

data on a variety of animals. The original foraging data on bees (Fig. 3a) were collected by recording the landing sites of individual bees¹⁵. We find that, when the nectar concentration is low, the flight-length distribution decays as in equation (1), with $\mu \approx 2$ (Fig. 3b). (The exponent μ is not affected by short flights.) We also find the value $\mu \approx 2$ for the foraging-time distribution of the wandering albatross⁶ (Fig. 3b, inset) and deer (Fig. 3c, d) in both wild and fenced areas¹⁶ (foraging times and lengths are assumed to be proportional). The value $2 \leq \mu \leq 2.5$ found for amoebas⁴ is also consistent with the predicted Lévy-flight motion.

The above theoretical arguments and numerical simulations suggest that $\mu \approx 2$ is the optimal value for a search in any dimension. This is analogous to the behaviour of random walks whose mean-square displacement is proportional to the number of steps in any dimension¹⁷. Furthermore, equations (4) and (5) describe the correct scaling properties even in the presence of short-range correlations in the directions and lengths of the flights. Short-range correlations can alter the width of the distribution $P(l)$, but cannot change μ , so our findings remain unchanged. Hence, learning, predator-prey relationships and other short-term memory effects become unimportant in the long-time, long-distance limit. A finite λ ensures that the longest flights are not energetically impossible. Our findings may also be relevant to the study of population dynamics. Specifically, each value of μ is related to a different type of redistribution kernel¹⁸; for example, $\mu \geq 3$ corresponds to the normal (or similar) distribution, while $\mu = 2$ corresponds to a Cauchy distribution (see also ref. 19). Finally, note that non-destructive foraging is more realistic than destructive foraging because, in nature, 'targets' such as flowers, fish and berries are often found in patches that regenerate. Organisms are often in clusters for reproductive purposes, and sometimes such clusters may have fractal shapes²⁰. Thus, the forager can revisit the same food patch many times. We simulated destructive foraging in various patchy and fractal target-site distributions and found results consistent with non-destructive foraging with uniformly distributed target sites. □

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Water stress inhibits plant photosynthesis by decreasing coupling factor and ATP

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Water stress substantially alters plant metabolism, decreasing plant growth and photosynthesis^{1–4} and profoundly affecting ecosystems and agriculture, and thus human societies⁵. There is controversy over the mechanisms by which stress decreases photosynthetic assimilation of CO₂. Two principal effects are invoked^{2,4}: restricted diffusion of CO₂ into the leaf, caused by stomatal closure^{6–8}, and inhibition of CO₂ metabolism^{9–11}. Here we show, in leaves of sunflower (*Helianthus annuus* L.), that stress decreases CO₂ assimilation more than it slows O₂ evolution, and that the effects are not reversed by high concentrations of CO₂^{12,13}. Stress decreases the amounts of ATP^{9,11} and ribulose biphosphate found in the leaves, correlating with reduced CO₂ assimilation¹¹, but the amount and activity of ribulose biphosphate carboxylase-oxygenase (Rubisco) do not correlate. We show that ATP-synthase (coupling factor) decreases with stress and conclude that photosynthetic assimilation of CO₂ by stressed leaves is not limited by CO₂ diffusion but by inhibition of ribulose biphosphate synthesis, related to lower ATP content resulting from loss of ATP synthase.

