



Self-assembly of chlorosomes

Solid State NMR study



Universiteit Leiden

EuroSolarFuels

Our aims

- Structure of chlorosomes
- To fill in the chlorosomes into alumina solid membrane
- Wide library of Zn-chlorines
- Strategy to change energy levels of semi-synthetic chlorines
- Immobilization of PSI onto electrode



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Chlorosomes Chlorobaculum tepidum green sulfur bacterium

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100-200 x 20-60 x 10-30 nm



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u-¹³C-Bchl *c* - wt chlorosomes from *Chlorobaculum tepidum*





- Variable degrees of methylation at 8²-C and 12¹-C
- Both R and S chirality at the 3¹C

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Problem

- NMR + EM: WT contains a complex mixture of BChlc molecules that are sterically crowded and heterogeneous in the side chain functionalities of the chlorin rings (Ganapathy et al. PNAS 2009)
- Single-chlorosome fluorescence polarization spectroscopy: all the chlorosomes are essentially identical in terms of their polarization properties (Tian et al, JACS 2011)
- Variable degrees of methylation at 8²-C and 12¹-C
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Solid State NMR

2.5 mm rotor



2.5 mm probe



Magnet 750 MHz, 17.6 T











¹H-¹³C Hetcor





80 70 60 50



CPMAS

AT-29



CPMAS

OV-1





Conclusions

- U-13C labled chlorosomes were analysed by solid state NMR spectroscopy
- Rotation at 30 kHz speed in 2.5 mm rotor improved the resolution
- Ratio of two components of C-5 is 24:76%: heterogeneity comes not from line broadening but from these two components, which seems to be necessary for efficient energy transfer
- Samples from Poland are well structured, but we are puzzled that we don't have anti-parallel structure.
- Zn-chlorines inside the membranes strong signal from the linkers

Plans

- EM on labeled chlorosomes
- Further analysis of the data + modeling
- Immobilization of PSI

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