

# The F-box Protein Rcy1p Is Involved in Endocytic Membrane Traffic and Recycling Out of an Early Endosome in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*

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**Abstract.** In *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, endocytic material is transported through different membrane-bound compartments before it reaches the vacuole. In a screen for mutants that affect membrane trafficking along the endocytic pathway, we have identified a novel mutant disrupted for the gene *YJL204c* that we have renamed *RCY1* (recycling 1). Deletion of *RCY1* leads to an early block in the endocytic pathway before the intersection with the vacuolar protein sorting pathway. Mutation of *RCY1* leads to the accumulation of an enlarged compartment that contains the t-SNARE Tlg1p and lies close to areas of cell expansion. In addition, endocytic markers such as Ste2p and the fluorescent dyes, Lucifer yellow and FM4-64, were found in a similar enlarged

compartment after their internalization. To determine whether *rcy1Δ* is defective for recycling, we have developed an assay that measures the recycling of previously internalized FM4-64. This method enables us to follow the recycling pathway in yeast in real time. Using this assay, it could be demonstrated that recycling of membranes is rapid in *S. cerevisiae* and that a major fraction of internalized FM4-64 is secreted back into the medium within a few minutes. The *rcy1Δ* mutant is strongly defective in recycling.

Key words: endocytosis • recycling • FM4-64 • ubiquitin • yeast

## Introduction

The endocytic pathway in *S. cerevisiae* can be divided into several steps of membrane transport from the plasma membrane to the vacuole, the degradative compartment in yeast. Individual transport steps can be studied using the pheromone  $\alpha$ -factor, which is internalized by receptor-mediated endocytosis (Chvatchko et al., 1986). Once inside the cell, the pheromone passes sequentially through two distinct compartments, called early and late endosomes, before it reaches the vacuole where it is degraded (Singer-Kruger et al., 1993). A recent morphological study in which endocytosis of positively charged nanogold was followed has allowed visualization of the endocytic compartments in yeast (Prescianotto-Baschong and Riezman, 1998). Accordingly, early endosomes are vesicular-tubular structures with often horseshoe-like shape, whereas late endosomes are oval in shape, multivesicular, and are found close to the vacuole (Hicke et al., 1997; Prescianotto-Baschong and Riezman, 1998).

To identify components that are involved in different

trafficking steps along the endocytic pathway, several mutant screens have been performed (Chvatchko et al., 1986; Davis et al., 1993; Raths et al., 1993; Munn and Riezman, 1994; Wendland et al., 1996). Most of these newly isolated endocytosis (end) mutants affect the internalization step of endocytosis, leading to a better understanding of the molecular mechanisms underlying internalization of plasma membrane proteins (Geli and Riezman, 1998). These studies clearly identified roles for actin (Kubler and Riezman, 1993) and ubiquitination (Galan et al., 1996; Hicke and Riezman, 1996) in this step. A second group of mutants affecting endocytosis has been identified independently during screens for proper sorting of vacuolar proteins (Bryant and Stevens, 1998). Vacuole protein sorting (vps)<sup>1</sup> mutants of the class E type led to the enlargement of a compartment called the prevacuolar compartment (PVC) (Raymond et al., 1992; Piper et al., 1995), and in-

<sup>1</sup>Abbreviations used in this paper: CHAPS, (3-[(3-cholamidopropyl)dimethyl-ammonio]-1-propanesulfonate); CPY, carboxypeptidase Y; LY, Lucifer yellow carbohydrazide; ORF, open reading frame; PVC, prevacuolar compartment; SCF, *SKP1*/cullin/F-box; vps, vacuole protein sorting; SNARE, soluble N-ethylmaleimide-sensitive factor attachment protein receptor.

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hibited traffic of vps and endocytic markers from the PVC to the vacuole. These results led to the conclusion that the endocytic pathway intersects with the vps pathway at the level of the PVC (Munn and Riezman, 1994; Piper et al., 1995). In contrast, only a few mutants have been studied that potentially affect endocytosis at a postinternalization step before the intersection with the vps pathway (Holthuis et al., 1998a; Seron et al., 1998).

Endocytosis is a rapid process. In response to a stimulus, yeast receptors or transporters are degraded with half-lives of <20 min (Hicke and Riezman, 1996; Springael and Andre, 1998). In response to ligand binding, 50% of the  $\alpha$ -factor receptor Ste2p is internalized in 6–8 min at 24°C (Munn and Riezman, 1994; Geli and Riezman, 1996). For comparison, the half-time of internalization of transferrin into mammalian cells has been determined to be 4 min at 37°C (Ghosh and Maxfield, 1995). Early work with mammalian cells has shown that these high rates of internalization are achieved in part because major fractions of the plasma membrane are being internalized over a relatively short time. In fibroblasts, membranes corresponding to 50% of the entire cell surface can be internalized per hour (Steinman et al., 1976). To balance this enormous loss of plasma membranes due to the constitutive formation of endocytic vesicles, membranes are recycled back to the plasma membrane (Mayor et al., 1993; Mukherjee et al., 1999). The same is true for plasma membrane proteins. Only a fraction of the internalized proteins are targeted to the lysosome (Mayor et al., 1993; Ghosh et al., 1994). To protect membrane proteins from lysosomal degradation, they are sorted away from the linear pathway (early endosome, late endosome, lysosome) at the level of the early endosome (Ghosh and Maxfield, 1995; Sheff et al., 1999). This sorting process allows proteins to be reused for further cycles of ligand binding and internalization. In yeast, little is known about recycling of plasma membrane but given the high rates of internalization observed, it is likely that this pathway also exists. The first proteins that were proposed to follow a recycling pathway in yeast were two chitin synthases (Chs1p and Chs3p) (Chuang and Schekman, 1996; Ziman et al., 1996). These chitin synthases are present in the plasma membrane and in an intracellular pool called chitosomes (Chuang and Schekman, 1996; Ziman et al., 1996). It was proposed that these two pools of chitin synthases are kept in balance through their continuous internalization and recycling. Because Chs1p and Chs3p exert their functions at specific times and locations during the cell cycle, sorting in the endosomal system and recycling could be a mechanism to target these enzymes to subregions of the plasma membrane (Chuang and Schekman, 1996; Shaw et al., 1991). Recently, localization of Chs3p has been shown to be affected in cells disrupted for genes encoding the soluble *N*-ethylmaleimide-sensitive factor attachment protein receptors (SNAREs) Tlg1p or Tlg2p (Holthuis et al., 1998b). The absence of one of these t-SNAREs may affect recycling of Chs3p by preventing transport through a compartment along the recycling pathway in yeast.

In this study, we identify and characterize a novel mutant defective both in endocytosis and for the recycling pathway in yeast. The mutant is a disruptant of the open reading frame (ORF) *YJL204c* named *RCY1* (for recy-

cling 1). The *rcy1Δ* mutant was identified in a screen for mutants defective for the accumulation of the fluorescent dye Lucifer yellow carbohydrazide (LY) in the vacuole. The European functional analysis network (EUROFAN) yeast mutant collection that was used here contains yeast strains disrupted for single nonessential ORFs that have been discovered during the sequencing of the yeast genome, and have only limited homologies to previously identified genes (Oliver, 1996).

The *rcy1Δ* mutant strain was found to be defective in endocytosis at an early postinternalization step, before the intersection of the endocytic with the vps pathway. In addition to this rare endocytic phenotype, this mutant is also defective for recycling of internalized material to the plasma membrane. Rcy1p, which is required for these trafficking steps, encodes a protein with an F-box near its NH<sub>2</sub> terminus. F-boxes mediate the interaction of target proteins with the *SKP1*/cullin/F-box (SCF)–ubiquitin ligase complex (Patton et al., 1998b). The presence of this motif in a protein that affects vesicular traffic and another potential role of ubiquitination in the endocytic pathway are discussed.

## Materials and Methods

### Yeast Strains, Media, and Reagents

Yeast strains used in this study are listed in Table I. YPUAD and the minimal medium SD was prepared as described by Dulic et al. (1991). Yeast nitrogen base (YNB) medium contains 0.67% yeast nitrogen base (Difco Laboratories) and 2% glucose. SD medium containing 5 fluoroorotic acid (5FOA; PCR Inc.) was prepared according to Munn and Riezman (1994). To select for disruptant strains containing the kanMX-module (Wach et al., 1994), cells were grown on plates containing 200  $\mu$ g/ml Geneticin (GIBCO BRL). The following nutrients (40  $\mu$ g/ml) were added to the SD and yeast nitrogen base media when required: adenine, uracil, tryptophan, histidine, lysine, leucine, and tyrosine. Solid media contained 2% Bacto-agar (Difco). Biosynthetically <sup>35</sup>SO<sub>4</sub>-labeled  $\alpha$ -factor was purified using the amberlite resin, CG-50 (Serva) followed by C18 reverse-phase HPLC as described in detail by Dulic et al. (1991). Preparative silica gel 60 (2.2-mm thick; 20 × 20 cm) TLC plates were supplied by MERCK. LY was obtained from Fluka (Buchs), FM4-64 from Molecular Probes. Glucose oxidase, HRP, and o-dianisidine were purchased from Fluka.

Polyclonal antiserum against carboxypeptidase Y (CPY) was used as described previously (Moreau et al., 1996). Antisera against Tlg1p and Sed5p were a kind gift of H.R.B. Pelham (Medical Research Council [MRC] Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge, UK).

### Yeast Genetic Techniques

Yeast standard techniques were used for mating, sporulation, and tetrad analysis. For transformation of yeast cells, a lithium acetate method was used (Gietz et al., 1992).

### DNA Constructs Used

The plasmids carrying the deletion cassette and the cognate gene of the ORF *YJL204c* (which we named *RCY1*) were obtained from European functional analysis network (EUROFAN) and were constructed by Wysocki et al. (1999). The deletion cassette containing a kanMX-module was cloned into the pUG7 vector (pYORCYJL204c). The wild-type gene was cloned into the pRS416 centromeric plasmid to yield the plasmid pYCGYJL204c. Details on the construction of these plasmids can be found elsewhere (Wysocki et al., 1999).

