Biogenesis of the preprotein translocase of the outer mitochondrial membrane: protein kinase A phosphorylates the precursor of Tom40 and impairs its import

Sanjana Rao\textsuperscript{a,b,c}, Oliver Schmidt\textsuperscript{d,e,f}, Angelika B. Harbauer\textsuperscript{a,c,e}, Birgit Schönfisch\textsuperscript{a}, Bernard Guiard\textsuperscript{f}, Nikolaus Pfanner\textsuperscript{a,d}, and Chris Meisinger\textsuperscript{a,d}

\textsuperscript{a}Institut für Biochemie und Molekularbiologie, Zentrum für Biochemie und Molekulare Zellforschung, \textsuperscript{b}Graduate School of Biology and Medicine, \textsuperscript{c}Faculty of Biology, \textsuperscript{d}BIOSS Centre for Biological Signalling Studies, and \textsuperscript{e}Trinationales Graduiertenkolleg 1478, Universität Freiburg, 79104 Freiburg, Germany; \textsuperscript{f}Centre de Génétique Moléculaire, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, 91190 Gif-sur-Yvette, France

\textbf{ABSTRACT} The preprotein translocase of the outer mitochondrial membrane (TOM) functions as the main entry gate for the import of nuclear-encoded proteins into mitochondria. The major subunits of the TOM complex are the three receptors Tom20, Tom22, and Tom70 and the central channel-forming protein Tom40. Cytosolic kinases have been shown to regulate the biogenesis and activity of the Tom receptors. Casein kinase 2 stimulates the biogenesis of Tom22 and Tom20, whereas protein kinase A (PKA) impairs the receptor function of Tom70. Here we report that PKA exerts an inhibitory effect on the biogenesis of the β-barrel protein Tom40. Tom40 is synthesized as precursor on cytosolic ribosomes and subsequently imported into mitochondria. We show that PKA phosphorylates the precursor of Tom40. The phosphorylated Tom40 precursor is impaired in import into mitochondria, whereas the non-phosphorylated precursor is efficiently imported. We conclude that PKA plays a dual role in the regulation of the TOM complex. Phosphorylation by PKA not only impairs the receptor activity of Tom70, but it also inhibits the biogenesis of the channel protein Tom40.

\textbf{INTRODUCTION} Most mitochondrial proteins are imported from the cytosol. The proteins are synthesized as precursors on cytosolic ribosomes. Targeting signals contained in the precursor proteins direct them to receptors on the mitochondrial surface (Hoogenraad et al., 2002; Dolezal et al., 2006; Neupert and Herrmann, 2007; Chacinska et al., 2009; Endo et al., 2011). The translocase of the outer mitochondrial membrane (TOM complex) functions as the main entry gate for mitochondrial precursor proteins. After passing through the TOM channel, the precursor proteins follow different import routes to the four mitochondrial subcompartments—outer membrane, intermembrane space, inner membrane, and matrix.

The TOM complex consists of seven subunits: three receptors, a central channel-forming protein, and three small subunits (Meisinger et al., 2001; Walther and Rapaport, 2009; Endo et al., 2011). The receptors Tom20 and Tom22 preferentially recognize precursor proteins that carry amino-terminal targeting signals (presequences), whereas the third receptor, Tom70, mainly binds hydrophobic precursor proteins with internal targeting signals (metabolite carriers; Brix et al., 1999; Abe et al., 2000; Young et al., 2003; Li et al., 2009). Each of the receptors is anchored in the outer membrane via a single α-helical transmembrane segment and exposes the preprotein-binding domain to the cytosol. The β-barrel protein Tom40 is the essential core of the TOM complex. Tom40 forms a hydrophilic channel, through which the vast majority of mitochondrial proteins are imported (Hill et al., 1998; Ahting et al., 2001; Suzuki et al., 2004; Becker et al., 2005; Harsman et al., 2010). The small subunits Tom5,
Tom6, and Tom7 are involved in the assembly and stability of the TOM complex (Schmitt et al., 2005; Sherman et al., 2005; Meisinger et al., 2006b; Kato and Mihara, 2008; Becker et al., 2010, 2011; Yamano et al., 2010). Each subunit of the TOM complex is encoded by a nuclear gene and thus is synthesized as precursor in the cytosol and imported into mitochondria (Model et al., 2001; Walther and Rapaport, 2009).

