

The Structure of the RC-LH1 'Core' Complex from *Rhodospseudomonas palustris*

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The photosynthetic unit (PSU) of most purple bacteria is composed of two types of integral membrane pigment-protein complexes, called LH1 and the RC (reaction centre)-LH1 'core' complex. Light energy absorbed by the LH2 complexes is transferred to the LH1 complex. The LH1 complex, which surrounds the RC, then passes the energy on to the RC where it is used to initiate photosynthetic electron transport.

The x-ray crystal structure of the RC-LH1 'core' complex from *Rps. Palustris* has been determined at an intermediate resolution of 4.8 angstroms, [1]. The details of this structure will be described and it will be compared with models of the 'core' structure proposed from EM and AFM.

This work has been supported by grants from the BBSRC, the Wellcome Trust and NEDO.

[1] Roszak A.W., Howard T.D., Southall J., Gardiner A.T., Law C.J., Isaacs N.W., Cogdell R.J., *Science*, 2003, **302**, 1969.

Keywords: photosynthesis, membrane proteins, light-harvesting