. falciparum* and *H. sapiens* NRS and DRS were cloned, expressed and purified as described in references [38,39] respectively. The gene encoding the *P. falciparum* TyrRS was amplified by PCR from *P. falciparum* cDNA and cloned into pQE30 (Qiagen) and the plasmid encoding the *H. sapiens* YRS was a gift from P. Schimmel. Both *P. falciparum* and *H. sapiens* YRS were expressed and purified as described for NRS [38]. Purified enzymes are shown in Supplementary Fig. S2. *H. sapiens* crude tRNAs was prepared as described in [2].

Aminoacylation assays were performed under the same conditions: at 37 °C for 2, 4 and 6 min in 50 mM HEPES-KOH (pH 7.5), 20 mM KCl, 10 mM MgCl₂, 2 mM ATP, 6 μ M total tRNA from HeLa cells, in the presence of 20 μ M of the corresponding L-[¹⁴C]-amino acid (Perkin Elmer). AaRSs were diluted in 100 mM HEPES-KOH pH 7.5, 1 mM DTT, 5 mg/mL BSA, and 10% glycerol and used at a final concentration of 200 nM in the aminoacylation assay. The aminoacylation plateaus are the mean of 3 independent experiments ± standard deviation (SD).

Bioinformatics. Protein sequences as well as proteomes from all *Plasmodium* strains were retrieved from PlasmoDB. A home-made Python 2.7 script was used to calculate the asparagine content for each protein sequence. *Toxoplasma gondii* was the outgroup species.

321

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450 **Aknowledgments**

451 We are grateful to Philippe Hammann, Lauriane Kuhn, and Béatrice Chane Woon Ming for LC-452 MS/MS analysis, Fabrice Auge and Eric Marois for animal experiments, and to Dr Alain Lescure and 453 Prof Tamara Hendrickson for providing comments on this manuscript.

454 This work was performed under the framework of the Interdisciplinary Thematic Institute IMCBio, as part of the ITI 2021-2028 program of the University of Strasbourg, CNRS and Inserm. It was 455 456 supported by IdEx Unistra (ANR-10-IDEX-0002), by SFRI-STRAT'US project (ANR 20-SFRI-0012), and 457 EUR IMCBio (IMCBio ANR-17-EURE-0023) under the framework of the French Investments for the 458 Future Program », by previous Labex NetRNA (ANR-10-LABX-0036), by the CNRS and the Université 459 de Strasbourg, IdEx "Equipement mi-lourd" (2015) and Equipement d'Excellence (EquipEx) I2MC (ANR-460 11-EQPX-0022), and by the Fondation pour la Recherche Médicale (FRM) (grant number 461 FDT201704337050) to Marta Cela.

462

463 **Authors Contributions**

464 MP, DK and MC performed experiments, data acquisition, and analysis, JC performed mass 465 spectrometry analysis and LD provided computer programming. MF managed the conception, design, 466 interpretation of data and funding acquisition and wrote, reviewed, and edited the manuscript.

467

468 **Data availability statement**

469 All relevant data are within the manuscript and its Supporting Information files.

470

- 471 Additional information
- 472 **Competing Interest Statement**: The authors declare no conflict of interest.
- 473 1 pdf with 4 Supplementary Figures and 1 excel document containing 3 supplementary Data sets.

474

476 **Figure legends**

477 Figure 1. P. berghei membrane-bound multi-synthetase complexes. Plasmodium is 478 characterized by the presence of two multisynthetase complexes (MSC) named Q-complex and M-479 complex. The Q-complex is composed of glutamyl- (ERS) and glutaminyl- (QRS) tRNA synthetases 480 linked to a dimer of tRip whereas the M-complex is composed of tRip and Methionyl-tRNA synthetase 481 (MRS) organized around a dimer of ERS. tRip is therefore an AIMP (Aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase 482 Interacting Multifunctional Protein). tRip, ERS, QRS, and MRS are schematized and colored in grey, 483 black, cyan, and orange, respectively. the GST-like domains are shown as a drop and the C-terminal 484 domains of tRip, QRS and MRS involved in tRNA binding are either EMAPII-like domains (tRip and 485 MRS, grey diamonds) or a positively charged α -helix (QRS, shown as a grey helix). The characteristic 486 feature of *Plasmodium* MSCs is that tRip is a membrane protein (the transmembrane helix is shown in 487 red) with the GST-like domain required for MSC formation localized inside the parasite and the tRNA 488 binding domain exposed outside the parasite to host tRNAs. This unique organization justifies that only 489 the EMAPII-like domain of tRip (tRip₂₀₀₋₄₀₂) is fused at the C-terminal domain of a GST domain and used 490 as a target for the selection of aptamers capable of inhibiting tRip tRNA binding. Interfaces 1, 1' or 2, 491 involved in protein-protein interactions, are indicated in the corresponding GST-like domains. For the 492 sake of simplicity, this illustration does not show the parasitophorous membrane that surrounds the 493 parasite in the infected red blood cell.

Figure 2. Cross aminoacylation of host tRNAs by the parasite aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases. Six aaRSs, aspartyl-, asparaginyl- and tyrosyl-tRNA synthetases from *H. sapiens* (in blue) or *P. falciparum* (in orange) were tested with crude human tRNAs under the same experimental conditions (6 μ M crude tRNA and 0.2 μ M aaRSs). Aminoacylation plateaus were measured at 6 min of incubation. Human crude tRNAs are potentially transcribed from 420 genes, amongst which 19 genes encode tRNA^{Asp}, 34 genes encoding tRNA^{Asn} and 15 genes encoding tRNA^{Tyr} [40]. Error bars represent the standard deviation (SEM) of three independent experiments.

501 **Figure 3. Comparative proteomic analysis and amino acid usage of proteins identified in** 502 **WT and tRip-KO samples containing schizonts (a and b) or all blood stages (c and d). (a)** Volcano 503 plot of all quantified proteins from WT and tRip-KO parasites displaying the relationship between 504 statistical significance (-log10(*p*-*value*), *y*-axis) and log fold change (FC) of each protein (log2(FC), x-505 axis). Statistics are based on three independent experiments (Supplementary Dataset 1). Deregulated

506 proteins in tRip-KO parasite compared to the WT parasite are shown in orange (up-regulated, FC≥2 and 507 *p*-value \leq 0.05) and green (down-regulated, FC \leq -1 and *p*-value \leq 0.05). tRip is shown in red and black 508 dots represent proteins with no significant change. ERS, KRS and NRS correspond to glutamyl-, lysyl-509 and asparaginyl-tRNA synthetases; ERS and NRS are shown as black circles surrounded by grenn and 510 orange, respectively because their *p*-values are slightly greater than 0.05. (b) Comparison of amino acid 511 usage (%) of proteins whose expression is stable in the tRip-KO parasite (the 100 most expressed 512 proteins, black) and all proteins that are down-regulated in the tRip-KO parasite (green). Amino acids 513 are designated by their one letter symbol and the total number of amino acids used in the analyses is 514 specified. (c) Volcano plot of all quantified proteins from WT and tRip-KO parasites. Statistics are based 515 on three independent experiments (Supplementary Dataset 3). (d) Comparison of amino acid usage (%) 516 between proteins whose expression is stable in the tRip-KO parasite (the 150 most expressed proteins, 517 black) and proteins down-regulated in the tRip-KO parasite (green).

518 Figure 4. Top 0.5% of the most asparagine-rich proteins in 6 *Plasmodium* strains. Six 519 *Plasmodium* species were selected: *P. falciparum*, *P. yoelii*, *P. berghei*, *P. chabaudi*, all featuring high 520 asparagine usage (around 12%, Supplementary Fig. S4a) often localized in homorepetitions and *P.* 521 *knowlesi* and *P. vivax* which show lower asparagine usage (around 8%, Supplementary Fig. S4a) and 522 no homorepeats. Proteins highlighted in yellow are proteins of unknown function, light green indicate 523 AP2 family regulatory proteins and dark green show the two proteins conserved in all 6 species, 524 regardless of their asparagine usage.

27 Introduction

28 We have discovered the only example to date of an exogenous tRNA import pathway, 29 summarized in Fig. 1 [1-4]. In Plasmodium, the malaria parasite, P. berghei sporozoites (the 30 extracellular infective form of the parasite, Supplementary Fig. S1a) isolated from the salivary glands of 31 infected mosquitoes import exogenous tRNAs via a surface protein, named tRip (tRNA import protein). 32 However, the absence of homologous mechanisms in other organisms raises the question of the role of 33 this unique tRNA import and its mode of action. It has been established that (i) tRip is a homodimeric 34 protein made of an N-terminal GST-like domain and a C-terminal EMAPII-like tRNA binding domain; (ii) 35 tRip binds human tRNAs with high affinity *in vitro* and with a stoichiometry of one tRNA per tRip dimer; 36 (iii) tRip is anchored to the parasite's plasma membrane with its tRNA binding domain exposed to the 37 host system; (iv) immunolocalization experiments found tRip expressed both in the liver and blood 38 stages in the vertebrate host, as well as in the intestine and salivary glands of the mosquito; (v) in vitro, 39 exogenous tRNAs enter living sporozoites; (vi) the knockout parasite, tRip-KO, does not import tRNAs, 40 its protein biosynthesis is significantly reduced, and its growth is decreased in vertebrate blood 41 compared to the wild-type parasite.

