Compartmentalization of mRNAs in the giant, unicellular green algae *Acetabularia acetabulum*

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Abstract

Acetabularia acetabulum is a single-celled green alga previously used as a model species for studying the role of the nucleus in cell development and morphogenesis. The highly elongated cell, which stretches several centimeters, harbors a single nucleus located in the basal end. Although *A. acetabulum* historically has been an important model in cell biology, almost nothing is known about its gene content, or how gene products are distributed in the cell. To study the composition and distribution of mRNAs in *A. acetabulum*, we have used quantitative RNA-seq to sequence the mRNA content of four sections of adult *A. acetabulum* cells. We found that although mRNAs are present throughout the cell, there are large pools of distinct mRNAs localized to the different subcellular sections. Conversely, we also find that gene transcripts related to intracellular transport are evenly distributed throughout the cell. This distribution hints at post-transcriptional regulation and selective transport of mRNAs as mechanisms to achieve mRNA localization in *A. acetabulum.*

Introduction

Large and complex morphological forms are predominantly found among multicellular organisms such as animals, plants and kelps. However, also several single celled organisms have elaborate cellular morphologies, and it has therefore been previously argued that multicellularity is not a requirement for the formation of structural complexity (Kaplan, 1992; Kaplan et al., 1991; Niklas et al., 2013; Ranjan et al., 2015). By subcellular compartmentalization of RNA or proteins, single-celled organisms can chamber their bodies into differently shaped subunits, further facilitating development of sophisticated body plans without cellularization (Kaplan, 1992; Kaplan et al., 1991; Niklas et al., 2013). The green algae order Dasycladales harbors multiple examples of single-celled species with highly elaborate and complex cellular morphologies. With only a single nucleus, these algae have evolved into numerous morphological forms, and can grow up to 20 cm long (Berger, 1990, 2006).

Being used as a model organism to study the link between genetics and cellular development, *Acetabularia acetabulum* is the most studied dasycladalean species. This alga is a tropical, marine species found in shallow waters in the Mediterranean Sea, Northern Africa and South-West Asia. Divers often refer to *A. acetabulum* as “mermaids wineglass” because of its distinctive morphology; the basal rhizoid, which hosts the nucleus as well as ensuring anchoring of the cell to a substrate, is followed by a naked, elongated stalk with a slightly concave and disc-looking structure (cap), at the apical end (Figure 1A).

Through his ground breaking amputation and grafting experiments, Joachim Hämmerling was the first to identify the presence of substances controlling the subcellular morphogenesis of *A. acetabulum* (Hämmerling, 1934a, 1934b; Hämmerling, 1953). He also showed that these substances were distributed in gradients, with the highest accumulation at the cap and rhizoid regions (Hämmerling, 1934c; Hämmerling, 1963). These morphogenetic substances were later shown to consist of mRNA (Baltus et al., 1968; Garcia et al., 1986; Kloppstech, 1977; Naumova et al., 1976), but the content of the RNA gradient, and whether it was composed of homogeneously or differentially distributed RNA transcripts was not known.

A few studies have tried to decipher the RNA gradient in *A. acetabulum*. Naumova et al. (1976) argued that the gradient was due to differential metabolism of chloroplast ribosomal RNA along the cell rather than differential transportation of nuclear mRNA. A more recent study by Vogel

et al. (2002) examined the expression of 13 house-keeping genes and found differential accumulation of several gene transcripts, where some transcripts seemed to accumulate in the rhizoid, some in the cap, while others were evenly distributed along the cellular body. Serikawa et al. (1999) demonstrated that the *A. acetabulum*-specific homeobox-containing gene, *Aaknox*1, shifted localization from being evenly distributed during vegetative growth, to basal accumulation in the final stages of the *A. acetabulum* life cycle. And both the transcripts encoding carbonic anhydrases as well as their translated protein products were shown to be co-localized in the apical parts of adult *A. acetabulum* cells (Serikawa et al., 2001), indicating that localization of mRNA is a mechanism for correct localization of protein. Altogether, these studies suggested that subcellular localization of mRNA is common in the *A. acetabulum* cell, and an important mechanism for establishment of subcellular structures.

mRNA localization has also been demonstrated in another gigantic single-celled green algal genus, *Caulerpa* (Arimoto et al., 2019; Ranjan et al., 2015). These single-celled organisms contain hundreds of nuclei distributed across the cell and the localization of mRNA is achieved, at least in part, by differential nuclear transcriptional regulation in the different parts of the cell (Arimoto et al., 2019). Unlike *Caulerpa*, *A. acetabulum* has only a single nucleus (located in the basal rhizoid) and clearly the mechanisms behind the subcellular localization of mRNAs, and ultimately the establishment of the cellular body plan, must be different. Although these mechanisms are unknown, there are several indications that mRNAs are actively transported along the cytoskeleton in *A. acetabulum*. Kloppstech et al., (1975a and 1975b) showed that ribosomal- and polyadenylated RNA travel with different speeds in *A. acetabulum*, and that polyadenylated RNA moved with a speed of 0.2 μm/s, which is much faster than movement with normal diffusion, suggesting that RNA transportation is both active and specific. Further, staining experiments performed on *A. peniculus* showed that actin proteins and polyadenylated RNAs were co-localized, and that treatment with cytochalasin D (inhibitor of actin polymerization) lead to a disruption of already established mRNA gradients (Mine et al., 2001). These findings supported the theory that the cytoskeleton is involved in polar transportation of mRNAs in *Acetabularia* species (Vogel et al., 2002).

The studies on the expression and localization of mRNAs in *A. acetabulum* has so far only been performed on a restricted number of genes, and it is not known how general this phenomenon is, and how gene localization is related to the observed gradients of RNA along the cell. We have therefore in this study characterized the expression profile of all mRNAs in adult *A.*

acetabulum cells. To achieve this, we have exploited recent developments in single-cell RNA-seq technology which allowed us to quantitively sequence mRNAs from four subcellular sections of the cell, the upper and lower parts of the stalk, and the rhizoid (Figure 1A). We investigate whether subcellular compartmentalization is a general phenomenon for all types of mRNAs in *A. acetabulum*, and whether the distribution of mRNAs can be coupled to the formation of body plan and the complex cellular morphology of this algae.

Methods

Culturing *Acetabularia acetabulum* cells

A. acetabulum cells were cultured in cell/tissue culture flasks in Dasycladales Seawater Medium prepared after the recipe of UTEX Culture Collection of Algae at The University of Texas at Austin (https://utex.org/products/dasycladales-seawater-medium?variant=30991770976346). The medium was changed biweekly, and the algae were kept in incubators with a 12/12h light/dark cycle (light intensity of 2500 lux) with a constant temperature of 20°C.

Dissection of cells and RNA isolation

The *A. acetabulum* cells were 5-8 cm long with fully grown caps, but no apparent gametes in the gametangia, and no whorls along the stalk (Figure 1A). The cells were washed three times in 1X PBS to remove residues from the medium, and dissected into four subcellular regions; the "cap" (incision about 2 mm from the apical tip or just below the cap), "rhizoid" (incision about 2 mm above the rhizoid), "upper stalk" (the upper half of the stalk) and "lower stalk" (the lower half of the stalk). Dissection was carried out in dry petri dishes to limit cytoplasmic loss, and new, sterile scalpels were used between incision. Subcellular regions from 5 – 8 adult cells were pooled together to achieve sufficient RNA quantities. The procedure was repeated to create seven replicates of RNA extraction. The subcellular samples are numbered according to which batch of cells they originate from, e.g. the samples named "Cap 19" and "Rhizoid 19" are the cap- and rhizoid sections from the same batch of individuals (batch19).

The dissected pieces were transferred to green MagNA Lyser Green Beads (Roche Life Science, Germany), containing lysis buffer (see below), and flash frozen in liquid nitrogen.

RNA from 3 batches (batch 17, 19 and 25) was isolated using the "Single Cell RNA Purification Kit" (NORGEN BIOTEK CORP, Canada) with an 8 ul elution buffer. RNA from the remaining 4 batches (batch 26, 27, 45 and 46) was isolated using the "Total RNA Purification Kit" (NORGEN BIOTEK CORP, Canada) with 40 ul elution. RNA quality and quantity were inspected on the Agilent 2100 Bioanalyzer using the Agilent RNA 6000 Pico kit (Agilent Technologies, Inc, Germany).

Library preparation and sequencing

ERCC RNA Spike-In Mix I (ThermoFisher Scientific, Massachusetts, USA) was added to each sample before mRNA enrichment. The amount of added ERCC Spike-In Mix was adjusted to the amount of RNA in each sample, according to the manufacture´s protocol. mRNA enrichment was performed using NEXTflex^{TM} Poly(A) Beads (BIOO Scientific Corporation, Texas, USA) before library preparation with the NEXTflex Rapid Directional qRNA-Seq Library Prep kit for Illumina sequencing (BIOO Scientific Corporation, Texas, USA). This library preparation kit assigns a unique molecular identifier (UMI), or Stochastic Label (STL), to both ends of the mRNA fragments after enzymatic fragmentation, but before cDNA synthesis and amplification. This allows for distinguishing between PCR duplicates and true identical sequences which map to the same loci, ensuring a better quantitative representation of the original number of mRNA fragments in the samples than standard RNA-seq library protocols without UMI-labelling (Toloue et al., 2013). A total of 30 PCR cycles were run for sample 17.1-4, 25 cycles were run for sample 25.4 and 26.4, and 20 cycles were run for sample 19.1-4, 25.1-3, 26.1-3, 27.1-4, 45.1-4 and 46.1-4 to create libraries of approximately equal quantities as measured by gel electrophoresis.

The 28 libraries were sequenced on the Illumina HiSeq4000 platform producing 150 bp Paired-End sequences (with an insert size of 350 bp). The sequencing was performed at the Norwegian Sequencing Centre (www.sequencing.uio.no) at the University of Oslo.

De novo transcriptome assembly and annotation

In order to obtain a complete transcriptome representing as many transcripts as possible to use for gene quantification, the resulting sequences from the 28 adult sequence libraries were assembled together with 20 transcriptome sequence libraries from various developmental stages of *A. acetabulum* (unpublished data generated by our research group). Briefly, the assembly

was performed by first removing the nine first UMI bases of each sequence (from the 5' end) with Trimmomatic v/0.35 (Bolger et al., 2014). Further, the 3´-adaptor sequences, and low-quality sequences (phred score < 20) were trimmed. Only sequences longer than 36 bp were retained. An additional trimming with TrimGalore v/0.3.3 (http://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/trim_galore/) was performed to remove any remaining adaptor sequences. ERCC RNA spike-ins were removed from the data set by mapping the reads to the known ERCC RNA spike-in sequences using Bowtie 2 v/2.2.9 (Langmead et al., 2012). A total of 2,095,599,508 paired end reads (1,047,799,754 pairs) were obtained after preprocessing and used for transcriptome assembly. *De novo* assembly was performed using Trinity v/2.5.1 (Grabherr et al., 2011). To reduce the number of possible mapping sites in downstream analysis, the transcriptome was reduced to the highest expressed isoform for each gene. These isoforms were found by subsampling 10% of the sequenced reads of every sample using the BBMap package (Bushnell, 2015), mapping them to the trinity assembly, and further extracting the isoforms with the highest coverage. Transcripts encoded by the chloroplast- and mitochondrial genome were identified by Megablast against a chloroplast database containing chloroplast genomes from 59 published green algae species, and a database containing mitochondrial genomes from 24 published green algae species (Table S1 and S2). Transcripts giving significant hits against the databases where further examined by Megablast against the NCBI Nucleotide collection database in order to exclude possible prokaryote contaminantion. Transcripts with no hits to either the plastid and mitochondrial databases were considered as nuclear encoded. As mRNA enrichment with poly(A) beads does not remove rRNA completely, rRNA transcripts were identified by Megablast against complete or partial 18S, 28S and 5.8S sequences from 20 green algae species (Table S3).

Transcriptome completeness was assessed by BUSCO v3.0 (Simao et al., 2015) analysis against the Chlorophyta and Eukaryote datasets. Since nuclear genes of *A. acetabulum* have an alternative codon usage, where TGA is the only stop codon, and TAA and TAG instead encodes glutamine (Jukes, 1996; Schneider et al., 1989), the alternative genetic code (translation table 6: Ciliate, Dasycladaen and Hexamita Nucelar Code) was used during BUSCO evaluation.

