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## A high frequency of chromosomal duplications in unicellular algae is compensated by translational regulation

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14 efficiency, phytoplankton

15 **Running title:** Spontaneous chromosome duplication rates.

16

#### 17 ABSTRACT

While duplications have long been recognized as a fundamental process driving major 18 evolutionary innovations, direct estimates of spontaneous chromosome duplication 19 rates, leading to aneuploid karyotypes, are scarce. Here, from mutation accumulation 20 21 (MA) experiments, we provide the first estimates of spontaneous chromosome duplication rates in six unicellular eukaryotic species, which range from 1x10<sup>-4</sup> to 1x10<sup>-3</sup> 22 per genome per generation. Although this is ~4 to ~50 times less frequent than 23 spontaneous point mutations per genome, chromosome duplication events can affect 1 24 to 7% of the total genome size. In duplicated chromosomes, mRNA levels reflected 25 gene copy numbers, but the level of translation estimated by polysome profiling 26 27 revealed that dosage compensation must be occurring. In particular, one duplicated chromosome showed a 2.1-fold increase of mRNA but translation rates were decreased 28 to 0.7-fold. Altogether, our results support previous observations of chromosome-29 dependent dosage compensation effects, providing evidence that compensation occurs 30 31 during translation. We hypothesize that an unknown post-transcriptional mechanism modulates the translation of hundreds of transcripts from genes located on duplicated 32 33 regions in eukaryotes.

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#### 1 SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

Aneuploid karyotypes cause genetic disease and decrease fitness due to gene dosage 2 imbalance. The deleterious effects of an uploidy can lead to the evolution of dosage 3 compensation, a mechanism that restores ancestral ploidy and usually affects the 4 transcription rate. Here, we estimated the rate of spontaneous aneuploidy in six 5 eukaryotic phytoplankton species from mutation accumulation experiments and 6 explored transcriptional and translational responses following whole chromosome 7 duplications. We provide evidence for chromosome-specific post-transcriptional dosage 8 9 compensation.

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#### 11 **INTRODUCTION**

Complete or partial chromosome duplications leading to aneuploid karyotypes are 12 known to contribute to genetic diseases, such as Trisomy 21 in humans or cancer 13 (Rajagopalan and Lengauer 2004). Duplication of a single chromosome leads to an 14 immediate imbalance in cellular metabolism because of the increased levels of 15 transcripts and proteins encoded by the doubled chromosome. This is expected to have 16 deleterious effects because it is costly and may disrupt the function of biochemical 17 pathways and protein interactions (Dephoure et al. 2014; Veitia and Potier 2015). The 18 deleterious effects of an euploidy have been documented in many different biological 19 model systems such as yeast (Torres et al. 2007), mouse and human (Gearhart et al. 20 1987). In Caenorhabditis elegans, mutation accumulation experiments provided 21 22 evidence of purifying selection against gene duplications causing an excess of transcripts, as compared to gene duplications associated with invariant transcript levels 23 24 (Konrad et al. 2018). Moreover, the consequences of aneuploidy on gene transcription 25 are complex and while gene transcription may increase with chromosome copy number, 26 gene transcription changes may also spread outside the duplicated regions in Arabidopsis (Hou et al. 2018; Song et al. 2020), Drosophila (Devlin et al. 1988), and 27 human cells (FitzPatrick et al. 2002). 28

In contrast, in some circumstances, aneuploidy may confer a selective advantage such
 as in resistance to drugs in *Candida albicans* (Selmecki et al. 2006) or *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (Chen et al. 2012). Aneuploidy was also prevalent and tolerated across

Saccharomyces cerevisiae lineages (Scopel et al. 2021), where a fifth of the sequenced 1 strains harboured atypical aneuploidy karyotypes (Peter et al. 2018), witnessing a lack 2 of strong deleterious effects. Indeed, different dosage compensation mechanisms have 3 evolved and may restore the ancestral gene dose leading to aneuploidy tolerance. 4 Three possible targets of dosage compensation mechanisms for duplicated genes 5 include the modification of the transcription rate (*e.g* the amount of transcript products), 6 the translation rate (e.g the number of translated transcripts compared to the number of 7 total produced transcripts), or the protein degradation rate (the number of degraded 8 proteins compared to the total number of produced proteins). The most studied 9 mechanisms are those involved in modifying the transcription rate during the evolution 10 of heterogametic sex chromosomes, known both in plants (Muyle et al. 2012; Muyle et 11 al. 2017; Charlesworth 2019) and animals (Disteche 2012; Graves 2016). Different 12 mechanisms evolved either by simulating the ancestral ploidy by doubling the 13 transcription of the genes of the single copy male X (Baker et al. 1994); or by equalizing 14 the ploidy between the two sexes by halving the transcription – silencing of one X in 15 16 female (Heard et al. 1997). Although dosage compensation is well studied in sex chromosome evolution, whether and how it evolves after a chromosome ploidy variation 17 18 is unclear, particularly for autosomes (Kojima and Cimini 2019). Previous studies have reported inconsistent results; on the one hand, a significant increase of transcription for 19 20 the duplicated genes has been observed in C. albicans (Selmecki et al. 2006), Drosophila (Loehlin and Carroll 2016), S. cerevisiae (Torres et al. 2007) and 21 22 mammalian cells (Williams et al. 2008); on the other hand, decreased transcription of the duplicated genes has been reported in yeast and mammals, suggesting a 23 24 compensation at the transcriptional level (Henrichsen et al. 2009; Qian et al. 2010). In 25 the case of chromosome duplication, evidence for dosage compensation at the 26 transcriptional level is scarce (Stenberg et al. 2009; Hose et al. 2020), and scaling of 27 gene transcription with gene copy number seems more prevalent and has been reported in disomic yeasts (Kaya et al. 2020), Candida albicans and human cells 28 29 (Kojima and Cimini 2019). Moreover, dosage compensation has been reported to occur at the post-transcriptional level, via the modification of translation efficiency, in 30 Drosophila (Zhang and Presgraves 2017) or at the post-translational level, via an 31

increased degradation rate of proteins, for 20% of the proteome in yeast (Dephoure et
al. 2014). Increased protein degradation is involved in the compensation mechanism in
human Down's syndrome for proteins encoded on triplicated chromosome 21 (Liu et al.
2017).