42 Recently, the crystal structure of the dimeric N-terminal GST-like domain of P. vivax tRip was 43 solved and revealed a unique homodimerization interface [5]. We confirmed by SAXS that this unusual 44 interface exists in solution and that it allows Multi-Synthetase Complex (MSC) formation [3,4]. Indeed, 45 tRip is an aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase interacting multifunctional protein (AIMP) since it specifically co-46 immunoprecipitate with three aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases (aaRS), namely glutamyl- (ERS), glutaminyl-47 (QRS) and methionyl- (MRS) tRNA synthetases; These aaRSs all contain an N-terminal GST-like 48 domain involved in MSC assembly. Unexpectedly, these proteins form two exclusive heterotrimeric 49 MSCs with a 2:2:2 stoichiometry: a Q-complex (tRip:ERS:QRS) and an M-complex (tRip:ERS:MRS) 50 characterized by different biophysical properties and interaction networks (Fig. 1). We could also identify 51 a set of host tRNAs preferentially bound by tRip (Fig. 1) and potentially best imported into the parasite. 52 Interestingly, tRip does not bind to tRNAs in a sequence-dependent manner, but would rather recognize 53 post-transcriptional modifications that modulate this interaction [2]. In contrast to what has been shown 54 for its cytosolic homologue Arc1p in Saccharomyces cerevisiae [6], the tRNAs that best bind tRip do not 55 match the aaRSs that compose MSCs. It suggests that, although tRip is an AIMP, it is not dedicated to

56 the aminoacylation of specific tRNAs (2), thereby leading us to search for a novel function for this unique 57 membrane protein and the tRNA import with which it is associated.

58 The AIMP tRip is not the only protein that has been characterized as cytosolic in other organisms 59 and is localized on the surface of *Plasmodium*. This is also the case for other RNA-binding proteins such 60 as the poly-A binding protein-1 (PABP-1) [7] and the glyceraldehyde-3 phosphate dehydrogenase 61 (GAPDH) [8], which are both found on the surface of the sporozoites. The presence of different RNA-62 binding proteins at the parasite-host interface is another indication that RNA exchange might control 63 unsuspected host-parasite interactions that take place during the parasite life cycle. In the present study, 64 we compared the proteomes of the wild-type (WT) and the tRip-KO blood stage parasites with the 65 objective of understanding the fate of imported tRNAs in *Plasmodium* protein synthesis and its infectious 66 process.

67

Results 68

69

Host tRNAs are aminoacylated by the cognate parasite aaRSs in vitro

70 Cross-aminoacylation reactions were tested using the aspartyl-, tyrosyl-, and asparaginyl-tRNA 71 synthetases from H. sapiens and P. falciparum (Supplementary Fig. S2) in vitro to determine their ability 72 to aminoacylate human tRNA^{Asp}, tRNA^{Tyr}, and tRNA^{Asn}, respectively using crude human tRNA (Fig. 2). 73 These three aminoacylation systems are representative of the tRNAs recognized weakly (aspartate), 74 moderately (tyrosine) and preferentially (asparagine) by tRip [2]. Aminoacylation plateaus show that all 75 three Plasmodium aaRSs can aminoacylate nearly the same level of tRNA as their human counterparts, 76 although asparaginylation by the parasite enzyme is effective on about 80% of human tRNA^{Asn} 77 isodecoders. It indicates that host tRNAs, when imported into parasites by tRip can be aminoacylated 78 by parasite aaRSs to be used in protein translation.

79 Comparative proteomics of tRip-KO versus wild-type (WT) schizonts. We investigated the 80 relative protein abundance of tRip-KO versus WT in the schizont stage of synchronized parasites 81 (Supplementary Fig. S1b) using liquid chromatography coupled to tandem mass spectrometry (LC-82 MS/MS). To highlight the most relevant effects associated with the deletion of tRip, we chose to compare 83 equal amounts of proteins, even though tRip-KO parasites grow slower than wild-type parasites and 84 their translation efficiency is significantly reduced [1]. Three biological replicates for tRip-KO and WT 85 were defined for the schizonts samples (Supplementary Dataset 1). The amounts of proteins (KO and

86 WT) were comparable as most proteins were stable in the proteomic data. This is notably the case for 87 four constitutively highly expressed proteins: EF1-α (PBANKA 1133300), Hsp70 (PBANKA 0914400), 88 enolase (PBANKA 1214300) and histone H4 (PBANKA 941900) (Supplementary Dataset 1). Protein 89 abundance was calculated using the intensity of P. berghei peptides, which identified between 347 and 90 469 proteins. Metric multidimensional scaling (MDS) (included in Supplementary Dataset 1) indicated 91 clustering of the tRip-KO and WT parasites, suggesting there are distinct groups of differentially 92 abundant proteins between the two genotypes. Among these proteins, only 8 were significantly up-93 regulated and 49 were down-regulated in the tRip-KO parasites compared to the WT (p-value < 0.05) 94 with a at least a 2-fold change in abundance; they are highlighted in the volcano plots in orange and 95 green, respectively (Fig. 3a). Most of down-regulated proteins are involved in translation (31% ribosomal 96 proteins, initiation, and elongation factors); the two other abundant categories were surface proteins 97 involved in transport and invasion (16%) and proteins with unknown functions (14%) (Supplementary 98 Dataset 1). Interestingly, the deregulated proteins include several aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases. The 99 glutamyl-tRNA synthetase (ERS), which is tightly associated to tRip in the two plasmodium MSCs is 100 reduced in the tRip-KO sample and both the lysyl- (KRS) and the asparaginyl (NRS) -tRNA synthetases 101 are increased in the mutant compared to the WT parasite (Supplementary Dataset 1), NRS and ERS 102 being just below the threshold with *p*-values of 0.0723 and 0.0627, respectively.

103 Amino acid compositions of tRip-KO down-regulated proteins in schizonts. Amino acid 104 usage (percentage of amino acids) in the 100 most expressed stable proteins in the tRip-KO parasite 105 was compared with that of the 49 significantly down-regulated proteins (Fig. 3b). There is no major 106 increase in glutamate, methionine or glutamine usage in down-regulated proteins compared to the 107 proteins efficiently expressed in the tRip-KO parasite, indicating that the dissociation of the two MSCs 108 caused by tRip deletion does not directly affect protein synthesis in the mutant parasite. On the other 109 hand, we clearly observe a 70% increase in asparagine in the proteins down-regulated in the tRip-KO 110 parasite (Supplementary Dataset 2, 11.6% in downregulated proteins versus 6.8% stable proteins), thus, 111 suggesting that the tRip-KO parasite has difficulty synthesizing asparagine-rich proteins.

Quantitative proteomics of tRip-KO *versus* **WT in "blood stages" samples.** Three biological replicates for tRip-KO and WT containing all blood stages (rings, trophozoites, and schizonts) were used for comparative proteomics (Supplementary Fig. S1b and Dataset 3). Triplicate proteomic data sets (KO and WT) were compared and identified between 617 and 1017 proteins each time. Sixty-nine proteins

116 were significantly deregulated (at least a 2-fold change in abundance), 8 were up-regulated and 61 were 117 down-regulated in the tRip-KO parasites compared to the WT (p-value < 0.05) (Fig. 3c). The few up-118 regulated proteins are especially rhoptry associated proteins (a specialized organelle in Plasmodia) and 119 proteins involved in mobility and invasion (Supplementary Dataset 3), while down-regulated proteins 120 were distributed across different functional families: Apart from the 20% of proteins with unknown 121 function, most are involved in DNA replication (41%). Yet, none were common to the schizonts samples 122 (compare Supplementary Data sets. S1 and S3). Amino acid usage in the tRip-KO down-regulated 123 proteins shows also that these proteins contain more asparagine residues (10.5% at tRip-KO versus 124 7.8% at WT, i.e. 34% more) than the 150 most expressed stable proteins (Fig. 3d, and Supplementary 125 Dataset 2), leading to the same conclusion as above: in the absence of tRip, asparagine-rich proteins 126 are less efficiently synthesized.

127 The mRNAs encoding 3 down-regulated proteins (MCM7, ChAF1-C and one protein with 128 unknown function) were quantified by qRT-PCR. They all showed a strong decrease in the tRip-KO 129 parasite compared to the WT parasite (Supplementary Fig. S3b), suggesting that down-regulated 130 proteins are controlled at the level of mRNA turnover.