### LY Accumulation in the Vacuole

Fluid-phase endocytosis of LY was performed as described by Dulic et al. (1991). Cultures of yeast cells were grown to logarithmic phase (OD<sub>600</sub> = 0.2–0.5) in YPUAD at 24°C. Cells were concentrated to 2–5 OD<sub>600</sub> U/ml

Table I. Yeast Strains Used in this Study

Strain	Genotype	Source
RH4344	<i>Mata yjl204c::kanMX his4 leu2 ura3 lys2 bar1</i>	This study
RH4345	<i>Mata his4 leu2 ura3 lys2 bar1</i>	This study
RH4739	<i>Mata yjl204c::kanMX pma1::PMA1HA:LEU2 his3 ura3 ade2 trp1</i>	This study
RH4740	<i>Mata pma1::PMA1HA:LEU2 his3 ura3 ade2 trp1</i>	This study
RH2180	<i>Mata vps1-Δ2 pep4 his4 leu2 ura3 ade6</i>	T. Stevens
RH2517	<i>Mata ypt7::LEU2 his4 ura3 bar1</i>	H. Riezman
RH2906	<i>Mata end13/vps4::URA3 his4 leu2 lys2 bar1</i>	H. Riezman
RSY271	<i>Mata sec18-1 his4 ura3</i>	R. Schekman
RSY255	<i>Mata leu2 ura3</i>	R. Schekman
SEY6210	<i>Mata his3 leu2 ura3 lys2 trp1 suc2</i>	H. Pelham
JHY016	<i>Mata tlg1::TRP1 his3 leu2 ura3 lys2 suc2</i>	H. Pelham
TSYKO3	<i>Mata tlg2::HIS5pL leu2 ura3 lys2 trp1 suc2</i>	H. Pelham

in YPUAD and incubated for 1 h at 24°C in the presence of 4 mg/ml LY. After LY accumulation, the cells were washed three times in 1 ml of ice-cold 50 mM sodium phosphate, 10 mM sodium azide, 10 mM sodium fluoride, pH 7.5. Samples were viewed by fluorescence microscopy using FITC optics.

### α-Factor Endocytosis Assays

Internalization of α-factor was followed using the pulse-chase protocol described by Dulic et al. (1991). 100 ml of mid-log phase cells (10<sup>7</sup> cells/ml) was harvested and resuspended in ice-cold YPUAD. [<sup>35</sup>S]α-factor was prebound to the cells for 50 min on ice. Uptake of α-factor was initiated by resuspending the cells in YPUAD prewarmed to 24°C. Internalization was calculated by dividing the internalized counts (remaining cell bound in a 50 mM citrate buffer, pH 1.1) by the total cell-associated counts (cells washed in 50 mM potassium phosphate buffer, pH 6).

Extraction of total bound or internalized [<sup>35</sup>S]α-factor from the yeast cells and subsequent separation of intact and degraded α-factor on TLC plates was performed as described (Dulic et al., 1991).

### Uracil Permease Assays

Wild-type and *rcy1Δ* cells were transformed with a construct (p195gF) (2μURA3-Gal-FUR4) to overexpress uracil permease (Volland et al., 1994). These strains were grown in yeast nitrogen base medium plus 4% galactose and the required amino acids to an OD<sub>600</sub> of 0.6. Cycloheximide (100 μg/ml) was then added to the medium. Uracil uptake was measured at different timepoints after the addition of cycloheximide. Aliquots of 1 ml of yeast culture were incubated with 5 μM [<sup>14</sup>C]uracil (NEN) for 20 s at 30°C and then quickly filtered through a Whatman GF/C filter, which was washed twice with ice-cold water and counted for the retained radioactivity. To examine permease degradation, 6 × 10<sup>7</sup> cells were harvested at the different timepoints and lysed for 10 min on ice with 0.185 N NaOH, 2% 2-mercaptoethanol. The protein samples were precipitated using 5% trichloroacetic acid. The pellets were resuspended in 45 μl sample buffer (4% sodium dodecyl sulfate, 0.1 M Tris-hydrochloride, pH 6.8, 4 mM EDTA, 20% glycerol, 2% mercaptoethanol, 0.02% bromophenol blue) plus 25 μl of 1 M Tris base. The samples were heated at 37°C for 10 min before separation of the proteins on 10% SDS-polyacrylamide tricine gels. The uracil permease was detected using a rabbit antiserum raised against the last 10 residues of the permease as described (Galan et al., 1996).

### Staining with FM4-64

Endocytosis of FM4-64 was modified from the protocol described by Vida and Emr (1995). Yeast strains were grown in YPUAD to an optical density OD<sub>600</sub> of 0.2–0.5. Cells were harvested and resuspended at 3–5 OD<sub>600</sub> U/ml. FM4-64 (16 mM in DMSO) was diluted to 400 μM in H<sub>2</sub>O and added to the cells at a final concentration of 40 μM. Cells were then incubated in the presence of the dye for 10–12 min at 24°C. After this internalization step, the yeast cells were washed three times in ice-cold medium to remove surface-bound dye. The cells were resuspended in YPUAD and

incubated for various times at 24°C. Stained cells were placed on slides and visualized using RITC optics.

### FM4-64 Recycling Assay

Yeast cells were allowed to internalize FM4-64 for 12 min as described above. The cells were diluted in ice-cold SD medium and harvested by centrifugation (1 min at low speed in a benchtop microfuge). The cells were then washed three times in ice-cold SD medium (each wash step takes 2–5 min to completely remove surface-bound dye). After the last wash step, the cells are resuspended in 10 μl SD medium and kept on ice. Prewarmed SD medium was added to the cells to a final optical density OD<sub>600</sub> of 0.25. The cell suspension (1.5 ml) was added to 10 × 10 mm acrylic cuvettes (Sarstedt). The fluorescence was recorded at an angle of 90°. Excitation was at 515 nm with a bandwidth of 10 nm, and emission was measured at 680 nm with a bandwidth of 10 nm. Fluorescence was usually measured for 10 min. During the entire measurement, cells were stirred and kept at indicated temperature. The measurements were performed on a JASCO Spectrofluorometer FP-777 (Japan Spectroscopic Co., Ltd.).

To estimate the amount of FM4-64 in the medium, cells were incubated in the presence of FM4-64 for 12 min as above. The cells were then washed in ice-cold SD medium until no fluorescence could be detected in the washes after adding 3-[(3-cholamidopropyl)dimethyl-ammonio]-1-propanesulfonate (CHAPS) to 1% (from a 20% stock solution in SD). Cell pellets were resuspended in prewarmed SD medium as described above and allowed to recycle. Aliquots of cells corresponding to 0.375 OD<sub>600</sub> units were taken at different timepoints and total fluorescence was measured for 30 s. CHAPS was added to 1% final concentration and mixed. Fluorescence was measured for an additional 60 s. The difference between the values after and before CHAPS addition was calculated. CHAPS had no effect on the fluorescence of cells that had not been treated with FM4-64.

### Invertase Secretion

Yeast cells were grown at 24°C to an OD<sub>600</sub> of 0.2–0.5 in YPUAD medium. Cell were harvested and washed in distilled water to remove glucose from the medium. The cells were resuspended in YPUAS medium (containing 0.05% glucose and 2% sucrose) to induce invertase expression at 24°C. Samples were taken every 15 min and membrane transport was blocked by the addition of sodium azide to 10 mM final concentration and incubation on ice. Equal amounts of cells were used to measure secreted invertase activity. To measure total invertase activity (internal and secreted invertase), 50 μl of 10% Triton X-100 (Sigma Chemical Co.) was added to 0.5 ml of yeast cell suspension OD<sub>600</sub> of 0.5. Lysates were prepared by freezing the cells in liquid nitrogen and thawing them at room temperature. Invertase was assayed as described (Goldstein and Lampen, 1975).

### Pulse-Chase Analysis and Secretion of CPY

Cells were grown to a density of 2 × 10<sup>7</sup> cells/ml (OD<sub>600</sub> = 1). The cells were collected and resuspended in fresh medium at OD<sub>600</sub> 5 and labeled for 4 min by adding 150 μCi/ml [<sup>35</sup>S]Translabel (NEN) per ml of culture. The metabolically labeled cells were then chased with cold 10 mM methionine and 10 mM cysteine. 0.3-ml aliquots of culture were removed at various times during the chase. Cell extracts were prepared and the proteins prepared for immunoprecipitation as described previously (Moreau et al., 1996). For immunoprecipitation, anti-CPY antibody was used at a dilution of 1:500. Immunoprecipitated proteins were separated by SDS-PAGE on 7.5% tricine gels.

To detect secreted CPY, cells were grown on YPUAD plates in contact with a 0.45-μm nitrocellulose filter (Schleicher and Schuell). After incubation for 48 h, cells were eluted from the filter with water. The filter was probed using anti-CPY antibodies as described (Munn and Riezman, 1994).

### Immunofluorescence

Staining of Ste2p was performed exactly as described by Hicke et al. (1997). For double immunofluorescence, strains were used that express a hemagglutinin-tagged version of Pma1p. After fixation and removal of the cell wall using recombinant lyticase, the cells were incubated with a polyclonal antibody to Ste2p (1:200) and a mAb recognizing the hemagglutinin epitope of the hemagglutinin protein (1:500; Boehringer Mannheim).

Cy3- and Oregon green-conjugated secondary antibodies were used to detect the rabbit and mouse primary antibodies, respectively.