For a long time, little has been known about the regulation of the mitochondrial preproteins translocases. Recently, however, mass spectrometric analyses revealed that the subunits of the TOM complex are phosphorylated at multiple sites (Chi et al., 2007; Li et al., 2007; Albuquerque et al., 2008; Gnad et al., 2009; Schmidt et al., 2011). On the basis of prediction programs for kinase target sites and in vitro assays with recombinant Tom proteins and purified kinases, a number of candidate kinases for TOM phosphorylation were identified (Rao et al., 2011; Schmidt et al., 2011). So far, a functional role of TOM phosphorylation has been shown for the Tom receptors in vivo and in organello. 1) Cytosolic casein kinase 2 (CK2) phosphorylates the precursor of Tom22 in the cytosol and thereby stimulates its import into the outer membrane. In addition, CK2 also phosphorylates the mitochondrial import protein Mim1, an outer membrane protein that mediates membrane insertion of the precursors of Tom20 and Tom70 (Becker et al., 2008; Hulett et al., 2008; Popov-Celeketic et al., 2008), and thus promotes the import of these two receptors. The assembly of Tom20 with mature Tom22 in the TOM complex is enhanced when Tom22 is in the phosphorylated state. Taken together, CK2 stimulates the biogenesis of the three Tom receptors (Rao et al., 2011; Schmidt et al., 2011). 2) In contrast, cytosolic protein kinase A (PKA) was found to inhibit the receptor activity of Tom70. Phosphorylation by PKA does not affect the biogenesis of the Tom70 precursor but exerts an inhibitory effect on the mature Tom70 receptor and thus impairs the import of metabolite carriers into mitochondria (Schmidt et al., 2011).

We analyzed a possible effect of kinases on the channel protein Tom40. We show that PKA impairs import of the Tom40 precursor into mitochondria. The inhibitory effect is selectively caused by phosphorylation of a specific serine residue of the Tom40 precursor in the cytosol, whereas mature, imported Tom40 is not accessible to phosphorylation by PKA. We conclude that cytosolic kinases not only regulate the biogenesis and activity of Tom receptors, but they also exert an inhibitory effect on the biogenesis of the channel protein Tom40.

RESULTS
Phosphorylation of Tom40 by yeast PKA
The in vitro screen for TOM phosphorylation by Schmidt et al. (2011) led to the prediction of Ser-54 of Tom40 as PKA target site and the demonstration that purified mouse PKA phosphorylates recombinant Saccharomyces cerevisiae Tom40 at this site. It has not been determined whether the phosphorylation takes place in yeast and whether it is of functional relevance. PKA consists of two catalytic subunits and two regulatory (inhibitory) subunits. In yeast the catalytic subunits are encoded by the genes TPK1, TPK2, and TPK3 and the regulatory subunit by BCY1 (Cannon and Tatchell, 1987; Toda et al., 1987a, 1987b; Thevelein, 1994; Zaman et al., 2008; Smets et al., 2010). PKA is activated on fermentable growth conditions that lead to increased intracellular cAMP levels (Brouch, 1991; Thevelein, 1994). cAMP binds to Bcy1, leading to a release of the active catalytic subunits (Taylor et al., 1990; Thevelein, 1994; Tamaki, 2007; Zaman et al., 2008). Bcy1-deficient yeast cells lack cAMP-dependent regulation of PKA activity and are unable to grow under non-fermentable conditions (Matsumoto et al., 1983; Toda et al., 1987a; Cameron et al., 1988).