TransDecoder v/3.0.0 (Haas et al., 2013) was used to predict coding regions. Translation table 6 was used to translate nuclear encoded transcripts, translation table 16 (Chlorophycean Mitochondrial Code) was used to translate mitochondrial encoded transcripts and translation table 1 (Universal Code) was used to translate chloroplast encoded transcripts. Translation table

1 was also used for transcripts matching both the chloroplast and the mitochondrial database. The minimum peptide length was set to 70 amino acids, and the single best ORF per transcript Predicted peptide sequences were further annotated with the eggNOG-mapper v/5.0 (Huerta-Cepas et al., 2017; Huerta-Cepas et al., 2019).

Gene expression quantification, normalization and sample clustering

In order to quantify the gene expression, processed reads (after removing UMI's and low quality bases) were mapped to the transcriptome (the highest expressed isoform of each gene) with Bowtie2 v/2.2.9 (Langmead et al., 2012) and gene count files were generated using dqRNASeq (https://github.com/e-hutchins/dqRNASeq), a Unix script, developed for analyzing sequence data obtained with the NEXTflex Rapid Directional qRNA-Seq Library Prep kit. By using the resulting mapping file, together with the raw unprocessed reads, the script collapses paired reads with identical start- and stop sites *and* identical UMIs (assumed PCR duplicates) and count these as one, while fragments with identical start- and stop sites but different UMIs are counted individually (these are assumed to originate from different RNA fragments).

The plotCountDepth function in the SCnorm R package (Bacher et al., 2017) was used to calculate and visualize the relationship between sequencing depth and gene counts across samples. For the highest expressed genes (i.e. carrying the most robust signal) there was a positive relationship between sequencing depth and gene expression, and we therefore continued with the normalization procedure in the DESeq2 package (Love et al., 2014). To reduce the computational burden, we filtered the transcripts to have a minimum count of 1 (raw count) in at least 4 samples before DESeq2 normalization (these would not have affected the downstream statistical analysis as they would have been filtered out anyway).

To compare the similarity between samples based on the overall variation in transcript abundance, the normalized counts were transformed using the variance stabilizing transformation (VST) function in DESeq2 and the samples were clustered/visualized with PCA plots using the ggplot2 package (Wickham, 2016).

Differential transcript abundance estimation

A Wald test (implemented in DESeq2), performed pairwise between the different subcellular compartments, was used to identify transcripts with differential abundance between at least two

subcellular compartments. DESeq2 normalized read counts was used as input for the test. The batch origin of each sample was added as a blocking factor in the test (added to the design formula) to take into account any potential influence on the gene counts. Transcripts with adjusted p-value < 0.05 were considered as significantly differentially abundant (DE). Only nuclear encoded mRNAs were used in the DE test.

A Venn diagram was constructed using the systemPipeR package in R (Backman et al., 2016) to visualize and compare the DE transcripts of each subcellular compartment. To visualize and plot DE transcripts based on expression levels, the raw counts were converted to CPM's (count per million) followed by TMM normalization (Trimmed Mean of M-values) using the edgeR package in R (McCarthy et al., 2012; Robinson et al., 2010). The mean expression values were further scaled and clustered in a heatmap using the Pheatmap package in R (https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=pheatmap).

GO-enrichment analysis

GO-terms provided by EggNOG were converted to GO-slim with OmicsBox (https://www.biobam.com/omicsbox), and GO-enrichment analysis on the differentially distributed transcripts unique to the cap, upper stalk, lower stalk and rhizoid were performed using the R package GOseq (Young et al., 2010). In addition, the stalk samples were analyzed together by combining the uniquely differentially distributed transcripts from the upper- and lower stalk samples, as well as the differentially distributed transcripts shared between them. Lists of the unique transcripts from each subcellular compartment were extracted and inputted into GOseq, together with a list of transcript lengths, to account for any bias introduced from transcript length variation (longer transcripts might be easier to annotate or could receive more GO-annotations than shorter transcripts). GO-terms with a false discovery rate (FDR) < 0.05 were considered enriched. The "hit percentage" of each enriched GO-term within a subcellular compartment was calculated as the percentage of differentially distributed transcripts in a given GO-category compared to the number of transcripts in the transcriptome in the same GO-category. The hierarchical organization of the different enriched GO-terms were explored using the Mouse Genome Informatics web page (http://www.informatics.jax.org/vocab/gene_ontology). Heatmaps of GO terms showing the hit percentage of significantly enriched GOs was constructed using the ComplexHeatmap package in R (Gu et al., 2016), with a suitable number of K-means row-splitting. Row_km_repeats was set to 100, which runs clustering multiple times and outputs the consensus cluster.

Annotation of transcripts related to intracellular transport and localization

Transcripts related to cytoskeletal components (Actin, Tubulin and related genes) and cytoskeletal motor proteins (Myosins, Dyneins and Kinesins), and poly(A) polymerases, were extracted from the eggNOG annotation. Homologs of genes related to cellular transport (COP and Clathrin) were identified by reciprocal blast by using annotated genes in NCBI RefSeq from *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* as queries (see Table S4 for queries) against the *A. acetabulum* transcriptome (blastp value cutoff < 0.0001). The resulting hits of the *A. acetabulum* transcriptome were searched against Swissprot using blastp (evalue < 0.0001). Transcripts which did not produce hits against Swissprot of the same category as in the first blast search were discarded. Transcripts with a mean TMM-normalized CPM > 1 across all samples were plotted, with standard error, using the R package ggplot2.

Comparative transcriptomics between *A. acetabulum* and *Caulerpa taxifolia*

The *Caulerpa taxifolia* transcriptome (Ranjan et al., 2015) was translated into amino acid sequences using Transdecoder v/3.0.0. Orthologous protein sequences between *A. acetabulum* and *C. taxifolia* were identified using Orthofinder v/2.3.3 (Emms et al., 2015). RSEM generated gene expression data from six different subcellular compartments of *C. taxifolia* (frond apex, pinnules, rachis, frond base, stolon and holdfast) was downloaded from the supplementary datafiles of Ranjan et al. (2015). The counts were rounded to the nearest integer and converted to TMM-normalized counts (as described above). The TMM counts from the single-copy orthologs from the different subcellular compartments of *A. acetabulum* and *C. taxifolia* were merged and the differences in sample variation was visualized using the prcomp function in R and the ggplot2 R package.

Results

Subcellular RNA isolation, sequencing and read processing

The highest amount of total RNA was extracted from the cap samples (average of 252 ng), followed by the upper stalk samples (average of 76 ng), the lower stalk (average of 46 ng), with the lowest amount extracted from the rhizoid samples (average of 45 ng) (Table 1 and Figure 1B. The highest yield of total RNA was obtained using the “Total RNA purification kit” with an elution volume of 40 ul (used for batch 26, 27, 45 and 46), which gave approximately four times as much total RNA compared to the “Single Cell RNA purification kit” with an elution

volume of 10 ul (used for batch 17, 19 and 25) (Table S5). But still, the relative amounts of RNA isolated from the different samples were the same regardless of the isolation kit.

The sequence reads from batch 17 had overall very low-quality scores as well as a high number of duplicates (mostly from sequencing the adapters). Therefore, very few sequences were retained after filtering and almost no genes were detected in these samples. The samples from batch 17 were therefore discarded from further analyses. Between 14 and 43 million raw read pairs were produced from each of the remaining 24 samples. Quality trimming and removal of unpaired reads after trimming reduced the numbers by 13-25% for the majority of samples, except for the Rhizoid of batch 26 and 27, where trimming reduced the number of reads by 40 and 49% (Table 1). Still, more than 15 million read pairs were left for these samples.

Transcriptome assembly and annotation

Assembling reads *de novo* produced an assembly consisting of 246,083 'genes', or transcripts, with a total of 429,781 different isoforms (Table S6), where the longest transcript was 17,196 bp and the shortest 201 bp. 245,334 transcripts were considered nuclear encoded, 389 transcripts gave hits against the chloroplast database and were considered to be chloroplast encoded, 99 transcripts gave hits against the mitochondrial database and were considered mitochondrial encoded. 261 gave hits against both the chloroplast and mitochondrial databases and were considered as possible prokaryotic/unclassified transcripts as they also gave BLAST hits against prokaryotic sequences against NCBInr. 114,146 transcripts were predicted as protein coding. Of these, 113,900 belonged to the nuclear genes, 178 to the chloroplast, and 68 to the mitochondria. 38,131 transcripts gave ortholog hits when analyzed by EggNOG, of where 18 779 transcripts were assigned GO-terms.

Assessing the presence of conserved eukaryotic genes in the transcriptome with a BUSCO analysis estimated a ~96% completeness based on a pan-eukaryotic dataset and a ~70% completeness based on a Chlorophyta dataset (Table 2). The pan-eukaryote dataset is much smaller than the Chlorophyta dataset (303 genes vs. 2168 genes), which probably explains the differences in the fraction of genes found. Nevertheless, these results indicate that our *de novo* assembled transcriptome has captured the majority of the expressed genes in *Acetabularia*.

RNA distribution

For all 24 samples, more than 70% of the trimmed read pairs mapped to the transcriptome (Table 1). There was no correlation between the number of mapped reads and the total UMI count (Table 1), illustrating the extent of PCR duplication in the sequence libraries and the importance of using UMIs. The majority of expressed transcripts were lowly expressed and 40-50% of the expressed transcripts had a count of two or less.

The total UMI counts follow the same distribution as the amount of isolated total RNA, with highest numbers in the cap samples and decreasing towards the rhizoid (Figure 1B and C). As the dissected cap pieces were larger than the other pieces, it is also expected that the cap samples contain the most RNA. However, as the same amount of RNA is sequenced from each library, the size of the pieces, or the amount of isolated total RNA, cannot explain the higher count values in the cap. This rather indicates a greater diversity, or heterogeneity, of transcripts in the cap libraries compared to the other libraries.

While the nuclear encoded mRNAs had the same distribution as the total RNA, i.e. decreasing towards the rhizoid (Figure S1A), ribosomal RNAs were roughly evenly distributed between the different samples, although with a few extreme outliers (Figure S1B). Transcripts presumably originating from the chloroplast were also distributed in an apical-basal gradient (Figure S1C). Mitochondrial transcripts had the highest counts in the cap and the rhizoid (Figure S1D), however these genes were much more variable between the samples and the counts were also overall much lower and therefore more subjected to stochastic variation.

The principal component analysis (PCA) of the count variation between samples shows that the samples largely cluster according to the cell apical-basal axis along PC1 (Figure 1D). This shows that the cap- and the rhizoid are the least similar in transcript composition, while the two stalk samples largely overlap and are fairly similar in terms of transcript expression. However, there also seem to be a slight tendency that the samples cluster along PC2 according to which batch they originate from (e.g. batch 19) or which RNA isolation method was used (e.g. batch 19 and 25 vs. batch 26, 27, 25 and 46). This indicates that also which batch of cells the samples originated from (i.e. sampled at the same time), or which RNA isolation kit was used also affects the sample variation.

Table 1. Total RNA isolation and mRNA sequencing of subcellular fragments of *Acetabularia acetabulum*. The naming of samples is described in the text. Read numbers are given as pairs of reads (single reads were discarded), both before and after trimming. Mapping rate describes the percentage of paired reads mapping concordantly (i.e. mapping in the expected orientation relative to each other) to the *de novo* assembled transcriptome, total UMI count is the sum of transcript expression levels for each sample after removing PCR duplicates. Expressed transcripts shows the number of transcripts with at least one UMI count. % of expressed transcripts with count ≤ 2 is the percentage of "low count" transcripts.