When land plants absorb less water from the environment through their roots than is transpired (evaporated) from their leaves, water stress develops. The relative water content (RWC), water potential (ψ) and turgor of cells are decreased and the concentrations of ions and other solutes in the cells are increased, thereby decreasing the osmotic potential^{1–4}. Stomatal pores in the leaf surface progressively close^{2,6,13,14}, decreasing the conductance to water vapour (g_{H_2O}) and thus slowing transpiration and the rate at which water deficits develop^{1–4,6,11,14}. Also, photosynthetic assimilation of CO₂ (A) decreases, often concomitant with, and frequently ascribed to, decreasing conductance to CO₂ (g_{CO_2}) (refs 2–4, 6, 8). However, decreased A is also considered to be caused by inhibition of the photosynthetic carbon reduction (Calvin) cycle^{1,2,9,11}, although there is uncertainty over which biochemical processes are most sensitive to stress^{2,3,6,15,16}. We assessed whether A is controlled by g_{CO_2} or by metabolic factors by measuring CO₂ and O₂ exchange, using large CO₂ concentrations (up to 0.1 mol mol⁻¹, equivalent to 10% volume/volume) to overcome small g_{CO_2} (refs 8, 12–14), and by determining important indicators of photosynthetic biochemistry (for example, ribulose biphosphate (RuBP) and Rubisco of the Calvin cycle)^{9,10,16,17}. We considered the role of ATP in particular^{2,9,10} because, although inhibition of photophosphorylation has been demonstrated^{9,10} but is not widely accepted^{13,4,6,18,19}, it may explain the decrease in RuBP and A (refs 2, 11).

In the chloroplasts of leaf cells, capture of photons causes electron transport in the thylakoid membranes, evolution of O₂ (refs 2–4)

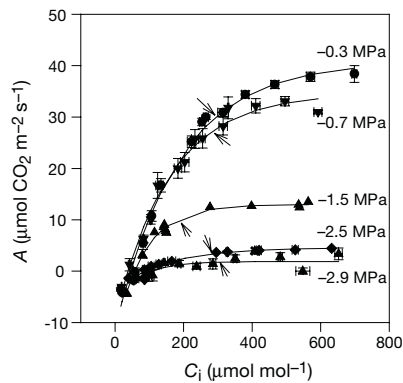


Figure 1 Rate of photosynthetic CO₂ assimilation (*A*) in sunflower (*H. annuus* L.) as a function of the calculated CO₂ concentration inside the leaf mesophyll (*c_i*) for leaves of different water potential (ψ , shown against each curve) measured at 800 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ PAR and 25 °C. The *c_i* values calculated from the particular photosynthetic rate and stomatal conductance (the operating points) at 360 $\mu\text{mol CO}_2 \text{mol}^{-1}$ for each water potential are indicated by arrows on the curves.

and generation of NADPH and the transthylakooid proton gradient ($\Delta p\text{H}$) which is responsible for ATP synthesis by ATP synthase (coupling factor, $\text{CF}_1\text{-CF}_0$)^{10,19,20}. The Calvin cycle uses ATP and NADPH to synthesize RuBP, which reacts with CO₂ in a reaction catalysed by Rubisco. Owing to g_{CO_2} , this uptake of CO₂ decreases its concentration within the leaf (*c_i*) relative to that in the atmosphere (*c_a*)^{2-4,16,21}: $c_i = c_a - A/g_{\text{CO}_2}$ where $g_{\text{CO}_2} = g_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}/1.6$. The factor 1.6 is the ratio of the diffusivities *D* of H₂O and CO₂ in air ($D_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}/D_{\text{CO}_2} = 1.6$)^{7,13}. As g_{CO_2} decreases with stress, *A* may diminish because of small *c_i*. We tested this by measuring the relationship between *A* and *c_i* using large *c_a* to overcome limiting g_{CO_2} , and the effects of stress on electron transport, by measuring O₂ evolution and NADPH content^{4,18,22,23}. If stress inhibits the Calvin cycle, for example by decreasing Rubisco amounts and activities, then RuBP content will decrease but ATP will increase. If the capacity for ATP synthesis is limiting, indicated by, for example, lower ATP synthase content, then both will decrease^{2,16,18,23}.

