

莲胚芽叶绿体在无可见光下的 超微结构发育*

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摘 要

本文报道莲 (*Nelumbo nucifera*) 胚芽包埋在密闭的三层厚的覆盖物(果皮、种皮和肥厚的子叶)中, 其形成期间保持黑暗, 但它却能由淡黄色变成蓝绿色, 其胚芽的叶绿体内在无可见光下能发育有巨大的基粒。其叶绿体的独特发育途径, 比一般高等植物少两个发育步骤。在结构上, 除原质体外, 其它两个发育阶段均出现异常, 表现在前质体内形成的类晶格状前片层体组成的质体中心尚完整存在时, 便有许多前类囊体膜从一个质体中心的一个方向或两个方向平行延伸或从两个质体中心向着两两相对应的方向平行排列于前质体内, 同时往往伴有大的淀粉粒。待发育成叶绿体后, 体内只形成 1—2 个巨基粒, 贯穿于整个叶绿体中, 被巨大淀粉粒排挤到被膜的内缘。基粒类囊体膜长度比一般高等植物的长约 3—5 倍。而其基质类囊体膜却特别稀少且很短。靠近基粒边缘膜的核糖体颗粒较大而致密。

关键词 莲胚芽; 叶绿体发育; 无可见光; 巨基粒

ULTRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF CHLOROPLASTS IN SACRED LOTUS EMBRYO BUD UNDER INVISIBLE LIGHT

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Abstract

The present paper reports that the development ultrastructural observations of chloroplasts from sacred lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*) embryo buds under invisible light. Embryo bud of sacred lotus is enclosed by three layers of thick integument (pericarp, seed coat and thick fleshy cotyledons). During the period of the formation of embryo bud, it remained in dark condition, but turned from pale yellow to bluish-green. It was noteworthy that chloroplasts of the embryo bud had well developed giant grana under invisible light. Their developmental pathway in sacred lotus, however, was different from those of other higher plants grown under sun-

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light, intermittent light, or even in dark conditions (Fig. 1). The chloroplast development of embryo buds in Sacred lotus seeds in invisible light underwent only in the following three stages: (1) In the first stage the development was similar to that from other higher plants, the inner envelope membranes of the proplastids were invaginating. (2) In the second stage, a proplastid centre composed of prolamellar bodies (PLB) with semicrystalline structure was formed, and was accompanied by one or two huge starch grains in almost each proplastid. In the meantime, prothylakoid membranes extended parallelly from the plastid centre in three forms: (a) One plastid centre extending parallelly prothylakoid membranes from itself in one direction; (b) The same to (a), but extending in two directions; (c) Two plastid centres extending parallelly prothylakoid membranes between the centres. (3) In the third stage, grana and stroma thylakoid membranes of chloroplasts were formed. It is to be noted that most of chloroplasts had only one or two giant grana which often extended across the entire chloroplast body, and the length of the grana thylakoid membranes of the chloroplasts from embryo bud in Sacred lotus is 3 to 5 times as many as that in other higher plants. However, their stromatic thylakoid membranes were rather rare and very short. The giant grana were squeezed to the margin of the chloroplast envelope by one or two huge starch grains.

Key words Sacred lotus embryo bud; Invisible light; Chloroplast development; Giant grana

1987年我们在干莲子的胚芽(被三层厚的覆盖物——果皮、种皮和肥厚的子叶所包裹着的深绿色的芽状小体)中首次揭示出莲胚芽内的叶绿体在无可见光条件下竟能形成巨基粒类囊体膜及其镶嵌在内膜上的功能蛋白颗粒和相应的膜多肽组分^[1,20]。由于黄化质体必须在可见光的照射下才能发育为具有基粒和间质膜的成熟叶绿体,只有在光下才能进行光合作用,因此,探讨莲胚芽叶绿体在无可见光下形成巨型基粒的过程及其发育途径是有重要的意义。本文着重报道莲胚芽叶绿体在无可见光下发育的超微结构的变化。