To test for a possible effect of PKA on Tom40 in vivo, we grew yeast cells on fermentable medium containing sucrose as carbon source (Lemaire et al., 2004; Van de Velde and Thevelein, 2008). We compared bcy1Δ yeast to rho− wild-type yeast as well as to rho− wild-type yeast that lack mitochondrial DNA and are thus also unable to grow on nonfermentable medium. The steady-state protein levels of Tom40 were reduced in bcy1Δ yeast cells in comparison to rho− as well as rho− wild-type yeast (Figure 1A). The levels of several control proteins, including cytosolic kinases, were not affected. Moreover, the levels of Tom70 were not changed, in agreement with the findings of Schmidt et al. (2011) that PKA affects neither the biogenesis nor the level of Tom70 but inhibits the receptor activity of the mature, imported Tom70 (in the study by Schmidt et al., 2011, glucose was used as carbon source). These results suggest that a constitutive activation of PKA exerts an inhibitory influence on the level of Tom40.

To analyze whether Tom40 is a substrate of PKA in a homologous system, we generated a yeast strain expressing protein A–tagged Bcy1. Purification of Bcy1 by affinity chromatography led to the efficient copurification of PKA catalytic subunits, shown here with antibodies directed against Tpk1 (Figure 1B; the protein A tag was removed by cleavage with tobacco etch virus [TEV] protease). On stimulation with 8Br-cAMP, the purified yeast PKA was active and phosphorylated the PKA model substrate Kemptide and the receptor domain of Tom70 in the presence of [γ-32P]ATP (Figure 1C, lane 2; Schmidt et al., 2011). Purified recombinant yeast Tom40 was phosphorylated by yeast PKA in the presence of 8Br-cAMP (Figure 1C, lane 4). The phosphorylation was specific for the predicted PKA target residue Ser-54 since replacement of this serine by glutamic acid blocked the phosphorylation of Tom40 (Figure 1C, lane 6). As an independent assay, we used a yeast strain containing tagged Tpk1 and purified the enzyme. Purified wild-type Tom40, but not the mutant form Tom40S54A, was phosphorylated by Tpk1 (Figure 1D, lanes 3 and 4). We conclude that Tom40 is a substrate of yeast PKA.

PKA phosphorylates the precursor of Tom40
Phospho-affinity (Phos-tag) SDS–PAGE leads to a lower gel mobility of many phosphorylated proteins compared with the nonphosphorylated forms (Kinoshita et al., 2006). We asked whether the phosphorylation of Tom40 at Ser-54 by PKA could be directly monitored by Phos-tag SDS–PAGE. We incubated purified Tom40 with PKA and indeed observed a slower-migrating form that was generated in a PKA- and time-dependent manner (Figure 2A, lanes 2–4). When Ser-54 was replaced by alanine, no phosphorylated form of Tom40 was detected (Figure 2A, lanes 6–8).

When isolated yeast mitochondria were incubated with PKA, however, a phosphorylated form of Tom40 was not detected (Figure 2B; neither mammalian PKA nor yeast PKA in the presence of 8Br-cAMP led to a detectable phosphorylation of Ser-54). Thus mature Tom40 that is stably integrated into the mitochondrial outer membrane was not accessible to PKA, whereas purified Tom40 in detergent was phosphorylated by PKA (Figures 1, C and D, and 2A). We therefore asked whether Tom40 can be phosphorylated in the cytosol. We synthesized the precursor of Tom40 in reticulocyte lysate in the presence of PKA, and indeed observed a slower-migrating form that was generated by Phos-tag SDS–PAGE. We incubated purified Tom40 with PKA and indeed observed a slower-migrating form that was generated in a PKA- and time-dependent manner (Figure 2A, lanes 2–4). When Ser-54 was replaced by alanine, no phosphorylated form of Tom40 was detected (Figure 2A, lanes 6–8).
The assembly pathway of Tom40 involves several steps. On initial import of the precursor by the TOM complex to the intermembrane space side, intermembrane space chaperone complexes transfer Tom40 to the sorting and assembly machinery (SAM complex) of the outer membrane (Model et al., 2001; Kozjak et al., 2003; Paschen et al., 2003; Wiedemann et al., 2003, 2004; Gentle et al., 2004; Hoppins and Nargang, 2004). The interaction of the Tom40 precursor with the SAM complex can be directly monitored by blue native electrophoresis after lysis of the mitochondria with the non-ionic detergent digitonin (Ryan et al., 2001; Wittig et al., 2006; Stožjanovski et al., 2007). The SAM intermediate of ∼250 kDa is followed by a second intermediate (Int-II) of lower molecular mass and finally the assembly of imported Tom40 into the mature TOM complex of ∼400 kDa (Figure 4A, lanes 1–3; Wiedemann et al., 2003; Kutik et al., 2008). When the precursor of Tom40 was phosphorylated by PKA, formation of the assembly steps was considerably impaired. The inhibition occurred already at an early stage, since the generation of the SAM intermediate was impaired (Figure 4A, lanes 4–6). To exclude that PKA inhibited the assembly of the TOM complex in PKA in the cytosol, whereas mature imported Tom40 is not a substrate of PKA.