### Immunoelectron Microscopy

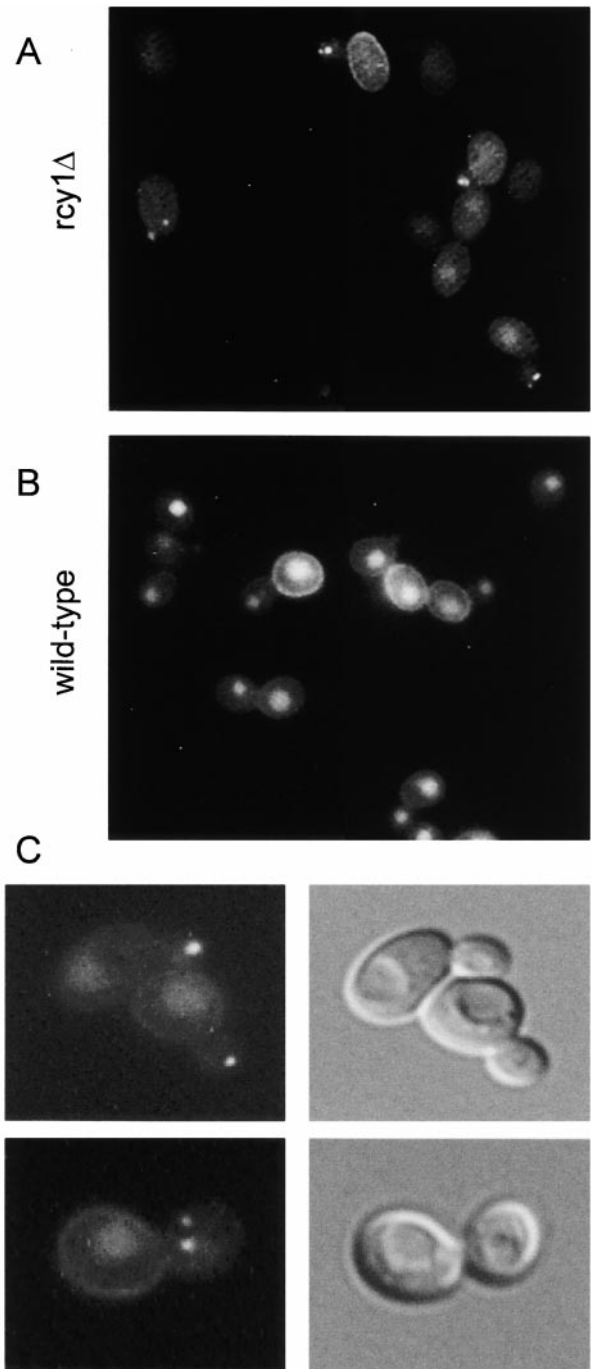
Yeast strains were grown in YPUAD medium to early logarithmic phase and then fixed overnight at 4°C by direct addition of glutaraldehyde (final 0.2%) and formaldehyde (final 3%) to the culture medium. The cells were washed in 50 mM HEPES, pH 7.5, 3 mM KCl, incubated in 1% NaIO<sub>4</sub>, and free aldehyde groups were quenched with 50 mM NH<sub>4</sub>Cl as described (van Tuinen and Riezman, 1987). Dehydration, infiltration, and polymerization in LR GOLD resin (London Resin) was done according to the supplier's instructions. Thin sections of ~50 nm were cut and mounted on 200-mesh nickel grids. Antibodies against Sed5p and Tlg1p were raised in rabbits and kindly provided by H.R.B. Pelham (MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology). The IgG fraction of each antiserum was purified on protein A-Sepharose columns and used for immunolabeling. As secondary antibodies, IgG-colloidal gold conjugates (BIO Cell) were used. Grids were placed upside down on 50- $\mu$ l droplets of blocking solution (150 mM NaCl, 10 mM potassium phosphate, pH 7.5, 0.1% Tween 20, 2% fatty acid-free BSA [Sigma Chemical Co.]) for 20 min. The grids were then transferred to droplets containing appropriate dilutions of primary antibodies in blocking buffer and incubated for 4 h at room temperature. The grids were then washed five times for 5 min with PBS solution, pH 7.5. The grids were incubated for 10 min in blocking buffer before transferring to droplets with secondary antibodies and incubation for 2 h and washed as described above. After washing in water, the grids were stained in 6% uranyl acetate for 10 min and in Reynold's lead citrate for 30–60 s.

## Results

### Unusual Nonvacuolar Accumulation of LY in a Novel Endocytosis Mutant

During a systematic screen of the European functional analysis network (EUROFAN) (Oliver, 1996) mutant collection for strains defective in the accumulation of LY in the vacuole (Chvatchko et al., 1986), several candidate endocytosis mutants were found. In this report, one of these mutants was further characterized. The strain, disrupted for the ORF *YJL204c*, showed decreased levels of LY in the vacuole consistent with a defect in fluid-phase endocytosis (compare Fig. 1 A and Fig. 1 B). Strikingly, small LY-positive structures were observed in the bud of small budded cells, close to sites of cell growth (Fig. 1, A and C). At this level of resolution, one to three punctuate structures could be seen in the bud. When viewed by Nomarski optics, vacuolar morphology in the mutant cells was apparently normal, and the LY-labeled structures did not colocalize with vacuoles, even when the latter were visible in buds (Fig. 1 C). Accumulation of LY in punctuate nonvacuolar membranes has not been observed previously.

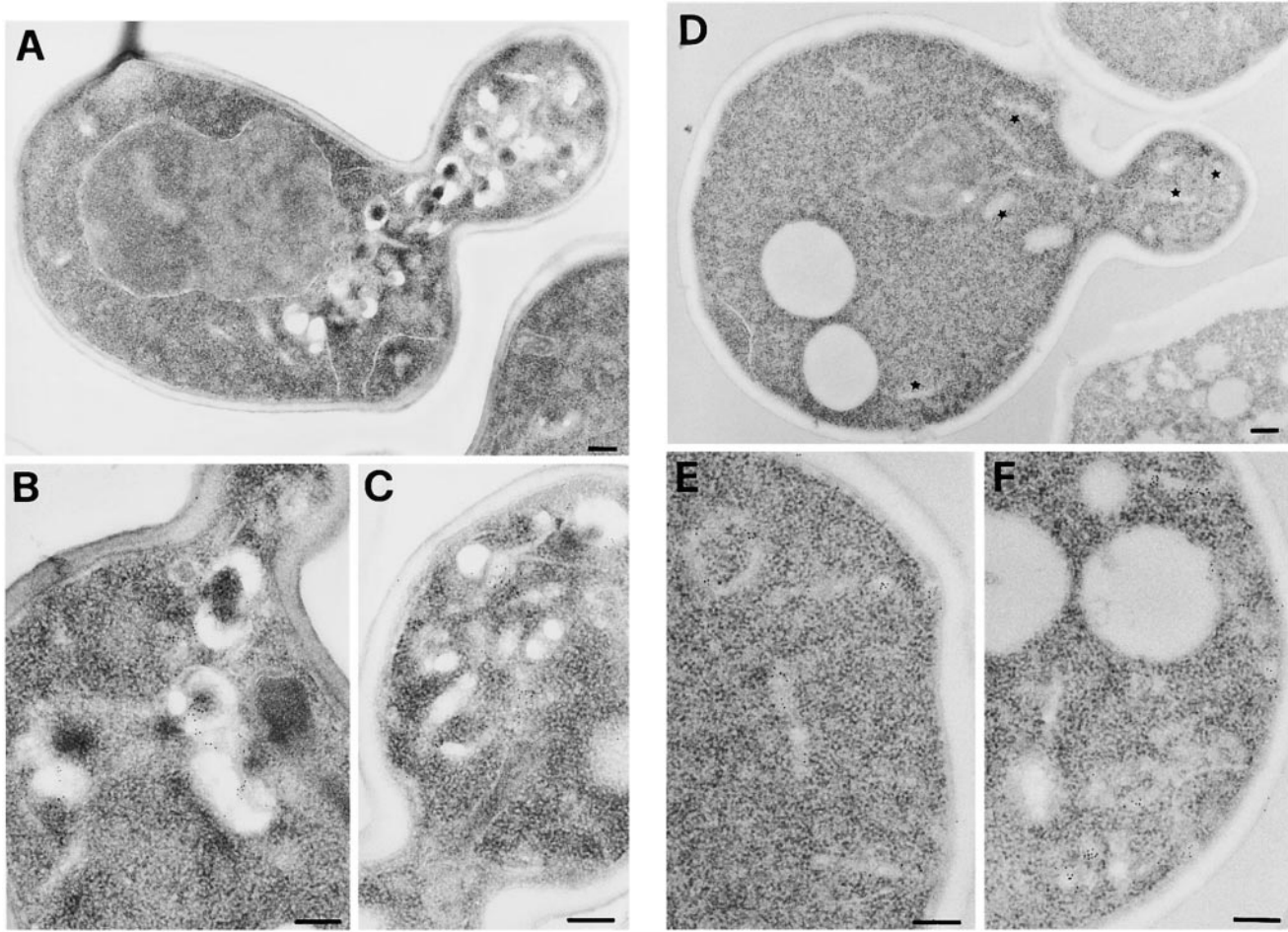
The mutant with this unusual endocytic phenotype contains a disruption of the gene *YJL204c* (Wysocki et al., 1999). To confirm the linkage of the phenotype to the disruption of *YJL204c*, a heterozygous diploid was created by replacing one copy of *YJL204c* with a kanMX cassette in our genetic background. After sporulation and dissection of this strain, each of the tetrads yielded two large and two small colonies. The two small colonies were the *yjl204c::kanMX* disruptants, confirmed by their ability to grow on geneticin-containing YPUAD plates and by PCR (data not shown). Dissection of the heterozygous diploid carrying the complementing gene on a centromere-containing vector led to the formation of equal-sized colonies. Furthermore, the complemented strains also showed wild-



**Figure 1.** Accumulation of LY in punctuate nonvacuolar structures close to and in the bud of the *rcy1*-null mutant cells. *rcy1* mutant (A and C) and wild-type cells (B) were incubated in YPUAD containing LY (4 mg/ml) for 1 h at 24°C. The cells were then washed and visualized using fluorescence optics. (C) *rcy1* mutant cells visualized at higher magnification using either fluorescence (left panels) or Nomarski optics (right panels).

type accumulation of LY in the vacuole and no LY-positive structures in the bud (data not shown). The observed changes in LY distribution are therefore the result of the disruption of *YJL204c*.

The gene *YJL204c*, which we renamed *RCY1* (recycling 1), encodes a protein of 840 amino acids in length (Swissprot



**Figure 2.** Tlg1p localizes to the enlarged compartment of the *rcy1Δ* mutant. Logarithmically growing cells were fixed, dehydrated, and embedded for EM as described in Materials and Methods. Cell sections were then incubated with purified anti-Tlg1p antibodies followed by anti-IgG secondary antibodies. The gold-coupled secondary antibodies can be seen on the sections as black dots with a diameter of 10 nm. Immunogold-labeled sections of *rcy1Δ* (A–C) and the corresponding wild-type (D–F) are shown. Bars, 200 nm. (D) Tlg1p-positive membranes are indicated by a star.

P39531). The presence of a CAAX box at the very COOH terminus of the proteins indicates that Rcy1p may be prenylated (Omer and Gibbs, 1994). In addition, Rcy1p contains a putative F-box (Patton et al., 1998b). This degenerate 40-amino acid motif is found in a number of proteins and has been shown to mediate interaction with Skp1p, a component of the SCF-ubiquitin ligase complex (Skowra et al., 1997; Patton et al., 1998b). Interestingly, the COOH-terminal third of the protein (275AA) shows some sequence homology to Sec10p, a protein known to be involved in membrane trafficking (Wysocki et al., 1999; see Discussion).