材 料 和 方 法

新鲜莲子,采自北京西郊地区栽培的莲 (*Nelumbo nucifera*) 植株上发育不同程度的莲蓬,然后去掉三层丰厚的外壳,从极小的(约1—2mm)淡黄色的小莲胚到渐大的黄绿色、淡绿色至深绿色的成熟莲胚芽,分别取样后,立即进行戊二醛和锇酸双固定,依顺序置入各级乙醇中脱水,环氧丙烷过渡,最后用 Epon 812 环氧树脂混合液包埋^[2]。在日立 JUM-5A 超薄切片机上切片,用醋酸双氧铀和柠檬酸铅双染,于 JEM 100 电镜下观察和照相。

观 察 结 果

(一) 莲胚芽原质体在无可见光下发育的超微结构

莲胚芽叶绿体在无可见光下发育的超微结构变化,按阶段划分,与其它高等植物叶绿体在正常条件下的发育阶段大体相同,均要经历原质体→前质体→叶绿体三个发育阶段,然而,在其发育步骤上却有所区别,即在正常情况下,高等植物的叶绿体具有5个发育步骤,而莲胚芽的叶绿体发育步骤与其发育阶段一致,即只经历3个发育步骤。

当莲子的胚芽在无可见光下刚生长到 1—2mm 时, 外观淡黄色, 其叶绿体的发育处于初期阶段——原质体阶段, 即叶绿体发育的第一步。在电镜下, 原质体呈现的超微结构与其它高等植物基本相似, 均为直径 0.002—0.005 μm 的亚微小体, 小体周围为双层被膜所包围, 同时内被膜往内延伸并向内反折, 形成不规则弯曲的单一的膜状结构 (图版 I, 1)。

(二) 莲胚芽前质体在无可见光下发育的超微结构

当莲胚芽的发育进入到第二阶段, 即原质体进入到前质体阶段后, 与高等植物前质体发育的超微结构几乎完全不同, 具体反映在: 1. 前质体内由前片层体组成的质体中心, 类晶格结构排列非常整齐, 且在质体中心形成的同时有巨大的淀粉粒出现 (图版 I, 2)。2. 特别异常的是在大的质体中心尚完整存在时, 便有许多前类囊体膜从质体中心前片层体的一侧 (图版 I, 3) 或两侧 (图版 I, 4) 或从两个质体中心同时往两两相对应的空间 (图版 I, 5) 向着一个或两个方向平行延伸, 构成形似基粒垛状的精细结构, 同时往往相伴有巨大的淀粉粒占据着叶绿体的大部分空间 (图版 I, 2、4、5)。显然这些结构特征是相当地不同于高等植物在可见光^[3,8]或间歇光^[4,6,7,11]或黑暗^[16,17]条件下前质体发育的超微结构。

(三) 莲胚芽叶绿体在无可见光下发育的超微结构

高等植物的成熟叶绿体内所具有的与基质类囊体膜相间有序排列的基粒垛结构, 必须要有光存在的条件下才能形成。然而我们在电镜下却观察到莲子的胚芽在没有可见光存在的条件下, 其内叶绿体不仅能形成基粒, 而且还发育有不同程度的巨大的超基粒 (hypergrana), 最大的基粒垛约占整个叶绿体体积的 1/3, 其余 2/3 的叶绿体空间几乎为巨大的淀粉粒所充满。其基粒类囊体膜的长度约为一般高等植物基粒类囊体膜的 3—5 倍。只是基质类囊体膜却异常稀少, 而且很短 (图版 II, 7—9)。然而, 在超分子结构上却有相应的膜功能蛋白颗粒结构和相应的膜组分及其膜功能出现 (另文报道)。