Subcellular compartment	Batch	Total RNA (ng)	Raw reads (PE)	Trimmed reads (PE)	Mapped read pairs	Mapping rate (%)	Total UMI count	Expressed transcripts	% of transcripts with count ≤ 2
Cap	17	61	50 770 695	5 820 120	3 585 755	75	584	290	79
Upper stalk	17	29	82 587 170	11 714 864	7 206 886	73	660	257	68
Lower stalk	17	14	2 092	260	166	74	0	0	-
Rhizoid	17	36	38 755 094	18 101 837	11 382 777	75	475	167	51
Cap	19	95	25 526 511	19 934 510	12 521 349	76	8 010 785	62 257	44
Upper stalk	19	22	14 007 423	10 572 421	6 395 304	73	2 285 994	45 187	42
Lower stalk	19	11	18 869 617	14 309 848	8 742 817	74	656 729	30 620	43
Rhizoid	19	11	24 207 912	18 101 837	11 021 291	74	1 156 418	38 275	45
Cap	25	40	22 444 960	19 460 102	11 548 241	72	3 325 240	58 967	45
Upper stalk	25	30	31 098 736	26 710 669	15 574 348	73	4 547 527	57 122	43
Lower stalk	25	23	37 346 096	32 191 425	19 013 248	73	4 334 098	62 677	44
Rhizoid	25	18	37 858 071	32 519 937	19 919 778	73	3 466 028	58 615	48
Cap	26	132	32 643 222	28 358 416	16 777 807	72	4 656 581	63 592	44
Upper stalk	26	16	22 694 589	19 609 743	11 646 681	72	3 291 813	50 613	42
Lower stalk	26	51	37 555 049	32 280 766	19 117 797	73	1 307 014	39 224	43
Rhizoid	26	16	27 307 714	16 273 913	9 951 940	72	293 461	23183	39
Cap	27	187	27 859 229	21 702 199	13 055 825	72	6 704 550	77 998	45
Upper stalk	27	155	30 596 065	23 362 341	14 172 132	73	4 437 570	59 649	42
Lower stalk	27	63	25 217 910	19 013 147	11 575 387	73	2 137 899	45 753	43
Rhizoid	27	63	29 781 682	15 189 655	9 203 797	73	480 492	33 149	46
Cap	45	713	30 795 845	26 732 918	16 179 143	73	7 615 615	71 764	45
Upper stalk	45	72	28 618 780	24 538 566	14 672 568	74	2 949 290	55 172	47
Lower stalk	45	15	29 851 320	25 462 402	15 279 659	73	1 186 788	36 048	43
Rhizoid	45	49	43 496 924	36 991 784	22 472 939	73	2 078 673	44 095	44
Cap	46	534	43 691 338	37 748 810	22 697 840	72	10 250 494	79 349	44
Upper stalk	46	211	26 586 549	22 842 662	13 930 603	73	4 370 405	61 734	45
Lower stalk	46	144	29 167 985	25 131 292	15 639 747	73	6 189 014	64 045	46
Rhizoid	46	122	28 000 697	24 124 084	14 737 583	72	5 492 434	75 135	48

Table 2. **BUSCO analysis of the *de novo* assembled transcriptome of *A. acetabulum*.** BUSCOs refer to the genes present in the different databases of the BUSCO software. Two datasets were used in our analysis, one containing 2168 genes conserved across Chlorophyta, and one containing 303 genes conserved across eukaryotes.

	Eukaryote BUSCO hits	**Chlorophyta BUSCO hits**
Complete BUSCOs	245 (80.9%)	1349 (62.2%)
Single-copy	159 (52.5%)	1047 (48.3%)
Duplicated	86 (28.4%)	302 (13.9%)
Fragmented BUSCOs	45 (14.9%)	177 (8.2%)
Missing BUSCOs	13 (4.2%)	642 (29.6%)
Total BUSCOs searched	303	2168

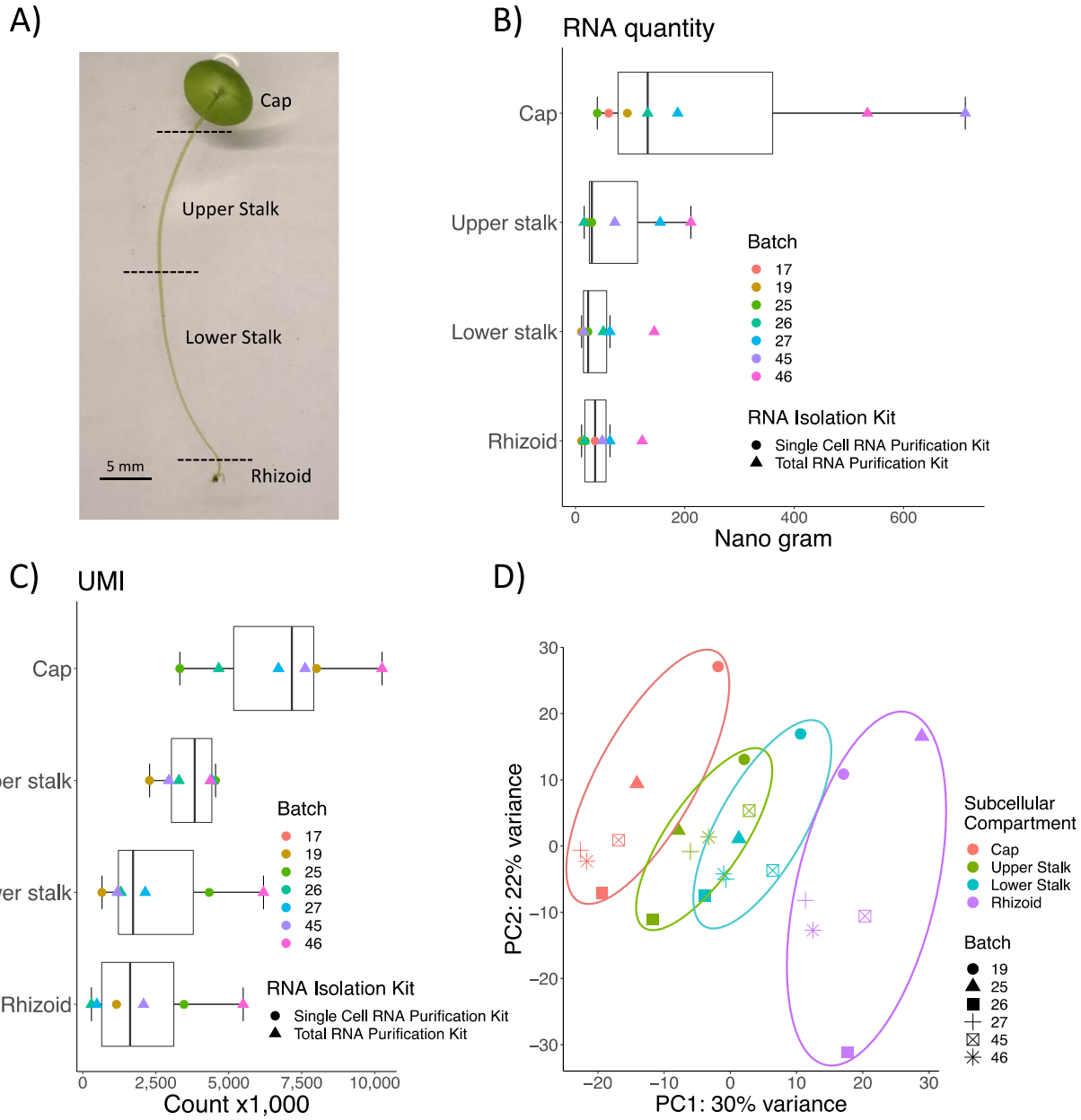


Figure 1. **RNA isolation and sequencing of subcellular compartments of adult *A. acetabulum*.** A) Image of an adult cell of *A. acetabulum*. The dashed lines indicate approximate incision sites for separating the different subcellular sections; cap, upper stalk, lower stalk and rhizoid. B) Boxplot showing the total RNA quantity isolated from the different subcellular compartments. The dots represent the individual samples colored according to which batch the sample originate from, and shaped according to which to which RNA isolation kit that was used. C) Boxplot showing the summarized gene expression levels (total UMI counts) of the different samples. The dots are the same as above. D) Principal Component Analysis (PCA) of the sample variation based on variance stabilized counts (see Methods). The four subcellular compartments are shown in color, and the different batches which the samples originate from (described in the Methods) are indicated as shapes.

Differential transcript distribution

The majority of the assembled transcripts were expressed at low levels (which is expected as transcriptomes assembled *de novo* from NGS data always contains a high number of assembly artefacts and wrongly assembled isoforms). 87% of the transcripts had a mean expression of >1 TMM across the samples, and filtering nuclear encoded transcripts with a raw count of one or more in at least four samples retained 82,164 transcripts. Out of these, 13,057 transcripts were identified as significantly differentially distributed between at least two subcellular compartments. Of the differentially distributed transcripts, 4,197 transcripts were uniquely located in the rhizoid, 2,710 transcripts were unique to the cap, and 255 and 259 transcripts were uniquely located in the upper- and lower stalk respectively (Figure 2A). 1,617 transcripts were enriched in both the cap and the upper stalk, 163 transcripts in both the upper- and lower stalk, and 1,234 transcripts were enriched in both the lower stalk and the rhizoid. Visualizing the expression of these differentially distributed transcripts (Figure 2B) confirms the clustering analysis in that there are two large and distinct pools of enriched transcripts in the cap and the rhizoid, and that these subcellular compartments are the least similar in terms of gene content. The upper- and lower stalk samples have similar expression profiles and share a large number of differentially distributed transcripts. These two compartments also have an overall lower gene expression compared to the cap and rhizoid.

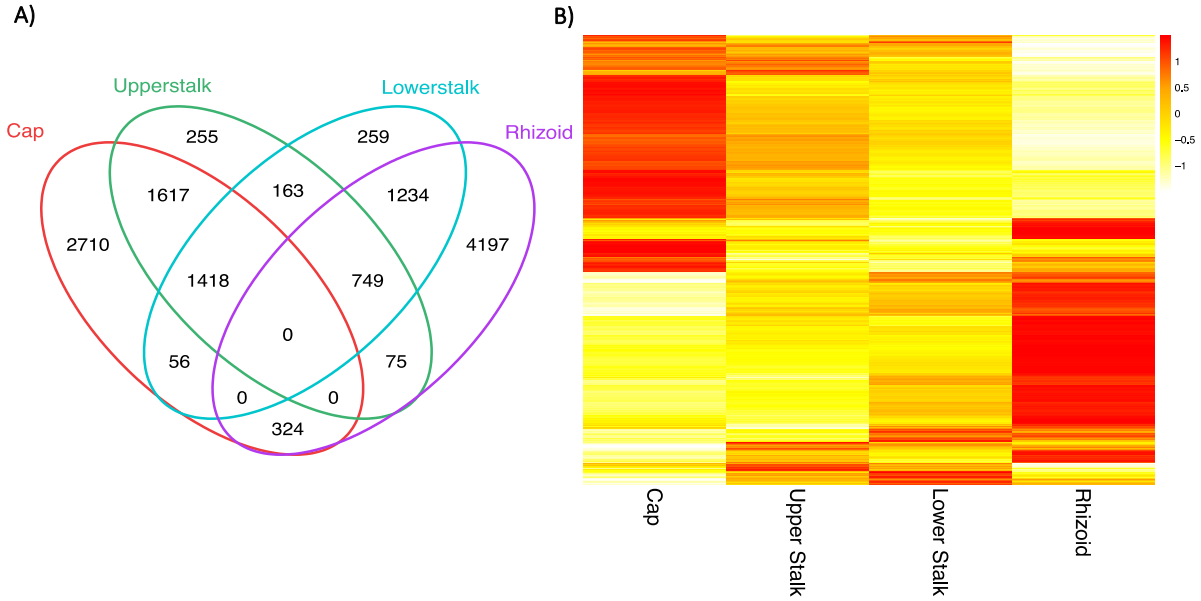


Figure 2. Differentially distributed transcripts between the subcellular compartments. A) Venn diagram showing the shared and unique number of transcripts that are differentially distributed between the subcellular compartments. B) Heatmap of the differentially distributed transcripts. Colors represent scaled TMM (Trimmed Mean of M-values) expression values. The mean TMM values across the different samples from each subcellular structure is shown.

GO enrichment

In order to investigate which genetic processes were taking place in the different subcellular compartments, we analyzed the different subcellular pools of nuclear encoded transcripts for the presence of enriched functional categories. As the two stalk samples displayed very similar expression patterns, they were analyzed together (referred to as "stalk") to get a clearer picture of the differences between the stalk, cap and the rhizoid. The GO-enrichment analysis resulted in 126 enriched GO-terms in the cap, 134 in the rhizoid, and 57 in the stalk (there were eight enriched GO-terms in the upper stalk and 14 in the lower stalk when analyzed separately) (Table S7).

Nuclear encoded mRNA transcripts accumulating in the cap were enriched for GO-terms related to photosynthesis such as photosynthetic processes, chloroplast components and thylakoid (Figure 3). General metabolic processes, organization of the plasma membrane and extracellular matrix, development and transport were also enriched in the cap, and to a lesser extent enriched in the rhizoid. No particular processes seemed to be unique to the stalk. However, the GO-term "cytoplasmic chromosome", which was also enriched in the cap, was significantly enriched in the stalk, and GO-terms related to metabolic processes, catalytic activity, cellular organelles and transport was to small degree enriched in the stalk. Nuclear encoded mRNA transcripts accumulating in the rhizoid were enriched for GO-terms related to the nucleus, replication, transcription, and cell motility. In addition, cytoskeleton organization and cell- division and differentiation were enriched in the rhizoid and also to a lesser extent in the cap. Other processes which seemed to be more widely distributed and which were enriched in both the cap and the rhizoid were related to, transport, translation, ribosome organization, cell wall- and cell membrane organization, development and morphogenesis, and general metabolic and enzymatic processes.