131 Identification of conserved asparagine-rich proteins in several Plasmodia strains. Since 132 both "schizonts" and "blood stages" samples strongly suggest that the tRip-KO parasite is hindered in 133 inserting asparagine into proteins, the complete proteomes of six Plasmodium lineages (P. falciparum-134 5476 proteins, P. berghei-5076 proteins, P. yoelii-6097 proteins, P. chabaudi-5222 proteins, P. 135 knowlesi-5340 proteins and P. vivax-6708 proteins) as well as Toxoplasma gondii (control, 8322 136 proteins) were retrieved from ApiDB [9] and analyzed for their asparagine content (Supplementary Fig. 137 S4a). Plasmodium proteins contain more asparagine residues than Toxoplasma. Yet, the P. knowlesi 138 and P. vivax proteomes contain fewer asparagine residues (about 8 %) than the 4 other Plasmodia 139 strains (about 12%) (Supplementary Dataset 2 and Fig. S4a). Proteins were then ranked from highest 140 to lowest asparagine contents to identify those that might be impacted by decreased asparagine 141 decoding efficiency. For all proteomes, only the top 0.5% proteins were considered to search for 142 conserved proteins with the highest asparagine content. Depending on the strain, 25 to 30 proteins were 143 selected (Fig. 4). Besides many proteins with unknown functions and different AP2 domain transcription 144 factors, only 2 proteins are strictly conserved in all strains. They correspond to the CCR4-associated 145 factor-1 (CAF-1) and the poly-A binding protein-3 (PABP-3). Both share the same ligand (poly-A

sequence) and a peculiar modular organization. They feature a high-complexity N-terminal domain and
a long low-complexity C-terminal domain containing a very large amount of asparagine residues
(Supplementary Figs. S4b and S4c). The proportion of asparagine varies locally between 35 and 60%
in *P. falciparum*, *P. yoelii*, *P. chabaudi* and *P. berghei* and between 20 and 25% in *P. knowlesi* and *P. vivax* (i.e. at least 3 times higher than their respective average usage of asparagine). Yet these two
proteins are not detected or by only a few spectral counts in our proteomic data (Supplementary Data sets S1 and S3).

153

154 **Discussion**

155 To achieve efficient and specific protein synthesis, codon usage of mRNA must be balanced with 156 the availability of corresponding aminoacylated tRNAs in the cell (i.e.[10-13]). Any discrepancy can 157 affect the rate of protein elongation in ribosomes and result in pauses in translation that lead to mRNA 158 degradation [14]. It is interesting to note that blood contains reticulocytes, precursors of RBCs, which 159 are very active in translation and therefore rich in tRNAs [15]. Both reticulocytes (about 2%) and mature 160 red blood cells (RBC) can be infected by Plasmodia. While reticulocytes are characterized by a dynamic 161 protein synthesis, RBC are hyper-specialized anucleate cells that retain about 10 % of the protein 162 synthesis observed in reticulocytes [16]. Despite their scarcity, P. berghei [17], P. chabaudi [18], P. yoelii 163 [19] and P. vivax [20] have been shown to preferentially invade these tRNA-rich reticulocytes compared 164 to mature RBCs.

165 Moreover, by comparing the proteomes of wild-type and tRip-KO P. berghei, we observed in two 166 independent experiments that down-regulated proteins in the tRip-KO parasite are asparagine-rich 167 proteins. Asparagine is the most used amino acid in the *P. berghei* proteome and is often found in long homorepeats [21,22]. This asparagine abundance is also found in P. falciparum, P. chabaudi, P. voelii 168 169 and to a lesser extent in *P.knowlesi* and *P. vivax* (Supplementary Fig. S4a), however proteins in the 170 latter two parasites do not contain long asparagine repeats. Based on these results, we propose that 171 import of host tRNA^{Asn} by tRip would ensure correct translation of asparagine-rich protein domains. In 172 other words, the absence of tRNA import in the tRip-KO parasite would prevent the accumulation of host 173 tRNA^{Asn} and would thus explain why asparagine-rich proteins are poorly translated. This hypothesis is 174 strongly supported by several observations: (i) asparaginyl- and lysyl-tRNA synthetases are 175 overexpressed in the proteomes of tRip-KO schizonts (Fig. 3a, Supplementary Dataset 1). Both aaRSs

176 aminoacylate tRNAs that are most used to synthesize P. berghei proteins. In general, increased 177 expression of aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase correlates with a decrease in cognate aminoacyl-tRNA and/or amino acid [23,24]. This observation suggests, that tRNA^{Asn} and tRNA^{Lys} levels are low in tRip-KO 178 179 schizonts. (ii) Furthermore, mammalian (human) tRNA^{Asn} is among the tRNAs with the highest affinity 180 for *P. falciparum* tRip, along with tRNA^{Ser}_{AGA} and tRNA^{Leu}_{hGA} (Fig. 1) [2]; It is reasonable to assume that 181 the tRNAs with the highest affinity for tRip are also those that are most efficiently imported into the 182 parasite. (iii) Finally, compensation for low tRNA^{Asn} by tRip-mediated tRNA import is only possible if the 183 host tRNA^{Asn} is a substrate for the parasite AsnRS. This is indeed the case (Fig. 2) indicating that once 184 in the parasite, at least some host tRNA^{Asn} isoacceptors can be efficiently aminoacylated and used in 185 parasite mRNA translation. We have previously shown that the P. falciparum AsnRS aminoacylates the human tRNA^{Asn} transcript 8-fold less efficiently than its homologous *P. falciparum* transcript ³⁸. In 186 contrast, in the present study, human tRNA^{Asn} is efficiently charged by the *P. falciparum* enzyme, 187 188 indicating that post-transcriptional modifications of human tRNAAsn are positively recognized by the 189 parasite synthetase.

190 Two asparagine-rich proteins stand out and are conserved in the six Plasmodium species 191 analyzed (Fig. 4): the CCr4-associated factor 1 (CAF-1), involved in the poly-(A) decay of mRNAs [25], 192 and to the poly-(A) binding protein-3 (PABP3). Not only are both proteins involved in poly-(A) recognition, 193 but they also adopt a common global structure with long asparagine-rich C-terminal domains found only 194 in Plasmodia (Supplementary Figs. S4b and S4c). While PABP3 has not yet been characterized, CAF-195 1 has been studied in detail in P. falciparum. CAF-1 is an essential nuclease that degrades mRNAs 196 enriched with non-optimally decoded codons. It belongs to the eukaryotic CCr4-Not complex, which 197 binds to the empty E-site of the ribosome and properly positions CAF-1 to initiate the decay of the 3'-198 poly(A)-tails of stalled mRNAs [26]. However, the asparagine-rich C-terminal domain of P. falciprum 199 CAF-1 is not essential and it has been shown that its deletion leads to the premature release of non-200 infectious merozoites in vitro [27] and to the inappropriate development of gametocytes in vivo [28]. 201 Interestingly, disruption of tRip and of the C-terminal domain of CAF-1 not only lead to the same 202 phenotype: parasites have reduced infectivity and multiplication in the blood stage [1,27], but also results 203 in overexpression of the same gene products involved in parasite egress and invasion: the rhoptry 204 proteins, RAP1, RAP2/3 and the major surface proteins AMA-1 and MSP1 (Supplementary Dataset 3 205 and Fig. S4d). It suggests that tRip and CAF-1 may be linked in their cellular functions, i.e. in the tRipKO parasite the absence of host tRNA^{Asn} import would hinder the synthesis of the asparagine-rich C terminus of CAF-1, and lead to the specific and premature expression of mRNAs encoding the proteins
 responsible for merozoite release and infectivity.

209 The complex life cycle of *Plasmodium* is highly regulated, involving tight transcriptional and 210 especially post-transcriptional controls each time the parasite moves from one stage to another [29,30]. 211 Translational regulation of specific proteins which depends on the availability of host tRNAs would 212 enable efficient and rapid control of the transition from one stage to another during development. Failure 213 to import host tRNAs could indicate to the parasite that the cell has run out of resources and that it's 214 time to leave and infect another cell. In this respect, tissue-specific variations in tRNA levels and in their 215 post-transcriptional modifications [31,32] represent diverse sources of tRNAs for import. Depending on 216 the available tRNAs isodecoders, their concentration and their post-transcriptional modifications in the 217 host cell, tRNA import could differentially control parasite translation and enable it to develop optimally 218 not only in blood, but also in liver or mosquito. In this model, host tRNA supply could play a major role 219 in parasite development by modulating the translation efficiency of certain mRNAs, while complying with 220 the "just-in-time" translation model [29].