#### **Large Compartment Found in the *rcy1Δ* Mutant**

EM was used to visualize and characterize the compartment that accumulated LY in the *rcy1Δ* mutant strain. When compared with wild-type cells, mutant cells contained unusually large compartments in the bud or when seen in the mother cell, localized near the bud neck (Fig. 2, A–C). Compartments of similar shape with a large luminal compartment were not seen in wild-type cells (Fig. 2,

D–F). The membrane compartments observed in the mutant cells have at least two different morphologies. There are straight elongated membrane structures and horse-shoe-shaped cisternae-like structures (Fig. 2). Furthermore, in certain areas, these membranes have a large luminal compartment up to 0.15  $\mu\text{m}$  across. The large lumen of this compartment in *rcy1Δ* cells may explain why these structures could be visualized using LY.

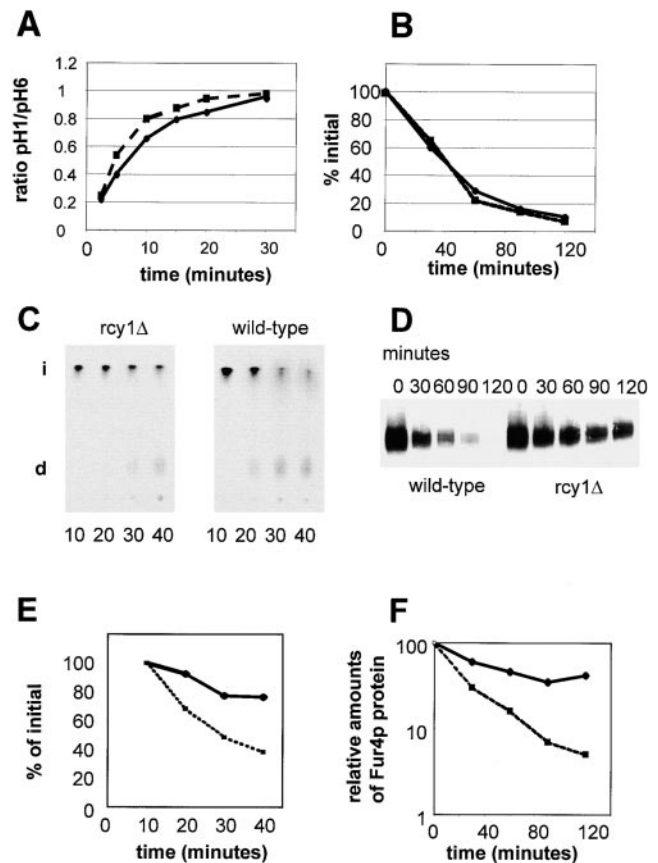
During the characterization of the enlarged compartment present in the mutant cells, an antibody raised against the t-SNARE Tlg1p (Holthuis et al., 1998a) was found to label the enlarged cisternae strongly (Fig. 2). Tlg1p labeling was specific for these compartments because no immunogold labeling was observed on other membranes such as ER, mitochondria, plasma membrane, or the vacuole. In wild-type cells, Tlg1p was present on small cisterna and vesicles. In the absence of Tlg1p labeling, these compartments are difficult to precisely identify in wild-type cells. In contrast to the compartment observed in mutant cells (Fig. 2, A–C), the Tlg1p-positive wild-type compartments lacked a large lumen (Fig. 2, D–F).

Tlg1p has been shown previously to localize to Golgi and/or endosomal membranes (Holthuis et al., 1998a). An antibody recognizing the cis-Golgi t-SNARE Sed5p (Banfield et al., 1994; Pelham, 1999) revealed that this marker for early Golgi membranes was not present on the enlarged compartment of the *rcy1Δ* mutant cells (data not shown). Together, these data suggest that the Tlg1p-positive, aberrant compartment may be either of late Golgi complex or endosomal origin.

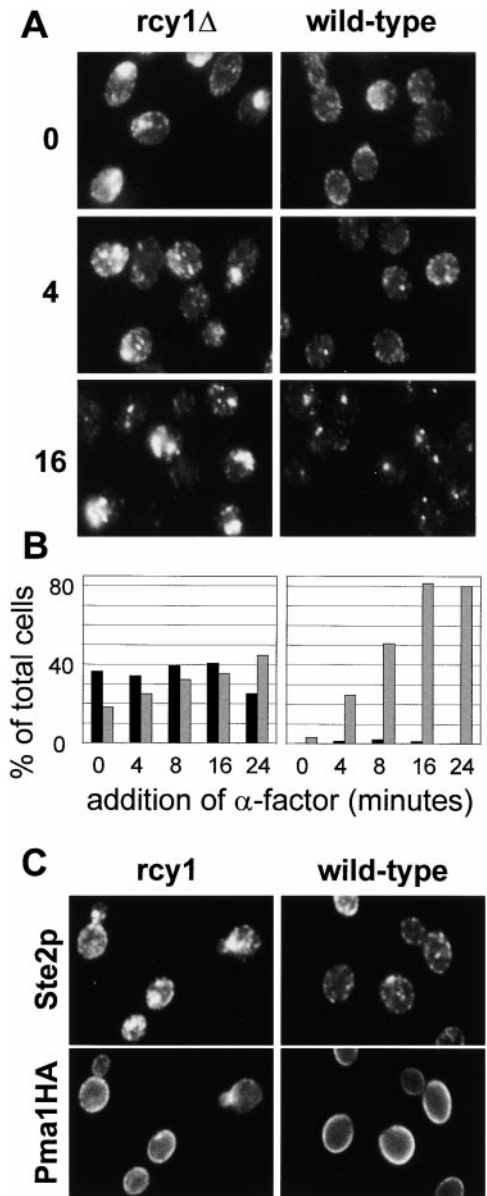
### The *rcy1Δ* Mutant Has a Traffic Defect from an Endocytic Compartment to the Vacuole

We speculated that the enlargement of this compartment and the reduction in accumulation of LY in the vacuole in *rcy1Δ* cells is the result of a defect in endocytosis. To address which step in endocytosis is affected, the traffic of two well characterized endocytic markers, pheromone  $\alpha$ -factor and the plasma membrane protein uracil permease (Fur4p), were followed along the endocytic pathway (Fig. 3). The uptake of radiolabeled  $\alpha$ -factor and the disappearance of uracil uptake activity from the cell surface were used as measures for the internalization step of endocytosis. Both markers were internalized at similarly rapid rates in *rcy1Δ* and wild-type cells (Fig. 3, A and B). It has been shown previously that once internalized, the two markers are further transported to the vacuole (Singer-Kruger et al., 1993; Galan et al., 1996). Transport from endosomal membranes to a proteolytically active compartment can be monitored by following degradation of  $\alpha$ -factor or the uracil permease. When compared with wild-type cells, degradation was delayed for both markers in the *rcy1Δ* mutant cells (Fig. 3, C and D). The disappearance of intact  $\alpha$ -factor and the decrease of uracil permease signal was quantified (Fig. 3, E and F, respectively). Based on these results, endocytosis is most likely inhibited at a postinternalization step in *rcy1Δ* cells.

In addition to these quantitative endocytic assays, we also followed the  $\alpha$ -factor receptor Ste2p during endocytosis at the single cell level by immunofluorescence, to determine whether Ste2p travels to the enlarged compartment of *rcy1Δ* mutant cells. Consistent with previous studies (Hicke et al., 1997), in the absence of  $\alpha$ -factor, Ste2p is mainly present at the plasma membrane in wild-type cells (Fig. 4 A, right column). After ligand binding, Ste2p endocytosis is strongly stimulated (Hicke et al., 1998). The receptor first localizes to peripheral punctuate structures (Fig. 4 A, 4 min) and then accumulates in larger structures close to the vacuole at later timepoints (16 min). Strikingly, in the *rcy1Δ* mutant cells, Ste2p was localized during the entire timecourse to a large compartment that did not resemble the compartments observed in the wild-type cells (Fig. 4 A, left column). This compartment was present in ~40% of the *rcy1Δ* cells (Fig. 4 B). Smaller Ste2p-positive compartments were also observed but could not be distinguished from the Ste2p-positive compartments that can be seen in wild-type cells after the addition of  $\alpha$ -factor. In agreement with the localization of LY-positive membranes (Fig. 1), the most intensely labeled Ste2p-positive compartments were found in the bud, close to the forming bud, and bud neck (Fig. 4, A and C). We conclude that Ste2p is transported to an endosomal compartment and



**Figure 3.** Degradation of  $\alpha$ -factor pheromone and the plasma membrane protein uracil permease is defective in the *rcy1Δ* mutant cells. Internalization (A and B) and degradation (C–F) of  $\alpha$ -factor (A, C, and E) and uracil permease (B, D, and F) was studied. (A) Internalization of  $\alpha$ -factor was followed as the ratio of internalized radio-labeled  $\alpha$ -factor (resistant to pH 1.1 wash) divided by the total cell-associated cpm (internalized plus surface receptor-bound  $\alpha$ -factor retained after pH 6 wash). *rcy1Δ* cells (solid line) internalized [ $^{35}$ S] $\alpha$ -factor at rates similar to wild-type cells (dashed line). (B) Transport of [ $^3$ H]uracil into yeast cells was used as a measure for the relative amounts of uracil permease exposed at the cell surface. Upon addition of cycloheximide (100  $\mu$ g/ml), uracil permease levels at the cell surface decreased. Uracil uptake is plotted as the percentage activity at the initial timepoint. The decrease of uracil transport over time is identical in the *rcy1Δ* (solid line) and wild-type cells (dashed line). (C) Degradation of  $\alpha$ -factor. Cells were allowed to take up radiolabeled  $\alpha$ -factor as described in A. Membrane traffic was stopped and cells were washed in cold buffer, pH 1.1, at the indicated timepoints in minutes. Cells were extracted and cell-associated radioactivity was analyzed by TLC and autoradiography. The disappearance of intact (i)  $\alpha$ -factor was quantified (E). In wild-type cells, degraded  $\alpha$ -factor (d) was already observed 20 min after internalization at 24°C had been initiated. (D) Degradation of uracil permease. At the indicated times after addition of cycloheximide (100  $\mu$ g/ml), total proteins were extracted. The intensity of the uracil permease band as detected on the Western blot was quantified and the values presented as the relative amounts of the signal before adding cycloheximide (F). (E and F) Wild-type (dashed line) and *rcy1Δ* (solid line).