Although the consequences of chromosome duplication on transcription rates - and to a 5 lesser extent on translation rates and protein abundance - have been studied in many 6 model organisms, our knowledge of chromosome duplication rates in eukaryotes is 7 currently limited to Saccharomyces cerevisiae (Lynch et al. 2008; Zhu et al. 2014; Liu 8 and Zhang 2019) and humans (Nagaoka et al. 2012; Loane et al. 2013). Here, we 9 investigate the spontaneous chromosome duplication rate in six unicellular species by 10 analysing sequence data from a mutation accumulation experiment. The principle of 11 mutation accumulation experiments is to follow the descendants originated from a single 12 cell under minimal selection, ensured by serial bottlenecks during dozens to thousands 13 cell divisions (Halligan and Keightley 2009). The six species include five green algae 14 and one diatom, all ecological relevant primary producers in the sunlit ocean (de Vargas 15 16 et al. 2015), with a large phylogenetic spread encompassing 1.5 billion years of divergence (Yoon et al. 2004). We also recovered cryopreserved mutation accumulation 17 18 lines to investigate the consequence of chromosome duplication on the transcription and translation rates. 19

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#### 1 **RESULTS**

#### 2 Whole chromosome duplication rate

In this study, we analysed whole genome resequencing data from previous mutation 3 accumulation experiments (Krasovec et al. 2016; Krasovec et al. 2017; Krasovec, 4 Sanchez-Brosseau, et al. 2018) in five haploid green algae species : Picochlorum 5 costavermella RCC4223 (Krasovec, Vancaester, et al. 2018), Ostreococcus tauri 6 RCC4221 (Blanc-Mathieu et al. 2014), O. mediterraneus RCC2590 (Subirana et al. 7 2013), Bathycoccus prasinos RCC1105 (Moreau et al. 2012), Micromonas commoda 8 RCC299 (Worden et al. 2009); and one diploid diatom, *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* 9 RCC2967 (Bowler et al. 2008; Giguere et al. 2022). We maintained 12 to 40 mutation 10 accumulation lines for a total of 1,595 to 17,250 generations depending of species 11 (Table S1). Coverage was used as a proxy of copy number (Figure 1A and 12 Supplemental figures S1 to S16), and unveiled whole chromosome duplication events in 13 four of the six species (Table 1 and Table S2). Four whole chromosome duplications 14 were observed in M. commoda (chromosomes C05, C12, C16 and C17), four in B. 15 16 prasinos (chromosomes C04, C05, C06 and C19), one in O. mediterraneus (chromosome C14) and four in P. tricornutum (chromosomes C02, C14 and C23). The 17 chromosome duplication events were mapped onto the genealogies of the MA lines to 18 identify all independent chromosome duplication events (Figure 1B for *B. prasinos*). 19 20 Genealogy analysis provided evidence that several chromosomes were duplicated twice over the course of the experiment: C19 in lines Bp25c and Bp28b; C17 in Mc08 and 21 22 Mc09; C23 in Pt11 and Pt10c. The probability of observing two independent whole chromosome duplications of the same chromosome in B. prasinos, M. commoda and P. 23 24 tricornutum are 0.46, 0.47 and 0.34 respectively (see methods), and these probabilities 25 are thus consistent with the null hypothesis of an equal probability of duplication across 26 chromosomes. All independent duplication events inferred from coverage analysis and 27 genealogies are summarized in Table 1 and S2. Unexpectedly, the analyses revealed that the ancestral line of the MA experiment in B. prasinos carried two copies of 28 29 chromosome C01. One copy was subsequently lost 11 times independently over 4,145 generations, corresponding to a spontaneous duplicated chromosome loss of 0.006 per 30 duplicated chromosome per generation in *B. prasinos*. 31



#### A. Whole genome read coverage for different mutation accumulation lines



B. Genealogy of the mutation accumulation experiment in B. prasinos RCC4222



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Figure 1. A. Normalized raw genomic coverage of the ancestral line (T0 of mutation accumulation experiment), Bp20c and Bp28 mutation accumulation lines of *Bathycoccus prasinos*. Vertical grey lines are chromosome separators. Read coverage highlighted in blue shows chromosomes in double copies. Raw coverage of all lines from all species are provided in Figures S1 to S16. B. Pedigree of the mutation accumulation lines from the *B. prasinos* experiment. Chromosome C01 is duplicated in the T0 line (named ancestral line) of the experiment. This duplication is then lost several times, and five other

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duplications of chromosomes C04, C05, C06 and C19 occurred. In case of shared ancestry between
 lineages, the number of shared mutations and generations were counted only once, in order to include
 only independent generations and mutations.

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**Table 1.** Spontaneous whole chromosome duplication rate in six species.  $N_{lines}$  : number of mutation accumulation lines, Gen : average number of generations per MA line,  $Tot_{Gen}$  : total number of generations,  $N_{Chrom}$  : number of chromosomes in the ancestral karyotype,  $N_{WCD}$  is the number of independent whole chromosome duplications,  $U_{WCD}$  is the whole chromosome duplication rate per chromosome per cell division, and  $U_{Cell}$  is the whole chromosome duplication rate per cell division,  $U_{bs}$  is the base substitution mutation rate per cell division. The estimation of the upper limit of  $N_{WCD}$  and  $U_{cell}$  in *O. tauri* and *P. costavermella* relies on the assumption of one duplication event.