讨 论

关于叶绿体的发育, 文献之多, 早已集以成书^[5,9]。材料之广, 从低等^[10]到高等^[3,7,8,10]甚至绿胚植物^[12-14,18,19]。然而, 未曾见到莲胚芽叶绿体在无可见光下发育的报道。我们通过莲胚芽叶绿体在无可见光下发育的超微结构观察, 发现了莲胚芽的前质体和叶绿体在无可见光下发育的超微结构异常地独特, 且发育途径也与其它高等植物在可见光^[3,8]、间歇光^[4,7,11]或黑暗^[15,17]条件下发育的截然不同。仅以前质体阶段为例, 在正常条件下, 高等植物叶绿体的发育进入到前质体阶段时, 要经历三个步骤: 1. 由反褶的内被膜断裂形成大小、长短不一的膜小泡。2. 膜小泡不断地增多, 汇聚成前片层体, 进而从质体中心周围往外伸展而形成长短不一的单一的双层膜结构, 通常不规则地成放射状排列^[15-17]。3. 曝光后, 前片层体逐渐消失, 单一平行的前类囊体膜形成。而莲胚芽叶绿体的发育进入到前质体阶段时, 只经历一个步骤, 即只有质体中心 (图版 I, 1) 和从质体中心的一侧 (图版 I, 3) 或两侧 (图版 I, 4) 或从两个质体中心同时往两两相对应的空间 (图版 I, 5) 向着一个或两个方向平行延伸, 形成貌似基粒垛状的亚微结构, 并常伴有巨大的淀粉粒。其它差异如示意图 (图 1)。