221

222 Methods

Ethic Statement: Experiments were carried out in conformity with the 2010/63/EU directive of the European regulation on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes. Our animal care facility received agreement #I-67-482-2 from the veterinary services of the département du Bas Rhin (Direction Départementale de la Protection des Populations). All experimental protocols including the animals was approved by the French ministry of higher education, research, and innovation under the agreements number APAFIS#11124-2018010312571506 v2. All experiments were performed in accordance with the ARRIVE guidelines.

Parasite production: Four- to six-week-old female mice (C57BL/6), weighing approximately 20
g, were injected intraperitoneally with 200 µL of frozen infected red blood cells (10-15% parasitemia
diluted in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS)) either with wild-type (WT, *Pb* gfpGOMO14) or with tRip-KO
(*Pb* tRip-KO mCherry) malaria parasites derived from the *P. berghei* (ANKA strain). Parasitemia was
monitored daily by cytometry (BD Accuri C6). Mice with parasitemia between 5 and 10% were selected.
Therefore, in this study, only mice without or low symptoms were used. These parasitemia levels were

reached 3-6 days after parasite injection. Mice were put to sleep and blood was collected by intracardiac
puncture (about 1 to 1.5 mL) and parasites were directly purified (all blood stages) or cultured for 24
hours in RPMI at 37°C under 5% CO2 (only schizonts) (Supplementary Fig. S1b) as described in [33].

239 infected blood was filtered through a Plasmodipur filter (Europroxima) to remove mouse 240 leukocytes, centrifuged for 10 min at 450 g and recovered in 4 mL of RPMI. A 7.2 mL cushion of 60% 241 isotonic Percoll was gently pipetted under the red blood cells and the tube was centrifuged for 20 min 242 at 1450 g (swinging buckets), to separate infected red blood cells (iRBC) at the Percoll/RPMI interface 243 from non-infected RBC at the bottom of the tube. Parasitized RBCs were recovered in 2 tubes, washed 244 3 times in 1 mL of PBS and combined with 200 µL each of PBS. Infected RBCs were then lysed with 245 0.02% saponin for 5 min in ice (in 400 µL). Free parasites were recovered by centrifugation for 5 min at 246 2000 g and washed in 500 µL of PBS. The two pellets were resuspended either in 50 µL of protein 247 loading buffer and stored at -80°C until mass spectrometry analysis, or as is and placed at -80°C for 248 RNA preparation.

249 Mass spectrometry (MS) and data analyses. Approximately 10 µg of protein was obtained from 250 the half of the blood (~0.75 mL of a 5-10% infected mouse). Protein concentrations were determined by 251 Bradford assay using bovine serum albumin as the standard. Proteins were precipitated, reduced, and 252 alkylated as described in [3]. After digestion overnight with sequencing grade porcine trypsin (300 ng, 253 w/w, Promega, Fitchburg, MA, USA), the generated peptides were analyzed either using Easy-nanoLC-254 1000 system coupled to a Q-Exactive Plus mass spectrometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Germany) with 255 160-minutes gradients (blood stages) or a NanoLC-2DPlus system (nanoFlexChiP module; Eksigent, 256 ABSciex, Concord, Ontario, Canada) coupled to a TripleTOF 5600 mass spectrometer (ABSciex) 257 operating in positive mode with 120-minutes gradients (schizonts). Data were searched using the 258 Mascot algorithm (version 2.6.2, Matrix Science) against the Uniprot database with *P.Berghei* taxonomy 259 (release 2021 03, 4 927 sequences) with a decoy strategy. The resulting .dat Mascot files were then 260 imported into Proline version 2.0 software [34] to align the identified proteins. Proteins were then 261 validated with Mascot pretty rank equal to 1, and 1% false discovery rate (FDR) on both peptide 262 spectrum matches (PSM) and protein sets (based on Mascot score). As expected for blood cells from 263 infected mice, the number of contaminating mouse proteins represents between 40 and 50% of the 264 proteins identified by mass spectrometry (Sup datasets 1 and 3).

265 For statistical analyses, raw Spectral Count values were imported into R (v. 3.5.0) where the 266 number of spectra were first normalized using the DESeq2 median of ratio normalization method. A 267 negative-binomial test using an edgeR GLM regression generated for each identified protein a p-value 268 and a protein fold-change (FC). The R script used to process the dataset is published on Github [35]. 269 Proteins were statistically enriched or decreased with a p-value < 0.05 and a minimum fold change (FC) 270 of 2 or 0.5, respectively. Mass spectrometry proteomic data has been deposited within the 271 ProteomeXchange Consortium via the PRIDE partner repository [36] with the dataset ID PXD043916 272 (Username: reviewer pxd043916@ebi.ac.uk, Password: xu4rkrPE).

273 **RNA purification and QRT-PCR.** Total RNA was extracted from parasites using the RNeasy 274 Mini Kit (Qiagen) according to the manufacturer's protocol and was subjected to DNAse treatment with 275 the Rapid OUT DNA removal kit (Thermo Scientific). Total RNA was analyzed and quantified on 276 Bioanalyser (puce PICO). Each sample was reverse transcribed in a 20 µL reaction volume containing 277 10 μL (0.16 to 0.5 μg) of RNA, using the SuperScript II reverse transcriptase (Invitrogen) according to 278 the manufacturer's protocol. The mRNAs levels were measured by RT-PCR (25 µL containing 4 µL of 279 cDNA) on a CFx94 (Bio-Rad) using the Syber Green kit (Thermo Scientific). Oligonucleotides used for 280 gRT-PCR are listed in the Supplementary Fig. S3a. gRT-PCR reactions were designed according MIQE 281 guidelines [37], the specificity of the oligonucleotides was validated, and the amplification efficiencies of 282 the primer sets are all between 90 and 110% and r^2 values greater than 0.96. The mRNAs levels were 283 calculated according to the Δ Cq method and normalized by the mRNA level of both the EF1- α and 284 Hsp70 in each sample. Raw data are indicated as mean of three measurements, and results were 285 expressed as the average of 3 biological samples ± standard error of the mean (SEM).

Purification of aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases and aminoacylation assays. Recombinant *P. falciparum* and *H. sapiens* NRS and DRS were cloned, expressed and purified as described in references [38,39] respectively. The gene encoding the *P. falciparum* TyrRS was amplified by PCR from *P. falciparum* cDNA and cloned into pQE30 (Qiagen) and the plasmid encoding the *H. sapiens* YRS was a gift from P. Schimmel. Both *P. falciparum* and *H. sapiens* YRS were expressed and purified as described for NRS [38]. Purified enzymes are shown in Supplementary Fig. S2. *H. sapiens* crude tRNAs was prepared as described in [2].

Aminoacylation assays were performed under the same conditions: at 37 °C for 2, 4 and 6 min in
50 mM HEPES-KOH (pH 7.5), 20 mM KCl, 10 mM MgCl₂, 2 mM ATP, 6 μM total tRNA from HeLa cells,

in the presence of 20 μ M of the corresponding L-[¹⁴C]-amino acid (Perkin Elmer). AaRSs were diluted in 100 mM HEPES-KOH pH 7.5, 1 mM DTT, 5 mg/mL BSA, and 10% glycerol and used at a final concentration of 200 nM in the aminoacylation assay. The aminoacylation plateaus are the mean of 3 independent experiments ± standard deviation (SD).

Bioinformatics. Protein sequences as well as proteomes from all *Plasmodium* strains were
 retrieved from PlasmoDB. A home-made Python 2.7 script was used to calculate the asparagine content
 for each protein sequence. *Toxoplasma gondii* was the outgroup species.

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431 **Aknowledgments**

We are grateful to Philippe Hammann, Lauriane Kuhn, and Béatrice Chane Woon Ming for LCMS/MS analysis, Fabrice Auge and Eric Marois for animal experiments, and to Dr Alain Lescure and
Prof Tamara Hendrickson for providing comments on this manuscript.

435 This work was performed under the framework of the Interdisciplinary Thematic Institute IMCBio, as part of the ITI 2021-2028 program of the University of Strasbourg, CNRS and Inserm. It was 436 437 supported by IdEx Unistra (ANR-10-IDEX-0002), by SFRI-STRAT'US project (ANR 20-SFRI-0012), and 438 EUR IMCBio (IMCBio ANR-17-EURE-0023) under the framework of the French Investments for the 439 Future Program », by previous Labex NetRNA (ANR-10-LABX-0036), by the CNRS and the Université 440 de Strasbourg, IdEx "Equipement mi-lourd" (2015) and Equipement d'Excellence (EquipEx) I2MC (ANR-441 11-EQPX-0022), and by the Fondation pour la Recherche Médicale (FRM) (grant number 442 FDT201704337050) to Marta Cela.

443

444 Authors Contributions

445 MP, DK and MC performed experiments, data acquisition, and analysis, JC performed mass 446 spectrometry analysis and LD provided computer programming. MF managed the conception, design, 447 interpretation of data and funding acquisition and wrote, reviewed, and edited the manuscript.