Species	<b>N</b> <sub>lines</sub>	Gen	<b>Tot</b> Gen	<b>N</b> <sub>Chrom</sub>	N <sub>WCD</sub>	Duplicated Chrom	U <sub>WCD</sub>	Ucell	Ubs
Bathycoccus prasinos	35	265	4,145	19	5	C04, C05, C06, C19	0.000063	0.00121	0.0046
Micromonas commoda	37	272	4,994	17	5	C05, C12, C16, C17	0.000059	0.00100	0.0171
Ostreococcus tauri	40	512	17,250	20	0	-	<0.00003	<0.00006	0.0054
Ostreococcus mediterraneus	33	272	8,380	19	1	C14	0.000006	0.00012	0.0064
Picochlorum costavermella	12	133	1,596	10	0	-	<0.00006	<0.00063	0.0119
Phaeodactvlum tricornutum	36	181	6.516	25	4	C02, C14, C23	0.000025	0.00061	0.0132

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## 14 **Consequences of chromosome duplication on transcription**

To explore the consequences of whole or partial chromosome duplication on 15 transcription, we compared transcription rates in a control strain (*B. prasinos* RCC4222) 16 17 and one mutation accumulation line of *B. prasinos*, which was revived after 4 years of cryopreservation. This cryopreserved culture originated from line Bp37, and the 18 19 recovered culture is hereafter referred to as Bp37B. Whole genome coverage was used as a proxy for chromosome copy number in both lines. This confirmed the presence of 20 two copies of chromosome C04 in Bp37B as in the original Bp37 (Figure 2A and S6), 21 and also revealed an additional chromosome C01 in Bp37B (Figure 2A, Figure S17). 22 The heterogeneous coverage of chromosome C01 led us to divide it into two regions for 23 subsequent analyses; region C01a (1.98 fold coverage) and C01b (1.35 fold coverage). 24 The control line also contained duplicated regions (Figure 2A, Figure S17), 25 chromosome C10 and a region of chromosome C02 named C02b, while C02a was 26 single copy. The boundaries of C01 and C02 subregions are provided in Table S3. We 27 interpreted coverage values less than 2 (Figure S17), e.g. C01b in Bp37B, C10 and 28

C02b as duplications that were carried by a subpopulation of cells. Cultures were grown 1 up to ~10 million cells per ml prior to extraction so that polymorphism is not unexpected. 2 Comparative transcriptome analyses of Bp37B and the control line revealed that there 3 were on average twice the number of transcripts for genes located on the duplicated 4 chromosomes as compared to the control line - C04 (transcription rate tr(i) 5 average=2.13, median=1.95, estimated from TPM, Figure 2B, raw data available in 6 Table S4) and C01a (transcription rate tr(i) average=2.29, median=2.02). The 7 transcription rate of genes on chromosomes C10 and C02b was also affected. 8 Altogether, the transcript production was scaled up with the chromosome copy number 9 in the Bp37B and control lines (Pearson correlation, rho=0.87, p-value<0.001, Figure 10 3A). 11

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#### 13 Gene-by-gene variation of the consequences of DNA copy number

Dosage invariant genes (Antonarakis et al. 2004; Lyle et al. 2004) are genes for which 14 the transcription is not affected by copy number, and they may be involved in 15 16 aneuploidy tolerance. We investigated differential gene transcription at the individual gene scale with Deseq2 (Love et al. 2014) to identify candidate invariant genes. We 17 18 found that the transcription rate of 158 out of the 1776 genes in two copies (9%) located on duplicated chromosomes or regions were not significantly higher than for genes in 19 20 single copy (Table 2). Two Gene Ontology categories (RNA processing, GO:0006396) and DNA metabolic process GO:0006259) were over-represented in this transcriptomic 21 22 invariant gene set. First, genes involved in RNA processing (3.8 times more frequent, pvalue<0.01) including members of heteromeric protein complexes such as subunits 7 23 24 and 2 of the U6 snRNA-associated Sm-like protein (Table S5), invariant 158 25 annotations). Second, genes involved in DNA metabolic process (2.2 times more 26 frequent in the invariant gene subset, p-value <0.04) including the DNA Polymerase A 27 and the DNA primase large subunit. Notable protein complex members of the invariant data set are Histone 3 and the subunit E of the translation initiation factor 3. There are 28 29 in total 12 genes annotated as subunits in the subset of invariant genes, this is significantly more than the frequency of protein coding genes annotated as subunits in 30 the complete proteome (Fisher exact test, *p-value*=0.0006). This suggests that a higher 31

- proportion of genes coding for protein forming complexes have a gene-specific
   regulated transcription that is not affected by gene copy number.
- 3

- Table 2: Estimation of number of dosage insensitive genes (duplicated genes for which transcription is not changing). C14 and C19 are outliers in 2
  - terms of gene transcription as they encode the mating type locus (C14) and a hypervariable chromosome involved in immunity against viruses 3

  - (C19). DE1 is the number of differentially expressed genes between the two lines (adjusted p-value <0.01), DE2: is the subset of genes of DE1 for 4
  - which the transcription rate is higher in the duplicated gene. 5