图 1 表明: 三条发育途径中, 除第一发育阶段都具有共同的特征——原质体的内被

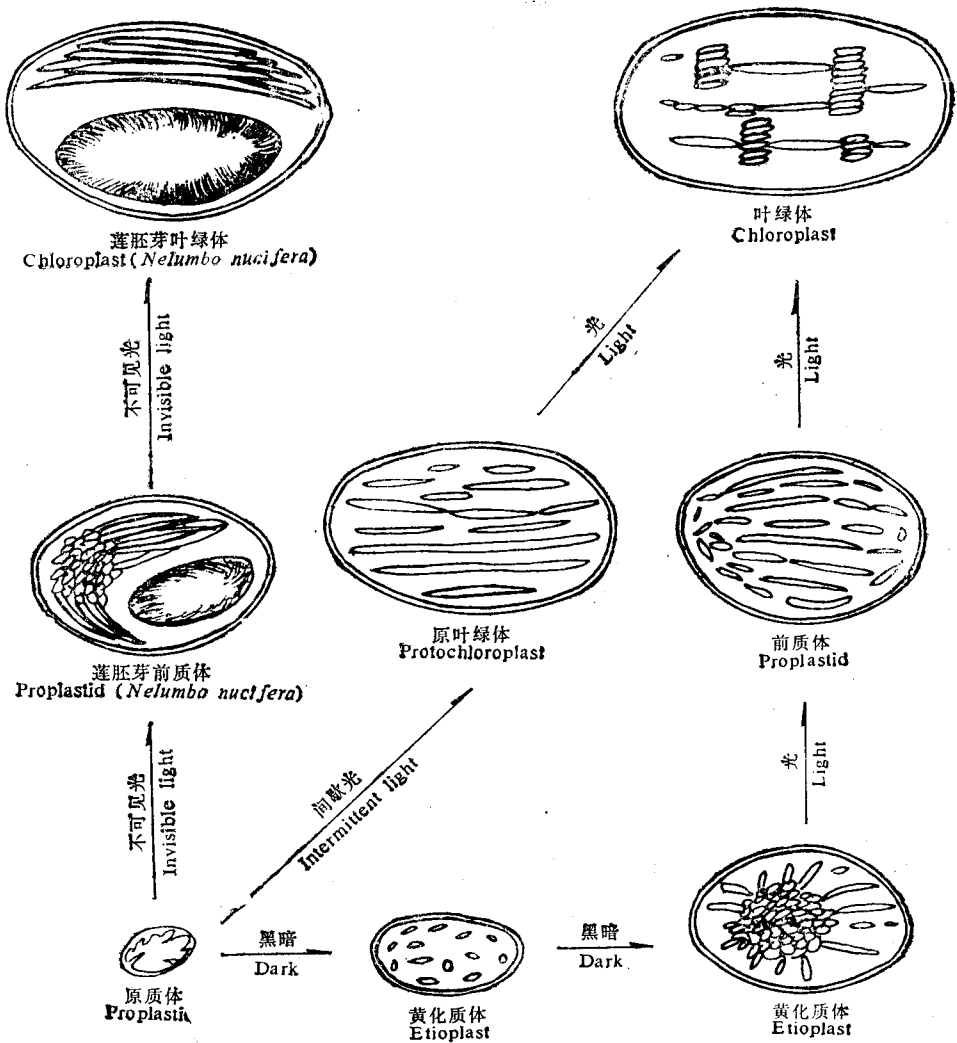


图1 莲胚芽和其它高等植物叶片叶绿体发育途径的比较

1. 莲胚芽叶绿体在不可见光下的发育途径(原质体 $\xrightarrow{\text{不可见光}}$ 莲胚芽前质体 $\xrightarrow{\text{不可见光}}$ 莲胚芽叶绿体) 2. 其它高等植物叶绿体在间歇光下的发育途径(原质体 $\xrightarrow{\text{间歇光}}$ 原叶绿体 $\xrightarrow{\text{光}}$ 叶绿体) 3. 其它高等植物叶绿体的正常发育途径(原质体 $\xrightarrow{\text{光}}$ 黄化质体 $\xrightarrow{\text{光}}$ 前质体 $\xrightarrow{\text{光}}$ 叶绿体)

Fig. 1 A comparison of developing pathways of chloroplasts within embryo buds in *Nelumbo nucifera* with those of leaves in other higher plants. In the first stage of three pathways, their chloroplast development is commonly characterized by proplastid being invagination of the inner envelop membranes.

In the first pathway: The proplastids of embryo bud in *Nelumbo nucifera* grown under invisible light develop into proplastids with prolamellar bodies (PLB) and many prothylakoids (PT). In the next stage, the proplastids grown in the same condition, develop into a chloroplast, which contains giant grana thylakoid membranes (GT) accompanied by one or two huge starch grains (S). In the second pathway: The proplastid in other higher plants grow under intermittent light (in light-dark cycles-2 min-light-98 min-dark) develops slowly into a proto-chloroplast with prothylakoid membranes (PT). Exposure of protochloroplasts to continuous light results in a rapid development into the mature chloroplast with grana thylakoid (GT) and stroma thylakoids (ST). In the third pathway: The proplastids in other higher plants grown in the dark develop into an etioplast, which usually contains vesicles (V) and one or two prolamellar bodies. Upon transfer of the dark-grown plant to continuous light, Plastids gradually fill with prothylakoids. Then in development prothylakoid membranes begin differentiation into grana and stroma thylakoid membrane systems

膜往内反褶外,其它均具明显的差异:

第一条途径,莲胚芽生长在无可见光下,其内原质体发育成具前片层体,许多平行排列的前类囊体和大淀粉粒的前质体,然后再发育成具有拟基粒和大淀粉粒的前质体,最后再发育成具有巨基粒和大淀粉粒的叶绿体。第二条途径,其它高等植物生长在间歇光(2分钟照光,98分钟黑暗)下,其内由原质体发育成的前质体,仅具有单一的前类囊体膜,经照光后,才能发育成具有基粒和基质类囊体膜的叶绿体。第三条发育途径,其它高等植物生长在黑暗条件下,其内原质体发育成黄化质体,先形成小泡,然后发育成前片层体及放射状的前类囊体,经照光,开始发育成具单一的前类囊体,随着曝光时间的增长,才逐步发育成具有基粒和基质类囊体膜的叶绿体。

图1中显示的差异,很可能与莲在被子植物的系统发育中所占据着的独特的地位有关。因为莲胚芽叶绿体中所具有的巨型基粒垛的类囊体膜系,并非一般高等植物的特征,却与低等植物藻类如 *Manatonicila sguamata*^[10] 的类囊体膜系的结构很相似。因此,莲胚芽叶绿体在无可见光下发育的巨型基粒类囊体膜的超分子结构、膜组分及其膜功能与莲胚芽叶绿体在可见光下发育的基粒,或其它高等植物叶绿体在正常光照条件下发育的基粒的是否相同?有待进一步研究。

