# **Photosynthesis**



# Photosynthesis

- Photo means 'light' and synthesis means 'to make'
- Process in which plants convert carbon dioxide and water into sugars using solar energy

 Occurs in chloroplast





**Photosynthesis:** 

 $6 \operatorname{CO}_2 + 6 \operatorname{H}_2 \operatorname{O} \longrightarrow \operatorname{C}_6 \operatorname{H}_{12} \operatorname{O}_6 + 6 \operatorname{O}_2$ 

carbon dioxide + water = sugar + oxygen



photosynthetic products
often stored as starch
•Starch = glucose polymer

## **Physiological structure**







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#### Chlorophyll

### •Absorbs red & blue light

### •Reflects green light

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### **Electromagnetic Spectrum**



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Resonance energy transfer to the Reaction center

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### +Light-Harvesting Complexes

### Reaction centers

- Where photosynthesis takes place
- Contain chlorophyll molecules

### Light-harvesting complexes

- Antenna pigments in membrane proteins
- Proteins in complex act as scaffold for pigment molecules
- Many different pigment types absorb different
   λ of light
- Exciton transfer (>) brings energy to chlorophyll at reaction center





The photosynthetic pigments absorb much of the spectrum



Photoreceptor that absorbs higher energy (shorter)  $\lambda$ , transfers energy to one that absorbs lower energy (longer)  $\lambda$ 



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### Cyclic and Non-cyclic Photophosphorylation













Photosystem I	Photosystem II
Photolysis of water is not occurred.	It is related with photolysis of water.
Reaction center is P700.	Its reaction center is P680.
It is rich in chlorophyll A then Chlorophyll B	It is rich in chlorophyll B then Chlorophyll A
Molecular oxygen is not evolved.	Photosystem II, as a result of photolysis of water molecular oxygen is evolved.
Receive electrons from photosystem II.	Receive electrons from photolytic dissociation of water.
Pigments absorbs longer (>680nm) wavelengths of light	Pigments absorbs shorter (<680nm) wavelengths of light
In this reaction, NADPH is formed.	While in this reaction, NADPH is not formed.
It can participate in both cyclic and non-cyclic photophosphorylation.	Just participates in non-cyclic photophosphorylation.
The core complex is composed by a smaller number of protein.	The core complex is composed multi-subunit of about 25-30 sub-units.
Lies on the outer surface of thylakoid membrane	Lies on the inner surface of the thylakoids.
PS I has iron sulphur type reaction center.	PS II is a Quinone type reaction center
Major function is NADPH synthesis.	Its main function is hydrolysis of water and ATP synthesis.

Key products of Light reaction

Fig. 10.20

Carbon Fixation



## Types of photosynthesis

### • C3

- The majority of plants
- C4
  - CO<sub>2</sub> temporarily stored as 4-C organic acids resulting in more efficient C exchange rate
  - Advantage in high light, high temperature, low CO<sub>2</sub>, low nitrogen
  - Many grasses and crops (e.g., corn, sorghum, millet, sugar cane)
- CAM
  - Stomata open during night
  - Advantage in arid climates
  - Many succulents (e.g., cacti, euphorbs, bromeliades, agaves)