**Figure 4.** Ste2p traffic is blocked in an endocytic compartment. (A) Ligand-induced endocytosis of Ste2p was followed over time. *rcy1Δ* (left column) and wild-type cells (right column) were exposed to  $\alpha$ -factor ( $10^{-7}$  M) for the indicated times in minutes. Cells were fixed and stained using a polyclonal antibody against Ste2p. Note the large Ste2p-positive membranes in the *rcy1Δ* strain. (B) For comparison of *rcy1Δ* (left) and wild-type strains (right) the cells were quantified for the presence of Ste2p-positive compartments. The sizes of Ste2p-positive compartments were judged by immunofluorescence (not real size of compartments). The percentage of total cells with Ste2p-positive structures with an apparent size  $>1 \mu\text{m}$  at its largest diameter is represented by the black bars. The grey bars show the percentage of cells with smaller round Ste2p-positive compartments of  $\sim 0.5\text{--}1 \mu\text{m}$  in diameter. (C) Pma1p does not colocalize to the internal Ste2p-positive membranes. A wild-type strain (right panels) and the *rcy1Δ* mutant strain (left panels) expressing a genomic hemagglutinin-tagged version of Pma1p were labeled for Ste2p as in A (top panels) and Pma1HA using a monoclonal anti-hemagglutinin (bottom panels) by double immunofluorescence. No cross-bleeding was observed when either of the two primary antibodies was omitted (not shown).

that traffic out of this compartment to the vacuole is reduced, leading to Ste2p accumulation there in the *rcy1Δ* strain. The fact that Ste2p was already observed in this internal compartment in the absence of  $\alpha$ -factor indicates that constitutive (not induced by ligand) endocytosis of Ste2p is sufficient to lead to accumulation of the receptor in this compartment. The rate-limiting endocytic step in the *rcy1Δ* mutant cells appears to be transport out of this endosomal compartment. Despite the accumulation of internal Ste2p, the receptor was still in sufficient quantity at the cell surface to mediate normal internalization of  $\alpha$ -factor (Fig. 3 A), and can be seen at the cell surface at early timepoints (Fig. 4 A, 0 min and Fig. 4 C). An alternative interpretation for the presence of Ste2p on the enlarged compartment of *rcy1Δ* cells would have been missorting of plasma membrane proteins during secretion. To address this possibility, double immunofluorescence of Ste2p with the plasma membrane ATPase (Pma1p) was performed. Pma1p colocalized with Ste2p on the plasma membrane but not on intracellular compartments of the mutant cells (Fig. 4 C). The absence of Pma1p on these membranes favors the view that plasma membrane proteins traffic normally to the cell surface and that Ste2p was present on the cell surface before its presence on intracellular membranes. The absence of Pma1p from this compartment is probably due to its very long half-life ( $>10$  h) at the plasma membrane (Benito et al., 1991).

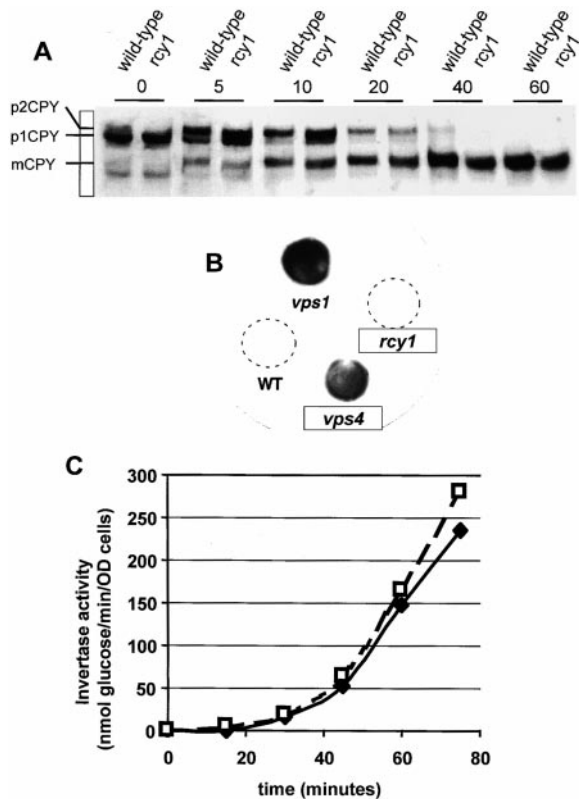
In summary, the *rcy1Δ* mutant cells can internalize endocytic markers normally but are defective in a subsequent step of the pathway leading to the delivery of the uracil permease and  $\alpha$ -factor to the vacuole. The defect correlates with the enlargement of an endocytic compartment in which the  $\alpha$ -factor receptor accumulates.

#### *vps* and Secretion Is Normal in the *rcy1Δ* Mutant Cells

As the endocytic and vacuole biogenesis pathways have been shown to overlap (Piper et al., 1995), we investigated a possible *vps* defect in the *rcy1Δ* mutant strain. To this end, the maturation of the vacuolar protein CPY was monitored. In the Golgi, oligosaccharides are added onto the core glycosylated ER form of CPY (p1CPY) to form p2CPY. Upon arrival in the vacuole, p2CPY is proteolytically processed to give rise to the mature form of CPY (mCPY) (Bryant and Stevens, 1998). Maturation of CPY was followed in pulse-chase experiments and subsequent immunoprecipitation. Analysis of the mutant cells showed that transport from ER to Golgi and further on to the vacuole occurs at normal rates (Fig. 5 A).

Some class E *vps* mutants are capable of maturing CPY at nearly normal rates, despite a defect in the *vps* pathway, because vacuolar proteases are matured in the class E compartment. However, class E mutants secrete a significant fraction of CPY into the medium (Raymond et al., 1992). Secreted CPY can be detected using a colony blot assay (see Materials and Methods). In contrast to the two *vps* mutants tested as positive controls, including a class E mutant (*vps4/end13*), *rcy1Δ* cells did not secrete significant amounts of CPY (Fig. 5 B). We conclude that disruption of *RCY1* does not affect *vps*. As traffic from the PVC to the Golgi is required for proper sorting of CPY (Piper et al., 1995), the *rcy1Δ* strain probably shows no defect in this transport step.





**Figure 5.** CPY targeting and invertase secretion are normal in the *rcy1Δ* mutant. (A) Maturation of CPY occurs at a normal rate in *rcy1Δ* mutant cells. Wild-type (left lanes) and *rcy1Δ* (right lanes) cells were pulsed for 4 min with 150  $\mu$ Ci/ml of [ $^{35}$ S]methionine/cysteine labeling mixture and chased for the indicated times (see Materials and Methods). CPY was immunoprecipitated from total protein extracts. The ER form of CPY (p1CPY) and the Golgi form of CPY (p2CPY) disappear in both strains at approximately equal rates. (B) Like wild-type cells (WT), *rcy1Δ* cells do not secrete CPY. Secretion of CPY was assayed on nitrocellulose filters. *vps* mutants secrete a fraction of CPY, which binds to nitrocellulose filters and can be detected by probing with a CPY-specific antibody. Due to inefficient sorting of CPY in the *vps* mutant (*vps1*) and the class E *vps* mutant (*vps4*), a fraction of CPY is secreted, which results in a strong signal on the membrane. (C) Invertase secretion occurs at normal rates from *rcy1Δ* cells. Cells grown in YPUAD (2% glucose) were washed and resuspended in a medium containing 2% sucrose and 0.05% glucose at time 0. Samples were taken at different timepoints after this induction and assayed for secreted invertase activity (see Materials and Methods). Both the onset and the extent of invertase secretion from *rcy1Δ* cells (solid line) and wild-type cells (dashed line) were similar.

The only difference we noted using CPY as a marker was that it migrated at a slightly lower apparent molecular weight on SDS-PAGE gels, which could be the result of reduced glycosylation of the protein (Fig. 5 A). However, the cause of this phenotype is not clear, because the apparent molecular weight of invertase was normal (data not shown).

To determine whether protein secretion to the plasma membrane is affected in *rcy1Δ* cells, secretion of the periplasmic enzyme invertase was followed. Invertase cleaves sucrose, and its expression is strongly induced when yeast cells are switched from medium containing high levels of

glucose to a medium containing sucrose as the main carbon source. In secretory mutants, invertase secretion is inhibited and the enzyme accumulates in the lumen of secretory compartments. Extracellular invertase activity can be measured from intact cells once the enzyme is secreted into the periplasm. Total invertase activity can be measured after lysis of the cells. The *rcy1Δ* mutant and congenic wild-type cells secrete invertase at the same rate (Fig. 5 C). In several independent experiments the onset of secretion was at  $\sim$ 20 min at 24°C. Internal invertase, as determined by subtracting secreted invertase activity from total invertase activity, did not accumulate in the *rcy1Δ* cells (data not shown). Taken together, we conclude that *rcy1Δ* cells do not have major defects in the secretory or *vps* pathways.