关于莲胚芽叶绿体在无可见光下竟能发育有异常独特的巨型基粒结构,在自然界并非独一无二。然而,为什么没有可见光能有巨型基粒形成,却是一个尚待追究的研究课题。就目前所能查阅到的文献中,虽有报道:许多植物在黑暗中能合成叶绿素,但它们限于藻类和低等陆生植物;或一些被子植物的特别器官(子叶最普遍);或特别的发育阶段(胚胎和种子的发育阶段)^[11]等。而对其在黑暗中竟能有基粒形成的超微结构报道则很少。特别是为什么在黑暗中会有基粒形成就更为罕见。至于是什么原因致使有些子叶或种子的胚在暗中能够变绿,倒有初步阐明: Pukacki, Giertych 和 Chalapka (1980) 研究云杉 (*Picea abies*) 和山毛榉 (*Fagus sylvatica*) 的冬芽后,发现是少量波长约 600nm 的光,能透过它们致密的形似光栅的特别坚固的鳞片而致使冬芽变绿的。后来 Whattey 和 Price (1983) 用柠檬做实验,同样发现有些柠檬的果实萌发时,其幼苗的子叶在黑暗中展开并能变绿,也是柠檬的成熟种子收集到波长约 600nm 的光引起的,并认为该光能被原叶绿素,叶绿素和光敏色素吸收,且所收集的光量能促进原叶绿素转化成叶绿素,与此同时,柠檬叶绿体呈现出类似生长在低光强下成熟叶绿体的结构,即其基粒垛的类型有点相似于生长在短期低光强单色的红光或远红光下的^[12]。而莲胚芽的叶绿体是否也能吸收 600 nm 的单色光或其它波长的光,估计可能性不大,因为柠檬的子叶在其胚芽的外面,而莲子的胚芽却是被包埋在厚厚的子叶之中。那么,是何因子导致莲胚芽叶绿体在无可见光下能发育成巨型基粒的呢?以及所发育的基粒类囊体膜的超分子结构、膜的组分及膜的功能与莲胚芽在可见光下萌发约 10 天以后,叶绿体内出现的基粒类囊体膜或其它高等植物在正常光照条件下发育的基粒类囊体膜是否相同?我们正在进一步深入地研究。

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图 版 说 明

图版 I: 莲胚芽原质体和前质体在无可见光下发育的超微结构电镜照片。

1. 原质体, 示内被膜反折。×52000 2. 前质体, 示质体中心和大的淀粉粒。×25000 3. 前质体, 示许多类囊体膜从前片层体 (PLB) 的一侧向着一个方向平行延伸。×49500 4. 前质体, 示许多类囊体膜从前片层体的两侧向着两个方向延伸。×49500 5. 前质体, 示许多类囊体膜从两个质体中心向着两两相对应的方向延伸, 并有大的淀粉粒 (S) 相伴。×34000

图版 II: 莲胚芽在无可见光下发育的前质体和叶绿体超微结构电镜照片。

6. 前质体的局部放大, 示前片层体 (PLB) 中整齐排列的类晶格状结构、巨大的淀粉粒 (S) 和从前片层体延伸出来的平行整齐排列的前类囊体膜 (PT)。×75000 7. 低倍下的三个叶绿体, 均具大的淀粉粒。×195000 8. 一个叶绿体, 示巨基粒 (G) 和大的淀粉粒。 (S) ×34000 9. 示巨基粒类囊体膜 (GT), 短而少的基质类囊体膜 (ST) 及核糖体颗粒结构(箭头)。×75000