The *A/c_i* curves (Fig. 1) show that both maximum rate of CO₂ assimilation (*A*_{max}) and carboxylation efficiency, ϕ ($\phi = A/\mu\text{mol CO}_2 \text{mol}^{-1}$), decreased with stress, as observed in wheat^{1,2} and sunflower¹. The operating *c_i* (Fig. 1) decreased as ψ decreased to about -1.5 MPa, but increased with further stress. This shows some stomatal limitation but greatly impaired metabolism. However, if *c_i* is incorrectly determined this interpretation is invalid^{2-4,14,21,24-26}. Calculation of *c_i* assumes a uniform and unimodal frequency distribution of g_{CO_2} over the leaf, with no 'patchy stomata'^{14,24-26}. We established that there was no heterogeneity of stomatal conductance by exposing the leaf areas on which *A* was measured to ¹⁴CO₂, as previously shown for sunflower¹¹ and in other analyses¹⁴. Calculation of *c_i* assumes that movement of CO₂ and H₂O across the leaf cuticle, when the stomata are closed, conforms to $D_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}/D_{\text{CO}_2} = 1.6$. However, CO₂ movement may be much restricted²¹. Hence, our calculations of *c_i* may be erroneous. We recalculated *c_i* for the most severely stressed leaves using the values of *A* but assuming different *D*_{CO₂} values. A 30% decrease in *D*_{CO₂} progressively reduced *c_i*, increasing ϕ but not *A*_{max}. Smaller values of *D*_{CO₂} led to greatly underestimated *c_i* and unrealistically increased ϕ , showing that the error is small and does not substantially alter the *A/c_i* relationships in Fig. 1. This indicates that, despite the very small g_{CO_2} , *c_i* is not substantially depleted^{2,11} and that photosynthetic metabolism is inhibited by water stress.

A may also be limited by the small conductance of the pathway of CO₂ movement between the intercellular spaces and active sites of Rubisco^{2,3}. To eliminate these, we measured *A* with increasing CO₂ concentration^{2,4,12,13}, but even at *c_a* = 9 mmol CO₂ mol⁻¹ (0.9%) in a normal gas exchange system we observed no stimulation under

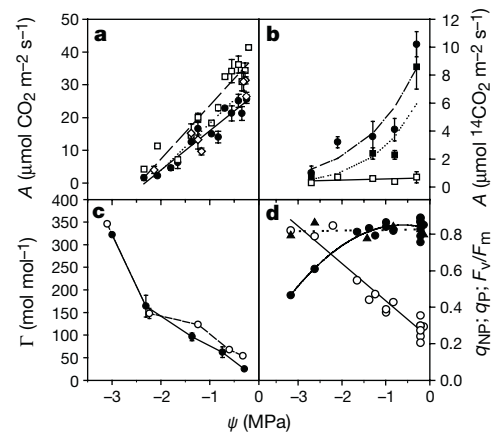


Figure 2 Photosynthetic processes of sunflower (*H. annuus* L.) leaves as a function of leaf water potential (ψ). **a**, Rate of photosynthesis (*A*) measured at three CO₂ concentrations in the atmosphere: 0.36 mmol mol⁻¹ (0.036%) (circles); 1 mmol mol⁻¹ (0.1%) (diamonds); 9 mmol mol⁻¹ (0.9%) (squares). **b**, *A* determined from ¹⁴CO₂ supplied to leaf discs under conditions used in the oxygen electrode, at CO₂ concentrations of 10 mmol mol⁻¹ (1%) (circles); 50 mmol mol⁻¹ (5%) (filled squares); 100 mmol mol⁻¹ (10%) (open squares). **c**, Equilibrium CO₂ concentration, Γ , measured at 800 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ PAR and 25 °C in 0.21 mol mol⁻¹ O₂ (21%) (open circles) or 0.02 mol mol⁻¹ O₂ (2%) (filled circles). **d**, Photochemical quenching, q_p (filled circles); non-photochemical quenching, q_{NP} (open circles); F_v/F_m (triangles), derived from chlorophyll *a* fluorescence measurements.

stress (Fig. 2a). Indeed, *A* ceased at the same RWC (50%: $\psi \approx -2$ MPa) for all values of *c_a*. This agrees with the findings of ref. 12 for water-stressed (but not abscisic acid-treated) leaves, but disagrees with those of ref. 8.