	Ge	nes				Chromosomes					duplicat d in strains 37B						duplicated istrains WT						·	
	Two copie s	Singl e copy	01 A	01 b	02 a	02 b	0 2	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Total	1767	523	57	13	40	15	2	55	48	48	50	47	48	44	40	36	36	27	34	25	24	20	14	66
*genes	1/0/	4	5	6	0	9	4	0	8	2	7	5	8	9	9	5	6	9	0	6	2	7	4	00
	Transcription rates: number of Differentially Expressed (DE) genes and relative transcription rates																							
DE <sub>1</sub> : p <sub>adj</sub> <0.0 1	407 (23% )	504 (10 %)	18 8	10	40	24	0	70	11 4	40	49	42	60	39	71	37	26	20	18	29	20	25	7	33
r **	2.7	1.2	2.7	1.5	1.5	2.5	-	0.9	2.6	1.2	1.0	1.3	1.1	1.4	2.8	1.3	1.1	1.6	0.8	1.6	1.5	1.1	1.0	0. 3
DE2:	385 (95% )	250 (50 %)	18 7	6	-	21	-	-	11 2	-	-	-	-	-	59	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
DI <sub>RNA</sub> ***	158 (9%)	-	58	26	-	9	-	-	38	-	-	-	-	-	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

6 \*total gene number is 7530 after exclusion of 280 genes with Transcript per Million TPM=0 in one replicate.

\*\* relative transcription rate, r, is obtained by dividing the average TPM in the strain with two copies by the TPM in the strain with one copy, whereas for single copy genes, it is the relative  $TPM_{37B}/TPM_{4222}$ .

9 \*\*\* Dosage Insensitive genes were defined by genes with a relative transcription ratio, r, 0.9<r<1.1.

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Figure 2. A. Genomic coverage of 1 kbp windows along the genome of *Bathycoccus prasinos* Bp37B. B.
Distribution of gene transcription rates *tr(i)* between chromosomes. C. Distribution of gene translation
efficiencies *te(i)* between chromosomes. B and C. Both the transcription and translation efficiencies ratios
are significantly different between chromosomes (ANOVA, *p-value*<10<sup>-15</sup>). D. Distribution of protein

homeostasis (transcription rate x translation rate) between chromosomes. Y axes are in log2. Blue:
 duplicated chromosome in Bp37B. Yellow: duplicated chromosome in control RCC4222.

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#### 4 **Consequences of chromosome duplication on translation**

The compelling evidence of overtranscription of the majority of duplicated genes 5 prompted us to investigate whether post-transcriptional processes may temperate this 6 excess of transcripts. This hypothesis was tested in the same *B. prasinos* line by 7 8 sequencing mRNAs associated with ribosomes (polysomes) in order to compare the translation efficiency te(i) of genes located on duplicated and non-duplicated lines, by 9 10 estimating the relative proportion of ribosome-bound mRNA in single versus duplicated genes. We found that the average translation efficiency of genes located on duplicated 11 chromosome C04 was 0.71 (median=0.54) as compared to the genes on this 12 chromosome in the control line (Figure 2C). However, the translation efficiency of genes 13 14 on region C01a was 0.93, while it was 1.54 for genes on region C01b, 1.04 and 0.76 for C02a and C02b, respectively, and 0.99 for chromosome C10. Translation rate 15 modification is thus chromosome dependent (Figure 3): genes located on the C04 and 16 C02b show a significant decrease in translation efficiency in the line with the duplicated 17 regions, while genes located on duplicated region C01b show a significant increase in 18 translation efficiency in the line with the duplicated region. Last, we estimated the 19 expected protein production in Bp37B as compared to the control line by using to the 20 absolute translation rate for each gene: that is the ratio of mRNA in polysomes in Bp37B 21 as compared to the control (Figure 2D). This predicted that genes on C04 have a similar 22 23 protein production rate in Bp37B and in the control line, despite a higher transcription rate as a consequence of the chromosome duplication, as well for the two parts of the 24 chromosome C02 (Figure 2D). However, genes located on chromosome C01, despite 25 different transcription and translation efficiency rates, produce twice the level of protein 26 27 compared to the single copy genes in the control line. Likewise, genes on chromosome C10 produce an excess of proteins compared to the single copy genes in Bp37B. 28 29 Altogether, we observed no dosage compensation at the transcription level for any of the duplicated regions, whereas dosage compensation occurs at the translational level 30 31 in 2 out of 5 duplicated regions and is thus chromosome dependent (Figure 3). In







Figure 3. Raw relative genomic coverage average (Bp37B/Control) related to average transcription rate *tr(i)* (A), translation efficiency *te(i)* (B), and average protein synthesis (average transcription rate x average translation efficiency) per chromosome (C). Blue: chromosomes duplicated in Bp37B; Yellow: chromosomes duplicated the control RCCC4222; Black: non-duplicated chromosomes; Grey: outlier chromosome C19. Data are provided in Table S6 and S7.

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#### 9 Searching for independent molecular signatures of translation modulation