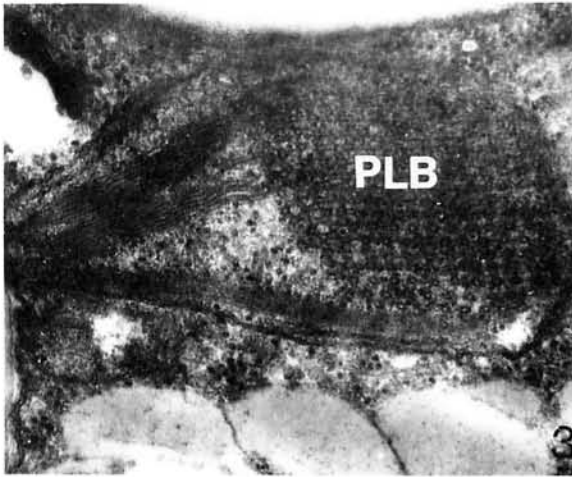
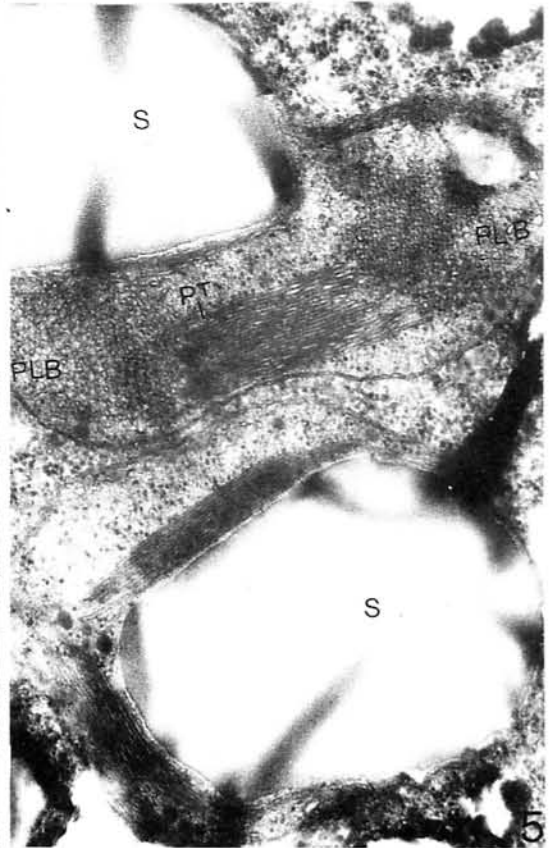
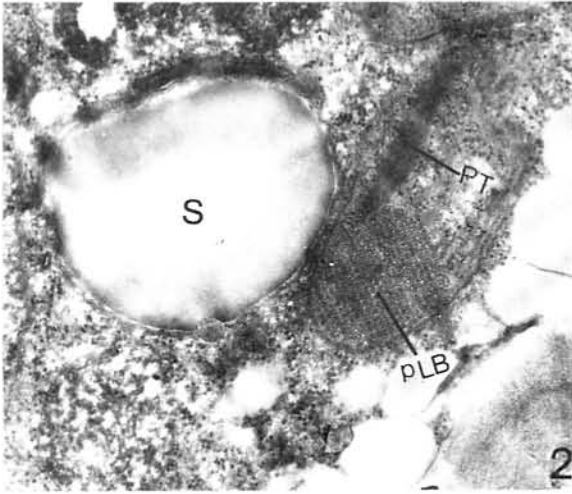
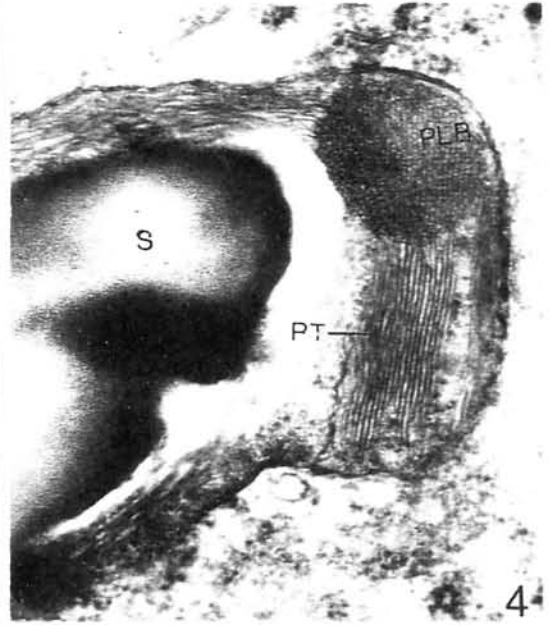
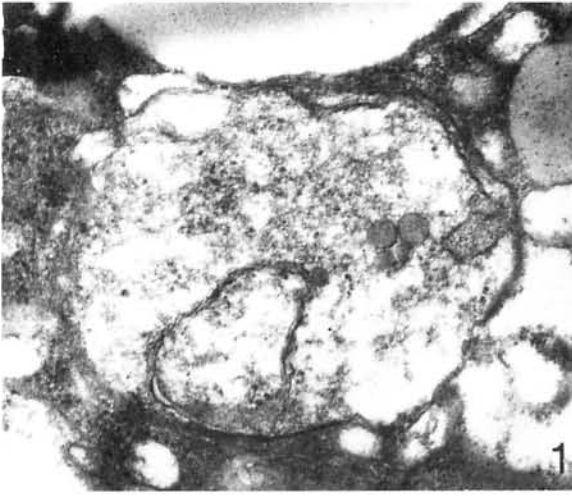
Explanation of plates