Oxygen evolution is considered to be evidence for continued CO₂ metabolism under stress^{3,4,8}. We measured O₂ evolution in different *c_a*. At $\psi = -0.6$ MPa in 10 mmol CO₂ mol⁻¹, the rate of O₂ evolution was 29.9 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$, decreasing by ~45% and 60% at $\psi = -1.5$ and -2.5 MPa, respectively. Oxygen evolution was not stimulated by 50 mmol CO₂ mol⁻¹ (5%) compared with 10 mmol CO₂ mol⁻¹ at $\psi = -0.6$ MPa, but increased by 28% and 19% at $\psi = -1.5$ and -2.5 MPa, respectively, showing some diffusion limitation. Increasing *c_a* to 100 mmol CO₂ mol⁻¹ (10%) completely inhibited O₂ evolution irrespective of stress. We tested whether CO₂ assimilation (*A*) continues during O₂ evolution with decreasing ψ by measuring ¹⁴CO₂ assimilation as ¹⁴C accumulation in organic compounds at high *c_a*. *A* decreased (Fig. 2b) with stress irrespective of CO₂, and 0.1 mol mol⁻¹ (10%) CO₂ completely inhibited CO₂ assimilation as well as O₂ evolution, similar to the results of ref. 11 but contrary to those of ref. 8. If O₂ evolution depends on CO₂ influx and assimilation in the leaf^{8,4}, ¹⁴C should have accumulated. However, it did not, despite similar characteristics and pathways of movement of O₂ and CO₂, indicating that O₂ evolution under stress may not be dependent on Calvin cycle function.

Metabolic inhibition of *A* is also shown by the progressive increase in the equilibrium CO₂ compensation point (Γ), measured on whole, detached pre-stressed leaves, as stress increased (Fig. 2c). This increase occurred at an O₂ concentration of 0.21 mol mol⁻¹ (that is, current atmospheric concentration of 21%), as observed for *Triticum aestivum* and *H. annuus*^{2,13}. An O₂ concentration (0.02 mol mol⁻¹ or 2%) that prevents glycolate pathway photorespiration^{2,27} decreased Γ compared with 0.21 mol O₂ mol⁻¹ over the range $\psi = -0.3$ to -1.8 MPa, but not at smaller (more negative) ψ , and did not prevent Γ from increasing with stress. This may be related to respiration (by the tricarboxylic acid cycle), which, in darkness at 0.21 mol O₂ mol⁻¹, decreased by about 60% as ψ fell from -0.3 to -3.0 MPa (data not shown), continuing even when *A* had ceased. This confirms that *A* decreases more than respiration with increasing stress^{2,9}. Thus, under stress, dark respiration determined Γ (which was also increased by photorespiration) but

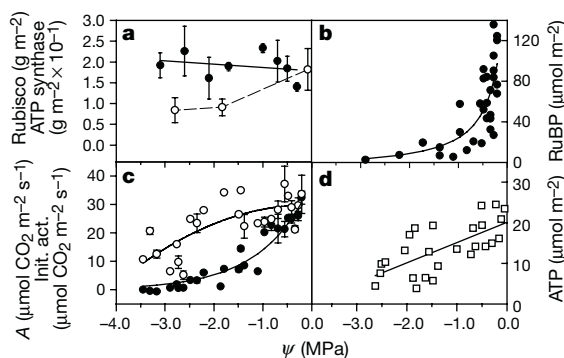


Figure 3 Biochemical composition of sunflower (*H. annuus* L.) leaves as a function of water potential (ψ). **a**, Amounts (m^{-2}) of ribulose biphosphate carboxylase-oxygenase (filled circles) and ATP synthase (open circles). **b**, Amount of ribulose biphosphate. **c**, Rate of photosynthetic CO_2 assimilation, A (filled circles) and the initial activity (init. act.) of ribulose biphosphate carboxylase-oxygenase (open circles). **d**, Amount of ATP.

photorespiration ceased at severe stress. Further evidence for a large change in photosynthetic metabolism caused by stress is provided by chlorophyll *a* fluorescence²⁸, with greatly increasing photochemical quenching (q_{NP}) and decreasing chemical quenching (q_P) (refs 2, 4) but no change in the variable-to-maximum fluorescence ratio (F_v/F_m) (Fig. 2d), showing that the efficiency of open photosystem II reaction centres was not impaired. This suggests that photoinhibition^{28,29}, often considered to be a primary effect of stress^{3,4,28} caused by CO_2 limitation, was not important in our experiments, as seen in sunflower²⁹ but not in other studies⁴.