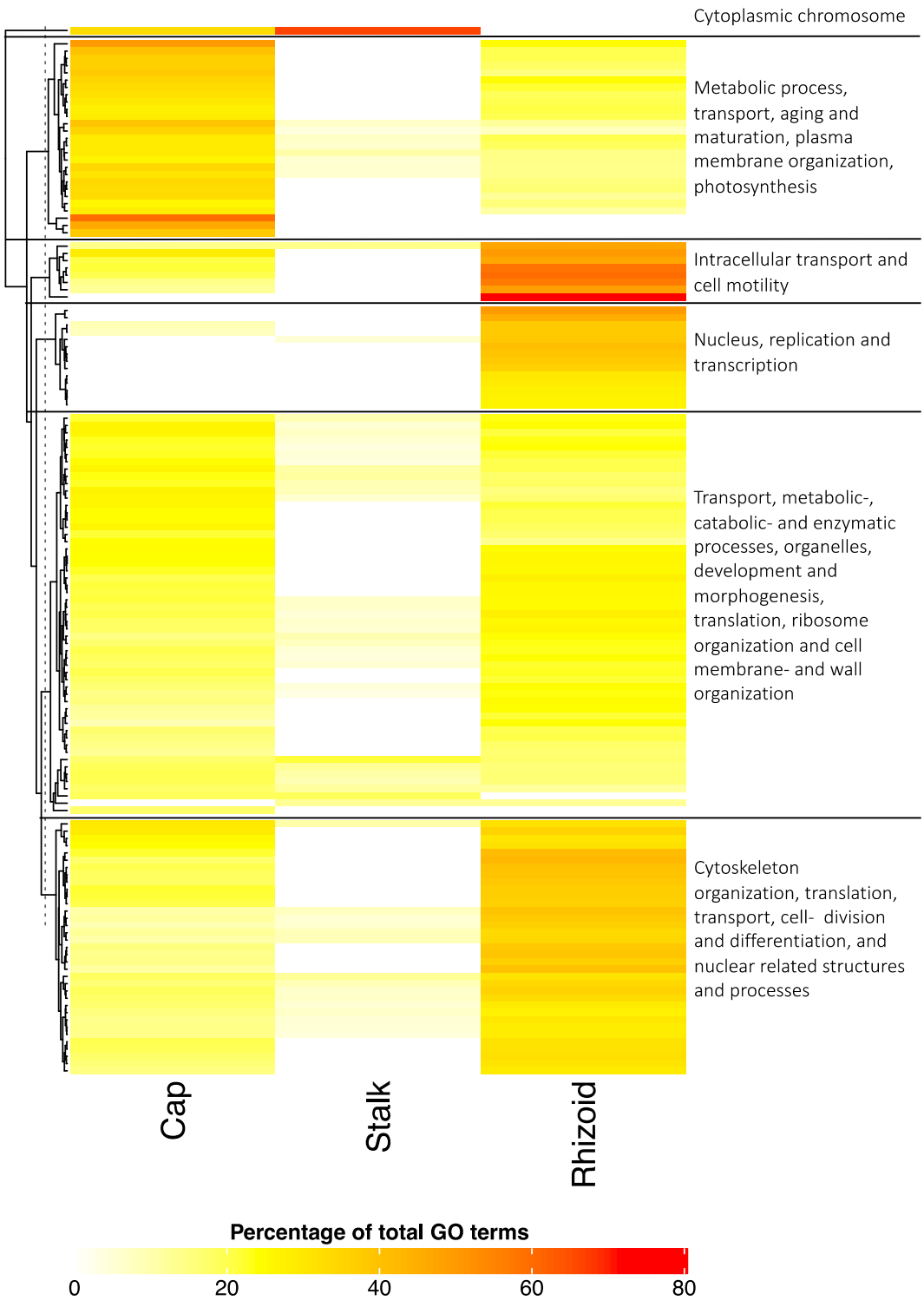


Figure 3. GO-enrichment analysis of transcripts differentially distributed between subcellular compartments. Heatmap of the enriched GO-terms among the differentially distributed transcripts in each subcellular compartment (note that the stalk samples are analyzed together). The colors indicate the percentage of differentially distributed transcripts annotated with a given GO-category compared to the total number of transcripts in the same GO-category. All GO-categories (Biological Process, Cellular Compartment and Molecular Function) are shown together. A GO-term not significantly enriched in a subcellular compartment is set to zero percent (hence shown in white color). The most prevalent GO-terms have been simplified and highlighted on the right side of the heatmap. See table S7 for a full description of the GO-enrichment results.

Distribution of genes involved in mRNA compartmentalization

Analyses of the mRNA distribution indicated the presence of functionally related subcellular pools of transcripts. Therefore, we investigated in detail the distribution patterns of transcripts potentially involved in generating this type of distribution.

Transcripts related to the cytoskeleton, such as actin and tubulin, are highly abundant along the entire cell, and apparently not specifically associated with any particular subcellular region (Figure 4A and B). Transcripts encoding motor proteins moving along the cytoskeleton such as myosin, dynein and kinesin, are also present throughout the cell, although not as evenly distributed as the cytoskeletal components (Figure 4C-E). Myosin transcripts were more abundant in the apical end and decreasing towards the rhizoid. This includes class XIII myosin which have been shown to be involved in organelle transport and tip growth in *A. cliftonii* and enriched in the apical regions of the cell (Vugrek et al., 2003). The same trend was observed also for kinesins, except for two transcripts which were most abundant in the rhizoid. Interestingly, these two transcripts have the closest blast hits against kinesin 13 and 14, which are known to move in both directions on the microtubule, and can thereby travel in the opposite direction on the microtubules than the other kinesins.

In contrast, the dyneins were overall lesser expressed than myosins and kinesins. The most highly abundant dynein was present through the cell in roughly equal amounts, while the rest of the transcripts were most abundant in the rhizoid. Myosins and kinesis generally move towards the plus-ends of the polarized actin microfilaments and microtubules respectively, and thus from the nucleus towards the cell membrane. While dyneins move toward the minus end of microtubules towards the cell interior (Alberts et al., 2002). Hence, motor proteins moving towards the cell membrane are of a slightly higher abundance in the apical part of the cell (expect from two kinesin transcripts which are of a higher abundance in the basal part of the cell), while motor proteins moving towards the cellular interior are seemingly of a higher abundance in the basal part of the cell (lower stalk and rhizoid).

Vesicular transport is a fundamental mechanism for intracellular transport of cargo in eukaryote cells, and has been associated with intracellular transport of RNA (Basyuk et al., 2003; Roberts et al., 2013; Skog et al., 2008). Vesicle formation relies on coat proteins, and COPI- COPII- and Clathrin coated vesicles are the main type of vesicles in eukaryote cells.

COPI-coated vesicles move from ER to golgi, COPII-coated vesicles move between parts of golgi and retrograde transport from golgi to ER, and Clathrin-coated vesicles move from golgi to the plasma membrane (Gomez-Navarro et al., 2016). In our results, two of three COPI transcripts were most abundant in the cap and decrease towards the rhizoid, while one COPII transcript was most abundant in the rhizoid (Figure 4F). Two Clathrin homologs were distributed throughout the cell, one of these transcripts was of noticeable higher abundance than the other (Figure 4G). This high abundant transcript was also of a slightly higher concentration in the cap and decreasing towards the rhizoid.

Three copies of poly(A) polymerases were expressed in *A. acetabulum*. All three were evenly distributed throughout the cell, however one was higher expressed than the others (Figure 4H).

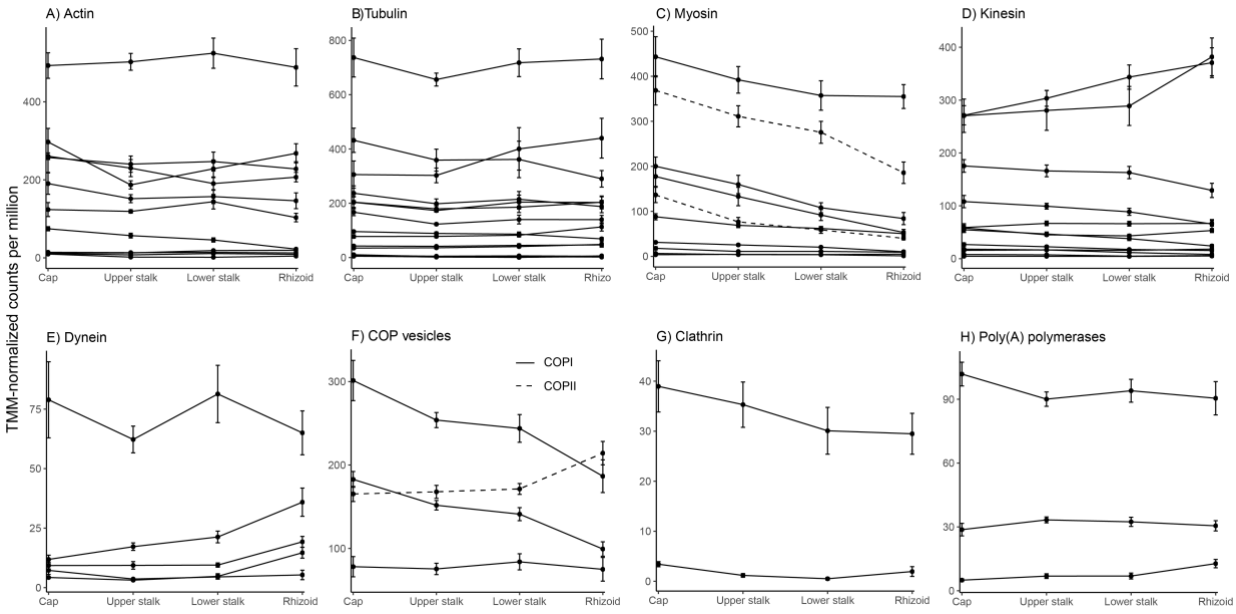
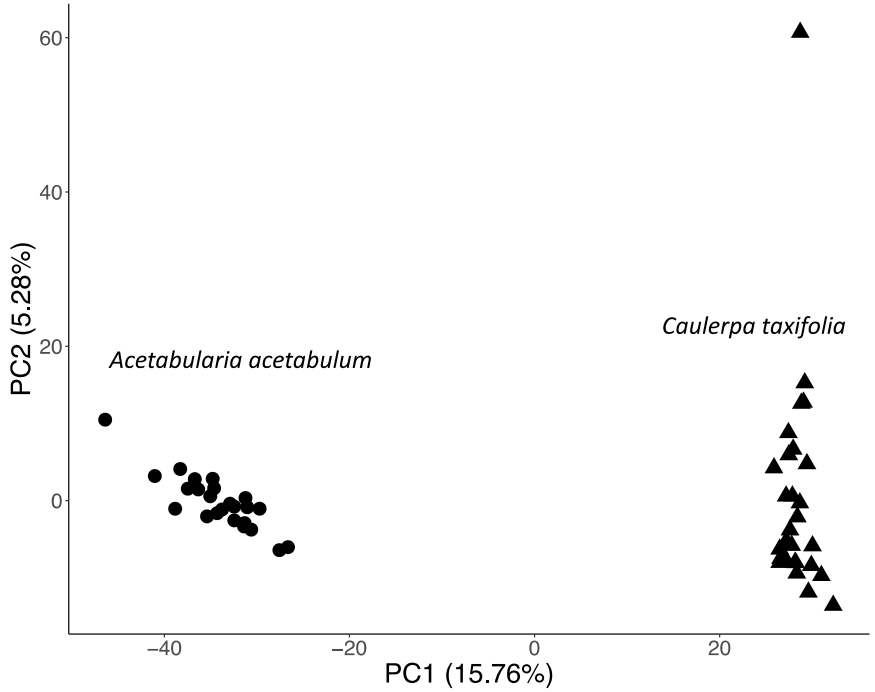


Figure 4. Distribution of transcripts related to transport and RNA localization. The distribution of homologs of Actin (A), Tubulin (B), Myosin (C) – the dashed lines indicates homologs of Class XIII myosin identified in *A. cliftonii*, Kinesin (D), Dynein (E), genes creating COP vesicles (F), Clathrin (G) and poly(A) polymerases (H). Expression values (TMM-normalized counts per million) are shown on the y-axis, with error bars representing standard error. Only transcripts with a mean normalized expression >1 across all samples are shown.