### Defects of FM4-64 Endocytosis in *rcy1Δ* Cells

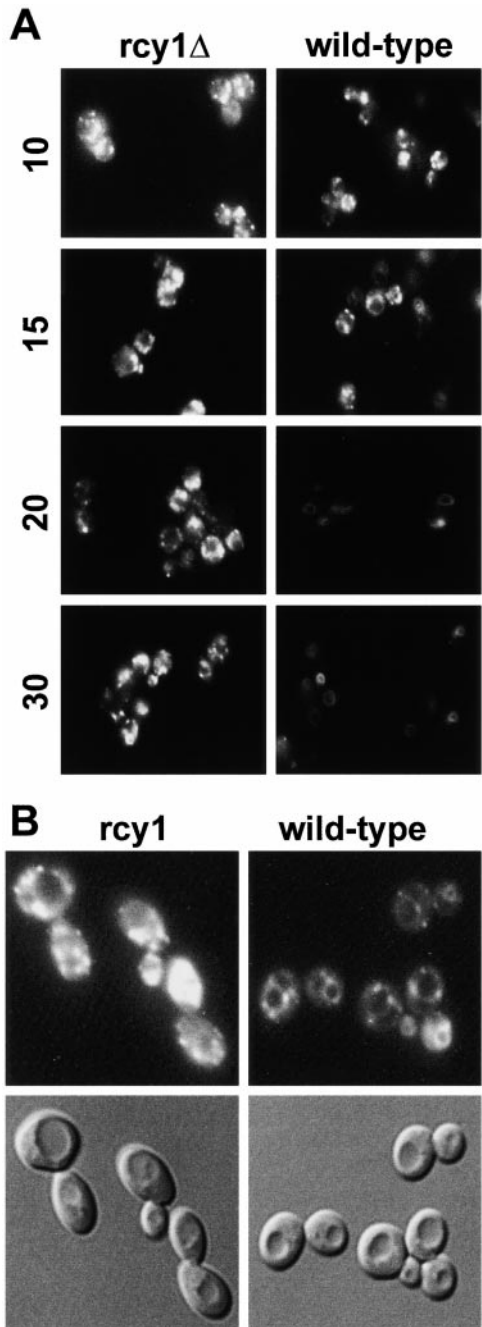
To study endocytosis in the *rcy1Δ* strain, we also used the fluorescent dye FM4-64. This dye binds to membranes and its fluorescence is greatly enhanced in lipid environments (Betz et al., 1996). Due to these properties, FM4-64 has been used in yeast to label vacuoles and smaller endocytic membranes (Vida and Emr, 1995; Holthuis et al., 1998b). Wild-type and *rcy1Δ* mutant cells were incubated with FM4-64 for 10 min, then washed, and subsequently incubated for up to 30 min. After the 10-min pulse of FM4-64, the dye labeled small punctate endocytic membranes in both wild-type and mutant cells at approximately equal intensities (Fig. 6 A) (Holthuis et al., 1998b). During the chase, the dye moved to the vacuolar membrane in wild-type cells (Fig. 6 A) (Vida and Emr, 1995). In *rcy1Δ* cells, FM4-64 was less efficiently transported to the vacuole (Fig. 6, A and B). Strikingly, when the two strains were compared at later timepoints, the intensity of the fluorescence signal decreased greatly for wild-type cells, but remained very strong in the *rcy1Δ* mutant cells (Fig. 6). These results suggest that the reduction of fluorescence intensity in wild-type cells over time could be the result of resecretion/recycling of the dye out of the cell. If this hypothesis were correct, *rcy1Δ* mutant cells might be defective in a recycling pathway and would therefore retain FM4-64 in an endosomal compartment distinct from the vacuole (Fig. 6 B).

### Quantitative, Real-time Measurements of Recycling in Yeast

Two additional previous findings suggested that recycling may be affected in *rcy1Δ* mutant cells. First, the enlarged compartment of *rcy1Δ* mutant cells was always located close to the site of cell growth (Figs. 1 and 2). Second, Tlg1p, which appears to be required for the recycling of Chs3p back to specific sites along the plasma membrane (Holthuis et al., 1998b) is localized in this compartment. We therefore attempted to address the question directly of whether recycling of endocytosed material back to the plasma membrane is affected in the mutant.

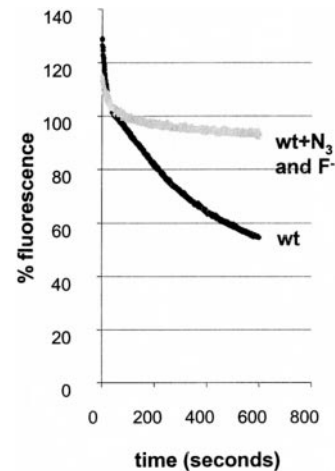
In the neurosciences, the dye FM1-43 has been used to study synaptic vesicle recycling at the single cell level (Betz and Bewick, 1992). FM1-43 belongs to the same family of styryl dyes as FM4-64. These styryl dyes are only weakly fluorescent in water and their quantum yield increases several hundred-fold when bound to lipids (Betz et al., 1996). Fusion of synaptic vesicles and release of the





**Figure 6.** Differences of FM4-64 traffic in *rcy1Δ* (left) and wild-type (right) strains. (A) Cells were incubated for 10 min in YPUAD in the presence of 20  $\mu$ M FM4-64. The cells were then washed in fresh medium to remove the surface-bound dye and further incubated. Samples were taken and stopped in cold buffer containing 10 mM  $\text{NaN}_3$  and 10 mM NaF. The times on the left of the figure indicate the minutes after addition of the dye. The cells were visualized using fluorescence optics. (B) For comparison of vacuolar FM4-64 staining (top), Nomarski images (bottom) are shown for the 20-min timepoint.

dye into the media therefore leads to a decrease in total fluorescence. In the case of *S. cerevisiae*, it is more convenient to follow this process from a whole cell population. We developed an assay (see Materials and Methods) in which recycling of FM4-64 can be followed. Cells are al-

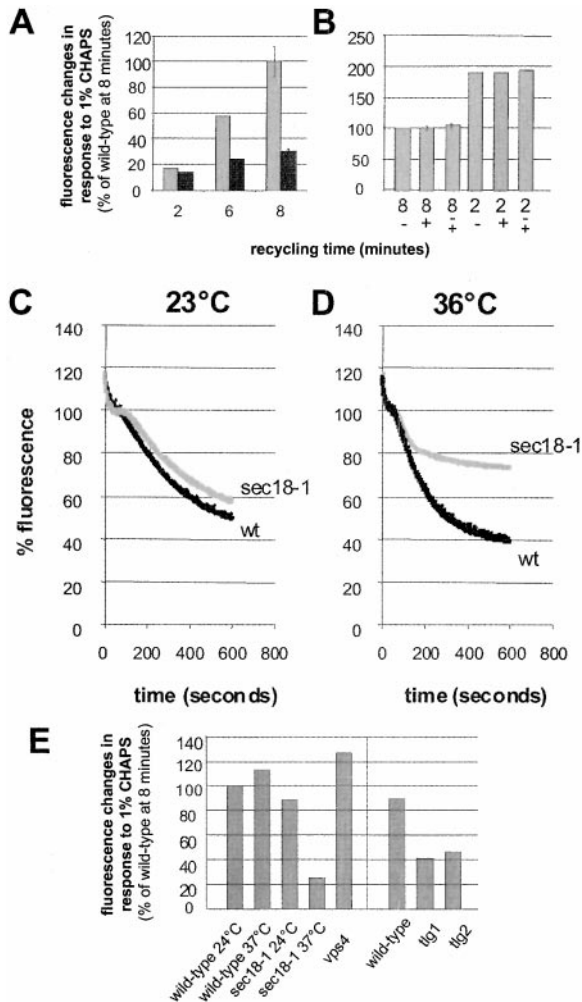


**Figure 7.** Measuring recycling in yeast. Cells were allowed to take up FM4-64 (40  $\mu$ M) for 12 min as described in Fig. 6. The cells were then washed in ice-cold SD minimal medium. Thoroughly washed cells were resuspended in SD medium at 24°C. FM4-64 fluorescence in the cell suspension was measured over time in a spectrofluorometer (see Materials and Methods). (A) Fluorescence associated with wild-type cells (black line) decreases over time. This decrease was blocked when the cells were resuspended in SD medium containing  $\text{NaN}_3$  and NaF (grey line).

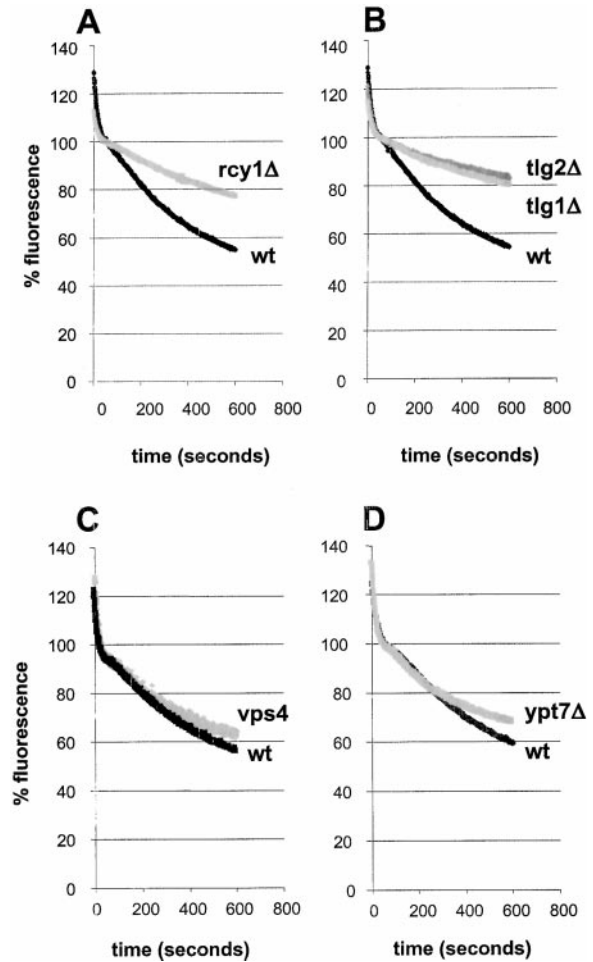
lowed to take up FM4-64 for 5–15 min (uptake: 12 min in the results presented in Figs. 7, 8, and 9). The cells were then washed at 4°C to remove surface-bound dye and to prevent further membrane traffic. Subsequently, the cells were resuspended in warm medium and the fluorescence associated with the cells was measured continuously in a spectrofluorometer (Figs. 7, 8, and 9).

In wild-type cells, the fluorescence changes observed can be divided into several steps. Fluorescence decreases very rapidly for the first 30 s. These early changes most likely reflect dissociation of surface-bound FM4-64 that was not removed during the washes at 4°C, because addition of metabolic poisons (see below and Fig. 7, wt +  $\text{N}_3$  and  $\text{F}^-$ ) to deplete intracellular ATP did not inhibit this decrease. In a second phase (30–90 s), total fluorescence remained more or less constant. After this variable lag phase, a decrease in fluorescence occurred for up to 10 min after warming the cells. Fluorescence decreased to ~55% of the initial value (determined at 50 s) by 10 min (Figs. 7, 8, and 9). This process is rapid. The slope of fluorescence decrease is largest between 3 and 5 min after the release has been started at 24°C and corresponds to ~8% of the internalized FM4-64 per minute under these conditions in the wild-type strain (Fig. 7). The decrease that was observed between 2 and 10 min after resuspending the cells would fit the prediction that cells which have taken up FM4-64 secrete a large proportion of the dye back into the medium, similar to the data obtained for recycling synaptic vesicles at the nerve terminal. Alternatively the fluorescence decrease could also be due to the destruction of the fluorophore or its quenching in the vacuolar system.