448

449 **Data availability statement**

450 All relevant data are within the manuscript and its Supporting Information files.

451

- 452 Additional information
- 453 **Competing Interest Statement**: The authors declare no conflict of interest.
- 454 1 pdf with 4 Supplementary Figures and 1 excel document containing 3 supplementary Data sets.

457 **Figure legends**

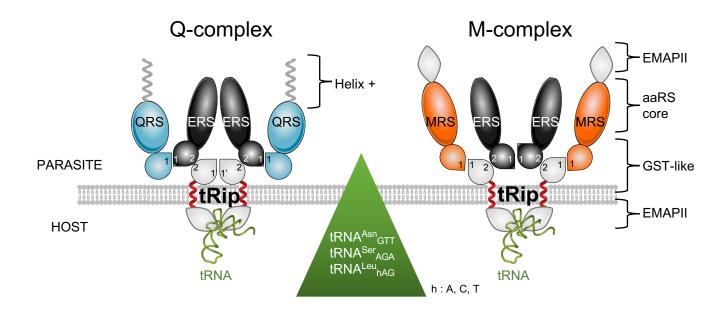
458 Figure 1. P. berghei membrane-bound multi-synthetase complexes. Plasmodium is 459 characterized by the presence of two multisynthetase complexes (MSC) named Q-complex and M-460 complex. The Q-complex is composed of glutamyl- (ERS) and glutaminyl- (QRS) tRNA synthetases 461 linked to a dimer of tRip whereas the M-complex is composed of tRip and Methionyl-tRNA synthetase 462 (MRS) organized around a dimer of ERS. tRip is therefore an AIMP (Aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase 463 Interacting Multifunctional Protein). tRip, ERS, QRS, and MRS are schematized and colored in grey, 464 black, cyan, and orange, respectively. the GST-like domains are shown as a drop and the C-terminal 465 domains of tRip, QRS and MRS involved in tRNA binding are either EMAPII-like domains (tRip and 466 MRS, grey diamonds) or a positively charged α -helix (QRS, shown as a grey helix). The characteristic 467 feature of *Plasmodium* MSCs is that tRip is a membrane protein (the transmembrane helix is shown in 468 red) with the GST-like domain required for MSC formation localized inside the parasite and the tRNA 469 binding domain exposed outside the parasite to host tRNAs. This unique organization justifies that only 470 the EMAPII-like domain of tRip (tRip₂₀₀₋₄₀₂) is fused at the C-terminal domain of a GST domain and used 471 as a target for the selection of aptamers capable of inhibiting tRip tRNA binding. Interfaces 1, 1' or 2, 472 involved in protein-protein interactions, are indicated in the corresponding GST-like domains. For the 473 sake of simplicity, this illustration does not show the parasitophorous membrane that surrounds the 474 parasite in the infected red blood cell.

Figure 2. Cross aminoacylation of host tRNAs by the parasite aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases. Six aaRSs, aspartyl-, asparaginyl- and tyrosyl-tRNA synthetases from *H. sapiens* (in blue) or *P. falciparum* (in orange) were tested with crude human tRNAs under the same experimental conditions (6 μ M crude tRNA and 0.2 μ M aaRSs). Aminoacylation plateaus were measured at 6 min of incubation. Human crude tRNAs are potentially transcribed from 420 genes, amongst which 19 genes encode tRNA^{Asp}, 34 genes encoding tRNA^{Asn} and 15 genes encoding tRNA^{Tyr} [40]. Error bars represent the standard deviation (SEM) of three independent experiments.

Figure 3. Comparative proteomic analysis and amino acid usage of proteins identified in WT and tRip-KO samples containing schizonts (a and b) or all blood stages (c and d). (a) Volcano plot of all quantified proteins from WT and tRip-KO parasites displaying the relationship between statistical significance (-log10(*p*-*value*), y-axis) and log fold change (FC) of each protein (log2(FC), xaxis). Statistics are based on three independent experiments (Supplementary Dataset 1). Deregulated

487 proteins in tRip-KO parasite compared to the WT parasite are shown in orange (up-regulated, FC≥2 and 488 *p*-value \leq 0.05) and green (down-regulated, FC \leq -1 and *p*-value \leq 0.05). tRip is shown in red and black 489 dots represent proteins with no significant change. ERS, KRS and NRS correspond to glutamyl-, lysyl-490 and asparaginyl-tRNA synthetases; ERS and NRS are shown as black circles surrounded by grenn and 491 orange, respectively because their *p*-values are slightly greater than 0.05. (b) Comparison of amino acid 492 usage (%) of proteins whose expression is stable in the tRip-KO parasite (the 100 most expressed 493 proteins, black) and all proteins that are down-regulated in the tRip-KO parasite (green). Amino acids 494 are designated by their one letter symbol and the total number of amino acids used in the analyses is 495 specified. (c) Volcano plot of all quantified proteins from WT and tRip-KO parasites. Statistics are based 496 on three independent experiments (Supplementary Dataset 3). (d) Comparison of amino acid usage (%) 497 between proteins whose expression is stable in the tRip-KO parasite (the 150 most expressed proteins, 498 black) and proteins down-regulated in the tRip-KO parasite (green).

Figure 4. Top 0.5% of the most asparagine-rich proteins in 6 *Plasmodium* strains. Six *Plasmodium* species were selected: *P. falciparum*, *P. yoelii*, *P. berghei*, *P. chabaudi*, all featuring high asparagine usage (around 12%, Supplementary Fig. S4a) often localized in homorepetitions and *P. knowlesi* and *P. vivax* which show lower asparagine usage (around 8%, Supplementary Fig. S4a) and no homorepeats. Proteins highlighted in yellow are proteins of unknown function, light green indicate AP2 family regulatory proteins and dark green show the two proteins conserved in all 6 species, regardless of their asparagine usage.



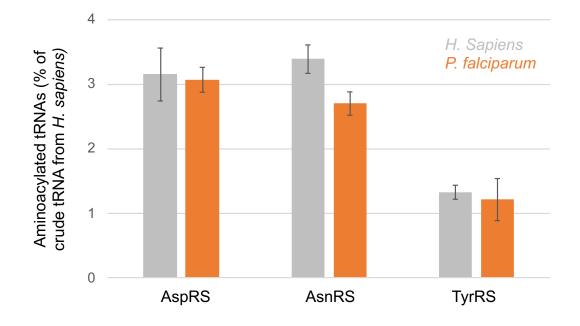
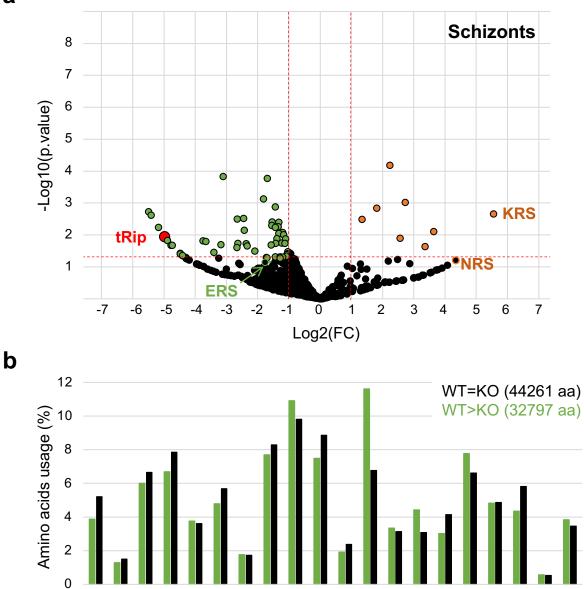


