
1 **Title:**

2 Altered *N*-glycan composition impacts flagella mediated adhesion in *Chlamydomonas*
3 *reinhardtii*

4 **Short title:**

5 *N*-glycosylation impacts adhesion in *Chlamydomonas*

6 **Abstract**

7 For the unicellular alga *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii*, the presence of *N*-glycosylated proteins
8 on the surface of two flagella is crucial for both cell-cell interaction during mating and flagellar
9 surface adhesion. However, it is not known whether only the presence or also the composition
10 of *N*-glycans attached to respective proteins is important for these processes. To this end, we
11 tested several *C. reinhardtii* insertional mutants and a CRIPSR/Cas9 knockout mutant of
12 xylosyltransferase 1A, all possessing altered *N*-glycan compositions. Taking advantage of
13 atomic force microscopy and micropipette force measurements, our data revealed that reduction
14 in *N*-glycan complexity impedes the adhesion force required for binding the flagella to surfaces
15 as demonstrated by force spectroscopy and impairs polystyrene bead binding and transport.
16 Notably, assembly, intraflagellar transport and protein import into flagella are not affected by
17 altered *N*-glycosylation. Thus, we conclude that proper *N*-glycosylation of flagellar proteins is
18 crucial for adhering *C. reinhardtii* cells onto surfaces, indicating that *N*-glycans mediate surface
19 adhesion via direct surface contact.

20 **Keywords**

21 adhesion/ AFM/ *C. reinhardtii*/ flagella/ *N*-glycosylation

22 **Introduction**

23 *N*-glycosylation, as one of the major post-translational modifications, takes place along the
24 ER/Golgi secretion route and consequently most *N*-linked glycans are found on proteins facing

25 the extracellular space. Initial steps of *N*-glycosylation in the ER are highly conserved among
26 most eukaryotes and consist of the synthesis of a common prebuilt *N*-glycan precursor onto a
27 dolichol phosphate. Following the transfer of the glycan precursor onto the asparagine of the
28 consensus sequence N-X-S/T of a nascent protein (where X can be any amino acid except
29 proline), the glycoprotein is folded by the glycan recognizing chaperones Calnexin and
30 Calreticulin (Stanley P, Taniguchi N, 2017). Subsequent *N*-glycan maturation steps in the Golgi
31 are species dependent and give rise to a high variety of *N*-glycan structures. In land plants,
32 Golgi maturation leads to *N*-glycans modified with β 1,2-core xylose and α 1,3-core fucose
33 (Strasser, 2016). In *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii*, a unicellular biflagellate green alga, *N*-glycans
34 can be decorated with core xylose and -fucose (Lucas et al., 2020; Oltmanns et al., 2020;
35 Schulze et al., 2018). Additionally, 6*O*-methylation of mannose and addition of a terminally
36 linked β 1,4-xylose were reported (Mathieu-Rivet et al., 2013). While the functional advantage
37 of *N*-linked glycans to mature proteins is hardly understood, it is known that blocking the
38 synthesis of a full *N*-glycan precursor results in hypoglycosylated proteins that cannot be folded
39 properly (Gardner et al., 2013). Instead, they are degraded via the ER-associated degradation
40 pathway (ERAD) and are consequently not targeted correctly (Adams et al., 2019; Cherepanova
41 et al., 2016). Therefore, impairment of glycosylation at such early stage is lethal in both uni- and
42 multi-cellular organisms and only when inhibition of glycosylation is carefully dosed (e.g. by
43 tunicamycin), immediate physiological effects caused by hypoglycosylation can be observed
44 (Kukuruzinska et al., 1987). Looking at *C. reinhardtii*, treatment of vegetative cells with
45 tunicamycin lead to an impaired flagellar adhesiveness, indicating that glycoproteins are crucial
46 for adhesion and the subsequent onset of gliding (Bloodgood, 1982). However, whether this
47 phenotype is linked to mistargeting of proteins due to hypoglycosylation and/or the lack of *N*-
48 glycans on the flagella surface is unclear.

49 Whole cell gliding is one of two flagella based motilities in *C. reinhardtii* besides swimming
50 (Ishikawa and Marshall, 2011; Kozminski et al., 1993; Snell et al., 2004). In principle, the cell
51 adheres to a surface via its flagella, positioning them in a 180° angle and initiates gliding along
52 the solid or semisolid surface into the direction in which one flagellum is pointing (designating
53 it as leading flagellum) (Bloodgood, 2009). Interestingly, flagella not only bind to large solid
54 surfaces, but they also bind to small, inert objects (e.g. polystyrene microbeads) that are moved
55 along the flagellar membrane. While the two events, summarized as flagellar membrane
56 motility, are believed to underly the same molecular machinery, it is assumed that they start
57 with an adhesion of flagella membrane components to the surface (Bloodgood and Salomonsky,
58 1998). A micropipette force measurement approach recently showed that the flagella adhesion
59 forces on different model surfaces with tailored properties lie in the range of 1 to 4 nN and that
60 only positive surface charge diminished the adhesion force significantly (Backholm and
61 Bäumchen, 2019; Kreis et al., 2019, 2018). Remarkably, surface iodination experiments in the
62 early 1980s revealed a single protein called flagellar membrane glycoprotein 1B (FMG-1B) as
63 the main player mediating surface contact (Bloodgood and Workman, 1984). FMG-1B is
64 exclusively located in the flagellar membrane and has a remarkable size of around 350 kDa
65 (4389 amino acids) with a large extra-flagellar part (4340 amino acids) anchored in the
66 membrane via a single predicted trans membrane helix of 22 amino acids (Bloodgood et al.,
67 2019). As the name indicates, it is heavily *N*- and *O*-glycosylated. A recent knock down study
68 showed, that it is the main constituent of the glycocalyx surrounding the flagellum.
69 Additionally, a *fmg-1B* mutant showed a drastically reduced ability to glide (Bloodgood et al.,
70 2019). Strikingly, FMG-1B is present at a high copy number and turns over rapidly within
71 approximately 1 h (Bloodgood, 2009). The rapid turnover is probably attributed to the fact that
72 flagellar membrane components are constantly shed into the medium as flagellar ectosomes
73 (Bloodgood, 2009; Wood et al., 2013). FMG-1B and another *N*-glycosylated membrane

74 component, FAP113, have been shown to be eventually torn out of the membrane once bound
75 to microbeads (Kamiya et al., 2018). Whether FAP113 is only involved in microbead binding
76 or also in whole cell gliding is unknown.

77 Recently, it was found that flagellar adhesion to surfaces is switchable by light, indicating that
78 a blue-light photoreceptor signal is governing this process (Kreis et al. 2018). Following
79 adhesion to the surface, a transmembrane signal mediates translation of the adhesion event into
80 a calcium transient and protein phosphorylation cascade (Bloodgood, 2009; Collingridge et al.,
81 2013; Kreis et al., 2018). According to the current model, an interaction of the short cytoplasmic
82 part of FMG-1B with Intraflagellar Transport (IFT) may occur (Laib et al., 2009; Shih et al.,
83 2013). IFT moves bidirectionally along the flagellar microtubules, the anterograde transport is
84 driven by kinesin 2 and retrograde transport is driven by cytoplasmic dynein-1b (Cole et al.,
85 1998; Huangfu et al., 2003; Kozminski et al., 1995; Lechtreck, 2015; Pedersen and Rosenbaum,
86 2008; Porter et al., 1999; Rosenbaum and Witman, 2002). Since retrograde motor dynein-1b
87 pauses relative to the adhesion site while FMG-1B tethers to the solid surface through its large
88 extracellular carbohydrate domain (Bloodgood, 2009), the force generated by motor proteins
89 will push the microtubule into the opposite direction, dragging the cell body and the second
90 flagellum behind; the gliding process is initiated (Shih et al., 2013).

91 Considering that *N*-glycoproteins *per se* are important for adhesion but are constantly lost from
92 the flagellar membrane, gliding is supposed to require an enormous amount of energy, which
93 suggests that flagella mediated adhesion has a somewhat high importance. Furthermore, it
94 opens the question whether the maturation of *N*-glycans (as additional energy expense) in Golgi
95 is important for flagella mediated adhesion, i.e. whether *N*-glycosylation is crucial for adhesion
96 beyond proper glycoprotein folding. Therefore, we compared flagellar membrane motility of
97 different mutant strains impaired in *N*-glycan maturation (characterized in Schulze *et al.* 2018).

98 We found that *N*-glycan maturation indeed impacts the interaction of flagellum and surface in
99 all mutants analyzed.

100 **Results**

101 **Altered *N*-linked glycans do not change the flagellar localization of FMG-1B**

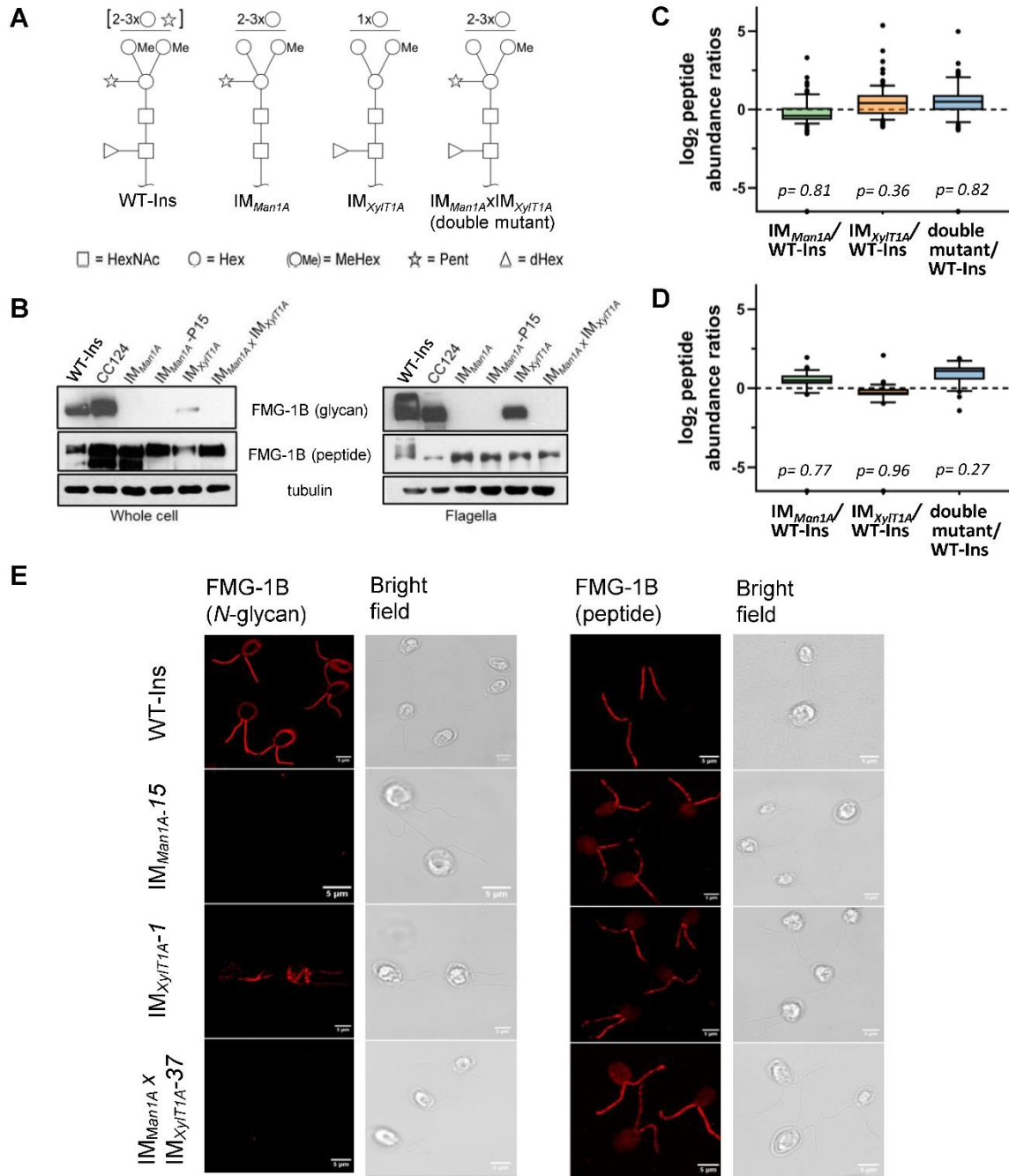
102 To test whether *N*-glycan maturation in Golgi is important for flagellar surface motility in
103 *C. reinhardtii*, two insertional mutants such as IM_{Man1A} , IM_{XylT1A} and their double mutant
104 $IM_{Man1A} \times IM_{XylT1A}$ were studied. Initially, these mutants had been described in Schulze *et al.*
105 2018, where *N*-glycan patterns of supernatant proteins were analyzed and compared (Fig. 1A).
106 The insertional mutagenesis giving rise to these mutants was performed in the parental strain
107 CC-4375 (a *ift46* mutant backcrossed with CC-124) complemented with IFT-46::YFP, referred
108 to as WT-Ins throughout the current study. The first mutant, deficient in xylosyltransferase 1A
109 (IM_{XylT1A}), produces *N*-glycans devoid of core xylose while simultaneously having a reduced
110 length. Second mutant IM_{Man1A} , a knock down mutant of mannosidase 1A, is mainly
111 characterized by a lack of 6*O*-methylation of mannose residues while the *N*-glycan length is
112 slightly greater than in WT-Ins. Furthermore, *N*-glycans of IM_{Man1A} are slightly reduced in
113 terminal xylose and core fucose. Finally, a double mutant of the above two single mutants
114 ($IM_{Man1A} \times IM_{XylT1A}$, obtained by genetic crossing) produces *N*-glycans devoid of 6*O*-
115 methylation but of WT-Ins length and carrying core xylose and fucose residues (Fig. 1A). It is
116 of note that in none of the mutants the flagellar length is altered as compared to WT-Ins (Figure
117 1 - Supplementary Fig. 1). To confirm that flagellar *N*-glycan patterns of these mutants deviate
118 from WT-Ins, whole cell extracts and isolated flagella were probed with anti-HRP, binding to
119 β 1,2-xylose and α 1,3-fucose attached to the *N*-glycan core (Kaulfürst-Soboll *et al.*, 2011). In
120 line with previous publications, the antibody showed a higher affinity towards *N*-glycoproteins
121 synthesized by IM_{Man1A} and $IM_{Man1A} \times IM_{XylT1A}$ while it showed a decreased affinity towards

122 probes of IM_{XylT1A} (Figure 1 - Supplementary Fig. 2) (Schulze et al., 2018). Further lectin-affino
123 blotting with concanavalin A (ConA) was performed on whole cell extracts, revealing increased
124 ConA-affinity in all three *N*-glycosylation mutants compared to WT-ins (Figure 1 –
125 Supplementary Fig.3).

126 Since FMG-1B is the major constituent of the flagellar glycoproteome and to date the only
127 protein proven to be involved in flagellar surface motility, different monoclonal antibodies
128 raised against FMG-1B were employed to analyze FMG-1B localization (Bloodgood et al.,
129 1986; Long et al., 2016). The whole cell extracts or isolated flagella from IM_{Man1A}, IM_{XylT1A} and
130 their double mutant IM_{Man1A}XIM_{XylT1A} were probed separately with the glycan epitope
131 recognizing antibody or the antibody against the protein backbone of FMG-1B. FMG-1B was
132 found in whole cells and flagella of WT-Ins and all three mutants. Hereby, the protein amount
133 was similar in all four strains as indicated by the use of the FMG-1B protein specific antibody
134 (Fig. 1B). Contrarily, the antibody raised against FMG-1B glycan epitopes barely detected
135 whole cell or flagella probes of IM_{Man1A} and IM_{Man1A}XIM_{XylT1A}. Also, the FMG-1B glycan signal
136 decreased in the mutant IM_{XylT1A}, particularly in the whole cell sample. Taken together, these
137 immuno-blots confirm that the *N*-glycan pattern of FMG-1B is altered in the mutants, while the
138 protein localization is not affected by this alteration. In addition, label free mass spectrometric
139 quantification confirmed that FMG-1B is correctly targeted to the flagella in all mutants
140 analyzed (Fig. 1 C). The same is true for FAP113, another protein shown to be involved in
141 flagella surface motility (Fig. 1D).