We conclude that water stress does not inhibit A by decreasing CO_2 diffusion (occurring even in elevated CO_2) or by preventing O_2 production and electron transport, but by inhibition of the Calvin cycle.

What in the Calvin cycle is impaired by water stress? Amounts of Rubisco^{2,11,15} per unit leaf area remained approximately constant (Fig. 3a), despite leaf shrinkage, whereas RuBP content (Fig. 3b) was severely decreased by very mild stress, confirming earlier results¹¹. Rubisco activity was decreased only by relatively severe stress (Fig. 3c) and did correlate with the decrease in A (Fig. 3c), although the decrease in A did correlate with the decrease in RuBP as shown¹¹. If Rubisco were inhibited, then RuBP would accumulate relative to the decrease in A , even though the Calvin cycle is autocatalytic and decreased A would decrease synthesis of RuBP^{2,16}. The 3-phosphoglyceric acid (3-PGA) content per unit leaf area was unaffected by water deficit (data not shown). However, this is expected, as respiration, which we have confirmed is relatively less affected by stress than A , produces 3-PGA, thus obscuring Calvin cycle function¹⁶.

ATP content decreased with increasing stress (Fig. 3d), indicating that stress inhibits ATP synthesis rather than the Calvin cycle *per se*^{2,9,10} (disagreeing with ref. 18). If the Calvin cycle is inhibited then ATP content should rise, as in transgenic plants with much decreased phosphoribulokinase activity²³. Decreased ATP indicates that ATP synthesis may be impaired, although increased ATP consumption cannot be excluded². As respiration continues in stressed leaves, although at a smaller rate than in unstressed leaves, it could possibly maintain a relatively large ATP content. However, if the capacity for phosphorylation by dark respiration in leaves is smaller than that for photophosphorylation, decreased ATP is more likely to be caused by inhibition of photophosphorylation^{9,10}. We measured ATP synthase to assess whether loss of this enzyme was related to decreased ATP content. The amount of ATP synthase per m^2 decreased progressively with stress (Fig. 3a). The ATP content per m^2 correlates strongly with the ratio of ATP synthase to Rubisco ($\text{ATP} = -4.07 + 1.91 (\% \text{ ATP synthase/Rubisco})$; $r^2 = 0.99$). We conclude that decreased ATP content is related to a decrease in ATP synthase with increasing stress. Decreasing ATP synthase in leaves by transformation with antisense

had very similar effects to water stress, with increased non-photochemical and decreased photochemical quenching, explained by decreased ATP synthesis¹⁷.

ATP synthase is composed of CF_0 , embedded in the thylakoid membrane, attached to CF_1 , which projects into the chloroplast stroma²⁰. ATP is synthesized by physical rotation of components that alters the conformation of the active enzyme sites, driven by movement of protons through the complex as a consequence of the ΔpH between thylakoid lumen and stroma^{2,4,20}. Catalytic activity of ATP synthase must depend on very stringent spatial arrangements within and between the subunits. Ionic concentration affects ATP synthase activity and binding between CF_1 and CF_0 *in vivo*²⁰. Large magnesium concentrations decrease photophosphorylation of chloroplasts isolated from stressed leaves^{9,10}, providing a mechanism for the effects of decreasing ψ and RWC on RuBP content and CO_2 assimilation¹¹. We calculate that magnesium concentrations in the chloroplasts of leaves used in our experiment increased twofold between -0.3 and -3 MPa (95% to 50% RWC). As it is the amount of CF_1 that decreases, binding between CF_1 and CF_0 is probably affected, although concentrated Mg^{2+} may also impair catalysis: these aspects require further examination. Differences between ATP synthase from chloroplasts and that from mitochondria, and in their environments²⁰, may underlie the different responses of photosynthesis and respiration to stress. ATP synthesis depends on ΔpH , which is large under stress, judging from the greatly increased q_{NP} (refs 2, 20, 28), and also in leaves with decreased ATP synthase content¹⁷. Loss of CF_1 must block proton flux out of the thylakoid, causing a large ΔpH (and large non-photochemical quenching), so lack of energy does not decrease ATP.

