

IS3.7 - Photoprotection in *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii*

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Photosynthetic organisms evolved a natural capacity to modulate photosynthetic activity in response to varying light and other environmental conditions. In low light they need to harvest every available photon to sustain life, while in high light they dissipate the excess absorbed energy as heat, in a process known as non-photochemical quenching (NPQ). In green algae, diatoms and mosses NPQ depends on the LHCSR proteins. Here we investigated NPQ in the green alga *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* using a combination of biochemical and biophysical approaches. The site and the rate of quenching, its pH-dependence and the possible quenching mechanisms will be discussed.

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