142 To compare the localization of glycan and protein of FMG1-B in WT-Ins and mutants, the cells
143 were immuno-stained with the two FMG-1B specific antibodies described above. A uniform
144 signal of the glycan specific antibody was found in the flagella and the cell wall of WT-Ins (Fig.
145 1E, left panel). It should be noted, that such cross reaction with cell wall localized glycosylated

146 proteins has been reported previously (Bloodgood et al., 1986). In line with the immuno-
147 blotting experiment, no glycan signal was observed in the flagella or cell wall of IM_{Man1A} and
148 the double mutant, while signal intensity was low in the flagella of mutant IM_{XylT1A} (Fig. 1E, left
149 panel and). The faint FMG-1B signal in IM_{XylT1A} compared to the WT-Ins was clearly observed
150 when WT-Ins and IM_{XylT1A} were mixed prior to immuno-staining (Figure 1 – Supplementary
151 Fig.6). When the FMG-1B peptide antibody was used, an uniform signal is found in the flagella
152 of WT-ins, M_{Man1A}, IM_{XylT1A} and the mutant IM_{Man1A}XIM_{XylT1A} (Fig. 1E, right panel). In
153 summary, these data show that altered *N*-glycan maturation did not affect the flagellar
154 localization of FMG-1B. Although FMG-1B is the most prominent and best studied flagella
155 membrane glycoprotein, there might be other glycoproteins involved in flagellar adhesion.
156 Nevertheless, no protein was found consistently and significantly changed in abundance in
157 flagella of the IM strains analyzed when compared to WT-Ins (Figure 1 - Supplementary Fig.
158 7), also indicating that flagellar assembly is not considerably altered in the mutants versus WT.
159



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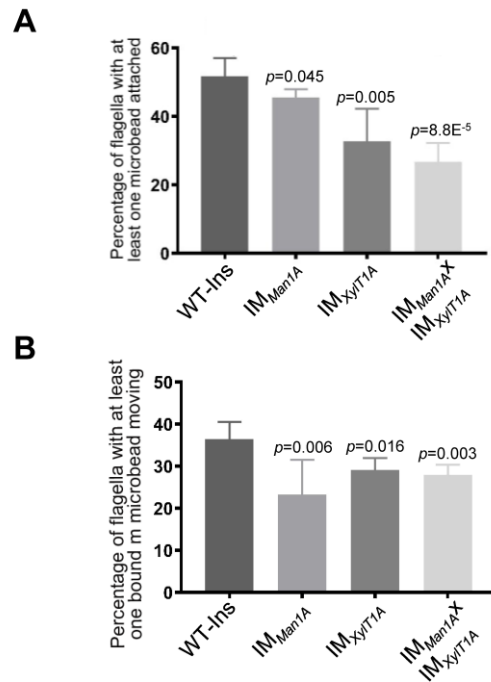
161 **Figure 1. Altered N-glycosylation of FMG-1B does not change its flagellar localization**

162 A, Diagram of N-linked glycan compositions of mutant strains characterized in Schulze *et al.* 2018 and
 163 used in the current study. While IM_{Man1A} and the double mutant are mainly characterized by a lower
 164 degree of methylation (Me), N-glycans of IM_{XylT1A} are decreased in length and lack the core xylose. All
 165 monosaccharides depicted above the horizontal line can be bound to any subjacent residue or to any
 166 residue at the same level. Square: N-Acetylglucosamine, Circle: hexose, Triangle: fucose, Star: xylose).
 167 B, Probing whole cell and flagella samples with antibodies directed against N-glycans or the protein

168 backbone of FMG-1B.(Bloodgood et al., 1986) C, Log2 peptide abundances of FMG-1B obtained by
169 label free MS analysis. D, Log2 peptide abundances of FAP-113 obtained by label free MS analysis. E,
170 Immuno staining of WT-Ins mutant cells (IM_{Man1A} , IM_{XylT1A} or $IM_{Man1A}XIM_{XylT1A}$) with antibodies directed
171 against FMG-1B. IM_{Man1A} , IM_{XylT1A} or $IM_{Man1A}XIM_{XylT1A}$ express IFT46::YFP. To prevent YFP signal to
172 interfere in immune staining and allow direct comparison of signal in WT-Ins and mutants, strains were
173 crossed with WT-CC124 and progenies of IM_{Man1A} , IM_{XylT1A} or $IM_{Man1A}XIM_{XylT1A}$ absent of IFT46::YFP (#37,
174 #1 and #15) used for immuno staining experiments (see Figure 1 – Supplementary Fig. 5)

175 **Altered N-linked glycans attenuate bead attachment to and movement along the flagellar** 176 **membrane**

177 In *C. reinhardtii*, polystyrene microspheres adhere to and move bidirectionally along the
178 flagellar surface (Bloodgood, 1981). To check the effect of altered N-glycans on these
179 processes, beads with a diameter of 0.7 μm were added to cell suspensions of IM_{Man1A} , IM_{XylT1A}
180 and the double mutant and the number of beads attached to- or moved along flagella were
181 quantified (Fig. 2A and B, exemplary video in Figure 2 - Video 1). In WT-Ins strains, about
182 52 % of all flagella had at least one bead attached, whereas the percentage of flagella with beads
183 bound decreased to 46 % in IM_{Man1A} , 33 % in IM_{XylT1A} and 27 % in the double mutant (Fig. 2A).
184 Among the beads attached, 37 % moved along flagella of WT-Ins, 22 % in IM_{Man1A} , 29 % in
185 IM_{XylT1A} and 27 % in the double mutant (Fig. 2B). These data suggested that interaction of
186 flagellar membrane and surface is altered due to altered N-glycan composition in these mutants.



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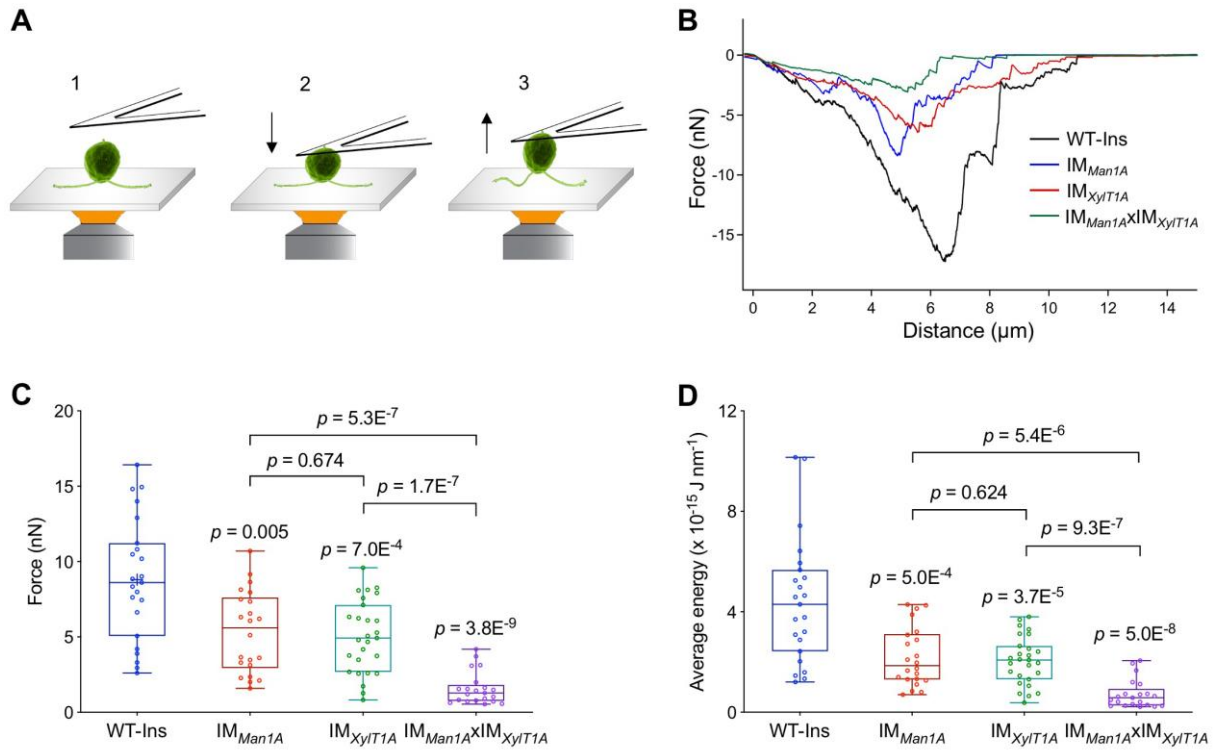
188 **Figure 2. Altered *N*-glycosylation diminishes flagellar polystyrene bead attachment**
 189 **and -transport.**

190 A, Percentage of flagella with at least one polystyrene bead bound. Cells were incubated with
 191 polystyrene beads (0.7 μm in diameter) and subsequently analyzed by light microscopy. B, Percentage
 192 of polystyrene beads transported along the flagellum with at least one polystyrene bead bound. Results
 193 present mean of three replicates with 50 cells analyzed per replicate. Error bars show SEM of three
 194 replicates. T-test was used for statistical analysis.

195 **Quantification of the flagella mediated adhesion using atomic force microscopy**

196 Flagella mediated surface adhesion force was measured via atomic force microscopy (AFM)
 197 (Fig. 3A). Here, cells adhered to a cover slide were attached to an AFM cantilever via physical
 198 contact (Liu et al., 2011). Subsequently, the AFM cantilever was pulled upwards and the force
 199 required to pull the cells was recorded (Fig. 3B). To inhibit whole-cell gliding during the
 200 measurement, ciliobrevin D was used to inhibit dynein-1b activity and consequently the cell
 201 gliding (Firestone et al., 2012). Remarkably, the forces necessary to overcome the adhesion of
 202 *C. reinhardtii* flagella to the surface were significantly reduced in these three mutants analyzed

203 as compared to WT-Ins (Fig. 3B and C). Especially in the double mutant the adhesion force
 204 was reduced from 8 nN in WT-Ins to 1 nN, while the average energy was reduced from 4 to 0.5
 205 J nm^{-1} (Fig. 3C and D). This result indicates that an altered *N*-glycan composition impacts the
 206 flagellar adhesion force onto a solid substrate.



207

208 **Figure 3. Quantification of the flagella-mediated adhesion using atomic force microscopy.**

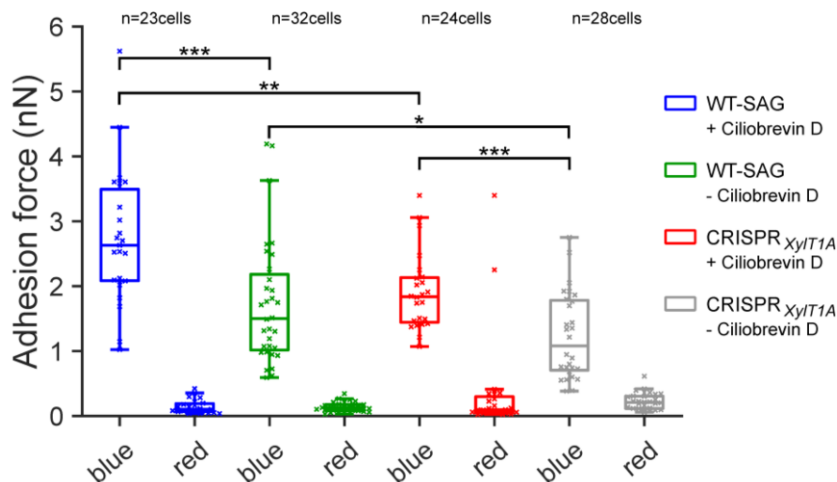
209 A, Diagram of experimental procedures for force measurement: the cell adhered to the surface (1); the
 210 cell attached to the AFM cantilever (2); the cell was pulled up from the surface by AFM cantilever (3).
 211 Please note, that retrograde IFT, i.e. gliding was inhibited by ciliobrevin D during all measurements
 212 presented here. B, Representative force curves acquired for strains including WT, IM_{Man1A} , IM_{XylT1A} and
 213 $IM_{Man1A} \times IM_{XylT1A}$. C, Flagella adhesion forces of WT-Ins, IM_{Man1A} , IM_{XylT1A} and $IM_{Man1A} \times IM_{XylT1A}$ were
 214 generated from force curves (B). D, Average energy of flagellar adhesion of WT-Ins, IM_{Man1A} , IM_{XylT1A}
 215 and $IM_{Man1A} \times IM_{XylT1A}$. Three biological replicates were performed with minimum 5 cells measured per
 216 replicate. The p-values are obtained from a two-sided, two sample t-test of mean values.

217

218 **Quantification of flagellar adhesion using a micropipette force measurement approach**

219 To validate the AFM adhesion force measurements, an independent *in vivo* force measurement
220 approach (Backholm and Bäumchen, 2019; Kreis et al., 2018) was used with another genetic
221 background mutant, xylosyltransferase 1A (CRISPR_{XylTIA_1}), generated in parental wildtype
222 SAG11-32b (WT-SAG) by employing CRISPR/Cas9 (Figure 4 - Supplementary Fig. 1). As a
223 wavelength dependency of flagellar adhesion had been revealed using this approach (Backholm
224 and Bäumchen, 2019), adhesion forces of the same cells were measured under precisely
225 controlled blue- and red-light conditions using a micropipette adhesion force measurement
226 approach. Adhesion forces were measured in presence and absence of dynein-1b inhibitor
227 ciliobrevin D. Importantly, adhesion forces in CRISPR_{XylTIA_1} were significantly diminished in
228 comparison to respective WT under both ciliobrevin D conditions confirming AFM results (Fig.
229 4). Illuminating cells with red light dramatically decreased the adhesion force in both WT-SAG
230 and CRISPR_{XylTIA_1} in presence as well as in absence of ciliobrevin D. Notably, removal of
231 ciliobrevin D resulted in a significant decrease in adhesion force for both WT-SAG and
232 CRISPR_{XylTIA_1} from ~ 2.6 nN to ~1.3 nN in WT-SAG and from ~ 1.8 nN to ~1 nN in
233 CRISPR_{XylTIA_1}.

234



235

236

237 **Figure 4. Assessing flagella adhesion forces using micropipette force microscopy.**

238 Flagella mediated adhesion forces acquired for WT-SAG and a xylosyltransferase 1A mutant generated
 239 in the genetic background of WT-SAG (CRISPR_{XylT1A_1}). Micropipette force measurements of the
 240 same cells were performed for both strains under blue and red light in the (+) presence or (-) absence
 241 of ciliobrevin D. Mean values of 10 measurements per cell are depicted, statistical analysis was
 242 performed on mean values. The p-values obtained a from Kolmogorov-Smirnov test are respectively
 243 (from top to bottom): (***) p=0.0004, (**) p=0.0016, (*) p=0.0491, (***) p=0.0009.

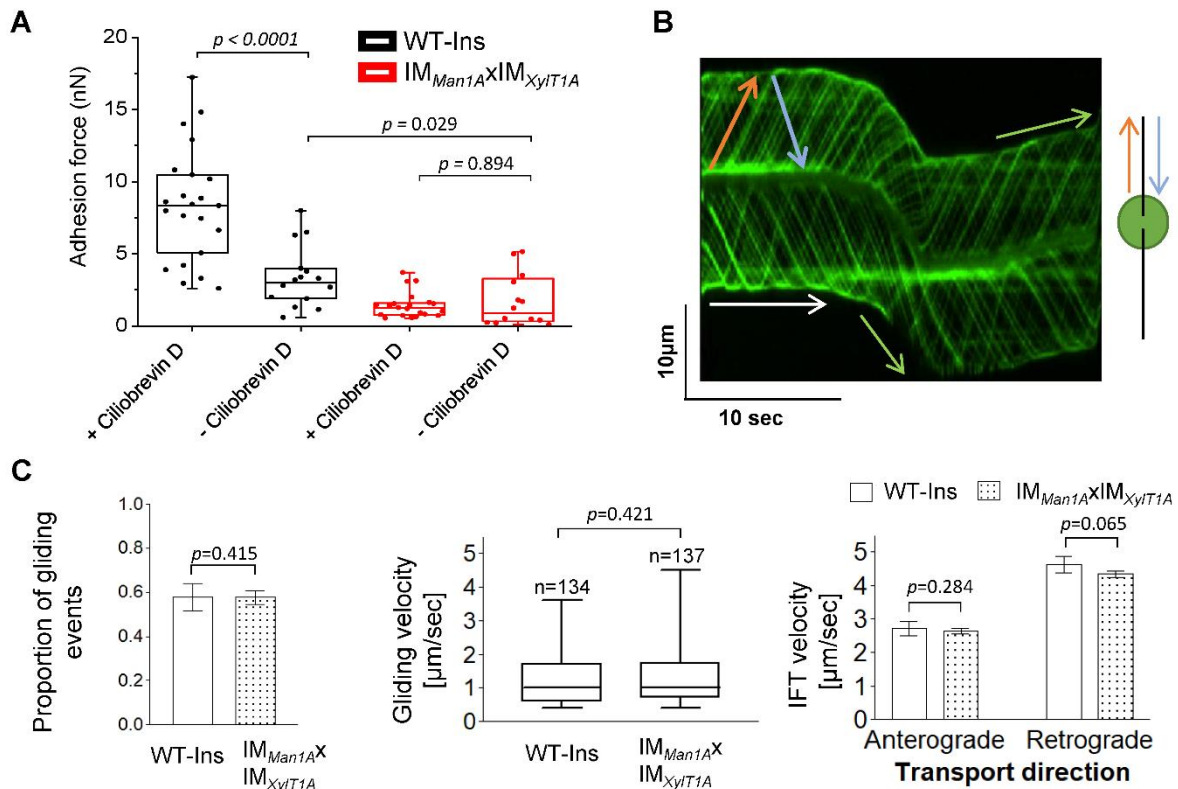
244

245 **The effect of altered N-glycosylation on IFT and gliding**

246 As presented in Figure 3, the strongest effect on adhesion forces assessed was observed in the
 247 double mutant IM_{Man1A}IM_{XylT1A} when compared to WT-Ins. In the absence of ciliobrevin D,
 248 the adhesion force measured by AFM in mutant IM_{Man1A}IM_{XylT1A} is still significantly lower
 249 than in WT-Ins (Fig. 5A). This is in line with the WT-SAG and CRISPR_{XylT1A_1} micropipette
 250 adhesion force measurement performed in the absence of ciliobrevin D, where also
 251 CRISPR_{XylT1A_1} had a lower adhesion force (Fig. 4). Interestingly, addition of ciliobrevin D
 252 resulted in significantly increased adhesion forces as seen for WT-SAG or WT-Ins (Fig.4 and

253 Fig. 5A). Taken together, these results suggested that active dynein-1b might reduce surface
254 adhesion forces. On the other hand, it implied that IFT might be hampered via altered *N*-
255 glycosylation as surface adhesion forces were smaller in the *N*-glycosylation mutants.
256 Therefore, IFT velocity and gliding ability of IFT46::YFP expressing WT-Ins and
257 *IM_{Man1A}XIM_{Xy1T1A}* in absence of ciliobrevin D were assessed by using total internal reflection
258 fluorescence (TIRF) microscopy. Videos of adhered cells generated by TIRF microscopy were
259 evaluated manually with help of kymographs in Fiji software (Fig. 5B). Obtained data revealed
260 that neither the proportion of gliding events (gliding velocity higher $0.3 \mu\text{m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$), nor gliding
261 speed distribution was significantly diminished when comparing WT-Ins and the double mutant
262 (Fig. 5C). Likewise, anterograde and retrograde IFT velocities were found at WT-Ins values
263 when comparing WT-Ins and the double mutant of adherent cells (Fig. 5C), implying no
264 significant impact of altered *N*-glycan maturation on IFT. Lastly, to rule out the possibility that
265 ciliobrevin D might result in elevated adhesion forces due to a toxic side effect, we generated
266 the triple mutant dynein-1b^{ts} x *IM_{Man1A}* x *IM_{Xy1T1A-4-13#}* by crossing *IM_{Man1A}XIM_{Xy1T1A}* with CC-
267 4423 (Figure 5 – Supplementary Fig.1 A-C). CC-4423 is characterized by the expression of a
268 temperature sensitive transcript of dynein-1b leading to a depletion of dynein-1b at restrictive
269 temperatures followed by an attenuation of retrograde IFT and flagella disassembly (Engel et
270 al., 2012). Subsequently, adhesion forces were measured via AFM at restrictive temperatures,
271 i.e. under conditions mimicking the ciliobrevin D dependent inactivity of dynein-1b. As it
272 cannot be excluded that flagella shortening, as induced upon temperature shift (Figure 5 –
273 Supplementary Fig.1D), impacted flagellar adhesion forces, the triple mutant treated with 20
274 mM NaPPi was assessed by AFM as control. Indeed, it was found that adhesion forces differed:
275 while control cells showed an average adhesion force of 0.48 nN, cells depleted from dynein-
276 1b showed a significantly elevated adhesion force of 1.64 N. Importantly, NaPPi only induces
277 flagellar shortening (Figure 5 – Supplementary Fig.1 E) but does not affect dynein-1b (Dentler

278 W. 2005), therefore, differences observed are directly correlated to the action of dynein-1b. It
 279 could be speculated, that the action of dynein-1b reduces flagellar adhesion forces due to its
 280 opposite direction of action with respect to the flagellar adhesion force.