Comparative transcriptomics between *A. acetabulum* and *Caulerpa taxifolia*

Orthology searches between the transcriptomes of *A. acetabulum* and *Caulerpa taxifolia* resulted in 4,483 orthogroups represented by at least one transcript from each species. Of these orthogroups, 2,120 were single-copy orthologues with a single representative from each

534 species. Comparison of the different samples from the two species based on expression
535 dynamics of these single-copy orthologues showed that the genes clustered strongly according
536 to species, rather than to subcellular compartment between species (Figure 5).
537



538

539 **Figure 5**. **Comparison of the expression profile of gene orthologues between *A. acetabulum* and *C.***
540 ***taxifolia*.** Principal Component Analysis (PCA) of the sample variation based on TMM-normalized
541 counts per million (see Methods) of single-copy orthologues between *A. acetabulum* (circles) and *C.*
542 *taxifolia* (triangles).
543

544

545 Discussion

546 Apical-basal mRNA gradient in *A. acetabulum*

547 *Acetabularia acetabulum* has been used as a model system for cell morphogenesis for decades,
548 and it has been suspected that differential distribution of RNA long the cell axis is an underlying
549 mechanism for its sophisticated morphology (Dumais et al., 2000; Hämmerling, 1934b;
550 Serikawa et al., 2001; Vogel et al., 2002). To investigate the distribution of mRNA in adult *A.*
551 *acetabulum* cells we have performed subcellular mRNA sequencing and functional enrichment
552 analysis. We have tagged each mRNA molecule with unique molecular indexes (UMIs) which
553 allows for true quantification of mRNA by eliminating the effect of amplification bias
554 introduced during library preparation. Despite isolating RNA from subsections of a single-cell,
555 we were able to capture the majority of expressed transcripts, and although there is some

variation between samples the procedure was repeatable and robust even to the type of RNA isolation protocols.

Our results demonstrate the presence of RNA throughout the entire cell length, and identified the highest amount of mRNA at the apical end of the cell (the cap) decreasing towards the basal end (the rhizoid), confirming earlier discoveries of an apical-basal gradient of RNA in *A. acetabulum* (Baltus et al., 1968; Hämmerling, 1936; Werz, 1955). However, while it has been believed that this gradient is due to different concentrations of RNA encoded by the chloroplasts, and not nuclear encoded RNAs (Naumova et al., 1976), we rather find that the apical-basal gradient is mainly caused by nuclear encoded mRNAs.

Localized pools of transcripts support subcellular mRNA compartmentalization

A long-standing question has been whether the observed gradient of mRNA in *A. acetabulum* is homogeneous in transcript composition, or whether there are distinct pools of transcripts along the cell. Hämmerling's grafting experiments suggested the existence of local determinants of morphogenesis, and Dumais et al. (2000) speculated that mRNAs would either be distributed throughout the cell, or localized to the apical or basal ends. Our results show that while some gene transcripts are distributed evenly across the entire cell, a large part are actually abundantly located to different subcellular compartments. We also found that these pools of transcripts are composed of functionally related transcripts. Transcripts related to photosynthesis are co-localized and accumulated in the apical end of the cell, while transcripts related to nuclear processes co-localized in the basal end. This pattern shows that the RNA gradient is not a homogeneous mix of gene transcripts, which confirms that mechanisms to ensure specific and functional RNA localization must be in place in *A. acetabulum*.

There were overall fewer transcripts localized in the stalk. This was not surprising as the stalk is mainly filled with a central vacuole, with only a thin layer of cytoplasm covering it (Dumais et al., 2000), leaving very little room for other subcellular structures or pools of transcripts. We therefore assume that there are very few processes happening exclusively in the stalk and that the stalk might even function as a physical border between the cap and the rhizoid, making sure that molecules and other substances are not mixed between the two compartments, but instead carefully transported between them.

Active mRNA transport is likely the main mechanism for establishment of cell polarity

RNA can be distributed around a cell either by passive diffusion from the nucleus, or by active transport along the cytoskeleton (St Johnston, 2005). Studies tracking the movement of radioactive labelled RNA labelled have shown that mRNA travel faster in *A. acetabulum* than what is possible by diffusion alone (Kloppstech et al., 1975b), and simply the size of the cell, with the nucleus and the cap separated by several centimeters, puts obvious demands on active intracellular transport. A highly sophisticated and extensively developed cytoskeleton has been overserved in *A. acetabulum*, with large tracks of actin filaments running the entire length of the cell (Menzel, 1994). Experiments by Mine et al. (2001) showed that inhibiting actin polymerization with cyclohalasin D disrupts the established mRNA gradients, indicating that there is an association between mRNA and the cytoskeleton. As expected, we find that transcripts encoding the main cytoskeletal components such as actin and tubulin are uniformly distributed throughout the cell. Furthermore, we see that both Clathrin and COP genes, as well as homologs of motor proteins traveling in both directions on the cytoskeleton, are distributed throughout the cell, suggesting that these types of vesicular transport systems are active in the entire cell.

mRNA stabilization and post-transcriptional control

The fact that some transcripts are evenly distributed while others are localized, implies that the cell is either able to distinguish between which mRNAs should be transported where, but can also mean that there are mechanisms for selective stabilization and degradation of mRNAs at different locations in the cell. While actin microfilaments are present throughout the cell for the entire life cycle of *A. acetabulum*, microtubules do not appear until the final stages of development where they serve as transport tracks in the cap (Menzel, 1986; Menzel, 1994). This is interesting as tubulin genes are expressed much earlier and distributed throughout the cell, so tubulin mRNAs must be stabilized and stored in the cytoplasm and prevented from being translated. That mRNA is long-lived in *A. acetabulum* cells is supported by experiments showing that development and morphogenesis can continue for days, and even weeks, after amputation of the nucleus (Stich et al., 1958; Yasinovski et al., 1979), and that radioactive RNAs exist in *A. acetabulum* cells long after treatment with radioactive labelled UTP (Kloppstech et al., 1982; Schweiger, 1977). It is also interesting that we find polyadenylation genes distributed throughout the cell, as editing, shortening and elongation of the poly-A-tail is an important mechanism for translational control (Aphasizhev, 2005; Wickens, 1992).

The cap is the main morphogenetic and metabolic structure

The GO-enrichment analysis also shows a higher level of catalytic- and metabolic activity in the cap compared the rhizoid, indicating the cap is the metabolically more diverse and active region of the cell. We also see the greatest diversity of expressed transcripts in the cap, and the highest overall RNA content. These finding agree with earlier observations that the cap is the section of the cell with the highest morphogenetic capacity, or developmental potential, as it can regenerate both whorls of hair and the entire cap structure after being dissected from the rhizoid (Menzel, 1994; Serikawa et al., 2001), while the nucleus is mostly the place for production of mRNAs and replication.

Ortholog comparison indicates little genetic homology between subcellular sections of *A. acetabulum* and *Caulerpa taxifolia*

Caulerpa taxifolia is another Chlorophyte algae with many similarities to *A. acetabulum*, most notably they are both gigantic single-celled species with highly complex cellular morphologies with clearly distinguished apical and basal ends. However, unlike *A. acetabulum*, *C. taxifolia* is a syncytium with hundreds, or even thousands, of nuclei scattered throughout the cell. Ranjan et al. (2015) characterized the gene expression patterns of the different subcellular sections of *C. taxifolia* and found that they contained unique expression profiles, similar to what we see in *A. acetabulum*. However, comparing the expression profile of single-copy orthologs between the two species shows that the subcellular sections are more similar within each species rather than between species, indicating that there are different genes active in the apical and basal sections in these two species, and hence little homology at the genetic level. Nevertheless, comparing the functional annotations of these genes indeed shows some similarities. Both species are enriched for nuclear components and DNA-related processes, such as DNA replication and transcription in the basal parts of the algae, as well as displaying a higher catalytic activity in the apical parts (Ranjan et al., 2015). Therefore, although morphologically similar cell sections of these two species contain largely non-orthologous mRNAs, they do seem to share overall similar genetic functions. This might be an indication of evolutionary convergence on a functional level in the two species.

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Supplementary information

Supplementary tables

Table S1. Chloroplast genomes used as BLAST database to identify *Acetabularia acetabulum* chloroplast transcripts.

Organism	Size (bp)	Accession
Bacillariophyta;Coscinodiscophyceae;Coscinodiscales;Coscinodiscaceae;Coscinodiscus radiatus	122213	NC_024081
Bacillariophyta;Coscinodiscophyceae;Rhizosoleniales;Rhizosoleniaceae;Rhizosolenia imbricata	120956	NC_025311
Bacillariophyta;Mediophyceae;Chaetocerotales;Chaetocerotaceae;Chaetoceros simplex	116459	NC_025310
Bacillariophyta;Mediophyceae;Hemiaulales;Hemiaulaceae;Cerataulina daemon	120144	NC_025313
Bacillariophyta;Mediophyceae;Lithodesmiales;Lithodesmiaceae;Lithodesmium undulatum	122660	NC_024085
Bacillariophyta;Mediophyceae;Thalassiosirales;Thalassiosiraceae;Roundia cardiophora	126871	NC_025312
Bacillariophyta;Fragilariophyceae;Fragilariales;Fragilariaceae;Asterionellopsis glacialis	146024	NC_024080
Chlorophyta;Chlorophyceae;Chlamydomonadales;Chlamydomonadales incertae sedis;Ettlia pseudoalveolaris	145947	NC_025532
Chlorophyta;Chlorophyceae;Oedogoniales;Oedogoniaceae;Oedocladium carolinianum	204438	NC_031510
Chlorophyta;Chlorophyceae;Sphaeropleales;Bracteacoccaceae;Bracteacoccus minor	192761	NC_029674
Chlorophyta;Chlorophyceae;Sphaeropleales;Bracteacoccaceae;Bracteacoccus aerius	165732	NC_029675
Chlorophyta;Chlorophyceae;Sphaeropleales;Bracteacoccaceae;Bracteacoccus giganteus	242897	NC_028586
Chlorophyta;Chlorophyceae;Sphaeropleales;Chromochloridaceae;Chromochloris zofingiensis	188935	NC_029672
Chlorophyta;Chlorophyceae;Sphaeropleales;Neochloridaceae;Neochloris aquatica	166767	NC_029670
Chlorophyta;Chlorophyceae;Sphaeropleales;Scenedesmaceae;Acutodesmus obliquus	161452	NC_008101
Chlorophyta;Pedinophyceae;Pedinomonadales;Pedinomonadaceae;Pedinomonas tuberculata	126694	NC_025530
Chlorophyta;Trebouxiophyceae;Chlorellales;Chlorellaceae;Auxenochlorella protothecoides	84576	NC_023775
Chlorophyta;Trebouxiophyceae;Chlorellales;Chlorellaceae;Pabia signiensis	236463	NC_025529
Chlorophyta;Trebouxiophyceae;Microthamniales;;Stichococcus bacillaris	116952	NC_025527
Chlorophyta;Trebouxiophyceae;Microthamniales;;Elliptochloris bilobata	134677	NC_025548
Chlorophyta;Trebouxiophyceae;Microthamniales;Microthamniaceae;Fusochloris perforata	148459	NC_025543
Chlorophyta;Trebouxiophyceae;Microthamniales;Microthamniaceae;Microthamnion kuetzingianum	158609	NC_025537
Chlorophyta;Trebouxiophyceae;Prasiolales;Koliellaceae;Koliella longiseta	197094	NC_025531
Chlorophyta;Trebouxiophyceae;Prasiolales;Prasiolaceae;Chlorella mirabilis	167972	NC_025528