The observed dosage compensation at the translational level on chromosome C04 10 suggests that post-transcriptional regulation occurs on transcripts from duplicated 11 genes. As the length of the poly(A) tail is a key feature of many cytoplasmic mRNAs and 12 is known to regulate translation (Subtelny et al. 2014; Eichhorn et al. 2016; Lim et al. 13 2016), we tested whether the translation of transcripts linked to duplicated chromosome 14 C04 might be associated with a variation of poly(A) tail length. Using 3'RACE 15 experiments, we measured the poly(A) tail length in Bp37B and RCC4222 (Figure 4 and 16 S18) transcripts from three genes located on chromosome C04 (duplicated in line 17 Bp37B: 04g00840, 04g01730 and 04g04360), one gene duplicated in the control line 18 located on chromosome C01a (01g01300), and one control gene located on 19 chromosome C08 (08g03470, single copy in both lines). Raw transcription TPM data of 20 these five genes are provided in Table S8. We first ligated an RNA adapter (RA3) to the 21 3'end of RNAs before reverse-transcription. Then, the poly(A) tail was PCR amplified 22 with a gene-specific primer and the RA3 anchor primers. Finally, the PCR products 23 were analysed by gel electrophoresis. Short poly(A) tails tend to generate a band. 24 However, in the case of long poly(A) tails, amplicons present diverse poly(A) tail lengths 25 and create a smear on the gel (Figure 4A). Additionally, an internal control PCR was 26 performed using a gene-specific primer in the 3'UTR to determine the size without a 27 poly(A) tail (Figure 4B). For genes located on chromosome C04, a smear is observed in 28 Bp37B and RCC4222 (Figure 4A). However, the smear range size decreases in Bp37B 29 30 compared to RCC4222 for the three transcripts tested suggesting the polyA tail size is shorter in Bp37B. No difference is observed for the two other genes located on a non-31 32 duplicated chromosome (Figure S18).

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AAA...AAA



Bathy

04g00840

Bathy

04g04360

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**Figure 4.** Transcripts from genes located on *B. prasinos* duplicated chromosome C04 present reduced poly(A) tail lengths. Poly(A) tail measurement was performed using modified 3'RACE. PCR amplification was performed using primers flanking poly(A) tail (A) or primers anchored in 3'UTR just before poly(A) tail as internal control (B). Experiments were performed using total RNA from RCC4222 line (control line) and BP37B line (with a duplicated chromosome C04). Illustrations representing PCR amplification are present on the right panel. A black line represents the messenger RNA and the orange line represents the ligated adapter used for reverse transcription and PCR amplification. FW - Forward primer. RV - reverse primer.

Bathy 04g01730

#### 11 DISCUSSION

100 bp

#### 12 Rates of whole chromosome duplication in unicellular eukaryotes

The rates of spontaneous whole chromosome duplication reported here in four out of six 13 species vary between 6x10<sup>-4</sup> to 1x10<sup>-3</sup> events per haploid genome per generation and 14 are thus one to two orders of magnitude lower than spontaneous point mutations per 15 genome per generation. Theoretically, there are two possible mechanisms at the origin 16 17 of chromosome duplication i) the supernumerary replication of one chromosome before cell division. leading to one cell with one chromosome and one cell with two 18 19 chromosomes; or ii) the unequal segregation of chromosomes during cell division, leading to one cell with two copies and one cell without any copy. The latter scenario 20 has been intensively experimentally studied in human cells (Ford and Correll 1992; 21 Cimini et al. 2001), and seems all the more likely in the extremely small-sized 22 23 Mamiellophyceae cells (1 µm cell diameter) as they have been reported to contain less kinetochore microtubules than chromosomes (Gan et al. 2011), which may induce a 24 25 high error rate in the chromosome segregation process. However, the whole

chromosome duplication rates reported here in the Mamiellophyceae are in line with 1 those found in the diatom *P. tricornutum* and in yeast  $(9.7 \times 10^{-5})$  (Zhu et al. 2014), yeast 2 containing approximately as many kinetochore microtubules as chromosomes 3 (Peterson and Ris 1976). Altogether, the spontaneous whole chromosome duplication 4 rates reported previously in yeast (Zhu et al. 2014) and in the species from evolutionary 5 distant eukaryotic lineages reported here (Yoon et al. 2004) suggest a high rate of 6 spontaneous aneuploidy across unicellular eukaryotes. To investigate whether 7 spontaneous whole chromosome duplication had been overlooked in other lineages, we 8 screened publicly available resequencing data of mutation accumulation lines from the 9 freshwater green alga Chlamydomonas reinhardtii (Ness et al. 2015), and identified one 10 event for chromosome 14 in the strain CC1373. Evidence of spontaneous whole 11 chromosome duplication (four chromosomes in a single individual from a pedigree) has 12 also been recently observed in the brown alga *Ectocarpus* (Krasovec et al. 2022). 13

Interestingly, we were able to estimate the rate of chromosome duplication loss during 14 one experiment, and it is about three orders of magnitude higher than the spontaneous 15 duplication rate. This is consistent with previous observations in S. cerevisiae, and our 16 observations that cells with duplicated chromosomes are ephemeral and unlikely to be 17 18 maintained for a long time in batch culture. Indeed, the coverage of the large duplication events on C01b, C02b, C04 and C10 were 1.4,1.6, 1.8 and 1.4 times the coverage of 19 20 single copy chromosomes respectively, suggesting that the proportion of cells carrying a supernumerary chromosome within the population is 0.4, 0.6 and 0.8. Consistent with 21 22 this, we observed the loss of the duplication of chromosome C04 in one of the Bp37B lines over 4 months of sub-culturing. 23

24 As opposed to the aneuploidy generated during meiotic divisions, which has been 25 intensively studied in mammalian cells (Nagaoka et al. 2012), the chromosomal 26 duplication events reported here are generated during mitotic division. Since the 27 molecular mechanisms involved in chromosomal segregation in mitosis, meiosis 1 and meiosis 2, are different, the associated aneuploidy rates are not expected to be equal. 28 29 The aneuploidy rates in mitotically dividing human cells, such as HCT116 lines, has been estimated to be 7x10<sup>-2</sup> (Thompson and Compton 2008), more than one order of 30 magnitude higher than the highest estimation of 1.2x10<sup>-3</sup> reported here in *B. prasinos*. 31

The observed difference of the spontaneous point mutation rate per genome per generation is expected to vary between species as the consequence of different genome sizes, effective population sizes (Lynch et al. 2016), and the difference between the observed and expected GC content (Krasovec et al. 2017). However, the eight spontaneous aneuploidy rates currently available are not yet sufficient to investigate the origin of chromosome duplication rate variations, such as the effect of chromosome number or effective population size.