281

282 **Figure 5. IFT and gliding are unaffected in IM_{Man1A}xIM_{XylT1A}**

283 A, Adhesion forces acquired for WT-Ins and the double mutant IM_{Man1A}xIM_{XylT1A} in the absence or
 284 presence of ciliobrevin D via AFM, respectively. Three biological replicates were performed with
 285 minimum 5 cells measured per replicate. B, Representative kymograph of the movement of IFT46::YFP
 286 in flagella of WT-Ins acquired with TIRF microscopy used to calculate the velocity of gliding and IFT.
 287 White arrow: non-gliding event ($v < 0.3 \mu\text{m} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$); green arrow: gliding event ($v > 0.3 \mu\text{m} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$); red arrow:
 288 anterograde IFT track; blue: retrograde IFT track. C, IFT and gliding are not significantly altered in the
 289 double mutant compared to WT-Ins. Proportion of gliding events (left), gliding velocity (excluding non-
 290 gliding events; middle), IFT velocities in either direction (right). Three biological replicates were
 291 performed with 10 cells evaluated per replicate corresponding to 300 IFTs/replicates/strain in case of
 292 IFT velocity. Error bars in bar plots represent SD of three replicates. Student-t test was performed
 293 comparing mean values of replicates in regard of proportion of gliding events and IFT-velocity.

294 Distribution of gliding velocities was analyzed by use of Mann-Whitney U test, n represents number of
295 gliding events measured. Gliding and IFT analysis has been performed in absence of ciliobrevin D.

296

297 **Discussion**

298 Our data revealed that the maturation of *N*-glycans has an impact on flagella mediated cell
299 adhesion in *C. reinhardtii*. At the same time, IFT and gliding velocity were not changed due to
300 altered *N*-glycosylation.

301 Microbead binding was found diminished in IM strains, implying that the flagellar surface has
302 an altered affinity towards microbeads. In line with this, their surface adhesion forces were
303 significantly reduced compared to WT-Ins. The AFM data were confirmed by assessing another
304 XylT1A mutant created via CRISPR/Cas9, using micropipette force measurements. It should
305 be noted that *N*-glycan patterns of IM_{XylT1A} and CRISPR_{XylT1A} were comparable and thereby
306 strengthen the proposed role of XylT1A as core xylosyltransferase (Lucas et al., 2020; Schulze
307 et al., 2018). Forces measured for WT strains and *N*-glycosylation mutants with AFM and
308 micropipette force measurement confirmed that differential *N*-glycan maturation, i.e. altered *N*-
309 glycan structures attached to mature proteins, lowers the adhesion force of flagella to a surface.
310 These changes in adhesion forces were not accompanied by consistent drastic changes in the
311 flagellar proteomes. For example, FMG-1B and FAP113, to date the only two known proteins
312 involved in surface adhesion, were found in comparable amounts in WT-Ins and mutants (Fig.
313 1 and Figure 4 - Supplementary Fig. 2) (Bloodgood et al., 2019; Kamiya et al., 2018). Of note,
314 also FMG-1A is localized in flagella and its abundance was unaltered between WT and mutants
315 in vegetative cells (Figure 1 - Supplementary Fig. 4). Interestingly, gliding of mutant strains on
316 solid surface was not affected. The current model for flagella mediated cell adhesion and
317 subsequent gliding proposes that the extracellular part of certain glycoproteins such as FMG-

318 1B adheres to the surface, cytoplasmic moieties of these proteins are bound to ongoing
319 retrograde IFT directly or indirectly upon calcium- and light dependent stimulus which is
320 followed by an onset of gliding (Kreis et al., 2018; Shih et al., 2013). Assuming that altered *N*-
321 glycan maturation does not impact initial protein folding in the ER (as those steps are spatially
322 and temporally separated), our data revealed that changed *N*-glycosylation, did not alter
323 targeting of respective glycoproteins to flagella nor the velocity of IFT. Thus, changes in surface
324 adhesion are likely linked to *N*-glycoprotein epitopes and their direct interaction with the solid
325 or semisolid surface. How specific *N*-glycan moieties modulate adhesion force is subject of
326 future research, particularly considering the finding that flagella mediated adhesion of *C.*
327 *reinhardtii* has been shown to be largely unaffected by different substrate surface properties
328 (Kreis et al. 2019).

329 Notably, IFT and gliding were not changed between double mutant and WT-Ins (Fig. 5). The
330 fact that altered *N*-glycosylation diminished the force of cells to adhere to surfaces but did not
331 affect IFT, strongly suggests that adhesion to surfaces and IFT are not necessarily coupled. As
332 discussed below, adhesion probably evolved independently of the necessity to enable cell
333 gliding.

334 Moreover, it can be concluded that *N*-glycosylation does not significantly impact differences in
335 light perception, as the adhesion forces for WT-SAG and CRISPR_{Xy/TIA} were significantly
336 stronger under blue than under red light (Fig. 4).

337 In summary, taking advantage of single-cell adhesion force measurements, our data revealed
338 that cell adhesion was significantly impaired in *C. reinhardtii* *N*-glycosylation mutant strains.
339 Our data further suggested that flagellar assembly, IFT and FMG-1B transport into flagella
340 were not affected by altered *N*-glycosylation. Thus, we conclude that proper *N*-glycosylation of
341 flagellar proteins is crucial for adhering *C. reinhardtii* cells onto surfaces. We further suggest

342 that the remaining adhesion force, although diminished in *N*-glycan mutants, is still sufficient
 343 for gliding. This suggests that the evolution of adhesion might not have been governed only by
 344 the capability of gliding but by the necessity of adhesion itself. Given the response of flagellar
 345 adhesion to blue light, it could potentially link adhesion to photo-protection which is also blue-
 346 light mediated, as adhesion might result in photoprotection via cell shading (Kreis et al., 2018;
 347 Petroustos et al., 2016).

348 **Material and Methods**

Key Resources Table				
Reagent type (species) or re-source	Designation	Source or reference	Identifiers	Additional information
Strain, Strain background (<i>C. reinhardtii</i>)	WT-Ins	Lv, B. et al 2017	CC-4375	IFT46::YFP
Strain, Strain background (<i>C. reinhardtii</i>)	IM _{XylIT1A}	Schulze S. et al. 2018		
Strain, Strain background (<i>C. reinhardtii</i>)	IM _{Man1a}	Schulze S. et al. 2018		
Strain, Strain background (<i>C. reinhardtii</i>)	IM _{XylIT1AX} IM- _{Man1a}	Schulze S. et al. 2018		
Strain, Strain background (<i>C. reinhardtii</i>)	WT-SAG	AG Bäumchen, MPI Göttingen, Germany	SAG11-32b	

Strain, Strain background (<i>C. reinhardtii</i>)	CRIS-PR _{XyIT1A}	This paper		
Strain, Strain background (<i>C. reinhardtii</i>)	dynein-1b ^{ts}	Chlamycollection Engel B. et al 2012	CC-4423 dhc1b-3 mt-	
Strain, Strain background (<i>C. reinhardtii</i>)	IM _{XyIT1AX} IM- _{Man1aX} dynein-1b ^{ts}	This paper		
software, algorithm	ProteomeDiscoverer	Thermo		
software, algorithm	SugarPy	Schulz et al. 2020		
software, algorithm	Fiji, ImageJ			
Antibody	FMG1B (glycan) (mouse monoclonal)	Developmental Studies Hybridoma Bank	AB_2722111 FMG-1B #8	
Antibody	FMG1B (peptide) (mouse monoclonal)	Developmental Studies Hybridoma Bank	AB_2722112 FMG-1B #61	
Antibody	Anti-HRP (rabbit polyclonal)	Abcam	ab2115	
Antibody	α-tubulin (mouse monoclonal)	SIGMA	T6199	

Antibody	β -tubulin (mouse monoclonal)	博奥龙	BF03001	
chemical compound, drug	Ciliobrevin D		Lot3126637	Inhibitor
Other	0.75 μ m polystyrene microbeads	Polysciences, Inc	7309	
chemical compound, drug	Concavalin A	Sigma		

349

350 **Culture growth**

351 Cells were grown photoheterotrophically in tris-acetate-phosphate (TAP) medium under
 352 constant illumination at 50 μ mol photons*s⁻¹*cm⁻² unless stated otherwise.

353 **Measurement of flagellar length and flagellated cells**

354 The cells were fixed with 0.5% Lugol's solution for 1h at room temperature. Flagellar length
 355 measurements were performed using a phase microscope (Nikon Eclipse Ti) equipped with an
 356 electron multiplying charged-coupled device. For each sample, at least 50 flagella were
 357 measured. For the measurement of flagellated cells, at least 100 cells were counted for each
 358 strain in biological triplicates.

359 **Generation and analysis of a CRISPR/Cas9 mutant strain**

360 Mutagenesis was performed on the WT strain SAG11-32b following the protocol described in
 361 Greiner *et al.* 2017 employing the transformation of a pre-built Cas9:guideRNA complex (Cas9
 362 target sequence in the XylT1A gene: ACGAACACCCCAACACCAAT) simultaneously with
 363 a plasmid encoding for a paromomycin resistance via electroporation. Following selection with

364 paromomycin, putative mutants were screened by PCR using the primer pairs short_fw:
365 TACAAAGAACGGGACGCAGG, short_rev: CATTGAAGCTCATCCAGACAC and
366 long_fw: AAGGGTCACGGCACGGTATG, long_rev: CCTGAAGCACCCATGATGCACG.
367 Genomic *XylT1A* regions of candidate strains showing not-WT like band patterns were
368 sequenced. In total, two mutant strains differing in the DNA inserted following the Cas9 cutting
369 site were identified (CRISPR_{XylT1A_1} and CRISPR_{XylT1A_2}). Next, XylT1A protein levels were
370 quantified by parallel reaction monitoring (PRM) and supernatant *N*-glycan compositions were
371 assessed by IS-CID mass spectrometry. Additionally, flagella were isolated, separated by
372 SDS-PAGE and, after transferred to a nitrocellulose membrane, probed with the protein
373 backbone FMG-1B specific antibody.

374 **Flagella isolation**

375 Flagella isolation from cultures in the mid-log growth phase was performed as described
376 elsewhere by the pH shock method (Witman et al., 1972). Pellets containing flagella samples
377 were stored at -80°C until further use for immunoblotting or sample preparation for mass
378 spectrometric measurements.

379 **Immunoblotting**

380 Frozen, dry flagella and whole cell samples were resuspended in lysis buffer (10mM Tris/HCl,
381 pH=7.4, 2 % SDS, 1 mM Benzamidine and 1 mM PMSF) and subjected to sonication for
382 10 min. After pelleting cell debris, the protein concentration was determined using the
383 bicinchoninic acid assay (BCA Protein Assay Kit by Thermo Scientific Pierce). Volumes
384 corresponding to 30 µg of protein were separated by SDS-PAGE, transferred to nitrocellulose
385 membranes and incubated with antibodies as indicated.

386 **Lectin-affino blotting with concanavalin A and HRP**

387 Frozen, dry whole cell samples were resuspended in lysis buffer (10mM Tris/HCl, pH=7.4, 2 %
388 SDS, 1 mM Benzamidine and 1 mM PMSF) and subjected to sonication for 10 min. After
389 pelleting the not-soluble cell debris, the protein concentration was determined using the
390 bicinchoninic acid assay (BCA Protein Assay Kit by Thermo Scientific Pierce). Volumes
391 corresponding to 50 µg of protein were separated by SDS-PAGE and transferred to
392 nitrocellulose membrane. Membrane was incubated with ConA (1µg/ml in TBST + 1 mM
393 CaCl₂ + 1 mM MnCl₂) for 1.5h at room temperature. Subsequently membrane was washed and
394 incubated 1h with HRP (5µg/ml in TBST + 1 mM CaCl₂ + 1 mM MnCl₂). Excess HRP as well
395 as Ca²⁺ and Mn²⁺ were removed by three washing steps with TBST, before affino blot was
396 development via ECL.

397 **Sample preparation for mass spectrometric measurements**

398 Frozen, dry flagella and whole cell samples were treated as described in Immunoblotting.
399 Volumes corresponding to 60 µg of protein were tryptically digested and desalted as described
400 elsewhere (Rappsilber et al., 2007).

401 **Mass spectrometry measurements**

402 Tryptic peptides were reconstituted in 2 % (v/v) acetonitrile/0.1 % (v/v) formic acid in ultrapure
403 water and separated with an Ultimate 3000 RSLCnano System (Thermo Scientific).
404 Subsequently, the sample was loaded on a trap column (C18 PepMap 100, 300 µm x 5 mm,
405 5 mm particle size, 100 Å pore size; Thermo Scientific) and desalted for 5 min using 0.05 %
406 (v/v) TFA/2 % (v/v) acetonitrile in ultrapure water with a flow rate of 10 µL*min⁻¹. Following,
407 peptides were separated on a separation column (Acclaim PepMap100 C18, 75 mm i.D., 2 mm
408 particle size, 100 Å pore size; Thermo Scientific) with a length of 50 cm. General mass
409 spectrometric (MS) parameters are listed in Table 1.

410 For quantification of glycosyltransferases, PRM (including a target list) was employed on
 411 whole cell samples and respective spectra were analyzed with the Skyline software (Pino et al.,
 412 2017). For quantification of flagellar proteins, flagella samples were measured in biological
 413 quadruplicates in standard, not targeted, data dependent measurements. Following, peptide wise
 414 protein abundance ratios (IM/WT) were calculated with ProteomeDiscovererTM (normalizing
 415 on a set of not membrane standing flagellar proteins) and filtered for proteins identified in at
 416 least 11 samples, for proteins having Abundance Ratio Adj. P-Value < 0.05 for at least one ratio
 417 and for proteins appearing in the flagellar proteome ChlamyFPv5(Pazour et al., 2005).

418 In order to assign glycopeptides, samples were measured employing In-Source collision
 419 induced dissociation (IS-CID) as described previously followed by analysis of data with Ursgal
 420 and SugarPy (Kremer et al., 2016; Oltmanns et al., 2020; Schulze et al., 2020).

421 **Table 1. MS parameters.** Relevant parameters used to acquire IS-CID and not fragmented
 422 TopN MS spectra as well as PRM data.

	TopN without IS-CID	In-Source CID HCD	Parallel reaction monitoring	
Eluent compositions	Peptide trapping: 0.05% trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) in ultrapure water (A1), 0.05% TFA in 80% acetonitrile (B1) Peptide separation: 0.1% formic acid (FA) in ultrapure water (A2), 0.1% FA in 80% acetonitrile (B2)			LC parameters
Trap Column	C18 PepMap 100, 300 μM x 5 mm, 5 μm particle size, 100 Å pore size; Thermo Scientific			
Peptide trapping (eluent A1+B1)	2.5% B1 at 5 μl/min for 5 min	2.5% B1 at 10 μl/min for 3 min		

Flow rate	300 nL/min		250 nL/min	
Separation Column	Acclaim PepMap C18, 75 μ m x 50 cm, 2 μ m particle size, 100 Å pore size; Thermo Scientific			
Gradient for peptide separation (eluent A2+B2)	2.5% B2 over 5 min, 2.5-45% B2 over 40 min, 45%-99 % B2 over 5 min 99% B2 for 20 min 99%-2.5% over 5 min 2.5% for 30 min		2.5% B2 over 5 min, 2.5-35% B2 over 105 min, 35%-99 % B2 over 5 min 99% B2 for 20 min 99%-2.5% over 5 min 2.5% for 40 min	
In-source CID	off	80 eV	off	MS1 settings
Use lock masses	off		on (m/z 445.12003)	
Resolution at m/z 200 (FWHM)	70,000			
Chromatographic peak width	15 s			
AGC target	3e6			
Maximum injection time	100 ms		50 ms	
Scan range	600-3000 m/z		350-1600 m/z	
Mass tags	off	on	off	
TopN	12		n/a	MS2 settings
Resolution at m/z 200 (FWHM)	17,500		35,000	
Isolation window	2 m/z		2 m/z (offset 0.5 m/z)	
AGC target	1e5			
Maximum injection time	120 ms			

Normalized collision energy (NCE)	30	27	
Minimum AGC target	1.25e3	n/a	
Intensity threshold	1e4	n/a	
Charge exclusion	unassigned, >5	n/a	
Dynamic exclusion	15 s	n/a	

423

424 **Microbead measurements**

425 Microbead binding- and transport assays were performed analogous to previous
426 descriptions.(Bloodgood et al., 2019) Monodisperse polystyrene microspheres (0.7 μm
427 diameter) were purchased from Polysciences, Inc. Beads were washed with deionized water for
428 three times and resuspended in NFHSM to make a store solution, which was used at 1:10
429 dilution in adhesion and motility detecting experiment.

430 To quantify the ability of bead binding, beads were added to 500 μL of cells at a density of
431 2×10^7 cells $\cdot\text{mL}^{-1}$. After 5min, cells were observed with a light microscope (Olympus, U-
432 HGLGPS, 100X oil objective). A flagellum was scored as “+ bead” if beads adhered to it. The
433 percentage of flagellar binding beads was calculated as: Percentage of flagellar binding beads
434 = the number of “+ bead”/ (total number flagella scored) x 100%.

435 To obtain a kinetic measure of surface motility, cells were mixed with beads as above for 5 min
436 and randomly observed under the light microscope. Each bead adhered to a flagellum was
437 monitored for about 30 seconds. If beads moved along the flagella, we marked it as “Moved
438 bead” or it was “Adhered bead”. The surface motility was calculated as: Percentage of moved
439 beads along with flagella= “Move bead” x/ (“Moved bead” + “Adhered bead”) 100%.