**Phosphorylation impairs the biogenesis of Tom40**

To analyze the biogenesis of Tom40, we incubated the 35S-labeled precursor with isolated mitochondria. We used the wild-type precursor of Tom40 and two mutant forms of Ser-54. When serine was replaced by alanine, the binding of Tom40 to mitochondria was only mildly affected compared with the wild-type precursor (Figure 3A, lanes 4–9). When serine was replaced by the phosphomimetic residue glutamate, however, binding of Tom40 to mitochondria was reduced (Figure 3A, lanes 1–3). Treatment of mitochondria with sodium carbonate at alkaline pH leads to the extraction of soluble and peripheral membrane proteins, whereas integral membrane proteins remain in the membrane sheets (Fujiki et al., 1982; Stojanovski et al., 2007). Mitochondria were incubated with [35S]Tom40 and then treated at alkaline pH, demonstrating that the replacement of Ser-54 by glutamate considerably reduced the membrane integration of Tom40 (Figure 3B, lanes 1–3).
phosphorylation of Ser-54. Taking the data together, we conclude that phosphorylation by PKA impairs the biogenesis pathway of Tom40 at an early time, that is, at or before formation of the SAM intermediate.

Mitochondria import the nonphosphorylated form of Tom40

The initial stage of Tom40 import, that is, translocation via the TOM complex to the intermembrane space side, does not involve a blue native–stable intermediate and thus cannot be directly monitored by native gel analysis (Wiedemann et al., 2004). Therefore we used the accessibility to externally added protease to determine a possible role of PKA phosphorylation in this initial import step. To distinguish between phosphorylated and nonphosphorylated Tom40 precursors, we analyzed the mitochondria by Phos-tag SDS–PAGE. The nonphosphorylated Tom40 was protected against added proteinase K, indicating that it was imported into mitochondria (Figure 5A; Model et al., 2001; Wiedemann et al., 2003). The phosphorylated Tom40 precursor, however, was almost completely degraded by proteinase K (Figure 5A), demonstrating that the precursor was still located on the mitochondrial surface and not imported.

Tom20, Tom22, and Tom70 function as receptors for import of nuclear-encoded precursor proteins into mitochondria (Kiebler et al., 1993; Brix et al., 1997, 1999; van Wilpe et al., 1999; Yamano et al., 2008; Rimmer et al., 2011; Shiota et al., 2011). Pretreatment of mitochondria with trypsin removes the receptor domains and inhibits preprotein import into mitochondria (Ryan et al., 2001). Trypsin pretreatment considerably impaired the interaction of the nonphosphorylated precursor of Tom40 with mitochondria but not the phosphorylated precursor (Figure 5B). We thus studied mutant mitochondria deficient in Tom receptors. The import of radiolabeled phosphorylated form of Tom40. Taking the data together, we conclude that phosphorylation by PKA impairs the biogenesis pathway of Tom40 at an early time that is, at or before formation of the SAM intermediate.