Chlorophyta;Trebouxiophyceae;Trebouxiophyceae incertae sedis;Coccomyxaceae;Choricystis parasitica	94206	NC_025539
Chlorophyta;Trebouxiophyceae;Trebouxiophyceae incertae sedis;Coccomyxaceae;Paradoxia multiseta	183394	NC_025540
Chlorophyta;Trebouxiophyceae;Trebouxiales;Botryococcaceae;Botryococcus braunii	172826	NC_025545
Chlorophyta;Trebouxiophyceae;Trebouxiales;Trebouxiaceae;Myrmecia israelensis	146596	NC_025525
Chlorophyta;Ulvophyceae;Bryopsidales;Caulerpaceae;Caulerpa cliftonii	131135	NC_031368
Chlorophyta;Ulvophyceae;Bryopsidales;Caulerpaceae;Caulerpa racemosa	176522	NC_032042
Chlorophyta;Ulvophyceae;Bryopsidales;Codiaceae;Codium simulans	91509	NC_032043
Chlorophyta;Ulvophyceae;Ignatiales;Ignatiaceae;Ignatius tetrasporus	239387	NC_034712
Chlorophyta;Ulvophyceae;Ignatiales;Ignatiaceae;Pseudocharacium americanum	239448	NC_034711
Chlorophyta;Ulvophyceae;Oltmannsiellopsidales;Oltmannsiellopsidaceae;Neodangemania microcystis	166355	NC_034713
Chlorophyta;Ulvophyceae;Ulotrichales;Hazeniaceae;Hazenia capsulata	189599	NC_034714
Chlorophyta;Ulvophyceae;Ulotrichales;Ulotrichaceae;Gloeotilopsis sterilis	132626	NC_025538
Chlorophyta;Ulvophyceae;Ulotrichales;Ulotrichales familia incertae sedis;Trichosarcina mucosa	227181	NC_034709
Chlorophyta;Ulvophyceae;Ulvales;Ulvaceae;Pseudoneochloris marina	134753	NC_034710
Chlorophyta;Ulvophyceae;Ulvales;Ulvaceae;Ulva fasciata	96005	NC_029040
Chlorophyta;Ulvophyceae;Ulvales;Ulvaceae;Ulva linza	86726	NC_030312
Chlorophyta;Ulvophyceae;Ulvales;Ulvaceae;Ulva flexuosa	89414	NC_035823
Chlorophyta;Ulvophyceae;Ulvales;Ulvaceae;Ulva prolifera	93066	NC_036137
Charophyta;Zygnemophyceae;Zygnematales;Mesotaeniaceae;Roya anglica	138275	NC_024168
Charophyta;Zygnemophyceae;Zygnematales;Mesotaeniaceae;Mesotaenium endlicherianum	142017	NC_024169
Euglenozoa;Euglenophyceae;Euglenales;Euglenaceae;Monomorphina parapyrum	80147	NC_027287
Euglenozoa;Euglenophyceae;Euglenales;Euglenaceae;Trachelomonas volvocina	85392	NC_027288
Euglenozoa;Euglenophyceae;Euglenales;Euglenaceae;Euglenaria anabaena	88487	NC_027269
Haptophyta;Coccolithophyceae;Phaeocystales;Phaeocystaceae;Phaeocystis antarctica	105512	NC_016703
Haptophyta;Coccolithophyceae;Phaeocystales;Phaeocystaceae;Phaeocystis globosa	107461	NC_021637
Ochrophyta;Eustigmatophyceae;Eustigmatales;Monodopsidaceae;Nannochloropsis granulata	117672	NC_022259
Ochrophyta;Phaeophyceae;Laminariales;Laminariaceae;Saccharina japonica	130584	NC_018523
Rhodophyta;Bangiophyceae;Bangiales;Bangiaceae;Pyropia perforata	189789	NC_024050
Rhodophyta;Compsopogonophyceae;Compsopogonales;Boldiaceae;Boldia erythrosiphon	226658	NC_034776
Rhodophyta;Florideophyceae;Gracilariales;Gracilariaceae;Gracilaria salicornia	179757	NC_023785

Rhodophyta;Porphyridiophyceae;Porphyridiales;Porphyridiaceae;Porphyridium purpureum	217694	NC_023133
Streptophyta;Zygnemophyceae;Desmidiales;Desmidiaceae;Cosmarium botrytis	207850	NC_030357
Streptophyta;Zygnemophyceae;Zygnematales;Zygnemataceae ;Entransia fimbriata	206025	NC_030313
Streptophyta;Zygnemophyceae;Zygnematales;Zygnemataceae ;Spirogyra maxima	129954	NC_030355
Streptophyta;Zygnemophyceae;Zygnematales;Zygnemataceae ;Netrium digitus	131804	NC_030356

834

835 **Table S2.** Mitochondrial genomes used as BLAST database to identify *Acetabularia acetabulum*
836 mitochondrial transcripts

Organism	Size (bp)	Accession
Eukaryota;Stramenopiles;PX clade;Phaeophyceae;Laminariales;Laminariaceae;Saccharina;Saccharina latissima	37659	NC_026108
Eukaryota;Sar;Stramenopiles;Ochrophyta;PX clade;Phaeophyceae;Laminariales;Laminariaceae;Saccharina;Saccharina japonica	37657	NC_013476
Eukaryota;Stramenopiles;Eustigmatophyceae;Eustigmatales;Monodopsidaceae;Nannochloropsis;Nannochloropsis oceanica	38057	NC_022258
Eukaryota;Rhodophyta;Florideophyceae;Rhodymeniophycidae;Gracilariales;Gracilariaceae;Gracilaria;Gracilaria salicornia	25272	NC_023784
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Streptophyta;Zygnemophyceae;Zygnematales;Mesotaeniaceae;Roya;Roya obtusa	69465	NC_022863
Eukaryota;Rhodophyta;Bangiophyceae;Bangiales;Bangiaceae;Pyropia;Pyropia nitida	35313	NC_027616
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;Trebouxiophyceae;Trebouxiophyceae incertae sedis;Botryococcaceae;Botryococcus;Botryococcus braunii	84583	NC_027722
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;Trebouxiophyceae;Chlorellales;Chlorellaceae;Chlorella	52528	NC_024626
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;Trebouxiophyceae;Chlorellales;Chlorellaceae;Auxenochlorella;Auxenochlorella protothecoides	57274	NC_026009
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;core chlorophytes;Trebouxiophyceae;Chlorellales;Chlorellaceae;Chlorella clade;Chlorella;Chlorella variabilis	78500	NC_025413
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;Pedinophyceae;Pedinomonadales;Pedinomonadaceae;Pedinomonas;Pedinomonas minor	25137	NC_000892
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;Chlorophyceae;Sphaeropleales;Neochloridaceae;Neochloris;Neochloris aquatica	38021	NC_024761
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;Chlorophyceae;Sphaeropleales;Chromochloridaceae;Chromochloris;Chromochloris zofingiensis	44840	NC_024758
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;Chlorophyceae;Sphaeropleales;Neochloridaceae;Chlorotetraedron;Chlorotetraedron incus	38406	NC_024757
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;Chlorophyceae;Sphaeropleales;Bracteacoccaceae;Bracteacoccus;Bracteacoccus aerius	47158	NC_024755
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;Chlorophyceae;Sphaeropleales;Bracteacoccaceae;Bracteacoccus;Bracteacoccus minor	45175	NC_024756
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Streptophyta;Zygnemophyceae;Zygnematales;Zygnemataceae;Entransia;Entransia fimbriata	61645	NC_022861
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;Ulvophyceae;OUU clade;Ulvales;Ulvaceae;Ulva;Ulva fasciata	61614	NC_028081
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;Ulvophyceae;OUU clade;Ulvales;Ulvaceae;Ulva;Ulva prolifera	63845	NC_028538
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;Ulvophyceae;OUU clade;Ulvales;Ulvaceae;Ulva;Ulva linza	70858	NC_029701
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;Ulvophyceae;OUU clade;Ulvales;Ulvaceae;Ulva;Ulva pertusa	69333	NC_035722
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;Ulvophyceae;OUU clade;Ulvales;Ulvaceae;Ulva;Ulva flexuosa	71545	NC_035809
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;Chlorophyceae;Sphaeropleales;Selenastraceae;Ourococcus;Ourococcus multisporus	49705	NC_024762
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;Chlorophyceae;Chlamydomonadales;Chlamydomonadaceae;Polytoma;Polytoma uvella	17411	NC_026572

837

838 **Table S3.** rRNA sequences from various green algae used as BLAST database to identify
839 *Acetabularia* rRNA transcripts.

Organism	Gene	Size (bp)	Accession
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;Ulvophyceae;Ignatiales;Ignatius;Ignatius tetrasporus	18S (partial)	1744	AB110439
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;Ulvophyceae;Ignatiales;Pseudocharacium;Pseudocharacium americanum	18S (partial)	1743	AB110440
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;Ulvophyceae;Oltmannsiellopsidales;Oltmannsiellopsidaceae;Oltmannsiellopsis;Oltmannsiellopsis geminata	18S (partial)	1745	AB183610
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;Ulvophyceae;TCBD clade;Dasycladales;Polyphysaceae;Acetabularia;Acetabularia acetabulum	18S (partial)	1042	AF493616
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;Ulvophyceae;OUU clade;Ulvales;Ulvaceae;Blidingia;Blidingia minima	5.8S	615	AJ000206
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;Ulvophyceae;OUU clade;Ulvales;Ulvaceae;Blidingia;Blidingia chadefaudii	5.8S	569	AJ012309
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;Ulvophyceae;TCBD clade;Bryopsidales;Caulerpaceae;Caulerpa;Caulerpa taxifolia	18S, 28S and 5.8S	641	AJ299742
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;Ulvophyceae;TCBD clade;Dasycladales;Polyphysaceae;Acetabularia;Acetabularia acetabulum	18S	1773	AY165775
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;Ulvophyceae;Ulvophyceae;incertae sedis;Oltmannsiellopsis;Oltmannsiellopsis viridis	18S	1746	D86495
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;core chlorophytes;Trebouxiophyceae;Chlorellales;Chlorellaceae;Chlorella clade;Actinastrum;Actinastrum hantzschii	18S (partial), 5.8S and 28S (partial)	2874	FM205841
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;core chlorophytes;Trebouxiophyceae;Chlorellales;Chlorellaceae;Chlorella clade;Chlorella;Chlorella heliozoae	18S (partial), 5.8S and 28S (partial)	3852	FM205850
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;core chlorophytes;Trebouxiophyceae;Chlorellales;Chlorellaceae;Chlorella clade;Actinastrum;Actinastrum hantzschii	18S (partial), 5.8S and 28S (partial)	3113	FM205882
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;core chlorophytes;Trebouxiophyceae;Chlorellales;Chlorellaceae;Chlorella clade;Actinastrum;Actinastrum hantzschii	18S (partial), 5.8S and 28S (partial)	2530	FM205884
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;Ulvophyceae;OUU clade;Ulotrichales;Chlorocystidaceae;Desmochloris;Desmochloris halophila	18S (partial) and 5.8S	2347	FM882216
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;Ulvophyceae;OUU clade;Ulotrichales;Chlorocystidaceae;Desmochloris;Desmochloris mollenhaueri	18S (partial) and 5.8S	2777	FM882217
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;Ulvophyceae;TCBD clade;Trentepohliales;Trentepohliaceae;Trentepohlia;unclassified Trentepohlia;Trentepohlia sp. CB-2010	28S (partial)	549	FR719952
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;Ulvophyceae;Oltmannsiellopsidales;Oltmannsiellopsidaceae;Oltmannsiellopsis;unclassified Oltmannsiellopsis;Oltmannsiellopsis sp. CCMP1240	18S (partial), 5.8S and 28S (partial)	5585	HE610120
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;Ulvophyceae;Ignatiales;Ignatiaceae;Ignatius;Ignatius tetrasporus	18S (partial), 5.8S and 28S (partial)	3790	HE610121
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;Ulvophyceae;OUU clade;Ulotrichales;Ulotrichaceae;Ulothrix;Ulothrix zonata	28S (partial)	583	HE860527
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;Ulvophyceae;OUU clade;Ulvales;Ulvaceae;Blidingia;Blidingia marginata	28S (partial)	603	HQ603266
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;Ulvophyceae;Ulvophyceae;incertae sedis;Smithsoniella;Smithsoniella earleae	18S (partial)	1738	JF680958
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;core chlorophytes;Trebouxiophyceae;Chlorellales;Chlorellaceae;Chlorella clade;Chlorella;Chlorella sorokiniana	18S, 5.8S and 28S (partial)	2527	LK021940
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;Ulvophyceae;TCBD clade;Dasycladales;Polyphysaceae;Acetabularia;Acetabularia caliculus	18S (partial)	520	MF579955
Eukaryota;Viridiplantae;Chlorophyta;Ulvophyceae;TCBD clade;Dasycladales;Polyphysaceae;Acetabularia;Acetabularia acetabulum	18S	1766	Z33461

840

841 **Table S4**. *Chlamydomonas reinhardthii* COP and Clathrin genes used to identify similar genes in *A.*
842 *acetabulum*

Gene	Accession number
alpha-COP	XP_001693686
beta-COP	XP_001701255
beta-COP	XP_001702422
delta-COP	XP_001701763
epsilon-COP	XP_001693085
gamma-COP	XP_001691193
zeta-COP, subunit of COP-1 complex	XP_001701294
sar-type small GTPase	XP_001699537
COP-II coat subunit	XP_001700438
COP-II coat subunit	XP_001702936
COP-II coat subunit	XP_001701974
COP-II coat subunit	XP_001697039
Clathrin heavy chain	XP_001699806

843

844

845 **Table S5. RNA isolation.**

	Single Cell RNA purification Kit	Total RNA purification kit	% Increase by using the Total RNA purification kit
Mean total RNA yield (ng)	33	159	382
Mean transcripts with count > 0	51715	55031	6
Mean transcripts with count > 1	35019	37170	6
Mean transcripts with count > 2	28821	30510	6
Mean transcripts with count > 3	25474	26897	6

846

847 **Table S6**. Assembly statistics of the *de novo* assembled transcriptome of *Acetabularia acetabulum*.
848 Only the highest expressed isoform of each gene is represented in the transcriptome. This transcriptome
849 was used as a mapping reference for further RNA-seq analysis.