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#### 9 Fitness effect of whole chromosome duplication and dosage compensation

The high spontaneous rates of spontaneous chromosome duplication challenge the 10 common idea that whole chromosome duplications are highly deleterious for individual 11 12 cells, at least in mitotically dividing cells. Deleterious effects of chromosome duplication may be higher in meiosis than in mitosis as the molecular mechanisms involved in 13 14 meiosis comprise additional checkpoints (Roeder and Bailis 2000). Using the number of cell divisions per days as a proxy of fitness during the mutation accumulation 15 16 experiment (Krasovec et al. 2016), only one out of the 15 mutation accumulation lines with a whole chromosome duplication displayed a significant fitness decrease with 17 generation time (Bp28b, Pearson correlation, *p*-value=0.016,  $\rho$ =-0.846, Table S9). 18 Recent studies in yeast point towards slightly deleterious effects of aneuploidy, as well 19 as a significant effect of the genetic background on aneuploidy tolerance (Scopel et al. 20 2021). Compensating point mutations have been previously linked to aneuploidy 21 22 tolerance in yeast (Torres et al. 2010), notably in the gene encoding the deubiquitinating enzyme UBP6. Point mutations are unlikely to impact aneuploidy tolerance in the 23 different mutation accumulation lines reported here, because some lines with 24 25 chromosome duplications do not carry any point mutation (Mc3, Bp28b, Bp26 and Bp25), or only carry synonymous mutations and mutations located in intergenic regions 26 27 (i.e. Om3 or Mc28, Table S10). The deleterious effect of an euploidy could be mitigated by a dosage compensation mechanism preserving relative protein homeostasis. In B. 28 29 prasinos, despite the huge gene-to-gene variation in transcription and translation rates, 30 transcription rates were overwhelmingly scaled up with chromosome copy number (Figure 3A), whereas translation rates differed significantly between chromosomes 31

(Figure 3B). Nevertheless, genes on chromosome C19 displayed a unique pattern of DNA copy number-independent transcription and translation variation between the two lines. C19 is a small idiosyncratic chromosome found in all Mamiellophyceae species sequenced so far (Blanc-Mathieu et al. 2017; Yau et al. 2020) and is characterized by a lower GC content. Previous studies reported a strong variation in transcription rates of genes on this chromosome, which is associated with resistance to viruses (Yau et al. 2016).

In *B. prasinos*, genes located on duplicated regions fell into three different categories 8 based on their translation efficiency. First, there were genes with no relative difference 9 in translation rates, such as genes located on duplicated chromosome C10, which is 10 duplicated in 40% percent of cells, and on region C01a, which is duplicated in 100% of 11 cells. Proteins encoded by these genes were inferred to be overabundant in the cell 12 (Figure 3C). Second, there were genes with a decreased translation rate on 13 chromosome C04 and region C02b. More precisely, the estimated frequency of mRNA 14 linked to ribosomes was inversely proportional to the excess of mRNA produced for 15 16 duplicated genes on these two chromosomes, predicting approximately the same protein production rate as in cells without duplicated chromosomes (Figure 3C). Third, 17 and very surprisingly, there were genes with higher translation rates associated with 18 higher DNA copy numbers and higher transcription rates, such as genes located in the 19 20 C01b region. As a consequence, the rate of protein synthesis on genes located on region C01b reached the same level of relative protein synthesis as genes located on 21 region C01a, that is twice the protein synthesis predicted in cells with a single copy of 22 this chromosome. We speculate that the absence of dosage compensation on region 23 24 C01a and the excess of translation on region C01b simulate the ancestral protein 25 homeostasis in the ancestral line, which contained two complete chromosome C01s.

Chromosome-wide regulation of gene translation is relatively unexplored and poorly understood. Indeed, while the position of a gene on a chromosome may allow its transcription rate to be predicted from epigenetic marks on the DNA, chromosome-wide epitranscriptomic mRNA modification mechanisms are yet to be discovered. Notwithstanding, chromosome-wide translational dosage compensation has been previously observed in *Drosophila* (Zhang and Presgraves 2016), and at the gene scale
in several species (Zhang and Presgraves 2017; Chang and Liao 2020).

3

# Is poly(A) tail length a potential post-transcriptional mechanism involved in dosage compensation?

The role of poly(A) tail length in translation efficiency is starting to be better understood 6 (Weill et al. 2012; Subtelny et al. 2014), and alternative polyadenylation is indeed 7 implicated in several processes: transcription termination by RNAP II, mRNA stability, 8 mRNA export and translation efficiency (Zhang et al. 2010; Di Giammartino et al. 2011). 9 In the cytoplasm, the poly(A) tail plays important roles in mRNA translation and stability 10 and the modulation of its length has an important impact on translation efficiency 11 (Subtelny et al. 2014; Eichhorn et al. 2016; Lim et al. 2016). For example, during oocyte 12 maturation and early embryonic development, an increase in poly(A) tail length occurs 13 for particular mRNAs resulting in an increase of translation (Subtelny et al. 2014; 14 Eichhorn et al. 2016; Lim et al. 2016). This modulation of poly(A) tail length has also 15 16 been found to activate some neuronal transcripts (Udagawa et al. 2012). Slobadin et al (Slobodin et al. 2020), suggested that poly(A) tails can be modulated to balance mRNA 17 18 levels and adjust translation efficiency since they observed that the CCR4-Not complex shortened the poly(A) tails, which reduced the stability of mRNAs. Here, our analysis of 19 a subset of three genes suggests that, in a context of chromosome duplication, 20 modulation of poly(A) tail length could be one of the post-transcriptional mechanisms 21 22 involved in dosage compensation. However, the limited sample size of our observations does not allow us to draw any conclusion. Future genome-wide analyses will be 23 24 necessary to validate this modulation and investigate the role of other mechanisms, 25 such as adenosine methylation, in chromosome-wide translation compensation (Miao et 26 al. 2022).