Fig. 2



Κ

I

L

M N P

QRS

Н

F G

а

С

D E

А

Fig. 3

Y

V W

Т

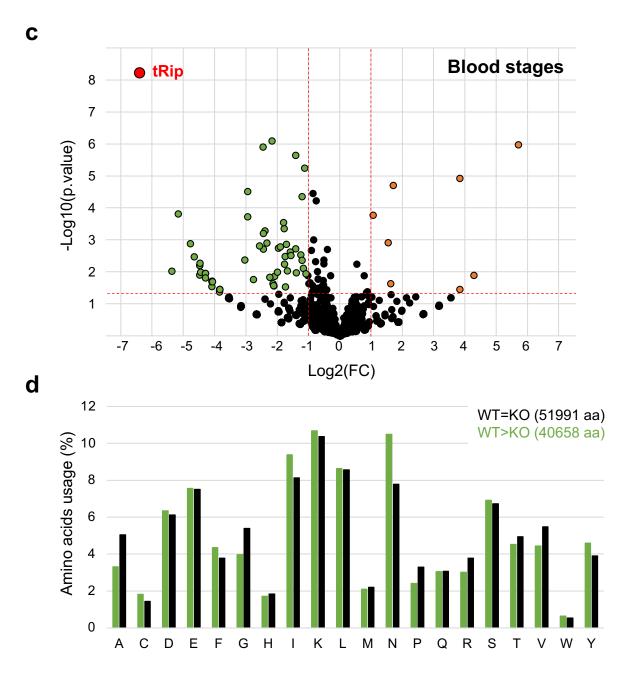


Fig. 3

P. falciparum

			· ·
Protein id	Prot length	Asn (%)	function
PF3D7_0923500	357	42.017	cyclin-dependent kinases regulatory subunit
PF3D7_1366900	685	34.891	conserved protein. unknown function
PF3D7_0218200	807	33.333	SUZ domain-containing protein. putative
PF3D7_1439500	1074	32.961	oocyst rupture protein 2. putative
PF3D7_0706500	1706	32.298	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function
PF3D7_0811300	1774	32.187	CCR4-associated factor 1
PF3D7_0611800	3248	31.989	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function
PF3D7_1249700	908	31.608	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function
PF3D7_0817300	2235	31.588	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function
PF3D7_1236100	445	31.236	clustered-asparagine-rich protein
PF3D7_0525300	481	31.185	conserved protein. unknown function
PF3D7_0323800	977	31.116	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function
PF3D7_0212100	1844	31.074	conserved Plasmodium protein, unknown function
PF3D7_1329600	301	30.897	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function
PF3D7_1473500	675	30.667	conserved Plasmodium protein, unknown function
PF3D7_0926100	3178	30.585	protein kinase. putative
PF3D7_0411000	1570	30.382	AP2 domain transcription factor AP2-Z
PF3D7_1146800	3188	30.332	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function
PF3D7_1337500	3334	30.324	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function
PF3D7_1317200	2672	30.202	AP2 domain transcription factor AP2-FG
PF3D7_0602000	1437	29.923	zinc finger protein. putative
PF3D7_1222600	2432	29.852	AP2 domain transcription factor AP2-G
PF3D7_0906600	843	29.775	zinc finger protein. putative
PF3D7_1205500	1785	29.636	zinc finger protein. putative
PF3D7_0629400	780	29.487	polyadenylate-binding protein 3. putative
PF3D7_0304600	397	29.471	circumsporozoite (CS) protein
-			

P. yoelii				
Protein id	Prot length	Asn (%)	function	
PY17X_1428300	1807	30.825	CCR4-associated factor 1. putative	
PY17X_1129700	535	30.654	polyadenylate-binding protein 3	
PY17X_0111700	2872	28.482	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function	
PY17X_1225100	169	28.402	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function	
PY17X_1213800	261	27.969	rhoptry associated adhesin. putative	
PY17X_1341400	610	27.869	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function	
PY17X_1334500	967	27.611	AP2 domain transcription factor AP2-SP. putative	
PY17X_0929400	122	27.049	heat shock factor-binding protein 1	
PY17X_1453200	411	26.764	clustered-asparagine-rich protein. putative	
PY17X_1356400	1912	26.569	conserved Plasmodium protein, unknown function	
PY17X_0309500	987	26.444	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function	
PY17X_1307200	960	26.354	oocyst rupture protein 2. putative	
PY17X_1110800	1966	26.144	KH domain-containing protein. putative	
PY17X_0614700	1230	25.528	apicomplexan kinetochore protein 3. putative	
PY17X_1313200	552	25.362	RNA-binding protein. putative	
PY17X_1334300	2085	25.324	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function	
PY17X_0103500	483	25.259	RNA-binding protein. putative	
PY17X_1440000	2341	25.16	AP2 domain transcription factor AP2-G	
PY17X_0806800	1567	25.144	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function	
PY17X_0315400	830	25.06	SUZ domain-containing protein. putative	
PY17X_1417400	2502	25.02	AP2 domain transcription factor AP2-SP. putative	
PY17X_1403500	312	25	LisH domain-containing protein. putative	
PY17X_0930400	329	24.924	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function	
PY17X_1426800	201	24.876	U1 small nuclear ribonucleoprotein C. putative	
PY17X_1454600	1693	24.867	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function	
PY17X_1205700	1022	24.853	E3 ubiquitin-protein ligase. putative	
PY17X_0903500	3240	24.846	sporozoite and liver stage asparagine-rich protein	
PY17X_1457300	1863	24.745	RNA-binding protein. putative	
PY17X_1465200	746	24.665	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function	
PY17X 0943000	142	24.648	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function	

P. chabaudi

CCR4-a

function

ssociated factor 1

Protein id PCHAS_1428000 PCHAS_1341300

Prot length Asn (%)

29.972 29.173

177

D voolii

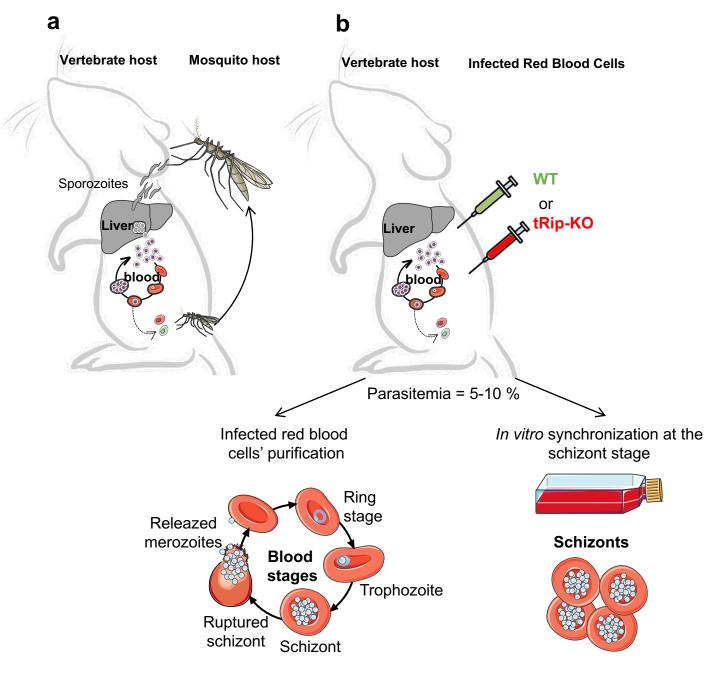
P. berghei				
Protein id Prot length Asn (%) function				
PBANKA_1426200	1801	30.372	CCR4-associated factor 1	
PBANKA_0927400	122	28.689	heat shock factor-binding protein 1	
PBANKA_0928400	358	28.492	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function	
PBANKA_1128200	511	27.984	polyadenylate-binding protein 3.	
PBANKA_1210600	256	27.734	rhoptry associated adhesin. putative	
PBANKA_1303400	875	27.429	oocyst rupture protein 2	
PBANKA_0612200	1251	27.338	apicomplexan kinetochore protein 3	
PBANKA_0939600	3296	27.306	polyadenylate-binding protein-interacting protein 1	
PBANKA_1336700	607	27.183	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function	
PBANKA_1329600	2115	27.139	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function	
PBANKA_1107200	677	27.031	protein CAF40. putative	
PBANKA_1245900	412	26.942	Plasmodium exported protein. unknown function	
PBANKA_0110100	2611	26.848	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function	
PBANKA_1351300	1864	26.019	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function	
PBANKA_0101900	478	25.941	RNA-binding protein. putative	
PBANKA_1100600	54	25.926	PIR protein. pseudogene	
PBANKA_1329800	943	25.875	AP2 domain transcription factor AP2-SP	
PBANKA_0804100	1572	25.509	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function	
PBANKA_0103300	2033	25.43	GYF domain-containing protein. putative	
PBANKA_0308900	918	25.272	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function	
PBANKA_1450700	397	25.189	clustered-asparagine-rich protein. putative	
PBANKA_0604500	2264	25.044	high mobility group protein B3. putative	
PBANKA_1415700	2487	24.568	AP2 domain transcription factor AP2-FG	
PBANKA_1109700	1930	24.508	KH domain-containing protein. putative	
PBANKA_0514300	947	24.498	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function	