440 **AFM measurements**

441 *C. reinhardtii* strains, grown in M1 medium under constant white illumination were grown for
442 65 h, were allowed to adhere to a glass slide (immersed in ethanol for overnight, subsequently
443 rinsed with MQ water) in fresh M1 medium for 15 min. Following, cells were incubated in the
444 presence of ciliobrevin D for 1 h (500 μ L M1 supplemented with 200 μ M ciliobrevin D). For
445 AFM measurements, only adhered cells in gliding conformation having approximately similar
446 appearance were analyzed. The MLCT-O10 AFM probe (Spring Const.: 0.03 N m⁻¹, length:
447 215 μ m, width: 20 μ m, resonant freq.: 15 kHz, Bruker) was soaked in acetone for 5 min, then
448 subjected to UV illumination (distance to lamp: 3-5 mm) for 15 min. Then, the probe was
449 immersed in 0.01 % poly-l-lysine for 1 h and afterwards rinsed with MQ water. Following, the
450 probe was immersed with 2 % glutaraldehyde for 1 h and rinsed with MQ water before use.
451 The AFM measurement was performed in Force Spectroscopy Mode in liquid at room
452 temperature using a NanoWizard 3 AFM (JPK) equipped with a CellHesion stage (Z range: 100
453 μ m) NanoWizard 3 head. The spring constant of the cantilever was routinely calibrated using
454 the contact-based thermal noise method. The AFM tip, modified as described, was lowered onto
455 the cell surface at a rate of 10 μ m s⁻¹ with a z scale of 25 μ m. After contact, the applied force
456 was maintained at 3 nN for 15 s. Then, the cell-attached probe was upraised at a rate of 1 μ m s⁻¹.
457 Force curves were processed with JPK SPM Data Processing (JPK). The forces and energy
458 were determined as described in Figure 3 -Supplemental Figure 1 (Liu et al., 2011). Three
459 biological replicates were performed with minimum 5 cells measured per replicate.

460 **Micropipette force measurements**

461 Cell culture growth and micropipette force measurements were performed following
462 established recipes (Kreis et al., 2019, 2018). In brief, *C. reinhardtii* strains WT-SAG and
463 CRISPR_{Xy/TIA_1} grew axenically in tris-acetate-phosphate (TAP) medium (Thermo Fisher
464 Scientific) in a Memmert IPP 100Plus incubator on a 12 h day / 12 h night cycle. The

465 experimental approach is based on the use of a homemade micropipette force sensor, which
466 allows for grasping a living cell by suction (Backholm and Bäumchen, 2019). The
467 micropipette is calibrated by measuring the deflection induced by the weight of an
468 evaporating water droplet at tip of the pipette. The adhesion force is obtained by bringing the
469 flagella into contact with a piece of a silicon wafer (unilateral polished, Si-Mat) cleaned by
470 sonication in ethanol, and by measuring the micropipette deflection during iterative approach
471 and retraction of the substrate moving at $1 \mu\text{m} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$. The substrate approach consists of pushing
472 the cell such that the micropipette is deflected by $10 \mu\text{m}$ from the cell/substrate contact
473 position, which is then followed by a dwell period of 10 s. The substrate is then retracted by
474 $30 \mu\text{m}$ from the cell/substrate contact position at the same speed. The overall contact time
475 between the flagella and the substrate is about 30 s. The illumination wavelength for blue and
476 red light was 470 nm and 671 nm respectively, and realized by using narrow band pass
477 interference filters (FWHM: 10 nm) added on top of the condenser of an inverted microscope
478 (Olympus IX-73 and IX-83). During the adhesion force measurements, the cells were
479 illuminated with a constant photon flux of $1019 \text{ photons} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ for both light conditions.
480 For each cell, 10 adhesion force measurements were performed for each wavelength, whereby
481 the order of red and blue light was varied randomly after 5 consecutive measurements.
482 In order to evaluate the influence of ciliobrevin-D on the adhesiveness, a $200 \mu\text{M}$ stock
483 solution of ciliobrevin-D (Merck) was prepared in a 9:1 water: dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO,
484 Purity: 99.9%, Sigma-Aldrich,) mixture. Then, 1.08 mL of this stock solution was added to 30
485 mL of culture to achieve a final concentration of $7 \mu\text{M}$ of ciliobrevin-D in the cell suspension.
486 The *C. reinhardtii* suspension containing ciliobrevin-D was next incubated for 30 minutes and
487 then centrifuged at 100 g for ten minutes, followed-up by a minimum of 30 minutes rest in the
488 incubator. Finally, about 15 mL of the cell suspension was used to fill the liquid chamber. In
489 parallel, a second suspension of *C. reinhardtii* cells was incubated using the same fraction of

490 DMSO (but without ciliobrevin-D), followed by the exact same experimental procedure to
491 serve as a control group.

492

493 **TIRF imaging**

494 Total internal reflection microscopy (TIRF) was applied to assess intraflagellar transport and
495 gliding behaviour of *C. reinhardtii* strains expressing YFP-coupled IFT46. Therefore, cell
496 densities were adjusted to 1×10^5 cells*ml⁻¹. Samples were loaded to a glass bottom microscopy
497 chamber (μ -Slide 8 Well Glass Bottom) and refreshed every 20 min while imaging. TIRF
498 microscopy was performed at room temperature with a Nikon Eclipse Ti and a 100x objective.
499 IFT46::YFP was excited at 488 nm and fluorescence was recorded with an iXon Ultra EMCCD
500 camera (Andor). For analysis, images were captured with NIS-Elements software over 30 s at
501 10 fps and a pixel size of $0.158 \mu\text{m} \cdot \text{pixel}^{-1}$. Images were evaluated by use of Fiji via manual
502 evaluation of kymographs. Nett IFT velocities during gliding were calculated by subtracting
503 corresponding gliding velocities. Three biological replicates were performed with 10 cells in
504 gliding configuration analysed per replicate.

505 **Confocal imaging**

506 Cells were incubated with primary antibodies (FMG-1B #8 and #61, available at dshb.com),
507 subsequently incubated with a fluorescently labeled secondary antibody and analyzed by
508 confocal microscopy as described previously (Lv et al., 2017). In brief, cells were plated on
509 1 % poly (ethyleneimine) coated cover glass, decolorized and fixed in methanol at -20 °C for
510 20 min, permeated cells in PBS buffer for 1 h, and then blocked in 5 % BSA (Biosharp), 10 %
511 normal goat serum (Dingguo) and 1 % fish gelatin (Sigma) in PBS. Incubated the samples
512 with primary antibodies overnight, washed them, and incubated secondary antibody, washed
513 the samples and mounted them on slides with nail polish. The slides were examined with a
514 Leica confocal microscope (SP8). Images were acquired and processed by LAS X software

515 (Leica) and ImageJ software. The 488 nm laser was used YFP excitation wavelength is 510
516 nm, the emission wavelength is 525 nm and the exposure time is 200ms.

517 **Mating and Tetrad analysis**

518 The plus and minus strains was incubated in 2 mL TAP-N medium (2×10^7 cells/mL) under
519 continuous light overnight for gametogenesis. 0.5 mL plus and minus gametes were mixed
520 together and incubated for 2 h for mating. Then 0.15 mL mixture was dispersed onto mature
521 plate (4% agar). Plate was kept in dark for 5 days, then exposed to light for 24 h. The unmated
522 gametes were removed from the mature plate with razor blade and were killed using
523 chloroform for 30 s. The agar contained about 30 zygotes was cut and transferred to a
524 germination plate (1% agar). The plates were incubated in bright light till the spores were
525 released from the zygote, then 100 μ L water was added to the cut agar and was dispersed on
526 whole plate. Single clones appeared within 3-5 days and were picked for further analysis.

527

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540 **Author contributions:**

541 N.X and L.H. performed light microscope imaging. A.O., J.B. and M.S. performed mass
542 spectrometry assisted data analysis. N.X., A.O., L.H. and J.B. performed immuno blotting
543 experiments. A.O. and S.K. performed CRISPR-Cas mutagenesis with help of P.H.. L.Z and
544 L.L performed AFM measurements and corresponding data interpretation. A.G., M.K. and O.B.
545 performed and analyzed micropipette force measurements. A.O., N.X., L.H., K.H. and M.H.
546 were involved in data interpretation. A.O. wrote the manuscript with help of N.X., L.H., M.H.
547 and K.H.

548 **Competing Interests:**

549 The authors declare no conflict of interests.

550 **Materials and Correspondence:**

551 The mass spectrometry proteomics data have been deposited to the ProteomeXchange
552 Consortium (<http://proteomecentral.proteomexchange.org>) via the PRIDE partner repository
553 with the dataset identifier PXD018353 and will be publically available upon acceptance of the
554 manuscript (Perez-Riverol et al., 2019). During peer review, the dataset can be entered via the
555 account reviewer44250@ebi.ac.uk and the password OLy6xQJY. For further requests, please
556 contact K. Huang (huangky@ihb.ac.cn) or M. Hippler (mhippler@uni-muenster.de).

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712

713

714 **Supplementary legends**

715 **Figure 1 - Supplementary Figure 1. Flagellar length is not altered in N-glycosylation** 716 **mutants.**

717

718 a, Measurement of the flagellar length (in μm) among WT-Ins and three mutants. 50 flagella
719 were measured in each experiment and this experiment has three biological repeats. Error bar:
720 mean \pm SD. $p > 0.05$. b, Percentage of flagellated cell in WT-Ins and IM strains. The result of
721 three biological replicates is shown. Error bar: mean \pm SD. $p > 0.05$.

722

723

724 **Figure 1 - Supplementary Figure 2. N-Glycan structures are altered in mutants as**
725 **compared to WT-Ins.**

726

727 Whole cell proteins (a) and isolated flagella (b) of WT-Ins and mutants were separated on a 7%
728 SDS-PAGE, transferred to nitrocellulose and probed with anti-HRP, which is specifically
729 binding to β 1,2-xylose and α 1,3-fucose attached to the N-glycan core. α -tubulin, as loading
730 controls.

731

732

733 **Figure 1 - Supplementary Figure 3. N-glycosylation mutants show increased**
734 **Concanavalin-A affinity**

735

736 Whole cell proteins of WT-SAG, WT-Ins and mutants were separated on a 7% SDS-PAGE,
737 transferred to nitrocellulose and probed with the lectin Concanavalin A, which binds specific
738 N-glycan epitopes. To ensure equal protein loading membrane was stained before lectin probing
739 with ponceau red (left).

740

741 **Figure 1 - Supplementary Figure 4. Change of N-glycan pattern of FMG-1B in IM strains**
742 **as compared to WT-Ins.**

743

744 a, Diagram of the topology of FMG-1B, the major component of the glycocalyx in *C.*
745 *reinhardtii*. The identified N-linked glycosylation sites are marked. b, Comparison of FMG-1B
746 proteotypic N-glycopeptides identified by IS-CID/SugarPy in WT-Ins, IM_{Man1A}, IM_{XylT1A} and
747 IM_{Man1A}XIM_{XylT1A}. c, The relative peptide abundances of FMG-1A in IM_{Man1A}, IM_{XylT1A} and
748 IM_{Man1A}XIM_{XylT1A} strains compared it in WT-Ins obtained by label free MS analysis.

749

750 **Figure 1 - Supplementary Figure 5. Genetic crossing of original IM strains (mt+) with**
751 **CC124 (mt-) to obtain mutants lacking IFT46::YFP.**

752

753 a, Screening the progenies of IM_{Man1A} mutants with WT-CC-124 to obtain the mutant without
754 IFT46::YFP background, which grew in TAP plate with Paromomycin added and died in TAP
755 plate with Hygromycin added. b, Determination of mRNA levels of *MANIA* gene in progeny
756 clones P14, P15 and WT-Ins. IM_{Man1A}-P14 still can live in TAP plate with Paromomycin or
757 Hygromycin. IM_{Man1A}-P15 grew in TAP plate with Paromomycin and died in TAP plate added
758 Hygromycin, which is the strain IFT46::YFP had been removed. Error bar: mean \pm SD.
759 Asterisks indicate statistically significant differences ($p < 0.01$). c, Comparison of mRNA level
760 of *MANIA* gene in progeny clones with CC-124. Error bar: mean \pm SD. Asterisks indicate
761 statistically significant differences ($p < 0.01$). d, Determination of the expression of IFT46::YFP
762 in whole cell of WT-Ins and IM_{Man1A}-P15 mutant. IM_{Man1A}-P15 is the offspring generated by
763 crossing IM_{Man1A}-P15 mutant (mt+) with CC124 (mt-). α -tubulin, as loading control. e,
764 Determination of the expression of IFT46::YFP in whole cell of WT-Ins and IM_{XylT1A}-P1
765 mutant. α -tubulin, as loading control. f, Determination of the expression of IFT46::YFP in
766 progenies from the crossing CC124 with IM_{Man1A} X IM_{XylT1A}. α -tubulin, as loading control.

767

768 **Figure 1 - Supplementary Figure 6. The altered *N*-glycan did not change the localization**
769 **FMG-1B in flagella.**

770 (A) The mutants of IM_{Man1A-P15}, IM_{XylT1A -P37}, IM_{Man1A} X IM_{XylT1A -P37} were mixed with equal
771 amount of WT-Ins expressing IFT46::YFP, then immune stained with an antibody against *N*-
772 glycan epitope, there is at least one WT-Ins cell and one mutant cell in each picture. (B) The
773 mutants of IM_{Man1A-P15}, IM_{XylT1A -P37}, IM_{Man1A} X IM_{XylT1A -P37} were mixed with equal amount of
774 WT-Ins expressing IFT46::YFP, then immune stained with a peptide antibody of FMG-1B,
775 there are at least one WT-Ins cell and one mutant cell in each picture.

776

777 **Figure 1 - Supplementary Figure 7. Quantitative mass spectrometry of isolated flagellar**
778 **from WT-Ins and *N*-glycosylation mutants**

779 a, Experimental procedures of flagella isolation and following analyses. b, Immunoblot of
780 isolated flagella probed with antibodies against chloroplast marker protein (Cytf, cytochrome
781 f) and mitochondrion marker protein (COXIIB). The absence of respective marker proteins in
782 the flagellar fraction prove the purity of flagellar samples while ponceau staining of the same
783 membrane indicates that similar amounts of protein were loaded. c, Proteins found significantly
784 differential in abundance in IM strains compared to WT-Ins. Entries of proteins are given with
785 corresponding phytozome ID protein description.

786

787 **Figure 2 - Video 1. Attachment and movement of a microsphere to and along flagella.**

788 To obtain a kinetic measure of surface motility, cells were mixed with beads as above for 5 min
789 and randomly observed under the light microscope. Each bead adhered to a flagellum was
790 monitored for about 30 seconds. If beads moved along the flagella, we marked it as “Moved
791 bead” or it was “Adhered bead”. See exemplary file Figure 2 - Video 1

792

793 **Figure 3 - Supplementary Figure 1. Analysis of the force and energy required to overcome**
794 **the adhesion of *C. reinhardtii* flagella to the surface from AFM force curves.**

795

796 The curve shows the relation of pulling force and pulling distance during AFM probe retracting.
797 The lowest point of the curve represents the maximal adhesion force of flagella which was used
798 in Figure 3C. The area of shaded region represents the total energy calculated by the JPK SPM
799 Data Processing software for pulling up the cell. The average energy is calculated via dividing
800 total energy by pulling distance as shown in the figure.

801

802 **Figure 3 - Supplementary Figure 2. Detachment distance and total energy of the flagella**
803 **adhesion quantified by atomic force microscopy.**

804

805 A, Flagella detachment distances of WT-Ins, IM_{Man1A}, IM_{XylT1A} and IM_{Man1A}XIM_{XylT1A}
806 were generated from force curves. B, Total energy of flagellar adhesion of WT-Ins, IM_{Man1A},
807 IM_{XylT1A} and IM_{Man1A}XIM_{XylT1A}. Three biological replicates were performed with

808 minimum 5 cells measured per replicate. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. The p values are
809 obtained from a two-sided, two sample t-test of mean values.

810

811 **Figure 4 - Supplementary Figure 1. Xylosyltransferase 1A mutant generated via**
812 **CRISPR/Cas9 supports findings in IM_{XylT1A}.**

813

814 a, Schematic representation of the XylT1A gene including the site targeted by CRISPR/Cas9.
815 b, Parallel reaction monitoring was employed to prove the knock out of XylT1A on proteomic
816 level in two mutants generated by CRISPR/Cas9. c, Comparison of N-glycan patterns between
817 the XylT1A mutant strains in different genetic backgrounds (IM strain and CRISPR-Cas
818 generated mutants) considering comparable N-glycosites. d, Detailed comparison of the XylT1A
819 strains in different genetic background looking specifically at Pent (left), dHex (middle) and N-
820 glycan length (number of Hex+MeHex, right).

821

822 **Figure 4 - Supplementary Figure 2. Immunoblot proving the presence of FMG-1B in**
823 **flagella of CRISPR_{XylT1A.1} and CRISPR_{XylT1A.2}**

824

825 30 µg of protein per sample were separated by SDS-PAGE and transferred to a nitrocellulose
826 membrane in biological quadruplicates. a, Ponceau staining of the membrane reveals equal
827 loading between different strains and differential composition of different sample types. b, On
828 one hand, the FMG-1B protein backbone specific antibody proves a correct targeting of FMG-
829 1B to flagella in the mutants despite altered N-glycosylation. On the other, the application of
830 antibodies specifically binding to a chloroplast (Cytf, cytochrome f) marker protein as well as
831 to the ATPase beta subunit (mitochondrial and chloroplast) proves the purity of flagellar
832 samples analyzed.

833

834 **Figure 4 - Supplementary Figure 3. Study of the effect of DMSO on the flagella adhesion**
835 **forces using micropipette force microscopy**

836

837 Micropipette force measurements of the same cells were performed for WT-SAG under blue
838 and red light in the (+) presence or (-) absence of DMSO. The concentration of DMSO
839 corresponds to the one used in the experiments with Ciliobrevin-D. Mean values of 10
840 measurements per cell are depicted, statistical analysis was performed on mean values. The p-
841 values obtained from Kolmogorov-Smirnov test are respectively (from top to bottom): (n.s.)
842 $p = 0.9556$, (*) $p = 0.0415$.