Transcription factories, nuclear structures where co-expressed or physically close genes are transcribed, have also been proposed to explain chromosome-dependent dosage compensation (Sutherland and Bickmore 2009). Our observation of a chromosome-scale similar translational behaviour of transcripts could be due to the action of a single factory bound to that chromosome, while other chromosomes are under the control of their own transcription factories. The existence of such factories in
 unicellular eukaryotic species is unknown and needs further future investigations.

3

#### 4 CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the high prevalence of whole chromosome duplication in five unicellular photosynthetic eukaryotes suggests that spontaneous whole chromosome duplication is pervasive in eukaryotes. In one species, *B. prasinos*, we provide evidence that a whole chromosome duplication event is associated with dosage compensation at the posttranscriptional level which might involve the adjustment of poly(A) tail length. These results suggest that a yet unknown post-transcriptional regulation mechanisms operate in dosage compensation of aneuploid karyotypes.

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#### 14 MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### 15 Sequencing data from mutation accumulation (MA) experiments

16 Mutation accumulation (MA) experiments of six species; Picochlorum costavermella RCC4223 (Krasovec, Vancaester, et al. 2018), Ostreococcus tauri RCC4221 (Blanc-17 18 Mathieu et al. 2014), O. mediterraneus RCC2590 (Subirana et al. 2013; Yau et al. 2020), Bathycoccus prasinos RCC1105 (synonym to RCC4222) (Moreau et al. 2012), 19 20 Micromonas commoda RCC299 (Worden et al. 2009) and Phaeodactylum tricornutum RCC2967 (Bowler et al. 2008; Giguere et al. 2022) were conducted with a flow 21 cytometry protocol described previously for phytoplankton species in liquid medium 22 (Krasovec et al. 2016). Briefly, a mutation accumulation experiment consists in 23 24 monitoring MA lines that have evolved from a same cell (the ancestral line) during 25 hundreds of generations. Relaxed selection pressure on spontaneous mutations is 26 ensured by maintaining all MA lines at very low effective population sizes ( $6 < N_e < 8.5$ ) 27 throughout the experiment (Krasovec et al. 2016). As a consequence, comparison of the complete genome sequence of the ancestral and MA lines enables the direct estimation 28 29 of spontaneous mutation rates, excluding lethal mutations. Here, MA lines came from a single cell obtained by dilution serving as  $T_0$  culture (named the ancestral line, AL) and 30 were maintained in 24-wells plates (with one well per MA line) in L1 medium at 20 °C 31

with a 16h-dark 8h-light life cycle. One-cell bottlenecks were performed by dilution every 1 14 days to keep a low effective population size to limit selection. Effective population 2 size was calculated by the harmonic mean of cell number over the 14-day period 3 (Krasovec et al. 2016). The number of cell divisions per day between bottlenecks was 4 calculated from the total number of cells obtained by flow cytometry for each MA line 5 (Krasovec et al. 2016), knowing that inoculation is done with one cell. DNA of initial line 6 (ancestral line) and final time of MA lines were extracted with chloroform protocol and 7 sequencing done with Illumina HiSeq or MiSeq by GATC biotech (Germany). To detect 8 duplications, raw reads were mapped against the reference genomes for each strain 9 with bwa mem v0.7.12 (Li and Durbin 2010). Next, bam files were treated with samtools 10 v1.3.1 (Li et al. 2009) and bedtools v 2-2.18.0 (Quinlan and Hall 2010) to extract the 11 12 coverage.

13

#### 14 **Probability calculations**

To test whether our observations were compatible with the null hypothesis of "equal 15 duplication rates between chromosomes" in each species, we calculated the probability 16 of observing two independent duplications in the same chromosome for a given 17 duplication events. The probability of drawing one chromosome twice out of k WCD 18 events chosen from *n* chromosomes, P(k,n), is equal to the ratio of the number of 19 20 combinations of (k-1) out of n without replacement multiplied by k-1, which corresponds to the number of possible k-1 different chromosomes with one in two copies, out of n, 21 22 divided by the number of combinations of k out of n with replacement  $(k-1)^*C(k-1)$ 1,n/(n+k-1), which corresponds to the total number of possible subsamples of k 23 24 chromosomes out of *n*.

$$P(k,n) = \frac{C(k-1,n)*(k-1)}{(n+k-1)!/k!(n-1)!}$$

All statistical analyses were performed with R (R Core Team 2022).