P. knowlesi

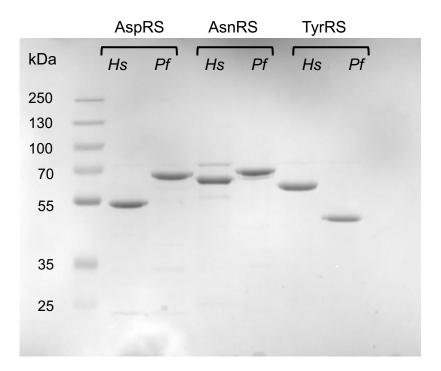
PCHAS_1428000	1775	29.972	CCR4-associated factor 1
PCHAS_1341300	641	29.173	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function
PCHAS_0915900	329	28.875	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function
PCHAS_0916900	122	27.869	heat shock factor-binding protein 1. putative
PCHAS_1127700	510	27.647	polyadenylate-binding protein 3
PCHAS_1211300	246	26.423	rhoptry associated adhesin. putative
PCHAS_1306600	957	26.332	oocyst rupture protein 2. putative
PCHAS_0804400	1528	26.113	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function
PCHAS_0110700	2594	25.867	conserved Plasmodium protein
PCHAS_1426400	533	25.328	protein KIC7. putative
PCHAS_1453000	396	25.253	clustered-asparagine-rich protein. putative
PCHAS_0613900	1198	25.209	apicomplexan kinetochore protein 3. putative
PCHAS_1334400	984	24.695	AP2 domain transcription factor AP2-SP
PCHAS_1142300	556	24.46	conserved protein. unknown function
PCHAS_0311100	953	24.449	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function
PCHAS_0625600	336	24.405	fam-c protein
PCHAS_0514400	948	24.262	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function
PCHAS_1417500	2390	24.226	AP2 domain transcription factor AP2-FG
PCHAS_0703300	3131	24.082	sporozoite and liver stage asparagine-rich protein
PCHAS_1454400	1526	24.05	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function
PCHAS_0102600	488	23.975	RNA-binding protein. putative
PCHAS_1109400	1837	23.625	KH domain-containing protein
PCHAS_1464900	726	23.416	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function
PCHAS_0520100	1543	23.396	conserved Plasmodium protein
PCHAS_0413300	893	23.292	RING finger protein RNF1. putative
PCHAS_1457100	1728	23.09	RNA-binding protein. putative
			P. vivax
Protein id	Prot length	Asn (%)	function
PVP01_0937100	779	24.904	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function
PVP01_1001950	86	22.093	PIR protein. pseudogene
PVP01_API04400	97	21.649	hypothetical protein
PVP01 0531900	297	20.539	apical asparagine-rich protein AARP

r. Kilowiesi				
Protein id	Prot length	Asn (%)	function	
PKNH_0515300	239	23.013	apical asparagine-rich protein AARP	
PKNH_API05400	97	21.649	hypothetical protein	
PKNH_0934400	741	20.783	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function	
PKNH_1427000	689	20.174	conserved protein. unknown function	
PKNH_1245200	334	20.06	trailer hitch homolog. putative	
PKNH_1236600	775	19.613	RNA-binding protein. putative	
PKNH_1429400	1971	19.533	CCR4-associated factor 1. putative	
PKNH_API04400	125	19.2	apicoplast ribosomal protein L11. putative	
PKNH_0826500	1208	19.123	zinc finger protein. putative	
PKNH_1427400	615	19.024	protein KIC7. putative	
PKNH_1007500	471	18.684	conserved protein. unknown function	
PKNH_0301400	75	18.667	RNA-binding protein. putative	
PKNH_0812000	281	18.505	rhoptry associated adhesin. putative	
PKNH_1430100	908	18.392	ATP-dependent RNA helicase DBP1. putative	
PKNH_1215100	1094	18.282	AP2 domain transcription factor AP2-EXP. putative	
PKNH_1007800	880	18.182	zinc finger protein. putative	
PKNH_0101500	143	18.182	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function	
PKNH_1455800	474	18.143	clustered-asparagine-rich protein. putative	
PKNH_API02500	89	17.978	apicoplast ribosomal protein S19. putative	
PKNH_1348500	497	17.706	CUGBP Elav-like family member 2. putative	
PKNH_1264600	147	17.687	parasitophorous vacuolar protein 3. putative	
PKNH_0811000	119	17.647	BET1-like protein. putative	
PKNH_0917400	721	17.614	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function	
PKNH_1120100	644	17.547	polyadenylate-binding protein 3. putative	
PKNH_API03300	80	17.5	hypothetical protein	
PKNH_API04900	103	17.476	hypothetical chloroplast reading frame 93. putative	
PKNH_0827400	1201	17.402	RING finger protein RNF1. putative	
PKNH_API05300	1021	17.042	DNA-directed RNA polymerase subunit beta. putative	
PKNH_0621400	1861	17.034	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function	

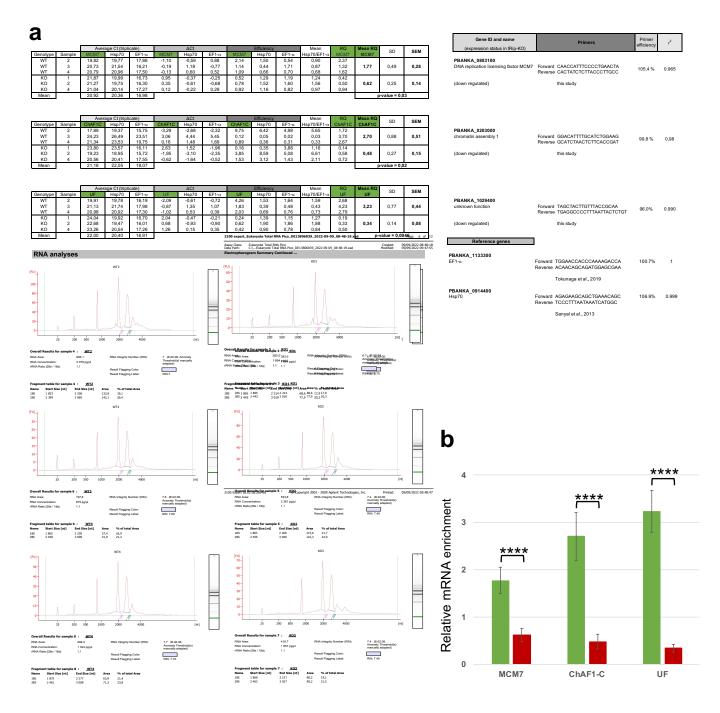
P. vivax				
Protein id	Prot length	Asn (%)	function	
PVP01_0937100	779	24.904	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function	
PVP01_1001950	86	22.093	PIR protein. pseudogene	
PVP01_API04400	97	21.649	hypothetical protein	
PVP01_0531900	297	20.539	apical asparagine-rich protein AARP	
PVP01_1426900	699	19.886	conserved protein. unknown function	
PVP01_API01500	89	19.101	apicoplast ribosomal protein S19. putative	
PVP01_1269800	341	19.062	trailer hitch homolog. putative	
PVP01_API02300	80	18.75	hypothetical protein	
PVP01_0421700	91	18.681	conserved protein. unknown function	
PVP01_0811300	118	18.644	BET1-like protein. putative	
PVP01_API03400	125	18.4	apicoplast ribosomal protein L11. putative	
PVP01_API01200	202	18.317	50S ribosomal protein L4. putative	
PVP01_1401600	205	18.049	Plasmodium exported protein. unknown function	
PVP01_1218000	139	17.986	parasitophorous vacuolar protein 3. putative	
PVP01_1429000	2030	17.98	CCR4-associated factor 1. putative	
PVP01_0705100	842	17.815	zinc finger protein. putative	
PVP01_API04100	975	17.744	DNA-directed RNA polymerase subunit beta". putative	
PVP01_1429700	923	17.66	ATP-dependent RNA helicase DBP1. putative	
PVP01_API03900	121	17.355	hypothetical chloroplast reading frame 93. putative	
PVP01_API04300	1021	17.336	DNA-directed RNA polymerase subunit beta. putative	
PVP01_1404300	1063	17.31	LisH domain-containing protein. putative	
PVP01_1339100	503	17.296	CUGBP Elav-like family member 2. putative	
PVP01_1120100	670	17.164	polyadenylate-binding protein 3. putative	
PVP01_0010790	112	16.964	PIR protein	
PVP01_1427300	661	16.944	protein KIC7. putative	
PVP01_0103500	143	16.783	conserved Plasmodium protein. unknown function	
PVP01_API02500	132	16.667	apicoplast ribosomal protein S11. putative	
PVP01_1001850	42	16.667	PIR protein. pseudogene	
PVP01_1008800	1006	16.501	zinc finger protein. putative	
PVP01_1420400	75	16	conserved protein. unknown function	



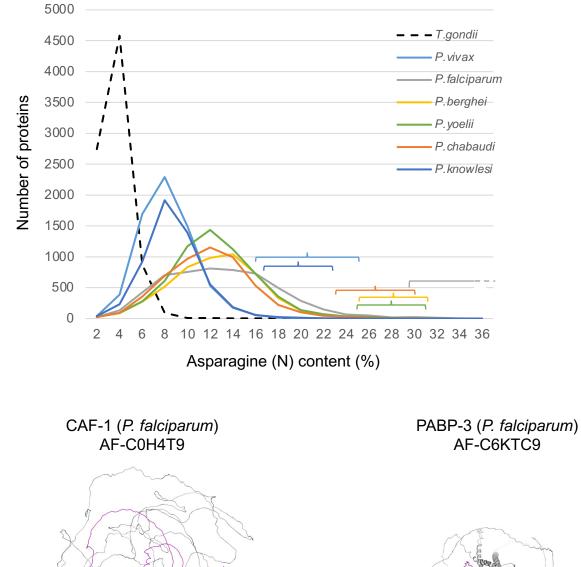
Supplementary Fig. S1. Mice infections and sample preparation. (a) *Plasmodium* life cycle. The cycle of vertebrate infection starts when a mosquito injects sporozoites into the host. Sporozoites invade hepatocytes (liver stage), multiply, and produce tens of thousands of merozoites per infected hepatocyte¹. Merozoites exit the liver and develop in red blood cells (blood stages) to produce 10 to 30 new merozoites per intraerythrocytic cycle². Some of the erythrocytic merozoites differentiate into gametocytes (sexual forms, dashed lines)³. Fertilization takes place in mosquitoes where gametocytes are ingested during a blood meal. In 8-15 days, sporozoites invade the mosquito salivary glands, completing the cycle. (b) Alternatively, mice are infected with frozen stocks of red blood cells infected with wild-type (GFP) or tRip-KO (mCherry) *P. berghei* parasites. Three to six days later (5-10% parasitemia), infected blood is collected and used as is for analysis (all blood stages) or synchronized *in vitro* to the schizont stage⁴. "All blood stages" samples contain rings, trophozoites and merozoites.