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In general, we imported two small Tom precursors—Tom6 and Tom7—whose assembly can be efficiently monitored by blue native electrophoresis (Dembowski et al., 2001; Model et al., 2001). Both proteins were assembled into the TOM complex independent of the presence or absence of PKA (Figure 4B).

To analyze whether the inhibitory effect of PKA was specific for the phosphorylation of Ser-54 of Tom40, we compared formation of the SAM intermediate of the wild-type Tom40 precursor to the mutant precursor Tom40S54A. In the absence of PKA, wild-type precursor and mutant precursor accumulated at the SAM after a short-term import reaction (Figure 4C, lanes 1 and 4). PKA only inhibited the formation of the SAM intermediate of the wild-type precursor and not of the mutant precursor (Figure 4C, lanes 2 and 3), demonstrating that PKA inhibits the biogenesis of Tom40 selectively via phosphorylation of Ser-54. Taking the data together, we conclude that phosphorylation by PKA impairs the biogenesis pathway of Tom40 at an early time that is, at or before formation of the SAM intermediate.
FIGURE 4: Phosphorylation of Tom40 by PKA impairs formation of the SAM import intermediate. (A) \(^{35}\)S-Labeled precursor of Tom40 was synthesized in the presence or absence of PKA (New England BioLabs) as indicated and incubated with isolated yeast wild-type mitochondria for the indicated periods at 25°C. The mitochondria were solubilized in digitonin-containing buffer and analyzed by blue native electrophoresis and digital autoradiography. (B) \(^{35}\)S-Labeled precursors of Tom6 and Tom7 were imported into isolated mitochondria in the presence or absence of PKA. The mitochondria were analyzed as described for A. (C) \(^{35}\)S-Labeled precursors of Tom40 WT and Tom40SS4A precursors were synthesized in the presence or absence of PKA and incubated with isolated mitochondria for 5 min at 25°C. The mitochondria were analyzed as described for A.

Tom40 precursor was strongly inhibited in mitochondria lacking the central receptor Tom22 (Figure 5C, lanes 11 and 12). As observed with wild-type mitochondria, the phosphorylated Tom40 interacting with tom22\(\Delta\) mitochondria was digested by externally added protease (Figure 5C, lanes 13–16), demonstrating that phosphorylated Tom40 was not imported into mitochondria. Similarly, mitochondria lacking Tom20 or Tom70 were impaired in the interaction with nonphosphorylated Tom40, whereas the binding of phosphorylated Tom40 to the isolated mitochondria was not affected by lack of the receptors (Figure 5, D and E).

Swelling of mitochondria leads to a release of intermembrane space chaperones and thus inhibits the biogenesis of Tom40 (Wiedemann et al., 2004). Swollen mitochondria (mitoplasts) were impaired in the interaction with nonphosphorylated Tom40 but not phosphorylated Tom40 (Figure 5F). tim10-2 mutant mitochondria are impaired in the activity of the Tim9–Tim10 intermembrane space chaperone and thus in the import of Tom40 (Truscott et al., 2002; Wiedemann et al., 2004). Only nonphosphorylated Tom40, and not the phosphorylated form of Tom40, was affected by the tim10-2 mutant (Figure 5G).

Taking the data together indicates that the nonphosphorylated precursor of Tom40 shows the characteristics of specific import into mitochondria, including dependence on Tom receptors and intermembrane space chaperones. In contrast, phosphorylated Tom40 remains on the mitochondrial surface in a receptor-independent manner and is not imported into mitochondria, indicating that the binding observed with mitochondria is nonproductive. We conclude that mitochondria specifically import the nonphosphorylated form of Tom40.