843

844 **Figure 5 Supplementary Figure 1. Adhesion force increases in temperature sensitive dhc1-**
845 **b mutant at restrictive temperature.**

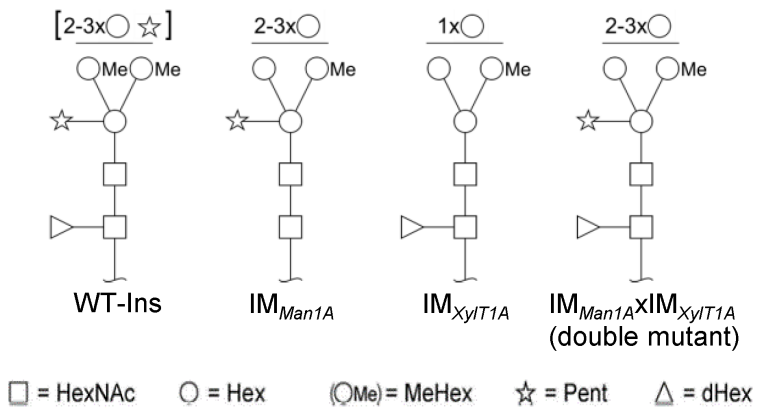
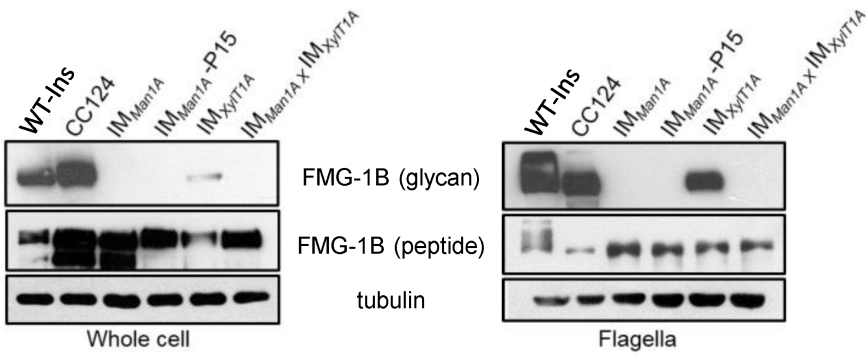
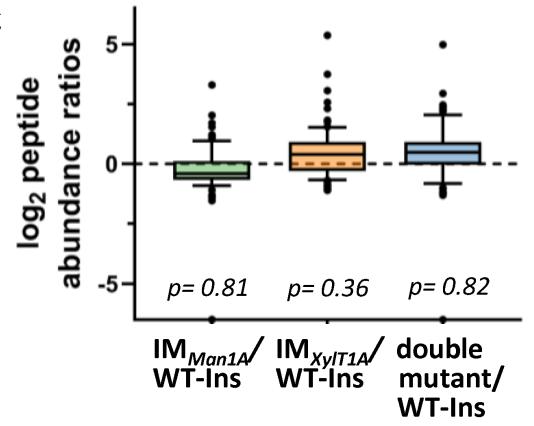
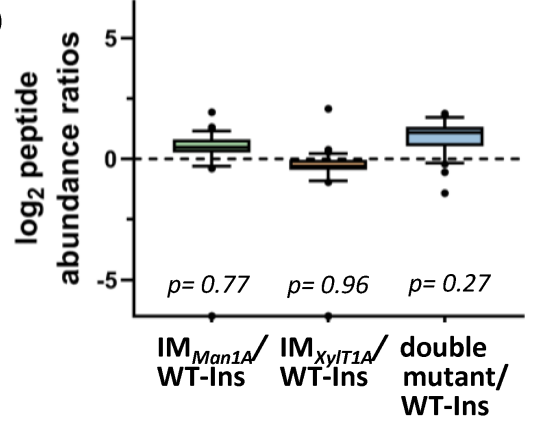
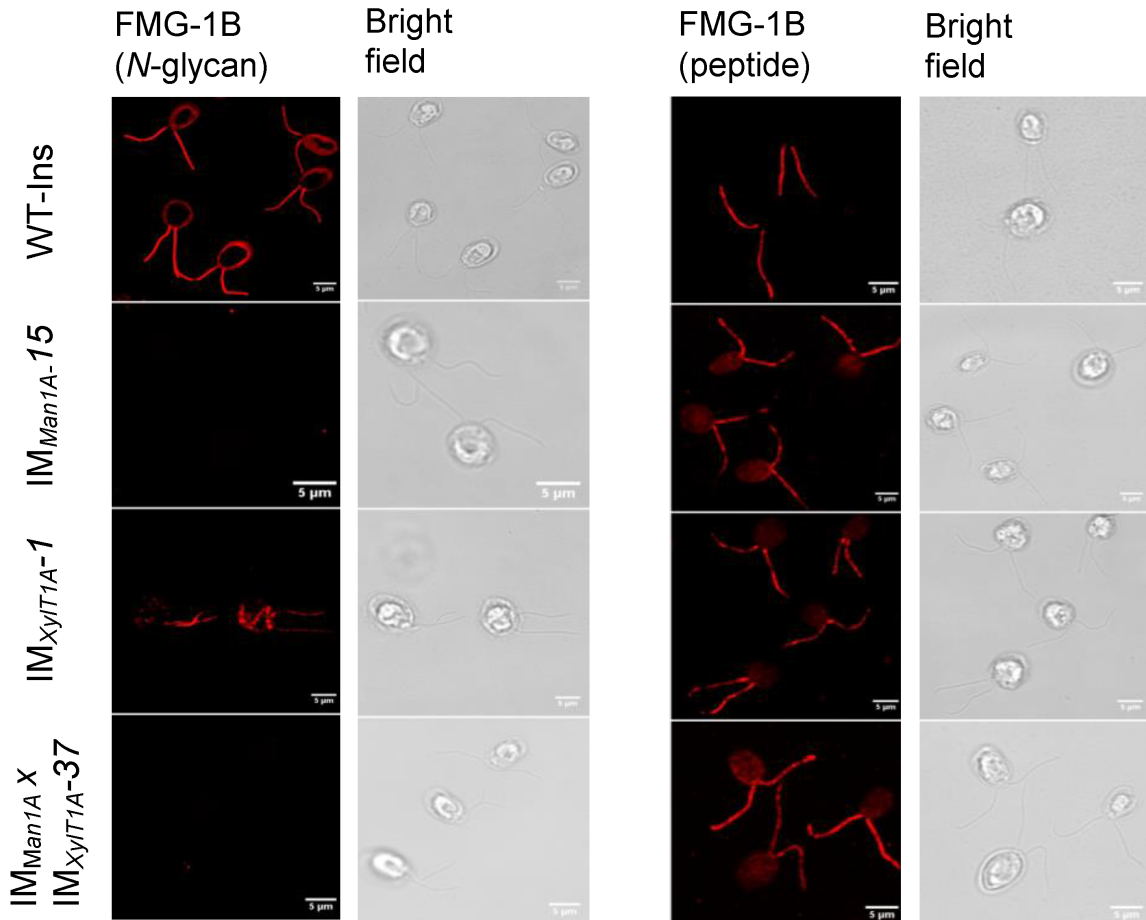
846 (A) The unique inserted cassette of *AphVIII* in *MANIA* gene was identified in the double mutant
847 and the progenies of the cross between the IM_{Man1A} IM_{XylT1A} with dynein-1b^{ts} using PCR. (B)
848 Identification of the point mutation of DHC1b^{ts} in the progenies of the cross between the IM-
849 *Man1A* IM_{XylT1A} and dynein-1b^{ts}. (C) Identification of the unique inserted fragment of *XylT1A*
850 gene in the progenies of the cross between the IM_{Man1A} IM_{XylT1A} and dynein-1b^{ts} using PCR. (D)

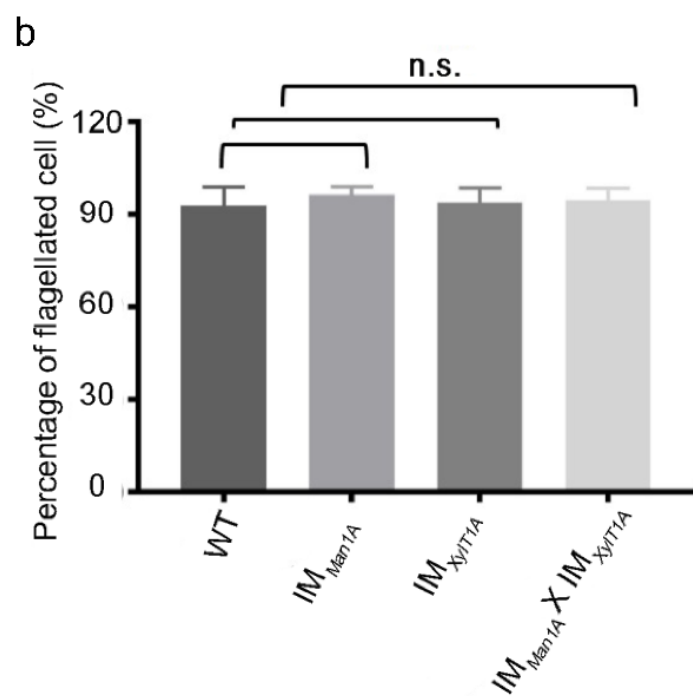
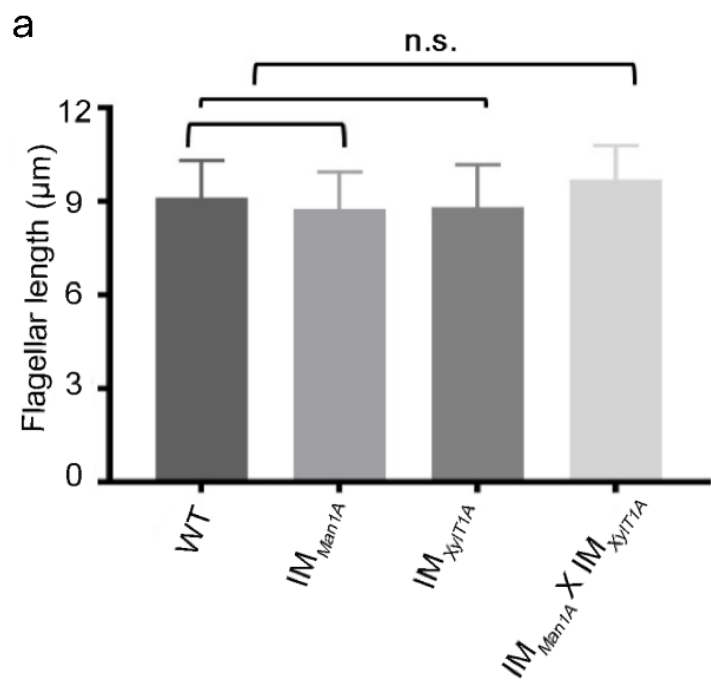
851 The shortening of flagella occurs only when triple mutant was incubated at restrictive temper-
852 ature. Three biological replicates were performed with 50 flagella evaluated per replicate. Error
853 bars show SEM of three replicates. (E) The flagella were shortening when triple mutant was
854 treated with 20 mM Nappi. Three biological replicates were performed with 50 flagella evalu-
855 ated per replicate. Error bars show SEM of three replicates. (F) The distribution of adhesive
856 force when triple mutant was incubated at restrictive temperature (- no functional DHC1b) or
857 treated with 20 mM NaPPi (+ with functional DHC1b). Three biological replicates were per-
858 formed with at least 4 cells evaluated per replicate. T-test was used for statistical analysis. As-
859 terisks indicate statistically differences (* $p < 0.01$). (G) The total energy of pulled up cell from
860 the solid surface. Three biological replicates were performed with at least 4 cells evaluated per
861 replicate. T-test was used for statistical analysis. Asterisks indicate statistically differences (* p
862 < 0.1).

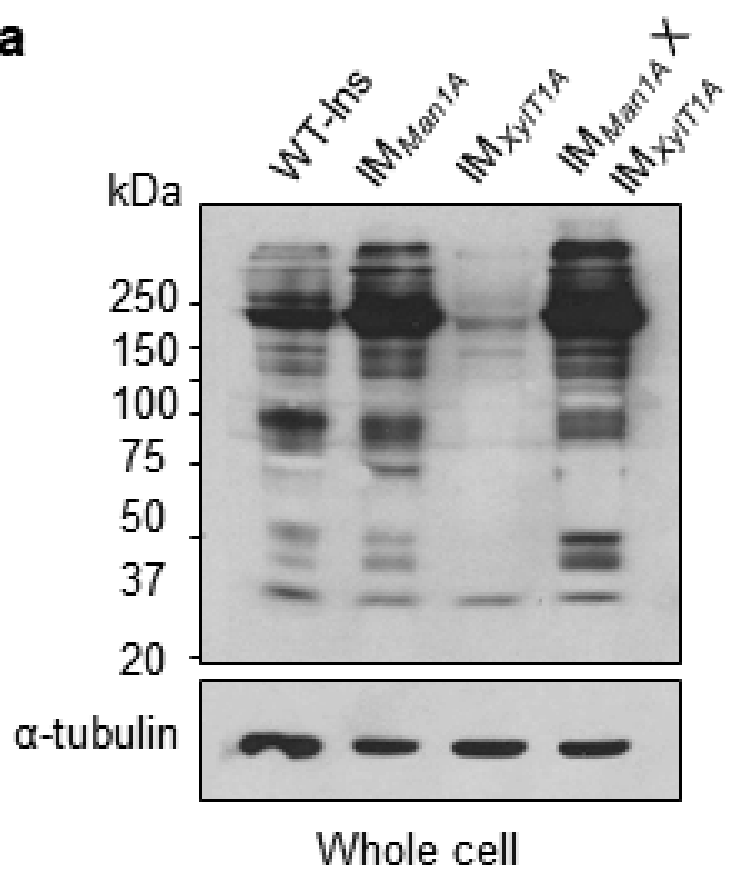
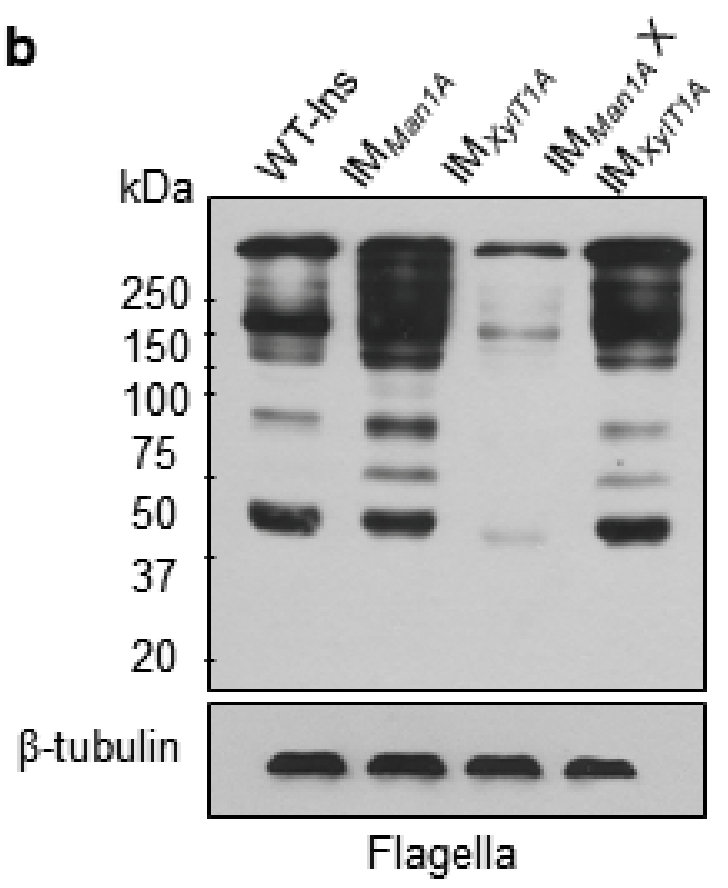
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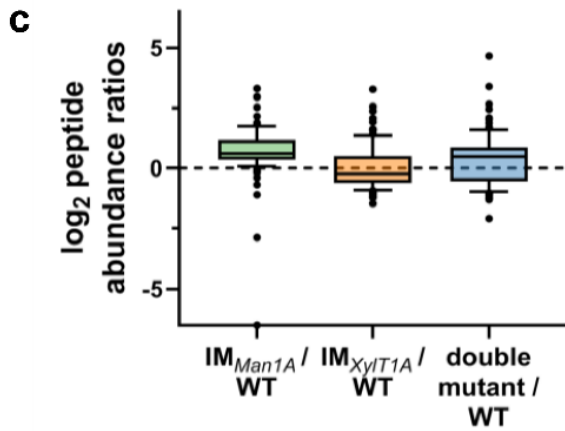
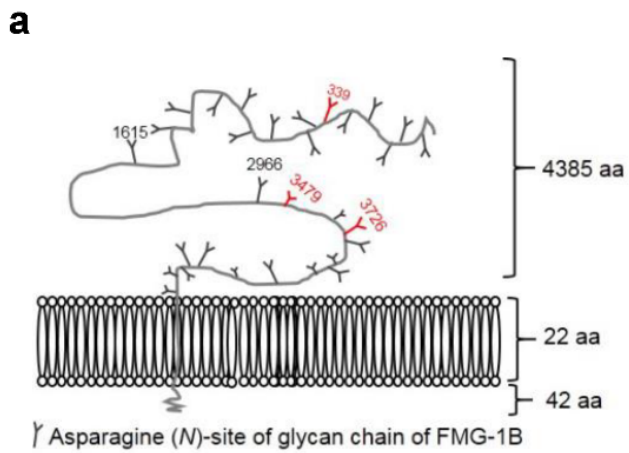
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A**B****C****D****E**

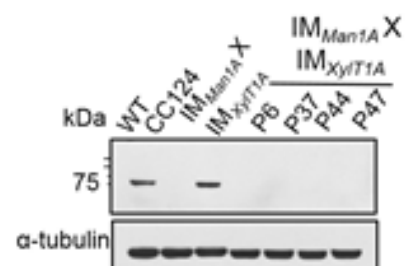
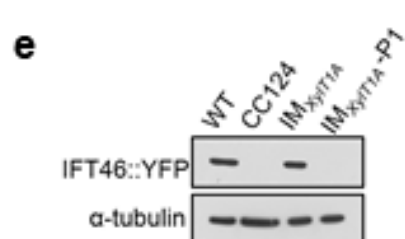
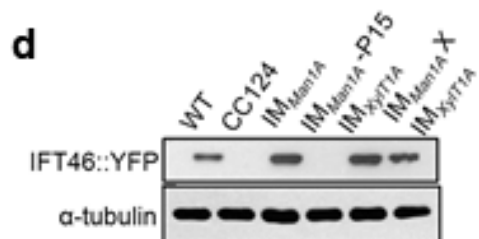
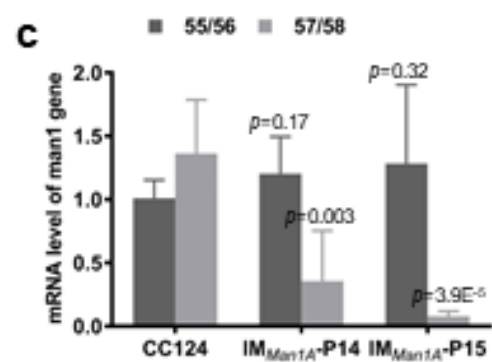
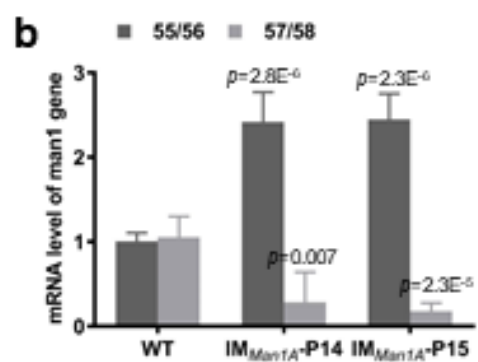
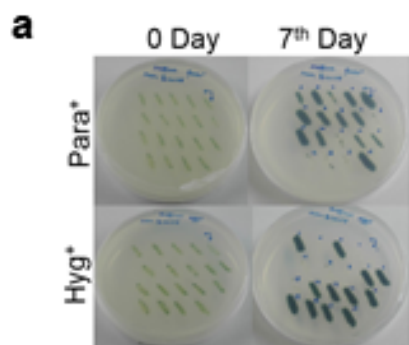