The decrease in A correlates with decreased ATP and ATP synthase. However, ATP content with severe stress was still 30% of that without stress, so A might be expected to continue. This ATP may not be in the chloroplast, or the concentration may be insufficient for RuBP synthesis^{2,11,16,30}. A RuBP concentration below $\sim 3\text{--}5 \text{ mol mol}^{-1}$ of Rubisco active sites, required for A_{max} in unstressed plants, would decrease A (ref. 11) and may increase concentrations of inhibitors that decrease catalytic activity³⁰. We show that at $\sim 2, 1.5$ and $0.5 \text{ mol RuBP mol}^{-1}$ sites, A decreased by 25, 80 and almost 100%, consistent with earlier analysis of water-stressed¹¹ and phosphate-deficient²² plants.

Inhibition of ATP synthase and large q_{NP} are consistent with continued O_2 evolution and electron transport²⁸. Our measurements show that the reduction state of the pyridine nucleotides in stressed leaves did not alter significantly between $\psi = -0.5$ and -2 MPa, the ratio $\text{NADH+NADPH/NAD+NADP}$ remaining constant at 0.14 (data not shown). Such conditions are damaging to photosynthetic and cellular metabolism¹⁻⁴, with increased production of active oxygen species which damage lipids, proteins and so on^{2,4,28}. In water-stressed leaves, particularly under high solar radiation, decreased A removes the primary sink for reductant and energy^{2,4,18}, although photorespiration dissipates energy^{2-4,27} (however, this is disputed⁷) until A and any internal recycling of CO_2 ceases. Energy dissipation in the chloroplast, for example, by the violaxanthin cycle, may not be sufficient and damage, such as photoinhibition, may ensue^{2-4,28}. Inhibition of ATP synthase has been rejected (based on indirect assessment of CF_1 activity) in favour of reduced g_{CO_2} as a cause of decreased A in slowly but severely water-stressed field-grown sunflowers^{6,8,19}. Possibly, in the field, adjustment of the root/shoot ratio and $g_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ may precede or be concomitant with the metabolic effects of stress, thus ameliorating or avoiding its impacts¹. Metabolic effects have been ascribed to damage caused by rapid stressing^{4,6,16}, but our studies were on relatively slowly stressed plants and resulted, after several days of severe stress, in irreversible damage and death. The loss of capacity to synthesize ATP, in conjunction with the reductant status, may explain many aspects of metabolism under stress². We suggest, as an example, that inadequate ATP impairs synthesis of proteins³¹, thus endangering cell

functions². However, it may stimulate accumulation of 'heat-shock' (chaperone) proteins, because phosphorylation represses heat-shock factor, which prevents expression of heat-shock proteins³².

We conclude that water stress inhibits photosynthesis through decreased RuBP supply caused by low ATP content, itself a result of decreased ATP synthase, confirming that ATP synthesis is sensitive to cellular dehydration^{9,10}. Decreased ATP content has important consequences for cellular metabolism and is relevant to unravelling the effects of water stress^{2,13,18}. □

Methods

Growth conditions

Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus* L. cultivar Avanti) plants were grown at 25/18 °C day/night temperature, ~70% relative humidity and 360 μmol CO₂ mol⁻¹, under 400 μmol m⁻² s⁻¹ photosynthetically active radiation (PAR) (day length 14 h) in 5 l of soil-based compost and were given ample nutrition and water. The third pair of leaves, attached to the plant, was used for all measurements for two weeks after full expansion.