PKA inhibits Tom40 import independently of Tom70 phosphorylation

Phosphorylation of the receptor Tom70 by PKA impairs the interaction of the cytosolic chaperone Hsp70 with Tom70 (Schmidt et al., 2011). Hsp70 delivers hydrophobic precursor proteins such as the inner membrane metabolite carriers to Tom70 (Young et al., 2003; Li et al., 2009; Zara et al., 2009). PKA selectively phosphorylates Ser-174 of Tom70, which is located close to the chaperone-binding site of Tom70, and thus disturbs the Hsp70–Tom70 interaction (Schmidt et al., 2011). We asked whether the phosphorylation of Tom70 influenced the import of Tom40. In yeast mitochondria in which Ser-174 of Tom70 was replaced by alanine, the import of carrier precursors was enhanced, whereas a replacement of Ser-174 by glutamate inhibited carrier import (Schmidt et al., 2011). In the case of Tom40, however, neither replacement of Ser-174 by alanine nor replacement by glutamate affected the import of the precursor in comparison to wild-type mitochondria (Figure 6, lanes 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, and 10). Phosphorylation of the Tom40 precursor by PKA inhibited its import into Tom70SS4A and Tom70T174E mitochondria like that into wild-type mitochondria (Figure 6, lanes 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, and 12). Given that Ser-174 is the only PKA target site of Tom70 (Schmidt et al., 2011), these results demonstrate that the inhibitory effect of PKA on the import of Tom40 occurs independently of the phosphorylation of Tom70.

DISCUSSION

We report a new mechanism of how cytosolic kinases regulate the preprotein translocase of the outer mitochondrial membrane. PKA phosphorylates the precursor of Tom40, the channel-forming core component of the TOM complex, and thus inhibits the import of Tom40 into mitochondria. So far, cytosolic kinases had been shown...
FIGURE 5: Mitochondria import the nonphosphorylated precursor of Tom40, whereas phosphorylated Tom40 remains on the mitochondrial surface. (A) \([^{35}S]Tom40\) was synthesized in the presence of PKA (New England BioLabs) and incubated with isolated wild-type mitochondria for the indicated periods at 25°C. The mitochondria were treated with proteinase K (Prot. K; Stojanovski et al., 2007) where indicated and analyzed by Phos-tag SDS–PAGE and digital autoradiography. (B) \([^{35}S]Tom40\) was synthesized in the presence or absence of PKA and imported into mitochondria that had been pretreated with trypsin (Ryan et al., 2001) as indicated. The mitochondria were analyzed by Phos-tag SDS–PAGE. (C) \([^{35}S]Tom40\) was imported into mitochondria, which were isolated from \(tom22\Delta\) yeast or the corresponding wild-type (WT) strain, in the presence or absence of PKA. The mitochondria were treated with proteinase K where indicated and analyzed by Phos-tag SDS–PAGE. (D) \([^{35}S]Tom40\) was imported into mitochondria, which were isolated from \(tom20\Delta\) and wild-type yeast, in the presence or absence of PKA. The mitochondria were analyzed by Phos-tag SDS–PAGE. (E) \([^{35}S]Tom40\) was imported into mitochondria, which were isolated from \(tom70\Delta\) and wild-type yeast, in the presence of PKA. The mitochondria were treated with proteinase K where indicated and analyzed by Phos-tag SDS–PAGE. (F) Mitochondria were preincubated in isotonic or hypotonic (swelling) buffer for 30 min on ice (Stojanovski et al., 2007). The mitochondria/mitoplasts were reisolated and incubated with \([^{35}S]Tom40\) in the presence or absence of PKA and analyzed by Phos-tag SDS–PAGE. (G) \([^{35}S]Tom40\) was imported into mitochondria, which were isolated from \(tim10-2\) yeast or the corresponding wild-type strain, in the presence or absence of PKA. The mitochondria were analyzed by Phos-tag SDS–PAGE.
The biogenesis pathway of Tom40 can be dissected into several steps, involving transport by the TOM complex, intermembrane space chaperones, and the SAM complex (Model et al., 2002, 2003; Pagliarini and Dixon, 2006; Tamaki, 2007; Zaman et al., 2008; De Rasmo et al., 2008) or replaced by alanine (this study) without blocking Tom40 targeting. Harsman et al. (2010) reconstituted purified Tom40WT and Tom40S54E into planar lipid bilayers and observed a similar gating behavior of the Tom40 channel of wild type and mutant, indicating that the replacement of Ser-54 by the phosphomimetic residue glutamate did not disturb the overall folding of Tom40. Of interest, the association rate of positively charged presequence peptides with Tom40 was altered when Ser-54 was replaced by glutamate (Harsman et al., 2010), suggesting that modification of this residue can affect the interaction properties of Tom40 in vitro. We analyzed the biogenesis of Tom40S54E in organello and observed an impairment of import into mitochondria. Using PKA, we showed that phosphorylation of Ser-54 inhibits the translocation of Tom40 via the TOM complex, demonstrating that phospho–Ser-54 interferes with the targeting process. Although the exact nature of the Tom40 targeting signal remains elusive, the strong inhibitory effect of a single phosphorylation event provides an efficient mechanism to control the import of Tom40.