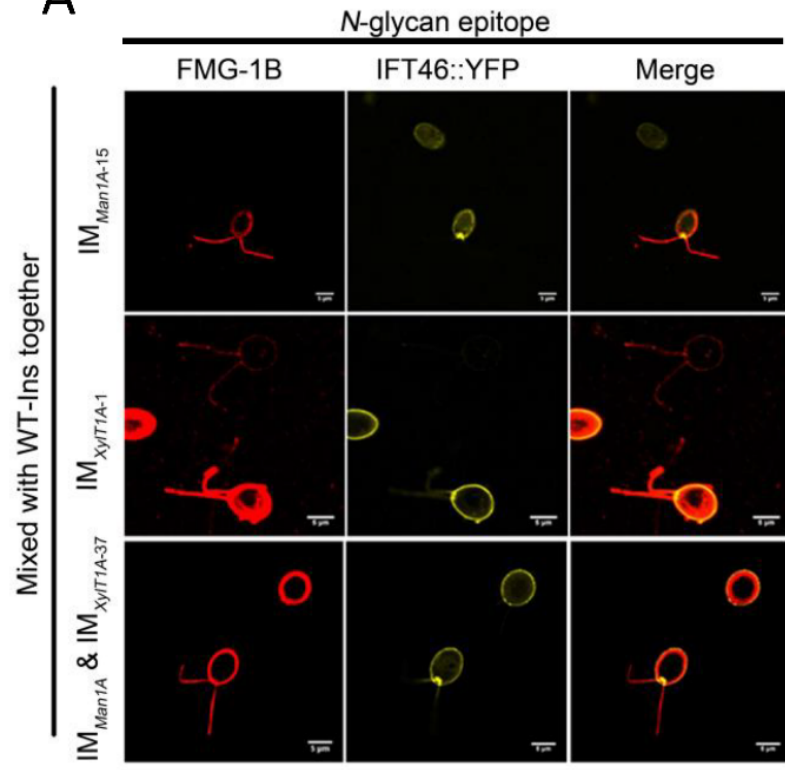
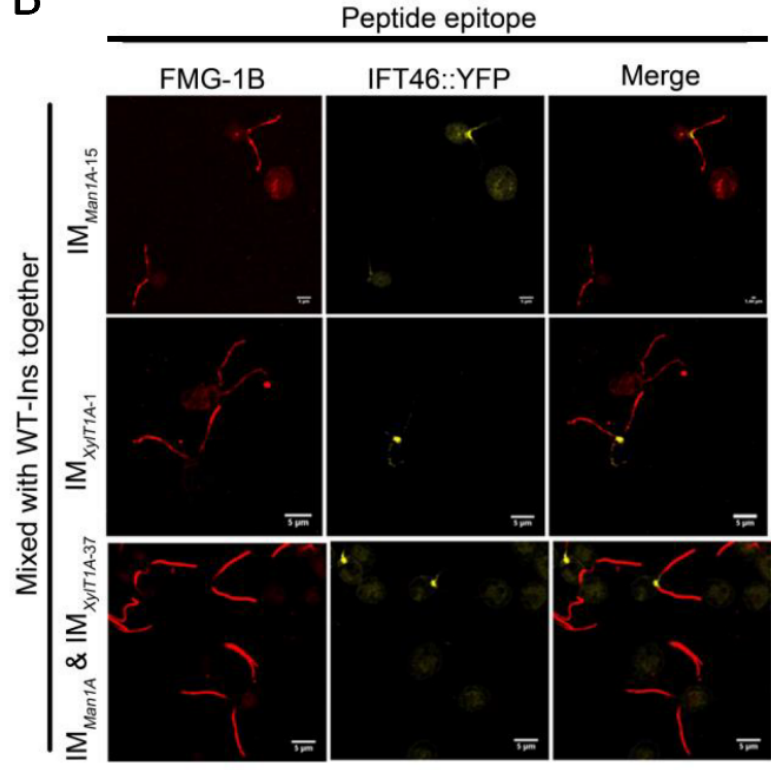
a**b**

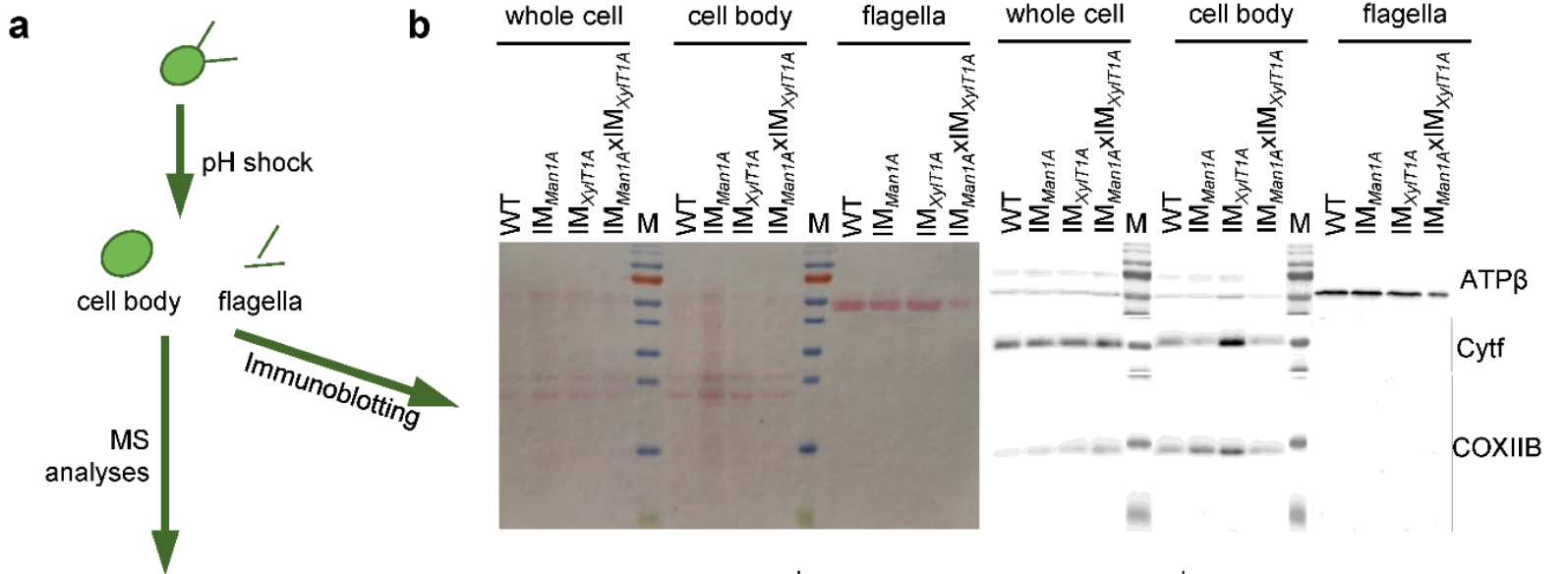


b

<i>N</i> -glycosylated peptide of FMG-1B	<i>N</i> -glycan chain	Strain
ADCDVAVFVFSGAGNTTK	Hex(4)HexNAc(2)MeHex(2)Pent(2)dHex(1)	WT
	Hex(5)HexNAc(2)MeHex(1)Pent(1)dHex(0)	IM _{Man1A}
	Hex(6)HexNAc(2)MeHex(1)Pent(1)dHex(0)	
	Hex(7)HexNAc(2)MeHex(0)Pent(1)dHex(0)	
	Hex(6)HexNAc(2)MeHex(0)Pent(1)dHex(0)	
	Hex(6)HexNAc(2)MeHex(0)Pent(0)dHex(0)	IM _{XylT1A}
	Hex(5)HexNAc(2)MeHex(0)Pent(0)dHex(0)	
	Hex(7)HexNAc(2)MeHex(0)Pent(1)dHex(0)	
	Hex(5)HexNAc(2)MeHex(1)Pent(0)dHex(0)	
	Hex(5)HexNAc(2)MeHex(1)Pent(1)dHex(0)	IM _{Man1A} × IM _{XylT1A}
Hex(6)HexNAc(2)MeHex(0)Pent(0)dHex(1)		
Hex(7)HexNAc(2)MeHex(0)Pent(1)dHex(0)		
Hex(6)HexNAc(2)MeHex(0)Pent(1)dHex(0)		
LLSAGNFSAGDTVNIKPEQAE LR	Hex(4)HexNAc(2)MeHex(2)Pent(2)dHex(1)	WT
	Hex(3)HexNAc(2)MeHex(3)Pent(2)dHex(1)	IM _{Man1A}
	Hex(6)HexNAc(2)MeHex(0)Pent(1)dHex(0)	
	Hex(4)HexNAc(2)MeHex(1)Pent(1)dHex(0)	
	Hex(5)HexNAc(2)MeHex(0)Pent(2)dHex(0)	
	Hex(6)HexNAc(2)MeHex(0)Pent(2)dHex(0)	IM _{XylT1A}
	Hex(3)HexNAc(2)MeHex(1)Pent(1)dHex(0)	
	Hex(3)HexNAc(2)MeHex(1)Pent(0)dHex(1)	
	Hex(6)HexNAc(2)MeHex(0)Pent(1)dHex(1)	
	Hex(2)HexNAc(2)MeHex(1)Pent(1)dHex(0)	IM _{Man1A} × IM _{XylT1A}
Hex(5)HexNAc(2)MeHex(0)Pent(1)dHex(0)		
Hex(5)HexNAc(2)MeHex(1)Pent(1)dHex(1)		
Hex(4)HexNAc(2)MeHex(0)Pent(0)dHex(1)		
Hex(4)HexNAc(2)MeHex(1)Pent(1)dHex(0)	IM _{Man1A} × IM _{XylT1A}	
Hex(5)HexNAc(2)MeHex(1)Pent(1)dHex(0)		
Hex(5)HexNAc(2)MeHex(0)Pent(2)dHex(0)		
Hex(6)HexNAc(2)MeHex(0)Pent(1)dHex(0)		
SVIAAANSTAAK	Hex(3)HexNAc(2)MeHex(3)Pent(2)dHex(1)	WT
	Hex(2)HexNAc(2)MeHex(5)Pent(2)dHex(1)	IM _{Man1A}
	Hex(7)HexNAc(2)MeHex(0)Pent(1)dHex(0)	IM _{Man1A}
	Hex(3)HexNAc(2)MeHex(1)Pent(0)dHex(1)	IM _{XylT1A}
	Hex(7)HexNAc(2)MeHex(0)Pent(1)dHex(0)	IM _{Man1A} × IM _{XylT1A}

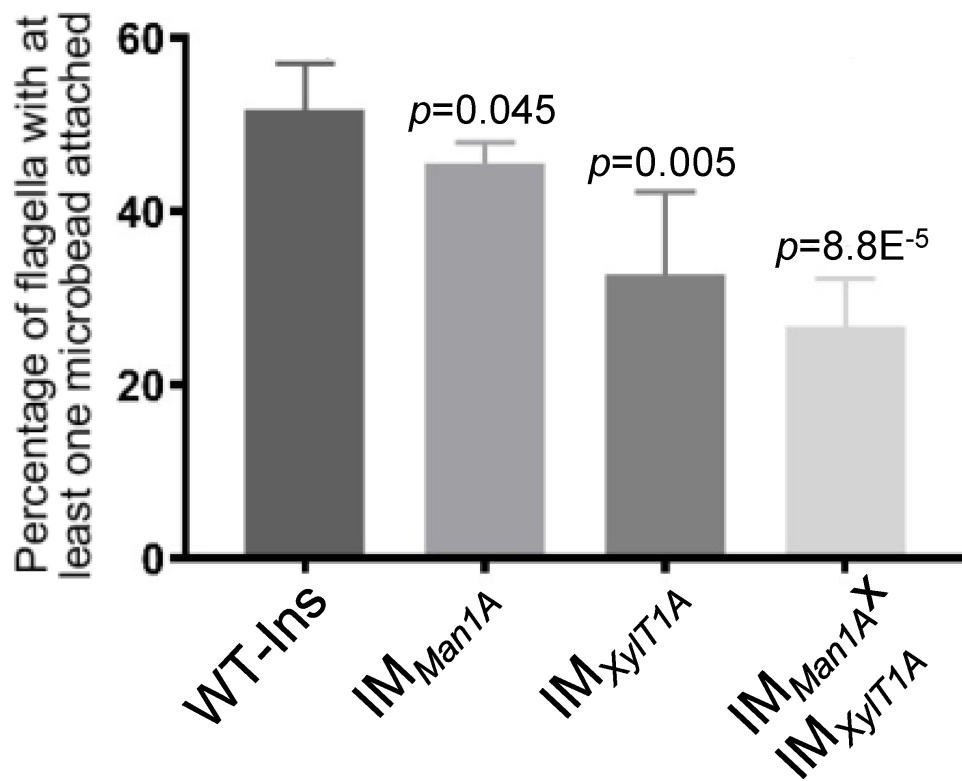
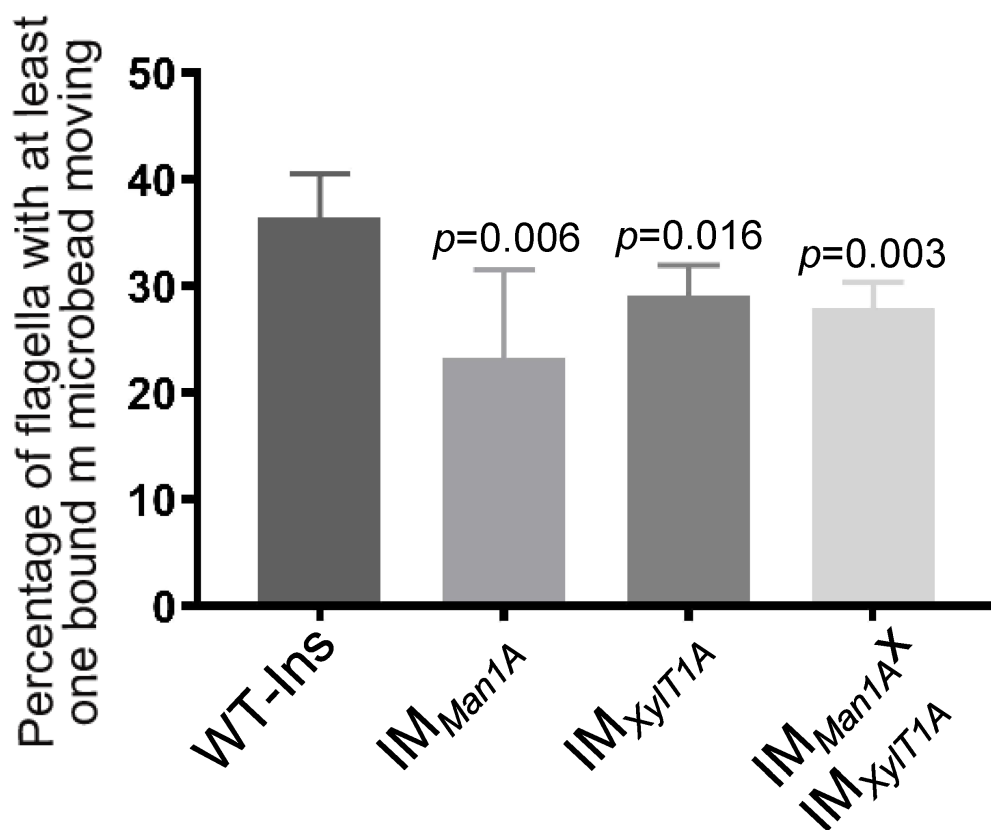


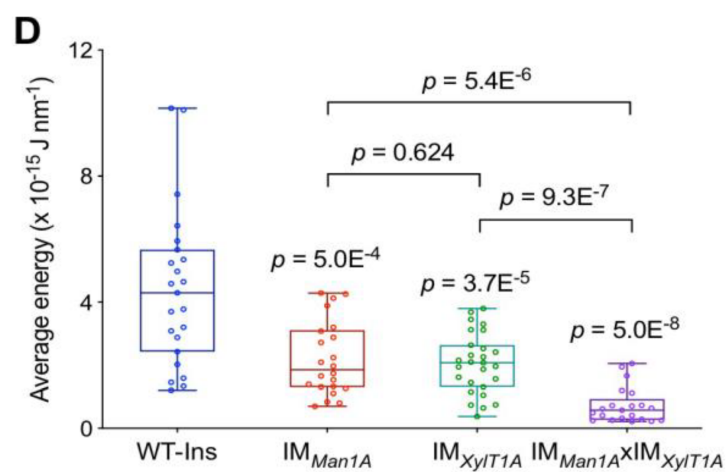
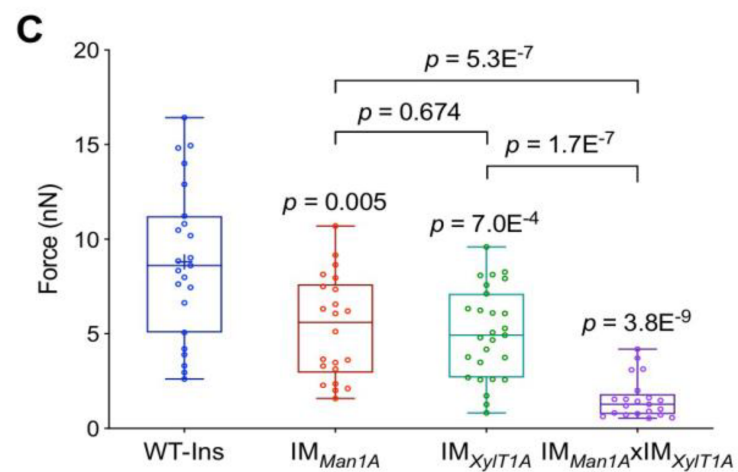
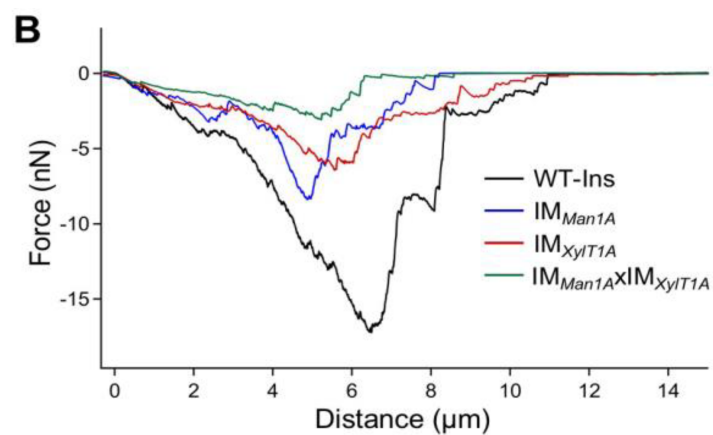
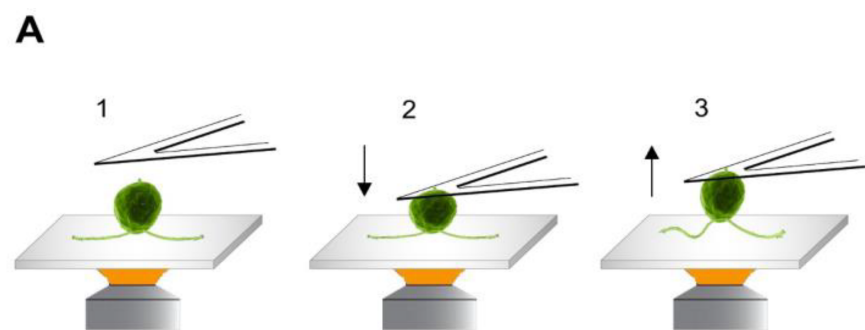
A**B**