	***A. acetabulum* transcriptome**
Total transcriptome size (bp)	114 907 754
Number of transcripts	246 083
Longest transcript (bp)	17 196
Shortest transcript (bp)	201
Mean transcript length (bp)	467
Median transcript length (bp)	298
N50 transcript length (bp)	534
Nuclear encoded transcripts	245 334
mRNAs	245 223
rRNAs	111
Chloroplast encoded transcripts	389
Mitochondrial encoded transcripts	99
Possible prokaryotic/unclassified transcripts	261
Predicted protein coding transcripts (TransDecoder)	114 146
Nuclear	113 900
Chloroplast	178
Mitochondrial	68

850

Table S7. Enriched Gene Ontologies. Domain refers to "Cellular Component" (CC), "Biological Process" (BP) and "Molecular Function" (MF). FDR refers to the False Discovery Rates calculated on the p-values by the qvalue function in the R package qvalue. The "%" in the Cap, Stalk and Rhizoid is the percentage of GO-ID's in the enriched pool of transcripts (in the Cap, Stalk or Rhizoid) compared to the number in the total transcriptome.

ID	Term	Domain	Cap FDR	Cap %	Stalk FDR	Stalk %	Rhizoid FDR	Rhizoid %
GO:0005623	cell	CC	4.3E-181	20	4.9E-34	5	1.1E-208	23.2
GO:0009536	plastid	CC	2.2E-103	35	3.3E-04	4	1.5E-02	8.1
GO:0009579	thylakoid	CC	1.8E-60	47	0	0	0	0
GO:0006950	response to stress	BP	1.0E-40	23	3.8E-06	5	8.3E-30	22
GO:0009058	biosynthetic process	BP	1.5E-37	23	4.6E-07	6	1.3E-32	23
GO:0005829	cytosol	CC	2.7E-31	19	6.0E-06	4	1.3E-47	24
GO:0043167	ion binding	MF	5.3E-28	26	0	0	6.4E-17	22
GO:0005886	plasma membrane	CC	2.5E-25	22	6.3E-03	4	1.1E-24	24
GO:0022857	transmembrane transporter activity	MF	2.5E-25	40	4.0E-03	7	9.9E-03	12
GO:0044281	small molecule metabolic process	BP	5.4E-25	29	2.8E-05	7	5.0E-10	20
GO:0016491	oxidoreductase activity	MF	5.7E-23	34	0	0	2.3E-03	13
GO:0005773	vacuole	CC	3.7E-21	27	2.4E-03	5	1.3E-05	15
GO:0051186	cofactor metabolic process	BP	2.0E-20	34	1.1E-02	6	7.7E-04	14
GO:0015979	photosynthesis	BP	8.1E-20	38	0	0	0	0
GO:0005739	mitochondrion	CC	9.3E-20	24	2.1E-02	4	4.0E-11	20
GO:0032991	protein-containing complex	CC	8.8E-18	14	3.7E-07	5	3.9E-86	29
GO:0065003	protein-containing complex assembly	BP	2.3E-17	26	0	0	2.1E-22	31
GO:0006091	generation of precursor metabolites and energy	BP	3.8E-17	29	0	0	3.2E-03	11
GO:0042592	homeostatic process	BP	1.9E-16	28	0	0	2.2E-08	21
GO:0006520	cellular amino acid metabolic process	BP	6.0E-16	36	0	0	3.4E-05	20
GO:0005576	extracellular region	CC	1.0E-15	31	2.0E-02	6	1.0E-03	14
GO:0006629	lipid metabolic process	BP	1.2E-15	29	6.7E-03	6	1.0E-05	19
GO:0005794	Golgi apparatus	CC	1.4E-15	26	5.2E-03	6	1.6E-05	17
GO:0016887	ATPase activity	MF	4.2E-15	34	0	0	1.8E-03	16
GO:0019899	enzyme binding	MF	6.7E-15	27	8.4E-04	7	1.8E-08	21
GO:0005783	endoplasmic reticulum	CC	2.8E-13	24	0	0	1.3E-13	26
GO:0005840	ribosome	CC	2.5E-12	15	0	0	4.2E-18	21
GO:0006790	sulfur compound metabolic process	BP	3.0E-12	38	0	0	4.3E-03	16
GO:0009056	catabolic process	BP	4.0E-12	23	3.8E-06	9	1.1E-06	18
GO:0007165	signal transduction	BP	1.1E-11	18	7.7E-05	6	9.1E-21	26
GO:0003735	structural constituent of ribosome	MF	3.7E-11	15	0	0	7.5E-14	18
GO:0000003	reproduction	BP	3.9E-11	18	9.6E-04	5	7.4E-22	26
GO:0034641	cellular nitrogen compound metabolic process	BP	4.6E-11	17	3.4E-03	4	1.7E-22	24
GO:0061024	membrane organization	BP	1.6E-10	27	4.7E-02	5	2.7E-08	24

GO:0006605	protein targeting	BP	1.6E-10	24	0	0	5.4E-07	20
GO:0016192	vesicle-mediated transport	BP	1.8E-10	22	4.0E-06	9	3.6E-10	23
GO:0048856	anatomical structure development	BP	1.9E-10	17	4.7E-08	8	5.0E-18	23
GO:0006412	translation	BP	1.1E-09	15	2.2E-02	3	2.1E-20	24
GO:0007568	aging	BP	1.6E-09	33	0	0	8.3E-05	22
GO:0005618	cell wall	CC	8.4E-09	22	0	0	2.6E-05	17
GO:0048646	anatomical structure formation involved in morphogenesis	BP	9.4E-09	24	0	0	9.0E-06	20
GO:0009790	embryo development	BP	1.3E-08	23	0	0	2.3E-09	25
GO:0002376	immune system process	BP	2.1E-08	20	3.2E-02	5	2.3E-13	28
GO:0016829	lyase activity	MF	4.5E-08	32	0	0	9.3E-04	19
GO:0006810	transport	BP	4.5E-08	35	0	0	9.6E-05	25
GO:0006464	cellular protein modification process	BP	6.4E-08	15	9.6E-04	5	4.0E-31	29
GO:0030154	cell differentiation	BP	8.7E-08	17	5.4E-03	5	1.0E-20	29
GO:0008219	cell death	BP	1.4E-07	21	8.4E-03	7	4.0E-09	25
GO:0003013	circulatory system process	BP	1.7E-07	60	0	0	0	0
GO:0034655	nucleobase-containing compound catabolic process	BP	3.4E-07	18	1.2E-02	5	1.5E-09	23
GO:0007267	cell-cell signaling	BP	4.4E-07	30	5.2E-03	11	2.3E-07	32
GO:0005764	lysosome	CC	4.7E-07	29	5.2E-03	10	8.8E-03	15
GO:0005975	carbohydrate metabolic process	BP	4.9E-07	20	3.8E-06	11	1.5E-04	17
GO:0031410	cytoplasmic vesicle	CC	6.2E-07	27	1.2E-03	11	3.1E-04	20
GO:0005768	endosome	CC	1.4E-06	20	7.1E-03	7	1.9E-09	25
GO:0005634	nucleus	CC	1.8E-06	14	8.7E-04	5	3.3E-33	30
GO:0055085	transmembrane transport	BP	2.6E-06	26	0	0	1.1E-03	19
GO:0016301	kinase activity	MF	3.4E-06	20	0	0	4.5E-07	23
GO:0015031	protein transport	BP	5.8E-06	18	4.0E-03	7	9.1E-17	33
GO:0007010	cytoskeleton organization	BP	1.0E-05	18	0	0	4.6E-28	43
GO:0005856	cytoskeleton	CC	1.1E-05	18	0	0	1.3E-20	39
GO:0021700	developmental maturation	BP	1.4E-05	33	0	0	1.5E-02	17
GO:0042254	ribosome biogenesis	BP	1.8E-05	12	0	0	1.0E-16	24
GO:0008092	cytoskeletal protein binding	MF	2.0E-05	20	0	0	2.5E-13	36
GO:0019748	secondary metabolic process	BP	2.4E-05	36	0	0	1.3E-02	18
GO:0007034	vacuolar transport	BP	2.9E-05	27	3.2E-02	9	1.3E-02	16
GO:0051604	protein maturation	BP	2.9E-05	29	0	0	2.9E-03	20
GO:0008233	peptidase activity	MF	2.9E-05	20	1.2E-03	9	1.5E-03	16
GO:0016874	ligase activity	MF	4.4E-05	24	0	0	2.4E-05	26
GO:0050877	nervous system process	BP	4.6E-05	29	0	0	2.5E-06	35
GO:0051301	cell division	BP	4.7E-05	19	2.8E-02	6	2.7E-14	36
GO:0000902	cell morphogenesis	BP	5.2E-05	18	0	0	1.0E-13	32
GO:0003723	RNA binding	MF	7.4E-05	15	3.1E-05	9	4.7E-10	24
GO:0003729	mRNA binding	MF	8.5E-05	13	0	0	9.0E-07	17
GO:0005730	nucleolus	CC	1.2E-04	12	0	0	1.3E-12	22
GO:0040007	growth	BP	1.5E-04	15	0	0	1.7E-14	29

GO:0016853	isomerase activity	MF	1.7E-04	22	0	0	3.9E-09	37
GO:0007005	mitochondrion organization	BP	1.7E-04	22	0	0	2.6E-05	25
GO:0006914	autophagy	BP	2.1E-04	21	0	0	2.0E-05	26
GO:0005929	cilium	CC	4.3E-04	22	0	0	4.0E-18	59
GO:0005777	peroxisome	CC	5.0E-04	24	1.1E-02	12	7.4E-03	18
GO:0030234	enzyme regulator activity	MF	5.1E-04	16	3.4E-03	9	1.4E-11	34
GO:0005815	microtubule organizing center	CC	5.1E-04	22	0	0	4.9E-09	42
GO:0016791	phosphatase activity	MF	5.5E-04	19	3.1E-04	13	6.0E-03	16
GO:0019843	rRNA binding	MF	6.8E-04	16	0	0	2.5E-06	25
GO:0044403	symbiont process	BP	7.2E-04	20	0	0	5.8E-07	32
GO:0030198	extracellular matrix organization	BP	7.4E-04	30	0	0	1.3E-02	20
GO:0007155	cell adhesion	BP	7.7E-04	22	0	0	8.1E-07	37
GO:0006913	nucleocytoplasmic transport	BP	8.0E-04	16	0	0	4.3E-09	31
GO:0022607	cellular component assembly	BP	8.4E-04	15	1.8E-02	7	5.5E-09	27
GO:0005615	extracellular space	CC	9.3E-04	18	1.2E-03	12	2.1E-02	12
GO:0016757	transferase activity, transferring glycosyl groups	MF	1.1E-03	24	0	0	3.2E-02	14
GO:0006457	protein folding	BP	1.2E-03	20	0	0	4.2E-06	31
GO:0016765	transferase activity, transferring alkyl or aryl (other than methyl) groups	MF	1.2E-03	26	0	0	2.1E-02	16
GO:0071554	cell wall organization or biogenesis	BP	1.4E-03	19	3.8E-06	19	0	0
GO:0008289	lipid binding	MF	1.9E-03	18	0	0	3.7E-04	22
GO:0030705	cytoskeleton-dependent intracellular transport	BP	2.3E-03	29	0	0	5.5E-06	50
GO:0005198	structural molecule activity	MF	2.3E-03	24	0	0	1.9E-04	32
GO:0005635	nuclear envelope	CC	3.2E-03	19	0	0	1.2E-08	40
GO:0003677	DNA binding	MF	5.7E-03	12	3.2E-02	6	2.3E-19	38
GO:0006399	tRNA metabolic process	BP	6.3E-03	15	0	0	5.9E-10	36
GO:0022618	ribonucleoprotein complex assembly	BP	6.9E-03	9	0	0	2.4E-09	24
GO:0008283	cell proliferation	BP	6.9E-03	13	5.0E-03	8	2.0E-11	34
GO:0005622	intracellular	CC	7.4E-03	21	0	0	1.1E-06	47
GO:0003700	DNA-binding transcription factor activity	MF	7.4E-03	17	0	0	3.3E-03	20
GO:0140014	mitotic nuclear division	BP	7.8E-03	20	0	0	7.9E-04	28
GO:0008135	translation factor activity, RNA binding	MF	8.0E-03	19	4.5E-02	13	2.5E-04	31
GO:0007049	cell cycle	BP	8.1E-03	14	0	0	4.6E-12	39
GO:0071941	nitrogen cycle metabolic process	BP	8.5E-03	40	0	0	4.5E-02	20
GO:0007009	plasma membrane organization	BP	8.9E-03	50	0	0	4.7E-02	25
GO:0048870	cell motility	BP	1.0E-02	13	0	0	1.3E-20	49
GO:0005737	cytoplasm	CC	1.5E-02	10	8.7E-04	6	4.7E-39	37
GO:0000278	mitotic cell cycle	BP	1.5E-02	11	2.4E-03	8	2.2E-19	40
GO:0043226	organelle	CC	2.1E-02	17	8.7E-04	22	2.2E-02	17
GO:0040011	locomotion	BP	2.5E-02	14	0	0	8.3E-10	57