Taking our results together with the findings by Schmidt et al., (2011), we conclude that cytosolic kinases regulate biogenesis and function of the TOM complex at multiple levels. The main protein entry gate of mitochondria is not functioning autonomously but is tightly integrated into a network of regulatory kinases.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

**Yeast strains and cloning**

Most *S. cerevisiae* strains used in this study are derived from the strain YPH499 (MATa, ade2-101, his3-D200, leu2-D1, ura3-52, trp1-D63, lys2-801; Sikorski and Hieter, 1989). YPH499-top40Δ+ pFL39-TOM40 was made by transforming the shuffling strain top40Δ+Yep-TOM40 (Kutik et al., 2008) with the plasmid pFL39-TOM40 as described (Schmidt et al., 2011). The mutations Tom40S54A and Tom40S54E were generated by site-directed mutagenesis. Clones were verified by sequencing. The Tom70S174E and Tom70S174A yeast strains, tom20Δ strain, tom22Δ strain, tom70Δ strain, tim10-2 strain, and bcy1Δ strain have been described previously (Moczko et al., 1994; van Wilpe et al., 1999; Truscott et al., 2002; Stojanovski et al., 2007; Schmidt et al., 2011). The Bcy1Pro5A strain was constructed by amplifying the HIS3MX6-pNOP-Pro/A-TEV plasmid (Meisinger et al., 2007) with primers A1 (5’ ATTACAACAGCGATGTTTTTTTAAAAGACCAA- CAGTAAAGATTTAACCCGGAATCGATCTCAGTCTG 3’) and A2 (5’ GTTCCTGACAGCTGTTGCAAATTTGGTCTCCCTTGG- GGACAAAGAAGTATCCGTCCTCACTCTAGTTGAGA 3’) and integrating into the BCY1 open reading frame by homologous recombination. The Tom70WT/pET19 and Kemptide-GST/pETGExct constructs were reported previously (Brix et al., 1997; Schmidt et al., 2011).

**Isolation of mitochondria and preparation of yeast protein extracts**

Yeast strains were typically grown on nonfermentable YPG medium (1% [wt/vol] yeast extract, 2% [wt/vol] bactopeptone, 3% [wt/vol]
glycerol, pH 5.0) at 23°C until an OD_{600} of 0.5–1.0 was reached. Mitochondria were isolated by differential centrifugation (Meisinger et al., 2006a). Mitochondria were resuspended in SEM buffer (250 mM sucrose, 1 mM EDTA, and 10 mM 3-(N-morpholinopro- 
apanesulfonic acid–KOH, pH 7.2), adjusted to a protein concentra- 
tion of 10 mg/ml, frozen in liquid nitrogen, and stored at −80°C. For 
preparation of yeast protein extracts, yeast cells were grown on fer- 
mentable YPS medium (1% [wt/vol] yeast extract, 2% [wt/vol] bacto- 
peptone, 2% [wt/vol] sucrose), and extracts corresponding to the 
same OD_{600} were prepared by postalkaline lysis.

