

Table of Contents

Acknowledgments	3
Table of Contents.....	4
Abstract.....	7
Sommario.....	9
Abbreviations	12
1 INTRODUCTION	13
1.1 Photosynthesis, evolutionary and historical perspective.....	13
1.1.1 Evolution of photosynthesis	13
1.1.2 History of photosynthetic research	15
1.2 Photosynthetic carbon assimilation in plants.....	16
1.2.1 Energy-capturing reactions	18
1.2.2 Carbon-fixing reactions	19
1.3 Regulation of Photosynthesis.....	22
1.3.1 Light-phase regulation: photons harvesting and excess energy dissipation	23
1.3.2 Feedback from the dark: demand-driven regulation of photosynthesis.....	25
1.3.3 Redox regulation in the Calvin-Benson cycle	26
1.4 Modelling plant central carbon metabolism	31
1.4.1 Genome-scale metabolic models of Arabidopsis.....	34
1.5 Transaldolase in plants	35
1.6 Aim of the study	38
2 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	39
2.1 Evidence for metabolite damage and repair mechanisms in the Calvin-Benson cycle.....	39
2.1.1 Abstract	39
2.1.2 Introduction	40
2.1.3 Results and discussion	41
2.1.4 Conclusions	56
2.2 Assessing the in vivo role of redox regulation in the Calvin-Benson cycle.....	59
2.2.2 Selection and characterization of knock-out mutants of redox-regulated Calvin-Benson cycle enzymes	69
2.2.3 Redox insensitive lines: generation and selection	73
2.2.4 Importance of redox regulation in vivo.....	76
2.2.5 Towards a multi-deregulated Calvin-Benson cycle.....	88
2.2.6 Discussion	90
2.3 Modelling central carbon metabolism: TAL example	99
2.3.1 Genome scale metabolic model of Arabidopsis.....	99

2.3.2 Predicting viability of CB cycle mutants.....	100
2.3.3 Testing the transaldolase-bypass hypothesis.....	104
2.3.4 Discussion	111
3 GENERAL DISCUSSION.....	115
4 MATERIALS AND METHODS	121
4.1 Plant methods.....	121
4.1.1 Plant material and growth conditions	121
4.1.2 Growth-rate analysis	123
4.1.3 Gas exchange measurements	124
4.1.4 Iodine staining as qualitative indication of starch content	124
4.1.5 Stable transformation of Arabidopsis thaliana via floral dip	124
4.1.6 Transient transformation of Nicotiana benthamiana via leaf infiltration	125
4.2 Molecular methods.....	125
4.2.1 Nucleic acid methods.....	125
4.2.2 Protein methods.....	132
4.2.3 Enzymatic assays	135
4.2.4 Metabolite measurements.....	139
4.2.5 ¹³ CO ₂ Feeding Experiments	140
4.3 Microscopy methods	141
4.3.1 Light microscopy.....	141
4.3.2 Fluorescence confocal laser-scanning microscopy	141
4.4 Bioinformatic analyses	141
4.4.1 Structure modelling and in silico docking simulation.....	141
4.5 Appendix.....	142
5 References	146