Plate I

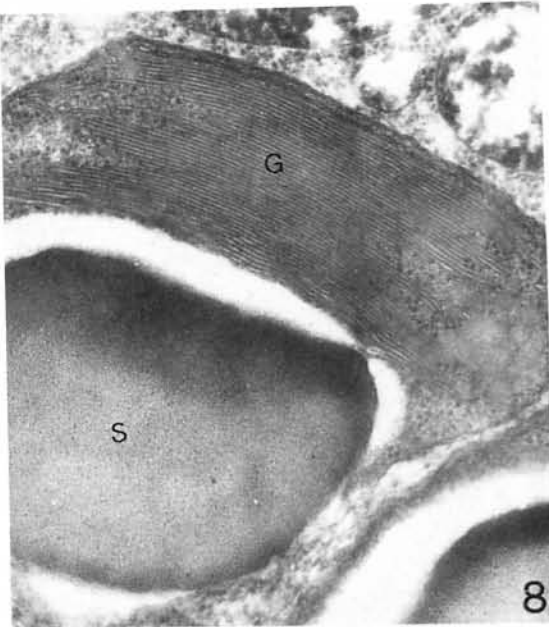
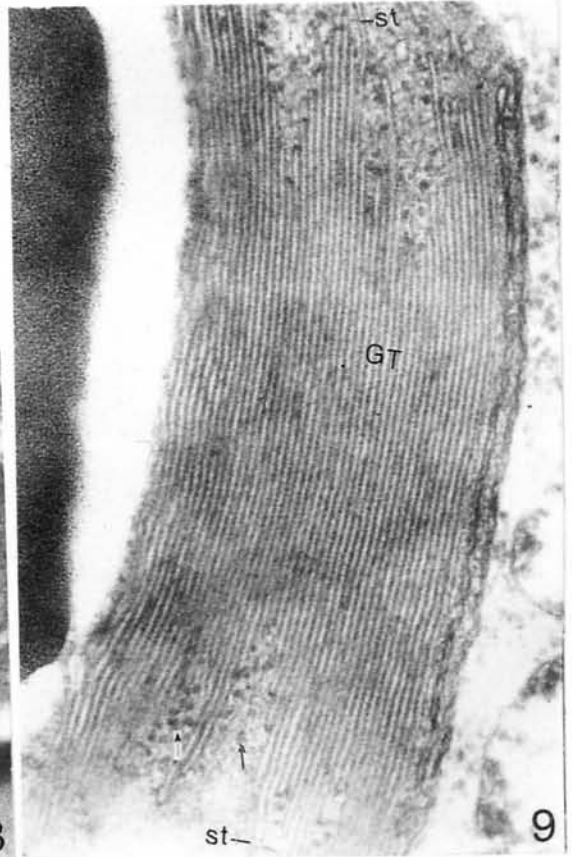
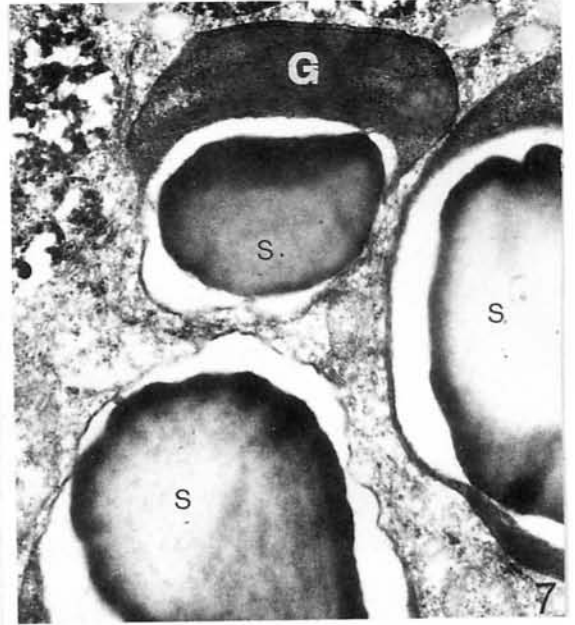
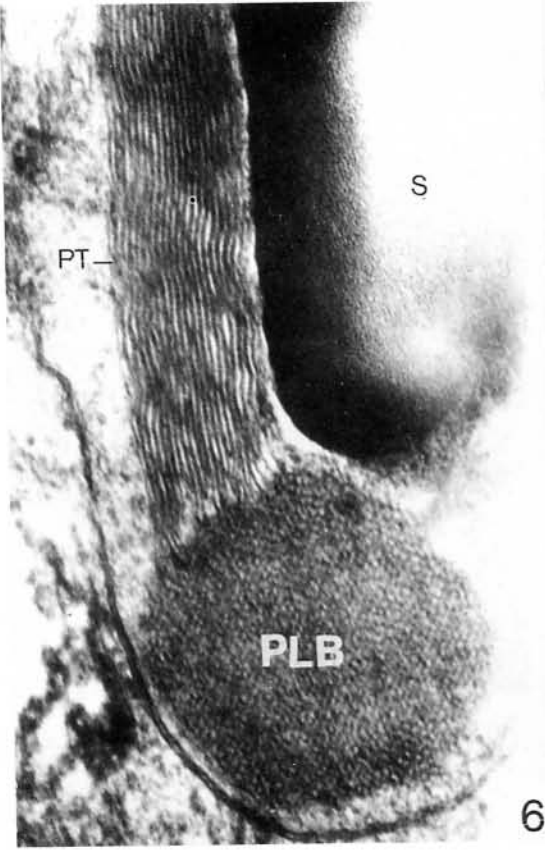
Developmental ultrastructure of the proplastids and proplastids from Sacred lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*) embryo buds under invisible light. Fig. 1. Electron micrograph of proplastid showing the inner envelope membrane of the proplastid being invaginating. ×52000 Fig. 2. Electron micrograph of proplastid showing a plastid centre composed of prolamellar bodies (PLB) with semicrystalline structure accompanied by a large starch grain (S). ×25000 Fig. 3. Electron micrograph of proplastid showing one plastid centre extending parallelly prothylakoid membranes from itself in one direction. ×49500 Fig. 4. Electron micrograph of proplastid showing many prothylakoid membranes extending parallelly from one plastid centre (PLB) toward two directions accompanied by a huge starch grain (S). ×49500 Fig. 5. Electron micrograph of proplastid showing two plastid centres (PLB) extending parallelly prothylakoid membranes between the centres accompanied by a huge starch grain (S). ×34000

Plate II

Developmental ultrastructure of the proplastid and chloroplasts from Sacred lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*) embryo buds under invisible light. Fig. 6. Magnification of a portion of proplastid showing detail of the prolamellar body (PLB) and prothylakoid membranes (PT). ×75000 Fig. 7. Three chloroplasts at low magnification showing all of them with huge starch grains respectively (S). ×195000 Fig. 8. A chloroplast showing a giant granum (G) and a huge starch grain (S). ×34000 Fig. 9. A giant granum showing about 45 thylakoid membranes (GT) crossing the entire chloroplast; and stromatic thylakoid membranes (ST) being rather rare and very short at well as ribosomes within the stromata. ×75000



See explanation at the end of text



See explanation at the end of text