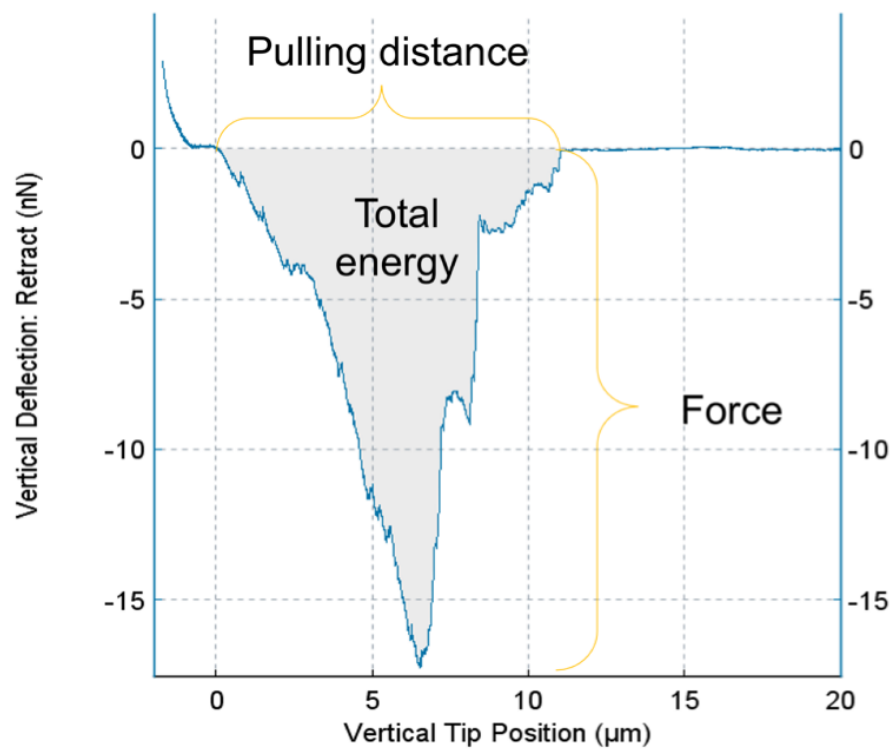


c

Accession number	Description	Abundance Ratio (log2)			p-value		
		IM(Man1)/ (WT)	IM(XylT1A)/ WT	double mutant/ WT	IM(Man1)/ (WT)	IM(XylT1A)/ WT	double mutant/ WT
Cre08.g366101.t1.1	Cre08.g366101.t1.1	-1.08	-0.72	0.26	*	0.37	0.96
Cre02.g147750.t1.2	Flagellar Associated Protein; FAP209	-0.12	0.80	0.28	0.86	*	1.00
Cre09.g397660.t1.1	Cre09.g397660.t1.1	-0.10	-1.11	1.15	0.87	*	0.75
Cre17.g718900.t1.2	Flagellar Associated Protein; FAP88	0.02	1.32	0.95	0.93	*	0.72
Cre17.g712900.t1.1	Cre17.g712900.t1.1	0.03	-1.51	-0.12	0.95	*	0.90
Cre08.g358564.t1.1	FAP344	0.08	-0.07	1.74	0.99	0.99	*
Cre02.g077800.t1.2	FAP310	0.09	-1.48	1.46	0.99	*	*
Cre01.g010900.t1.2	Glyceraldehyde-3-Phosphate Dehydrogenase	0.10	-0.78	1.91	1.00	0.29	*
Cre06.g278222.t1.1	{RCK1} Receptor of activated protein kinase C	0.13	-0.46	2.37	0.98	0.83	*
Cre03.g156250.t1.2	FAP186	0.18	-0.30	1.56	0.94	0.98	*
Cre01.g027000.t1.2	Ribosomal protein L11	0.19	-1.08	2.07	0.99	*	0.09
Cre09.g396100.t1.2	Cell wall protein pherophorin-C15	0.19	-0.92	1.67	0.95	0.13	*
Cre14.g620600.t1.2	Cell wall protein pherophorin-C2; FAP202	0.21	-1.76	2.31	0.93	*	*
Cre12.g543500.t1.2	Cre12.g543500.t1.2; FAP364	0.27	-0.29	1.33	0.91	0.99	*
Cre01.g047550.t1.2	Small Rab-related GTPase	0.28	-1.27	1.05	0.92	*	0.86
Cre12.g492600.t1.2	Fasciclin-like protein; FAP346	0.28	-1.15	-0.05	0.89	*	0.92
Cre16.g693600.t1.2	Hydroxyproline-rich cell wall protein; FAP 137	0.29	-0.37	2.51	0.93	0.92	*
Cre06.g290950.t1.2	Ribosomal protein S5	0.32	-0.95	2.58	0.93	0.10	*
Cre17.g701200.t2.1	Ribosomal protein L14	0.34	-0.29	1.80	0.87	0.99	*
Cre14.g632350.t1.1	Flagellar Associated Protein; FAP 138	0.34	0.18	1.44	0.87	0.85	*
Cre02.g081050.t1.2	Flagellar Associated Protein; FAP24	0.35	-1.14	0.21	0.87	*	0.99
Cre02.g101350.t1.2	Ribosomal protein L10a	0.56	-0.19	2.32	0.69	0.99	*
Cre02.g090050.t1.1	Flagellar Associated Protein; FAP170	0.57	-0.18	1.65	0.69	0.99	*
Cre05.g234550.t1.2	Fructose-1,6-bisphosphate aldolase	0.60	-0.47	1.76	0.62	0.82	*
Cre06.g308250.t1.2	Ribosomal protein S4	0.62	-0.41	2.31	0.67	0.89	*
Cre12.g520500.t1.1	Acidic ribosomal protein P0	0.63	-0.65	2.59	0.54	0.51	*
Cre12.g522600.t1.2	mitochondrial cytochrome c	0.64	-0.37	2.46	0.67	0.92	*
Cre01.g066917.t1.1	Chlorophyll a/b binding protein of LHCII	0.70	-0.51	1.87	0.43	0.77	*
Cre09.g398900.t1.1	Vegetative cell wall protein gp1	0.70	-0.41	1.62	0.41	0.88	*
Cre10.g459250.t1.2	Ribosomal protein L35a	0.73	-0.30	3.42	0.71	0.98	*
Cre05.g238650.t1.1	Cell wall protein pherophorin-C5	0.76	-1.11	3.22	0.61	*	*
Cre07.g356850.t1.1	Cre07.g356850.t1.1	0.76	0.94	0.79	0.71	*	0.96
Cre02.g120100.t1.2	Ribulose-1,5-bisphosphate carboxylase	0.78	-0.79	2.60	0.31	0.27	*
Cre12.g483950.t1.2	NAD-dependent malate dehydrogenase, mitochondrial	0.79	-1.09	3.04	0.43	*	*
Cre16.g693700.t1.2	Ubiquitin-conjugating enzyme E2	0.80	-1.28	-0.19	0.25	*	0.86
Cre12.g548400.t1.2	Light-harvesting protein of photosystem II	0.82	-0.66	2.00	0.23	0.48	*
Cre07.g347100.t1.2	Cre07.g347100.t1.2	0.86	-0.26	1.35	0.17	0.99	*
Cre06.g258800.t1.1	FAP3	0.89	-0.07	1.43	0.15	0.99	*
Cre12.g550850.t1.2	Oxygen-evolving enhancer protein 2 of photosystem II	1.47	-0.22	2.06	*	0.99	*
Cre08.g372450.t1.2	Oxygen evolving enhancer protein 3	1.48	-0.62	2.16	*	0.58	*
Cre12.g500550.t1.2	Cre12.g500550.t1.2	1.56	0.22	1.99	*	0.78	0.40

A**B**

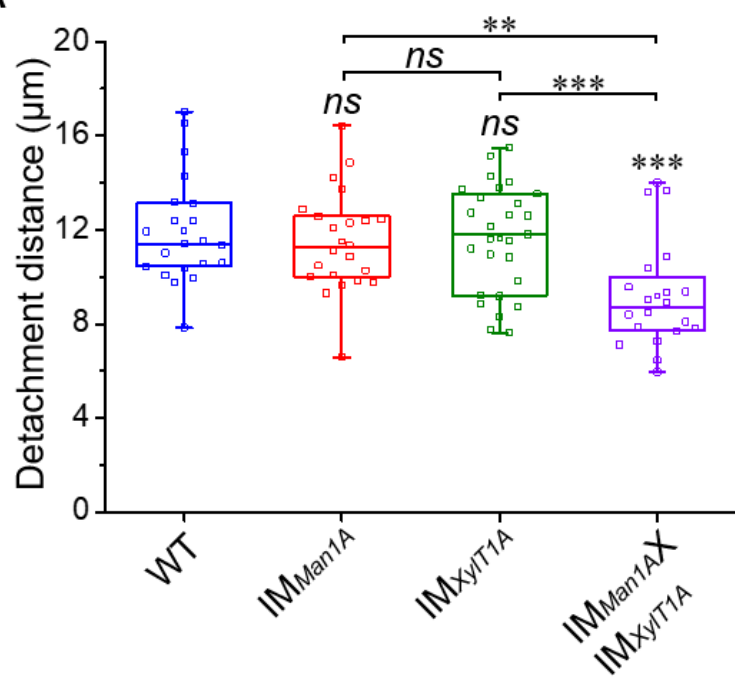




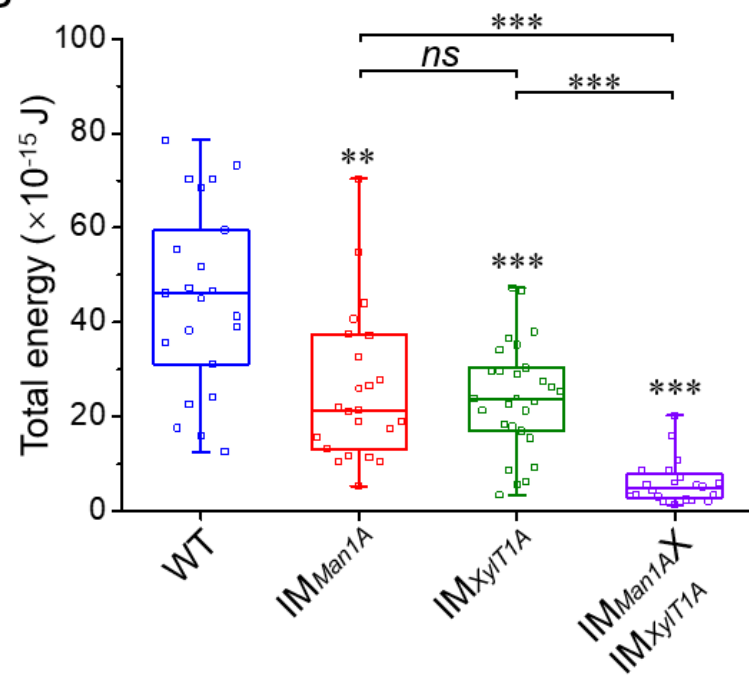
$$\text{Average energy} = \frac{\text{Total energy}}{\text{Pulling distance}}$$

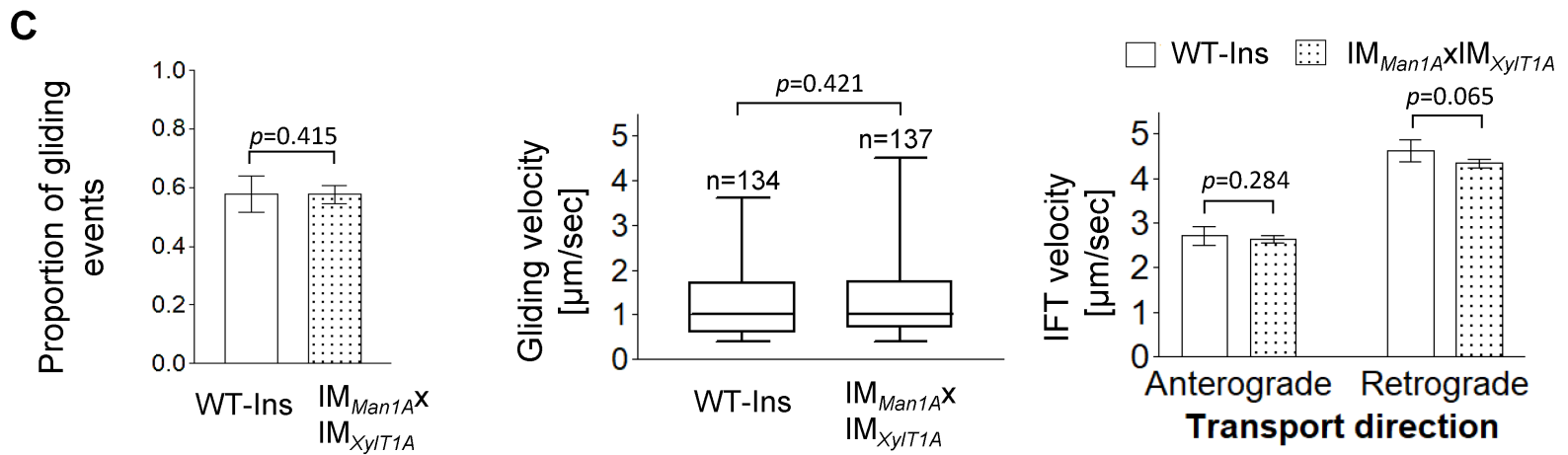
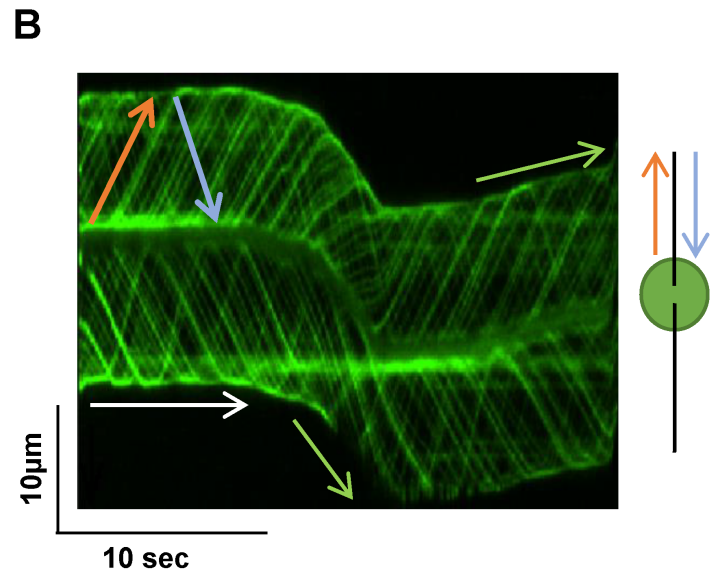
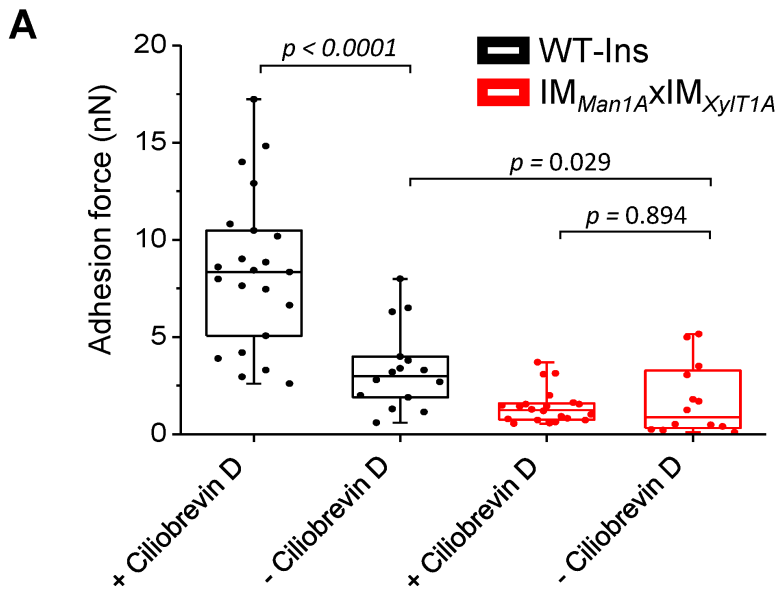
Vertical Deflection: Retract (mN)