**Purification of yeast PKA**

The yeast strain expressing Bcy1_{prot} and the corresponding wild- 
type strain (YPH99) were grown in YPG medium at 30°C to an OD_{600} of 2.0, harvested, and lysed as described for the preparation of mito-
chondria (Meisinger et al., 2006a) but using homogenization 
buffer with 2 mg/ml bovine serum albumin, 2 mM phenylmeth- 
ysulfonyl fluoride (PMSF), and complete EDTA-free protease 
hidators (Roche, Indianapolis, IN). The lysate was cleared by 
centrifugation (30,000 × g) and was added to human immunoglob-
ulin G–coupled Sepharose beads. Unbound material was removed 
by washing with excess homogenization buffer. The Bcy1-Tpk com-
plexes were eluted by cleavage with TEV protease in homogeniza-
tion buffer. After addition of 10–20% (vol/vol) glycerol and 2 mM 
dithiothreitol (DTT), the eluates were stored at −80°C. Alternatively, 
a yeast strain expressing Tpk1_{top} was grown on fermentable YPD 
medium (1% [wt/vol] yeast extract, 2% [wt/vol] glycerol, 1 mM PMSF, 
1x PhosS-top [Roche]). Eluates were stored at −80°C.

**In vitro phosphorylation assays**

Tom40 was purified from inclusion bodies as described (Hill et al., 
1998). The inclusion bodies were solubilized in urea buffer (8 M urea, 
50 mM Tris/ HCl pH 8.0, 1 mM EDTA, and 100 mM DTT). Kemptide-GST 
and Tom70_{cd} were prepared as described (Schmidt et al., 2011).

In vitro phosphorylation reactions with recombinant mouse PKA 
(New England Biolabs, Ipswich, MA) and [γ-33P]ATP were performed 
as described (Schmidt et al., 2011). For analysis by Phos-tag SDS– 
PAGE and immunoblotting, 5–10 mM ATP and 50 U/μl PKA (New 
England Biolabs) were used. Tom40 in vitro phosphorylation was 
described (Schmidt et al., 2011). The kinase was eluted by 
cleavage with TEV protease in kinase buffer (100 mM Tris, pH 7.4, 
100 mM NaCl, 10 mM MgCl₂, 20% glycerol, 1 mM PMSF, 1x PhosS-
top [Roche]). Eluates were stored at −80°C.

**Protein import assays**

33S-Labeled precursor proteins were generated by in vitro transla-
tion and incubated with isolated mitochondria in import buffer as 
described (Ryan et al., 2001; Stojanovski et al., 2007). Where indi-
cated, the reactions were supplemented with 50 U/μl recombinant 
PKA (New England BioLabs) during translation or import. The im-
port efficiency of different precursor forms was directly compared by 
adjusting the levels of the radiolabeled proteins added to the im-
pport reactions.

The import reactions were stopped on ice, and mitochondria 
were reisolated, washed in SEM buffer, and either lysed directly in 
sample buffer or treated with 100 mM Na₂CO₃ (pH 11.5) and cen-
trifuged at 100,000 × g for 1 h before lysis in sample buffer to test for 
membrane integration (Fujiki et al., 1982; Stojanovski et al., 2007). 
SDS–PAGE or Phos-tag SDS–PAGE was followed by digital autora-
diography (GE Healthcare, Piscataway, NJ). To analyze protein com-
plex formation, mitochondria were lysed in 1% digitonin-containing 
buffer and analyzed by blue native electrophoresis (Ryan et al., 
2001; Wittig et al., 2006; Stojanovski et al., 2007) and digital 
autoradiography.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

We thank C. Gerbeth and B. Kulawiak for discussion. This work was 
supported by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, Excellence 
Initiative of the German Federal and State Governments (GSC-4 
Spermann Graduate School; EXC 294 BIOSS), Trinationales Gradui-
ertenkolleg GRK 1478, Sonderforschungsbereich 746, Bundesminis-
terium für Bildung und Forschung (Dynamo), Landesforschungspreis 
Baden-Württemberg, and Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Program.

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**Volume 23 May 1, 2012**

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