Water stress treatments

Control plants were fully watered; plants were stressed by replacing part of the water transpired to allow stress to develop over 12 days. Stresses were achieved at different rates by differential watering to ensure that measurements were made on leaves of similar age¹¹. The decrease in ψ was ~0.3 MPa per day in the most severe stress. We measured leaf water potential (ψ) with a Scholander pressure chamber¹¹ on the leaf remaining after freeze-clamping^{11,22,23}, then leaf discs were removed for measurement of RWC¹¹. The correlation between ψ and RWC was $\psi = 5.05 + 0.053\text{RWC}$ ($r^2 = 0.90$). Preliminary studies showed no significant differences between tissue used for gas exchange and the remaining leaf.

Gas exchange measurements

Carbon dioxide exchange and water loss were measured and used to calculate photosynthetic rate, stomatal conductance and sub-stomatal CO₂ concentration (c_i)^{11,21-23}. All measurements were made in triplicate on 10 cm² of intact leaf under 800 μmol m⁻² s⁻¹ PAR, at 25 °C and 1 kPa vapour pressure, in a multi-chamber gas-exchange system, using intact leaves attached to three different plants^{11,22,23}. Measurements on intact leaves at large c_a were made with a Ciras-1 gas analyser (PPSystems).

Stomatal heterogeneity

After gas exchange measurements, leaves were exposed to ¹⁴CO₂ for 10 s and freeze-clamped, followed by autoradiography^{11,14,26}.

Assimilation of CO₂ under oxygen electrode conditions

We measured ¹⁴C accumulation in organic compounds on discs removed from illuminated control and wilted leaves and exposed for 10 min to ¹⁴CO₂ of known specific radioactivity with CO₂ concentrations of up to 0.1 mol mol⁻¹ (10% by volume) in 5 ml glass vials with rubber seals. Conditions were the same as in the oxygen electrode. Leaves were immediately killed and ¹⁴C measured after combustion of the sample.

Equilibrium CO₂ compensation points

Detached leaves were measured in a sealed glass chamber with internal air circulation coupled with an infrared gas analyser (Mark III, ADC); the system had a CO₂ leakage rate less than 0.5 μmol mol⁻¹ h⁻¹ at 800 μmol m⁻² s⁻¹ PAR at 25 °C.

Oxygen evolution

Leaf discs were measured in an oxygen electrode (Hansatech) at 400 μmol m⁻² s⁻¹ PAR, CO₂ concentrations up to 0.1 mol CO₂ mol⁻¹ (refs 3, 4) and 25 °C.

Fluorescence

Chlorophyll *a* fluorescence was measured with a modulated meter (Hansatech), concomitant with gas exchange, for calculation of quenching parameters and F_v/F_m (refs 3, 4, 7, 22, 28).

Biochemical analyses

Leaf areas in the gas exchange chambers were freeze-clamped at liquid nitrogen temperature, reaching 0 °C within 0.05 s and -20 °C in 0.1 s, immediately after gas exchange measurements^{11,22,23,33}. ATP, RuBP, 3-PGA and pyridine nucleotides were measured on 10 cm² leaf extracted in 5% (v/v) perchloric acid as described^{11,16,18,22,23}. We measured Rubisco content and activity as described^{11,33}. The amounts of ATP synthase α - and β -subunits were measured³³: frozen leaf tissue was homogenized in a 50 mM Bicine buffer, pH 7.6, 20 mM EDTA, 1 mM MgCl₂ and 50 μM mercaptoethanol. Material precipitated by centrifugation at 10,000g contained ATP synthase, which was solubilized in a 250 mM Tris buffer, pH 7.6 containing 250 mM dithiothreitol, 10% (w/v) SDS and 10% (w/v) glycerol at an SDS to protein ratio of 4:1. The denatured ATP synthase was separated by electrophoresis and the separated proteins blotted onto PVDF membrane, followed by blocking. The blot was developed using primary polyclonal antibody to the α - and β -subunits of ATP synthase (supplied by J. C. Gray). ATP synthase prepared from sunflower leaves was used as standard to quantify the protein from the experiments by visualizing the luminescence onto radiographic film and scanning. The mass ratio of total ATP synthase to the two subunits was taken as 1.61 (ref. 33).

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