27

#### 28 **Dosage compensation analysis**

This study was started three years after the end of the MA experiments, for which some MA lines had been cryopreserved which allowed us to re-start a culture for one *B*.

prasinos MA line with a duplicated chromosome C04 (Bp37) to investigate the effect of 1 the duplication o transcription and translation rates. The restarted culture from the 2 cryopreserved Bp37 was renamed Bp37B. As a control, we used the reference culture 3 of the strain *B. prasinos* RCC4222, that is the derived from the RCC1105 used for the 4 MA experiment. All cultures (Bp37B and RCC4222) were maintained under a 12:12 h 5 light:dark regime under 50 µmol photon  $m^{-2} s^{-1}$  white light at 20 °C. The karvotype of 6 the defrozen cultures Bp37B and the control RCC4222 were checked by DNAseq 7 resequencing at the Bioenvironment platform (UPVD, Perpignan). The karyotype of 8 Bp37B contained on additional chromosome copy number as compared to Bp37, and 9 the karyotype of RCC4222 contained one additional copy numbers and one less 10 chromosome copy number as compared to the ancestral line (AL) (Figure S17). The 11 relative transcription rate was corrected by the number of DNA copy in each line for 12 further analysis below. 13

For transcription analyses, total RNA was extracted using the Direct-zol RNA MiniPrep 14 15 Kit (Zymo Research, Californie, USA) from pooling flasks of cultures (100 ml cultures with 200 million cells per ml) taken 6h before and 1h before the light on, in triplicates for 16 the control RCC4222 and duplicates for Bp37B. Next, polysome extraction was 17 performed for Ribo-seq as described previously (Carpentier et al. 2020) with few 18 19 modifications. Briefly, 600 mL of *B. prasinos* culture were centrifuged at 8,000 g for 20 minutes. After centrifugation, pellets were resuspended in 2.4 mL of polysome 20 extraction buffer. After 10 minutes of incubation on ice and centrifugation, 2 mL of 21 22 supernatant was loaded on a 9 mL 15-60% sucrose gradient and centrifuged for 3h at 38 000 rpm with rotor SW41 Ti. Fractions corresponding to polysomes were pooled and 23 polysomal RNA was extracted as previously described (Carpentier et al. 2020). RNA 24 library preparation was performed on total or polysomal RNA using a NEBNext Poly(A) 25 mRNA Magnetic Isolation Module and a NEBNext Ultra II Directional RNA Library Prep 26 Kit (New England Biolabs) according to the manufacturer's instructions with 1 µg of 27 28 RNA as a starting point. Libraries were multiplexed and sequenced on a NextSeq 550. Raw reads were mapped against the reference transcriptome of *B. prasinos* with RSEM 29 with standard parameters (Li and Dewey 2011). We obtained the TPM average of total 30 RNA and polysomes linked RNA that we compared between *B. prasinos* RCC4222 and 31

the MA line Bp37B. TPM stand for transcripts per kilobase million, and the sum of all TPM values is the same in all samples, such that a TPM value represents a relative transcription level that is comparable between samples. At the gene scale, we first used the total RNA TPM values to estimate the transcription difference ratio,  $r_{RNA}$  for each gene *i*, between two copies and single copy genes as:

6

$$r_{RNA}(i) = \frac{TPM_{TWOCOPIES}(i)}{TPM_{SINGLECOPY}(i)}$$

These relative transcription rates  $r_{RNA}(i)$  were normalized by the transcription rate median of genes located on non-duplicated chromosomes in Bp37B (C03, C05, C06, C07, C08, C09, C011, C012, C013, C014, C015, C016, C017 and C018), in order to estimate the transcription rate tr(i) of duplicated chromosomes related to non-duplicated chromosomes. Chromosome C19 was not considered because it is an idiosyncratic chromosome (see Discussion). Second, we used the total RNA and polysomes linked RNA TPM values for each gene *i* 

13 Second, we used the total RNA and polysomes linked RNA TPM values for each ge

r(i) =

to calculate the translation rates of each gene, r(i), as:

15

The translation efficiency between a gene *i* in the two lines in single versus two copies, te(i) was estimated as:

18

$$te(i) = \frac{r_{TWOCOPIES}(i)}{r_{SINGLECOPY}(i)}$$

PolysomeTPM (i) TotalTPM(i)

The *te*(*i*) ratio was then normalized by the median translation efficiency of all genes on non-duplicated chromosomes in strain BP37B (5,267 genes).

To estimate the dosage compensation at the scale of the chromosomes, the values were normalized by the average TPM of all single copy chromosomes prior to the calculation of the ratios (Table S7).

Poly(A) tail analysis was performed as previously described with slight modifications
(Sement and Gagliardi 2014). PCR products were resolved on a 2.5% agarose gel.
Primers used in this study are available in Table S11.

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#### 1 Differential gene transcription analyses

The statistical significance of the genes differential transcription levels was further 2 estimated with Deseq2 (Love et al. 2014). Transcriptional invariant genes were defined 3 as genes present on duplicated regions and for which the relative transcription rate 4 *r<sub>RNA</sub>(i)* was comprised between 0.9 and 1.1. Genes with no transcription were removed 5 from this analysis. The over-representation of a certain GO term in the transcriptional 6 invariant gene set was compared to the genome-wide GO term background frequency 7 using the GO enrichment analysis with default values implemented in pico-PLAZA 8 9 workbench (Vandepoele et al. 2013).

10

#### 11 AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

MK, SSB and GP performed the mutation accumulation experiments. MK performed the bioinformatics analysis. FS performed the cell cultures, RNA extractions, PCR and gel migration experiments. RM designed and performed the polysome analyses, poly(A) tail tests and RNAseq preparation. GP performed statistical analyses and coordinated the project. MK drafted the first version of the manuscript and all authors participated to writing the final version.

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#### 30 COMPETING INTERESTS

31 The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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#### 2 DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

3 Genomic raw reads are available under the bioprojects PRJNA531882 (Ostreoccocus

4 tauri, O. mediterraneus, Micromonas commoda, Bathycoccus prasinos), PRJNA453760

- 5 and PRJNA389600 (Picochlorum costavermella), and PRJNA478011 (Phaeodactylum
- 6 tricornutum). Transcriptomic raw reads of the Bathycoccus prasinos MA lines 37
- 7 (Bp37B) and control line RCC4222 are available under the bioproject PRJNA715163. A
- 8 summary is provided in Table S12.
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