GO:0016810	hydrolase activity, acting on carbon-nitrogen (but not peptide) bonds	MF	2.5E-02	18	0	0	0	0
GO:0016746	transferase activity, transferring acyl groups	MF	3.0E-02	14	1.8E-02	14	2.8E-07	48
GO:0006259	DNA metabolic process	BP	3.1E-02	9	0	0	4.6E-28	38
GO:0051082	unfolded protein binding	MF	3.5E-02	15	0	0	2.8E-04	38
GO:0005654	nucleoplasm	CC	3.6E-02	8	0	0	1.1E-38	38
GO:0003924	GTPase activity	MF	3.6E-02	11	0	0	2.9E-08	40
GO:0000229	cytoplasmic chromosome	CC	4.2E-02	33	6.3E-03	67	0	0
GO:0004518	nuclease activity	MF	4.5E-02	10	1.7E-02	9	7.4E-09	34
GO:0005811	lipid droplet	CC	4.5E-02	20	0	0	5.0E-04	60
GO:0032196	transposition	BP	4.9E-02	25	0	0	4.3E-02	25
GO:0031012	extracellular matrix	CC	5.0E-02	20	0	0	7.6E-03	40
GO:0016798	hydrolase activity, acting on glycosyl bonds	MF	0	0	4.9E-03	13	3.4E-02	13
GO:0051276	chromosome organization	BP	0	0	4.9E-02	5	6.5E-24	38
GO:0000228	nuclear chromosome	CC	0	0	0	0	7.8E-14	39
GO:0005694	chromosome	CC	0	0	0	0	1.6E-10	45
GO:0006397	mRNA processing	BP	0	0	0	0	2.2E-08	30
GO:0007059	chromosome segregation	BP	0	0	0	0	7.5E-08	38
GO:0008134	transcription factor binding	MF	0	0	0	0	1.3E-07	50
GO:0008168	methyltransferase activity	MF	0	0	0	0	2.3E-07	36
GO:0030674	protein binding, bridging	MF	0	0	0	0	9.6E-07	41
GO:0043473	pigmentation	BP	0	0	0	0	1.5E-06	71
GO:0004386	helicase activity	MF	0	0	0	0	9.0E-05	29
GO:0016779	nucleotidyltransferase activity	MF	0	0	0	0	1.9E-04	28
GO:0034330	cell junction organization	BP	0	0	0	0	8.5E-04	27
GO:0042393	histone binding	MF	0	0	0	0	4.3E-03	27

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Supplementary figures

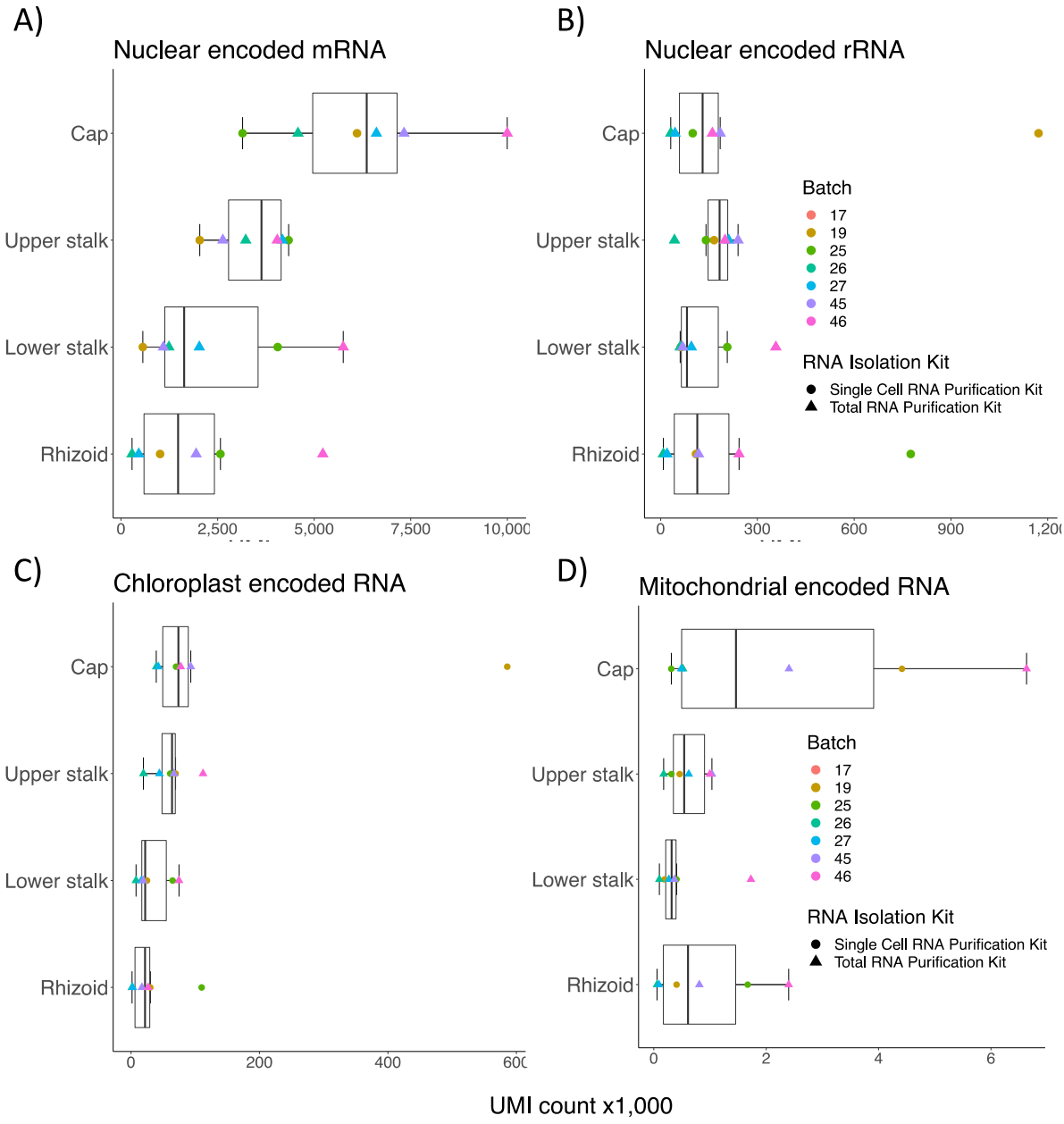

Figure S1. Boxplots showing the summarized gene expression levels (total UMI counts) of **A)** nuclear encoded mRNA, **B)** nuclear encoded rRNA, **C)** chloroplast encoded RNA and **D)** mitochondrial encoded RNA

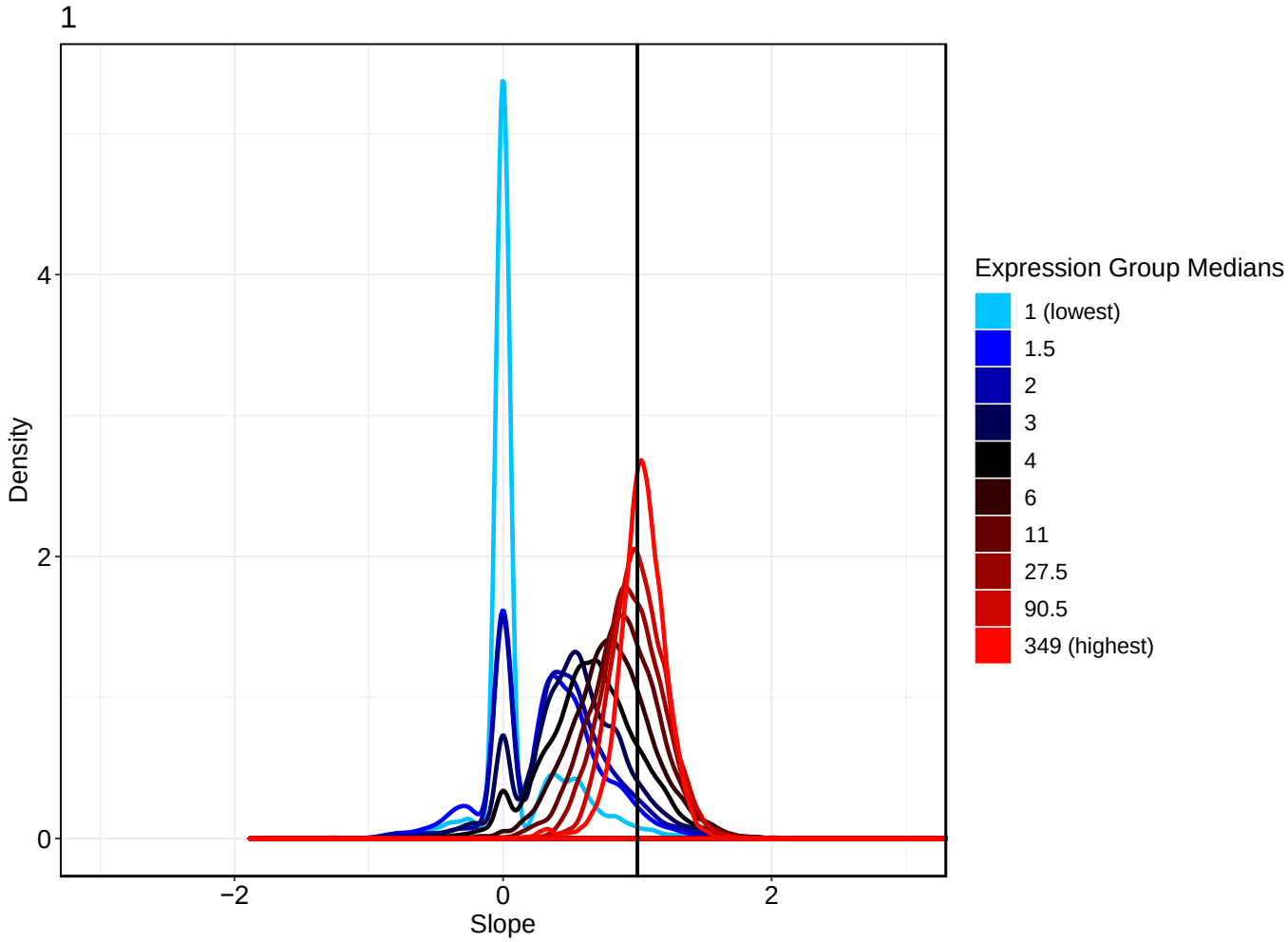

Figure S2. Density plot generated with the sc-norm package in R, displaying the relationship between sequencing depth and gene counts in our samples. Genes are grouped into 10 groups based on gene expression (shown in colors). We see that for the highest expressed genes, the slope of the relationship between expression and sequencing depth is close to 1, justifying the use of normalization based on sequencing depth (as in the DESeq2 R package).