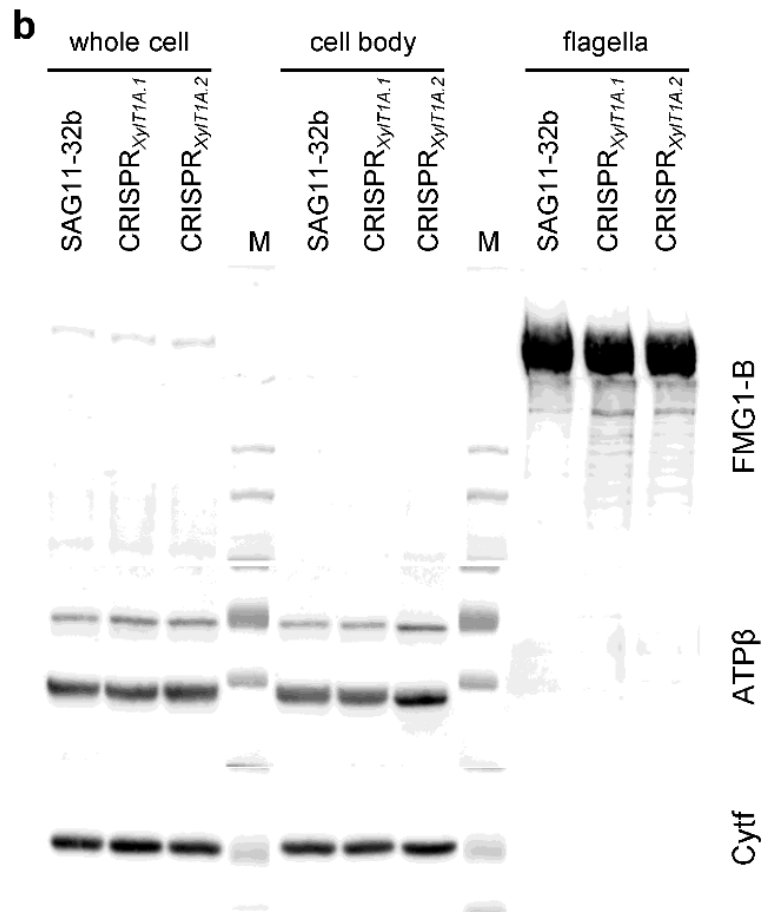
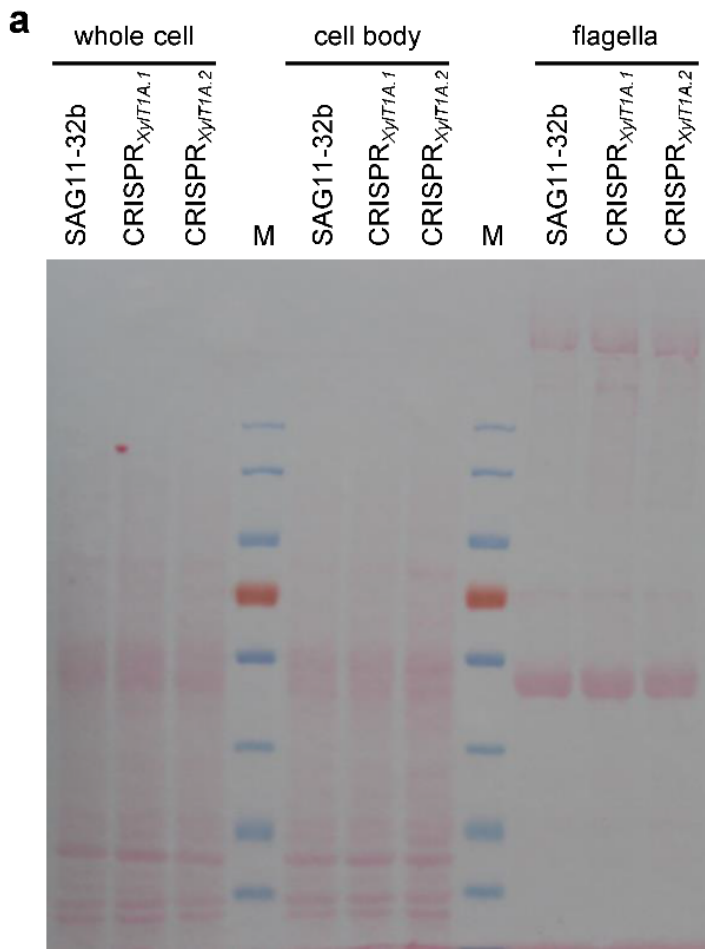
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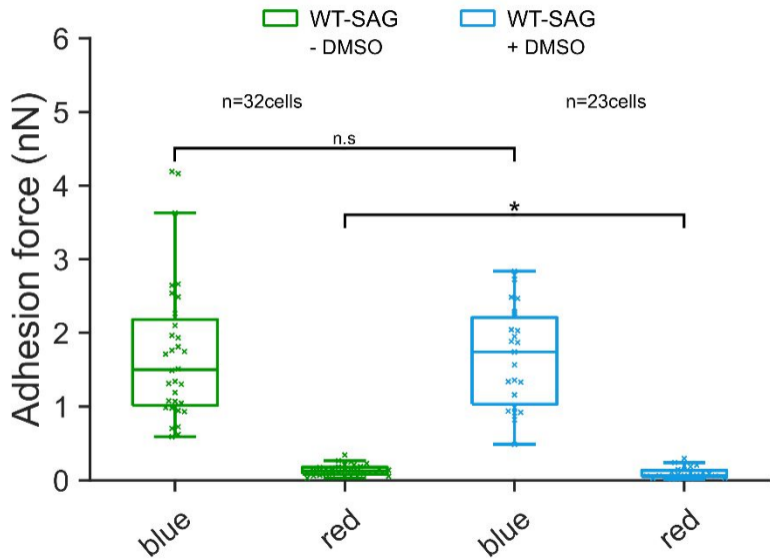


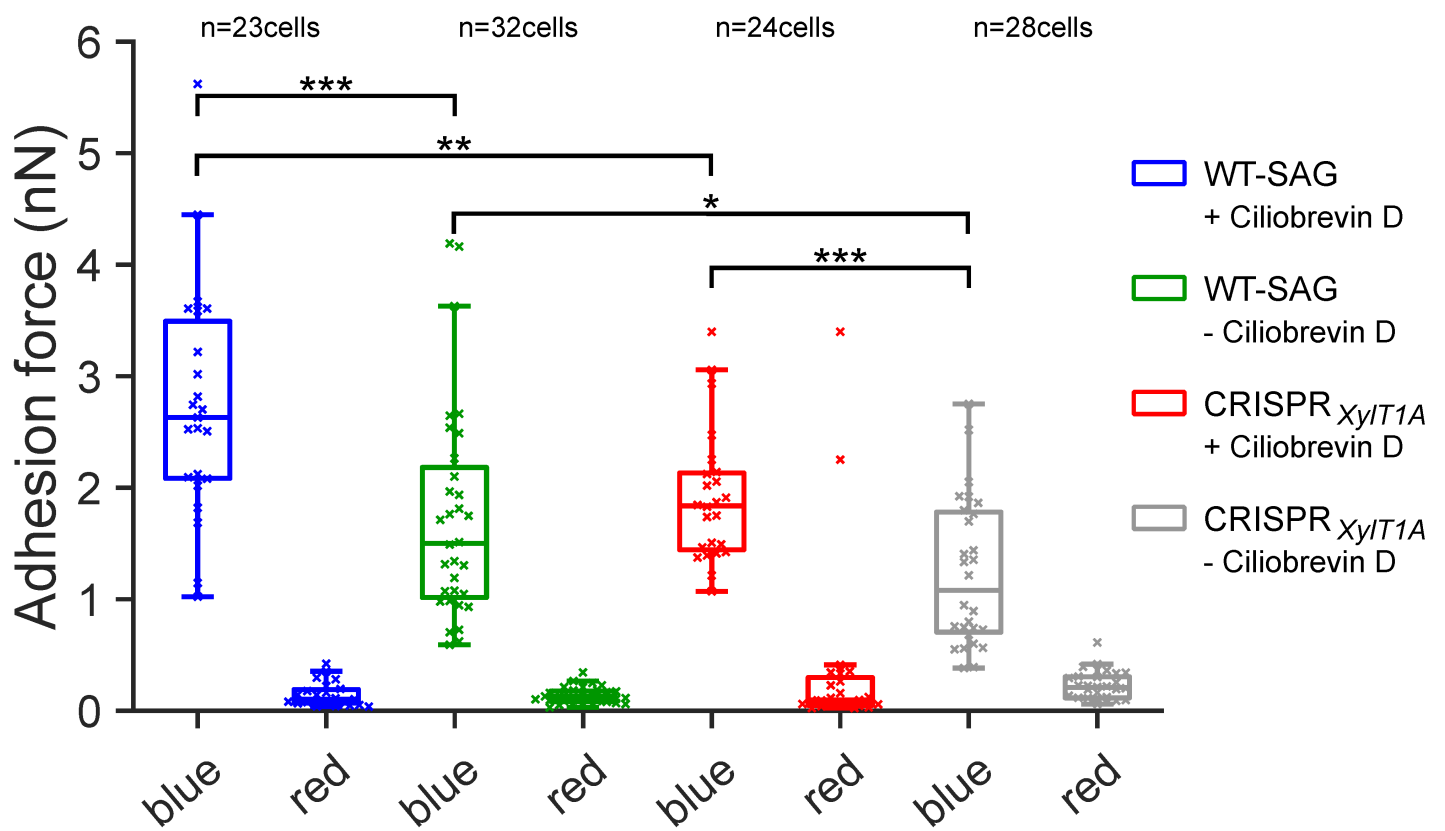
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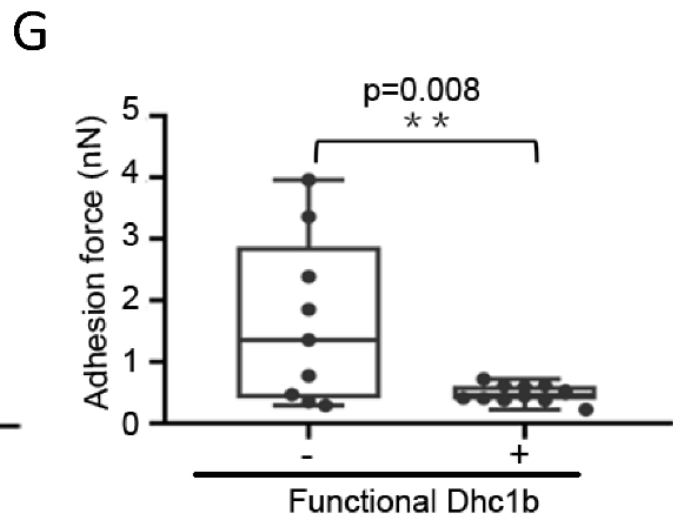
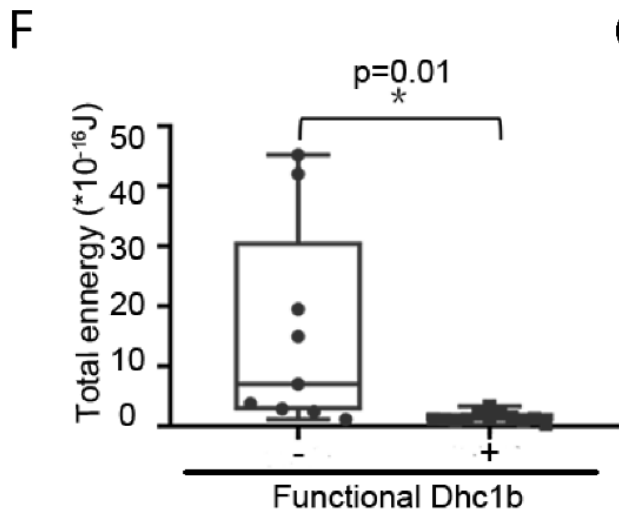
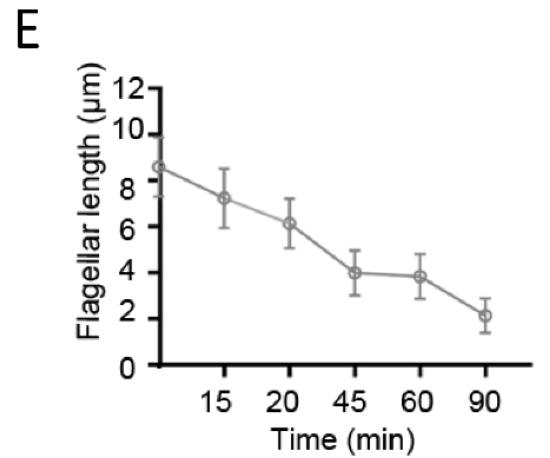
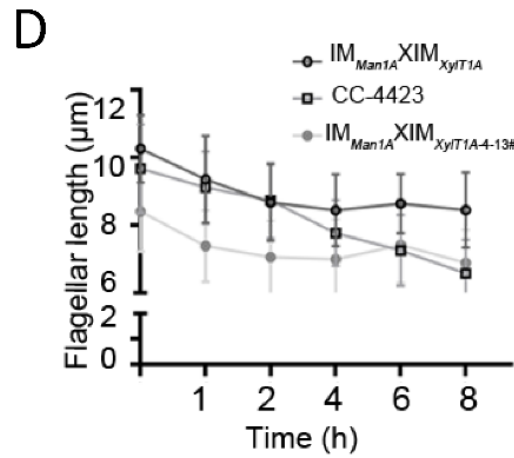
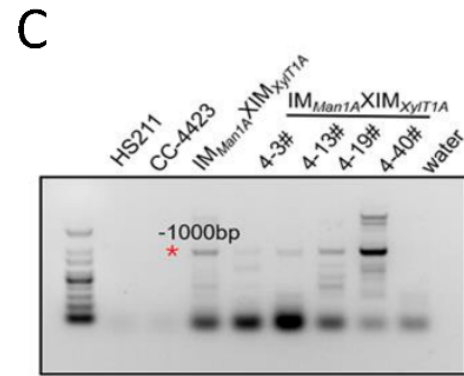
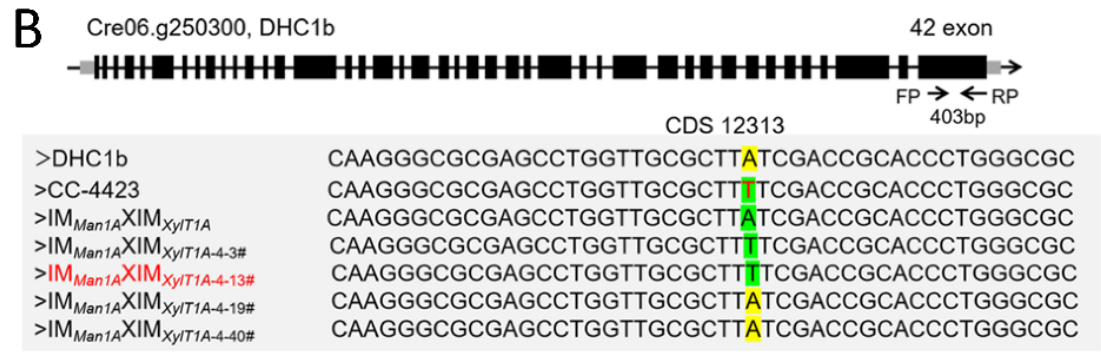
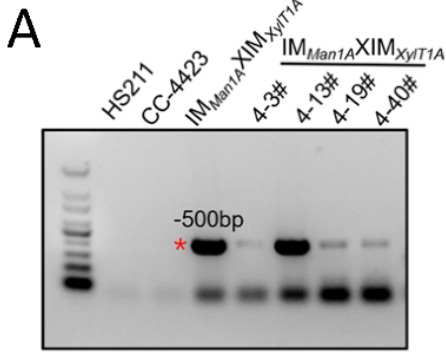




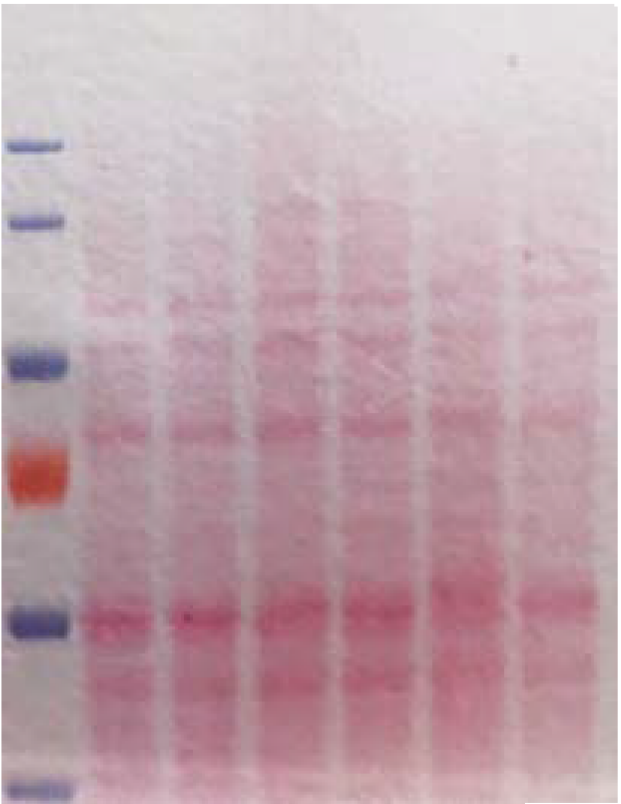




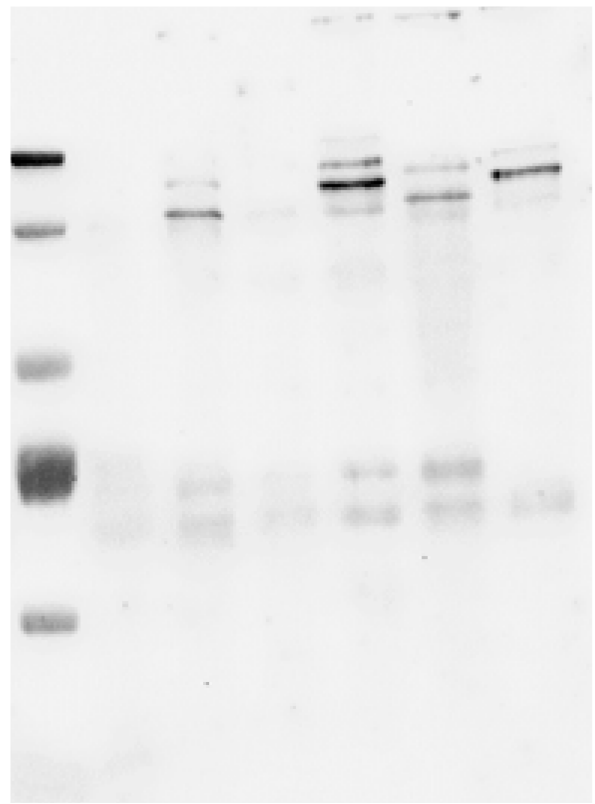




SAG
CrisprXyIT-A
WTins
IM Man1a
IM XyIT-A
IM Man1ax XyIT-A



SAG
CrisprXyIT-A
WTins
IM Man1a
IM XyIT-A
IM Man1ax XyIT-A



40μg