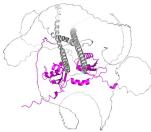
Supplementary Fig. S2. Gel analysis of aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases. One µg of each recombinant enzyme aspartyl- (DRS), asparaginyl- (NRS) and tyrosyl-(YRS) tRNA synthetases from *H. sapiens* (*Hs*) or *P. falciparum* (*Pf*) was run on a 10 % SDS PAGE.



Supplementary Fig. S3. qRT-PCR analysis of the mRNAs coding for deregulated proteins in the tRip-KO parasite. The relative enrichment of mRNA was measured by qRT-PCR and determined by the $\Delta\Delta Ct$ method using both EF1-a (PBANKA_1133300) and Hsp70 (PBANKA_0914400) as normalizers. mRNAs are coding for down-regulated proteins: the DNA replication licensing factor MCM7 (MCM7, FC = 5.7, *p-value* =1.3 x 10⁻⁶), chromatin assembly factor 1-subunit C (ChAF1-C, FC = 2.2, *p-value* = 5.7 x 10⁻⁶) and a protein with unknown function (UF, FC = 3.6, *p-value* = 2.9 x 10⁻⁴). (a) QRT-PCR raw data. For each "all blood stages" samples, qRT-PCR data the primers as well as the quality control of the RNA samples are shown. (b) Error bars represent the standard errors of the means (SEM) of three independent experiments performed on "All blood stages" samples, each corresponding to triplicate qRT-PCR measurements (S4 Table). Asterisks indicate statistically significant differences with the WT control mRNA: **** *p-value* < 0.0001 based on Student's *t* test.

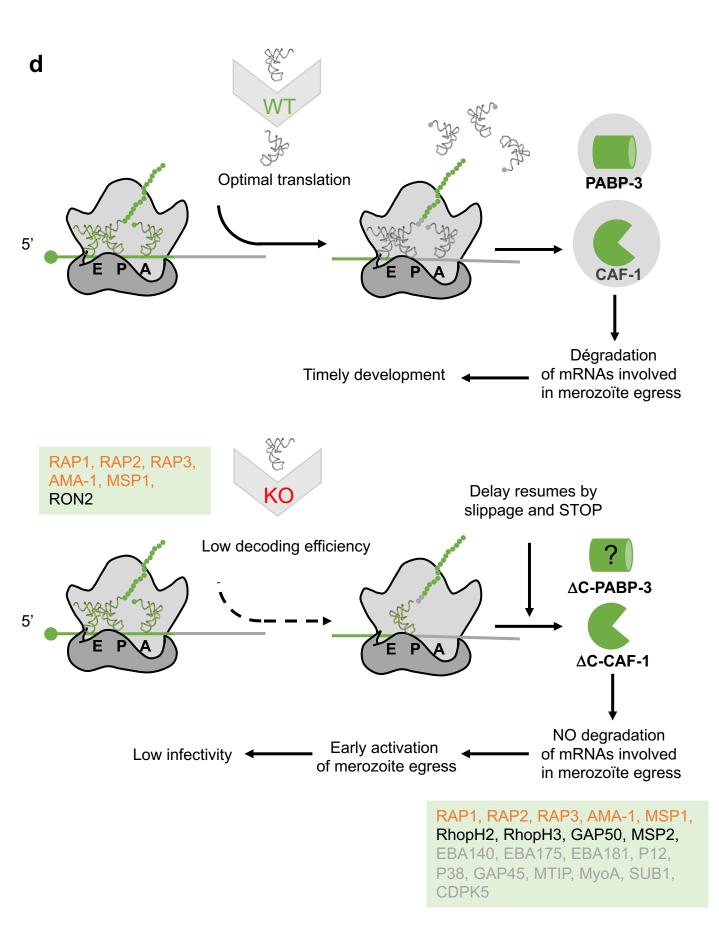


AF-C6KTC9	



С			
6.7	61.4	36.5	P.falciparum 11.6 59.7 30.3
5.9	43.9	36.0	P.yoelii 11.5 43.0 47.9
5.9	43.8	34.9	P.chabaudi 11.5 42.8 38.5
5.9	42.2	35.6	P.berghei 11.5 43.0 47.9
6.6	17.0	20.4	P.vivax 8.2 24.1 21.1
7.0	20.8	22.2	P.knowlesi 11.6 21.4 23.4

b



Supplementary Fig. S4. Asparagine frequency in *Plasmodium* proteins and functional link between tRip and CAF-1. (a) Proteomes of P. falciparum, P. yoelii, P. berghei, P. chabaudi, P. knowlesi and P. vivax were compared and the proteome of Toxoplasma gondii was used as a negative control⁵. For each species, the number of proteins is indicated for a given asparagine content. Brackets show the top 0.5 % proteins containing the highest percentage of asparagine residues. (b) AlphaFold models of P. falciparum CAF-1 and PABP-3 (10). Both models show conserved domains (pink) and an unfolded asparagine-rich Plasmodium specific C-terminal extensions (grey). (c) Domain alignments of CAF-1 and PABP-3. The corresponding domains are shown with the same color code and the corresponding percentage of asparagine. (d) In WT parasites, the asparagine-rich C-terminal domains of Plasmodium CAF-1 and PABP-3 are efficiently translated thanks to tRNAAsn provided by tRip-mediated tRNA import from the host. Fulllength CAF-1 can thus down-regulate specific mRNAs including those involved in egress and invasion that adequately control parasite development. On the contrary, in the tRip-KO parasite, translation of the C-terminal domains of CAF-1 and PABP-3 is hindered by the absence of host tRNA^{Asn}. The delay in translation can lead to frameshifting and the occurrence of stop codons. The resulting DC-CAF-1 protein can no longer regulate the translation of genes involved in parasite egress/invasion leading to early release of infectivity-deficient immature merozoites. Genes upregulated in both mutants are highlighted in orange, they correspond to roptry-associated proteins 1, 2 and 3 (RAP1, PF3D7_1410400/PBANKA_1032100; RAP2/3, PF3D7_0501600/0501500, PBANKA_1101400), apical membrane antigen (AMA1, PF3D7_1133400/PBANKA_0915000) and merozoite surface protein 1 (MSP1, PF3D7_0930300/PBANKA_0831000). Up-regulated genes involved in merozoite's egress either in P. falciparum AC-CAF1 mutant or P. berghei tRip-KO parasite are listed inside green boxes: genes not in common between both strains are indicated in black: merozoite surface protein 2 (MSP2, PF3D7 0206800), glidosome associated protein 50 (GAP50, PF3D7 0918000/PBANKA 0819000), high molecular weight rhoptry proteins 2 and 3 (RhopH2, PF3D7_0929400/PBANKA_0830200 and RhopH3, PF3D7_0905400/PBANKA0416000) and Rhoptry neck protein 2 (RON2, PBANKA_1315700); Ten genes were up-regulated in the ∆C-CAF-1 mutant but were not detectable in blood stages proteomes. They correspond to: erythrocyte binding antigens 140, 175 and 181 (EBA140, PF3D7_1301600; EBA175, PF3D7_0731500; EBA181, PF3D7_0102500), 6-cysteine proteins P12 and P38 (PF3D7_0612700 and PF3D7 0508000), glideosome-associated protein 45 (GAP45, PF3D7 1222700), myosin A-tail interaction protein (MTIP, PF3D7_1246400/PBANKA_1459500), myosin А (MyoA, PF3D7 1342600), subtilisin-like protease 1 (SUB1, PF3D7_0507500) and calcium-dependent protein kinase 5 (CDPK5, PF3D7_1337800).

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