To rule out the latter alternatives we used the detergent CHAPS, which has been used previously to detect low concentrations of FM4-64 in solution. As little as 1 nM of FM4-64 could be detected in our medium in the presence of 1% CHAPS, whereas in the absence of the detergent, 1  $\mu$ M of the dye was essentially nonfluorescent (data not shown). Cells were prepared for the recycling assay as described above, except that the cells were washed at 4°C until no fluorescence could be detected in the wash medium after adding CHAPS. The cells were then resuspended in



**Figure 8.** FM4-64 is recycled into the medium in a *SEC18*-dependent manner. (A) Wild-type cells (grey bars) or *rcy1Δ* cells (black bars) were loaded with FM4-64 at 24°C, washed, and incubated for the indicated time. Relative fluorescence changes seen after addition of 1% CHAPS were quantified. The fluorescence change seen after 8 min with wild-type cells was set to 100%. (B) Aliquots of recycling cells prepared as in A were treated with (+) or without (-) 1% CHAPS for 1 min. Then, 10 mM sodium azide and 10 mM sodium fluoride were added. After centrifugation, the fluorescence inside the cells was measured and divided by the cell number. After resuspension of cells that did not receive CHAPS (-) in fresh medium, 1% CHAPS was added (-/+). No increase in total fluorescence was observed upon addition of CHAPS under these conditions. In agreement with continuous measurements (Fig. 7), the cell pellet analyzed at 2 min contained about twice as much fluorescence as the cells that had recycled for 8 min. The fluorescence in the pellet of wild-type cells at 8 min was set to 100%. (C and D) Wild-type (black lines) and *sec18-1* (grey lines) mutant cells were resuspended in SD medium prewarmed to 23°C (B) or 36°C (C). At 36°C, the recycling of FM4-64 was strongly inhibited in the *sec18-1* strain compared with the wild-type. (E) Quantitation of the fluorescence changes in response to 1% CHAPS of the different mutants used in this study. The average of two independent experiments is shown for each mutant and condition. The fluorescence change due to addition of CHAPS seen after 8 min with wild-type cells was set to 100%. Standard error bars are indicated where more than two independent experiments have been performed.



**Figure 9.** FM4-64 recycling is inhibited in *rcy1Δ*, *tlg1Δ*, and *tlg2Δ* cells. All FM4-64 recycling measurements were done as described in Fig. 7. (A and B) Recycling of FM4-64 at 24°C is strongly inhibited in *rcy1Δ* (A, grey line), *tlg1Δ* (B, grey line), and *tlg2Δ* (B, dark grey line) compared with their corresponding wild-type (black lines) cells. *vps4* (C, grey line) and *ypt7Δ* (D, grey line) recycle FM4-64 at similar rates as the corresponding wild-type cells (black lines).

prewarmed medium and the fluorescence of these cell suspensions was measured after 2 or 8 min. CHAPS was then added to the cell suspension at each timepoint to a final concentration of 1%. CHAPS addition led to an immediate increase of the fluorescence signal (Fig. 8 A). This increase corresponds to ~70% of the fluorescence changes observed during a continuous recycling measurement. This result indicates that the fluorophore was not destroyed during the recycling experiment because its fluorescence could be recovered by adding CHAPS to the medium. The fluorescence increases in response to CHAPS were quantified and shown to be time-dependent (Fig. 8 A). To control that CHAPS allowed only detection of secreted dye and did not extract dye from the cells nor relieve intracellular quenching of fluorescence, two further control experiments were performed. Cells that had previously internalized FM4-64 and were allowed to recycle the dye for 2 or 8 min were washed and then incubated in the presence or absence of 1% CHAPS. After centrifugation,

the cell pellets from CHAPS-treated or untreated cells contained equal amounts of fluorescence showing that CHAPS was unable to extract FM4-64 from the inside of yeast cells (Fig. 8 B). Furthermore, if cells were separated from their recycling medium and resuspended in fresh medium, the addition of CHAPS did not change the total fluorescence (Fig. 8 B). This demonstrates that CHAPS addition had no effect on the fluorescence of FM4-64 within the cells. In summary, these observations demonstrate that the addition of CHAPS to the medium can be used to obtain a relative measure of the amount of FM4-64 dye that was recycled back out of the cells.

The *sec18-1* mutant was used to demonstrate that the fluorescence decrease in the continuous recycling assay depends on vesicular traffic. Sec18p is the yeast homologue of NSF (*N*-ethylmaleimide-sensitive factor), a protein required for many, and perhaps most, membrane fusion events in yeast (Graham and Emr, 1991). For our purposes, the *sec18-1* mutant was particularly useful because the mutant protein is inactivated very quickly at elevated temperature. At 23°C the changes of fluorescence of the *sec18-1* strain paralleled the wild-type strain (Fig. 8 C). However, at nonpermissive temperature (36°C), the *sec18-1* strain released FM4-64 for ~3 min, then release came to an abrupt halt (Fig. 8 D). The fluorescence decrease in wild-type cells lasted longer and was clearly more pronounced (Fig. 8 D). The 3-min time period most likely reflects the time required to inactivate Sec18p function and terminate Sec18-dependent events where Sec18p had already acted. Thus FM4-64 release can be blocked by inactivation of Sec18p function, demonstrating that the decrease in fluorescence intensity is due to membrane trafficking. This assay allowed us to test directly whether different mutants are defective for recycling of FM4-64.

### *rcy1Δ, tlg1Δ, and tlg2Δ Mutants Are Defective in the Recycling of FM4-64*

Experiments with the *rcy1Δ* mutant showed that recycling of FM4-64 is clearly slower than for wild-type cells (Fig. 9 A). Cell-associated fluorescence of *rcy1Δ* cells decreased at slow rates with an almost constant slope over the 10-min measurement. Addition of 1% CHAPS to aliquots of *rcy1Δ* cells led to increases of fluorescence, which changed only slowly with time. After 8 min of recycling, the changes of fluorescence observed for the *rcy1Δ* mutant were about threefold smaller than those observed with wild-type cells (Fig. 8 A).

As additional controls for and characterization of the assay, other viable deletion mutants that affect vesicular traffic in the endocytic pathway, *vps4Δ* and *ypt7Δ*, were examined. The *vps4Δ/end13* mutant has been classified as a class E vps mutant. Mutant cells are defective for endocytosis (Munn and Riezman, 1994), and accumulate a large compartment composed of stacked cisternae (Babst et al., 1997). Vps4p is probably required for traffic from the PVC back to the Golgi complex, and from the PVC to the vacuole (Piper et al., 1995; Babst et al., 1997). Ypt7p is a small GTPase that regulates traffic from late endosomes to the vacuole. Neither of these mutants had an effect on the rate of recycling by our assay (Fig. 9, C and D). These results provide evidence that recycling of FM4-64 under our

conditions does not require several events of the vps pathway, nor late trafficking steps of the endocytic pathway.

Previously, two t-SNARES Tlg1p and Tlg2p were shown to be involved in the recycling of Chs3p. Both, Tlg1p and Tlg2p are necessary for wild-type localization of Chs3p to the bud neck (Holthuis et al., 1998b). As Tlg1p localizes to the enlarged compartment in the *rcy1Δ* mutant (Fig. 2), we investigated whether recycling of FM4-64 might also be affected in *tlg1Δ* and *tlg2Δ* cells. As shown in Fig. 9, *tlg1Δ* and *tlg2Δ* cells released FM4-64 with much slower kinetics than wild-type cells (Fig. 9 B). The fluorescence decrease is very similar to that observed in the *rcy1Δ* cells. By measuring fluorescence before and after the addition of 1% CHAPS, it was found that recycling of the dye was about twofold reduced in both the *tlg1Δ* and *tlg2Δ* mutant. A summary of the changes induced by the addition of CHAPS to the *sec18-1*, *vps4*, *tlg1Δ*, and *tlg2Δ* is shown in Fig. 8 E.

Based on this novel assay we have identified a new recycling mutant *rcy1Δ* and have been able to quantify the recycling defects in this mutant as well as in *tlg1Δ* and *tlg2Δ* mutant strains. Endocytic recycling is rapid and a quantitatively important pathway.

## Discussion

The *rcy1Δ* mutant was identified in a newly developed screen of disruption mutants for defects in accumulation of LY in the vacuole. The *rcy1Δ* mutant has the surprising phenotype of accumulating LY in punctuate nonvacuolar structures near sites of new membrane insertion. This LY phenotype has not been observed previously. At the ultrastructural level, an enlarged compartment was detected that is likely to correspond to the structures accumulating LY. Tlg1p was present in this compartment (Fig. 2), which allowed us, tentatively, to study the morphology of the corresponding compartment in wild-type cells. The main difference in Tlg1p-bearing structures between mutant and wild-type cells is that the elongated and sometimes horseshoe-shaped membranes in mutant cells had a larger luminal space. The clear differences in the luminal volume in the wild-type and the *rcy1Δ* mutant could explain why the fluid-phase marker LY is only detected in this compartment in mutant cells. The malformed compartment found in *rcy1Δ* cells does not resemble the morphology of compartments that have been shown to accumulate in *sec*, *vps*, or *end* mutants (Novick et al., 1980; Rieder et al., 1996; Babst et al., 1997).

### *Membrane Trafficking Defects in the rcy1Δ Cells*

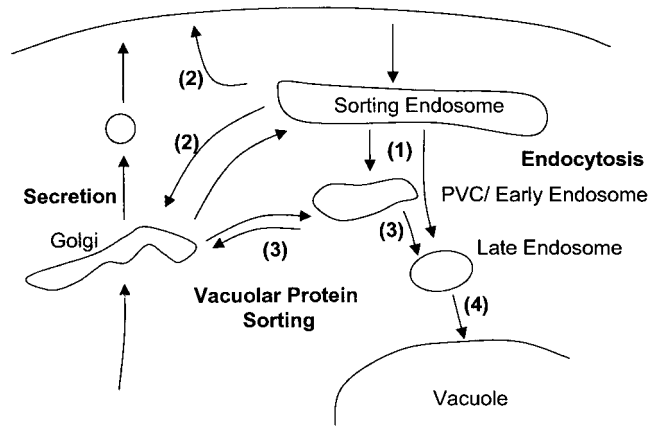
The *rcy1Δ* mutant has defects that involve the endocytosis and recycling pathway. Mutant cells showed normal internalization of endocytic markers, but reduced vacuolar accumulation of LY and FM4-64. Assays following the  $\alpha$ -factor receptor and uracil permease show that endocytosis is inhibited at a postinternalization step (Fig. 3). *rcy1Δ* cells have no vps phenotype, indicating that the postinternalization defect in endocytosis in the *rcy1Δ* strain lies at a membrane trafficking step before the intersection of the endocytic and vps pathways (Fig. 10, [1]). According to this hypothesis, the enlargement of the Tlg1p-positive compartment may be the consequence of the inhibition of the en-

docytic pathway. An alternative interpretation would be that the enlarged compartments are derived from Golgi membranes and that the endocytic phenotype is only a secondary effect of a Golgi defect. The presence of Tlg1p on the enlarged compartment of *rcy1Δ* cells did not help to rule out either possibility, because Tlg1p has been shown previously to localize to late Golgi and/or endosomal membranes (Holthuis et al., 1998a; Lewis et al., 2000). However, several results argue that the absence of Rcy1p affects the endocytic pathway directly and that the enlarged compartments are endosomes. First, secretion of invertase was normal in the mutant. If the Golgi complex was enlarged in this mutant, an effect on the onset of invertase secretion would have been expected. Second, Pma1p did not localize to the Ste2p-positive compartment. If retention in the Golgi apparatus was the reason for the localization of Ste2p to the intracellular compartment, the plasma membrane protein Pma1p would have been expected to localize to these membranes as well. It is thus more likely that both proteins reach the cell surface but that only Ste2p, which has a much higher rate of constitutive endocytosis than Pma1p, is internalized efficiently enough to accumulate in this compartment. Third and foremost, this compartment can be labeled efficiently and very rapidly with externally added endocytic markers.

In addition to this endocytic phenotype, we also demonstrate that recycling of FM4-64 is strongly inhibited in the *rcy1Δ* mutant. We do not know whether Rcy1p function affects both recycling and endocytosis directly (Fig. 10, [1] and [2]). It is possible that one of these two defects is the consequence of the other. For example, if recycling from the endosome is reduced, proteins destined to the plasma membrane or the late Golgi compartment would remain in this endosomal intermediate compartment. The presence of such proteins on these membranes could, in turn, prevent further maturation of the organelle or the formation of intermediate transport vesicles from this compartment. Alternatively, as described for class E mutants, two traffic steps could be affected in a single mutant (Piper et al., 1995; Bryant and Stevens, 1998). In the class E mutants, transport to the vacuole and traffic back to the Golgi from the PVC are blocked (Fig. 10, [3]). In the *rcy1Δ* mutant cells, transport from the Tlg1p-positive compartment (early/sorting endosome) to the vacuole and traffic into the recycling pathway could both be affected directly (Fig. 10, [1] and [2]).

### Measuring Recycling in Yeast

We have developed a novel recycling assay by following the endocytic marker FM4-64. The recycling process is fast, and a major fraction of endocytosed dye is recycled under the present conditions (~50% in 10 min) (Figs. 7, 8, and 9). At this time we do not know many details about the recycling pathway in yeast. It is highly unlikely that recycling passes through late stages of the endocytic pathway because the *vps4Δ* (Fig. 8 C and Fig. 10, [3]) and *ypt7Δ* (Fig. 8 D and Fig. 10, [4]) mutants had no quantitative effect on the overall recycling efficiency. Membrane material could recycle directly from the sorting endosome to the plasma membrane and/or may first travel to the Golgi complex and be secreted by previously identified secretory vesicles (Fig. 10, [2]). Heuristically, it seems that proteins



**Figure 10.** Model for membrane traffic in the vacuolar system. (1) Traffic from the postulated sorting endosome to the PVC is inhibited in the *rcy1Δ* mutant. (2) Two possible pathways that contribute to recycling from the sorting endosome to the plasma membrane, one passing through the Golgi and the other directly to the plasma membrane. (3) Traffic steps blocked in class E vps mutants, which do not affect recycling. (4) Traffic from the late endosome to the vacuole, which is also not required for recycling.

that need to be used in the secretory pathway would recycle from the sorting endosome to the Golgi for reuse. In fact, the t-SNARE Snc1p seems to recycle by this pathway and depends upon *TLG1* (Lewis et al., 2000). If this pathway is used it must be distinct from the pathway for recycling from the PVC to the Golgi defined by the *vps4Δ* mutant.

In mammalian cells, recycling of transferrin is very rapid and occurs exclusively through endosomal compartments (Ghosh and Maxfield, 1995; Sheff et al., 1999). However, no rapidly recycling proteins have been identified thus far in yeast, nor is there any evidence for nutrient uptake systems that resemble those used for transferrin. It is possible that pheromone receptors or plasma membrane permeases could follow such a rapid recycling pathway. Independent of the exact route taken, we could show that the recycling pathway(s) are blocked in the presence of azide and fluoride or in a *sec18-1* mutant. This shows that all recycling depends upon membrane traffic, i.e., membrane fusion events. In the *rcy1Δ*, *tlg1Δ*, and *tlg2Δ* cells, recycling of FM4-64 was only partially blocked. This could reflect a partial requirement for these proteins in recycling. However, we prefer the idea of two recycling pathways, similar to the two pathways described above, only one of which would be affected in the individual mutants. It is interesting to note that even though *tlg1Δ* and *tlg2Δ* are also reduced for accumulation of LY in the vacuole, they do not show detectable LY accumulation in nonvacuolar structures like those observed in *rcy1Δ* cells (Seron et al., 1998; data not shown). In electron micrographs of *tlg1Δ* and *tlg2Δ* mutant cells, no enlarged compartments were observed (Holthuis et al., 1998a). These two mutants are therefore unlikely to be blocked in the same way as the *rcy1Δ* mutant. Furthermore, the *tlg1Δ* and *rcy1Δ* mutants are synthetically lethal (no double mutants could be found after dissection of 15 tetrads from a heterozygous diploid). One interpretation of this synthetic lethality is that both recycling pathways are defective in the double mutant and that recycling is an essential process.

## Function of Recycling in Yeast

In higher eukaryotes recycling of plasma membrane proteins is used as a mechanism to protect recycling proteins from degradation and allows them to undergo repeated cycles of endocytosis and resecretion (Ghosh and Maxfield, 1995; Mellman, 1996). In addition, recycling is also needed to properly localize proteins. It plays an important role in the sorting of proteins to the apical and basolateral domain of polarized cells (Sheff et al., 1999). In yeast, no plasma membrane protein has been described that mediates repeated cycles of transport of ligands to the endosomal system. However, a major function of the recycling pathway in yeast may be to sort plasma membrane proteins to specialized subdomains along the cell surface as proposed for Chs1p and Chs3p localization to the birth scar or the incipient bud site respectively (Chuang and Schekman, 1996; Ziman et al., 1996).

Another major function of the recycling pathway in animal cells is to retrieve plasma membrane proteins and other membrane components from the endocytic pathway (Mayor et al., 1993; Mukherjee et al., 1999). The use of FM4-64 in the yeast recycling assay described in this study should allow us to obtain a more detailed understanding of how membranes are sorted away from the endocytic pathway to be recycled. The Tlg1p-positive compartment is likely to be the site in yeast where a decision is made on the further destination of endocytosed material, i.e., whether it is recycled to the plasma membrane or transported to the vacuole. We therefore propose the name early/sorting endosome for the novel compartment described here (Fig. 10).

## Motifs and Domains of Rcy1p

Rcy1p is a rather large protein of 840 amino acids in length. The primary sequence reveals that *RCY1* encodes a protein that contains several interesting motifs and domains. At the very COOH terminus it has a CAAX box. This motif has been found in prenylated proteins (Omer and Gibbs, 1994), where this lipid modification appears to facilitate membrane binding. The presence of a CAAX box in Rcy1p indicates that this protein may be prenylated.

At the NH<sub>2</sub> terminus, Rcy1p contains a domain known as the F-box (Bai et al., 1996). The F-box is a motif of ~40 amino acids in length that was found in several proteins and defined as an interaction site with the protein Skp1p (Patton et al., 1998b). Well studied members of the F-box family of proteins such as Cdc4, Grr1, and Met30 have been shown to mediate ubiquitination of substrate proteins as components of SCF ubiquitin ligase complexes (Skowyra et al., 1997; Patton et al., 1998a). Besides its described function in degradation of proteins by the proteasome, ubiquitination also plays a role in endocytosis. In yeast, ubiquitination is a signal required for the internalization of plasma membrane proteins that does not require proteasome function (Galan et al., 1996; Hicke and Riezman, 1996). Our results suggest that this ubiquitination step does not depend on Rcy1p, because the internalization step of endocytosis occurs normally in *rcy1Δ* cells (Fig. 3, A and B). For several plasma membrane proteins, including Fur4p, ubiquitination is dependent on the ubiq-

uitin ligase, Rsp5p (Galan et al., 1996). In mammalian cells, postinternalization steps of endocytosis have been suggested to depend on ubiquitination (Jeffers et al., 1997; Strous and Govers, 1999; Waterman et al., 1999). Our results suggest a similar situation in yeast, but more experiments will be necessary to address the molecular function of Rcy1p in membrane trafficking.

Two proteins from other yeast species show some sequence homology to Rcy1p. The proteins, from *Schizosaccharomyces pombe* (25% identity) and *Yarrowia lipolytica* (26% identity) (Boisrame et al., 1999), both contain a CAAX box and an NH<sub>2</sub>-terminal F-box, indicating that they could be functional homologues of Rcy1p. The strongest homology between the three proteins was found along the COOH-terminal third of the proteins, 41% identity vs. 26% identity along the entire length. Most intriguing is the COOH-terminal region of ~270 amino acids, which is also homologous to the COOH-terminal domain of Sec10p and its human homologue (Guo et al., 1997). Since most F-box proteins identified have protein-protein interaction domains whose role is to bind substrates for targeting to the SCF-ubiquitin ligase complex (Patton et al., 1998b), the COOH terminus of Rcy1p could be of particular interest. A future study on Rcy1 protein function and possible interaction partners will be necessary to understand the mechanistic contribution of Rcy1p to membrane trafficking.

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