

1 **Eyelike “ocelloids” are built from different endosymbiotically acquired components as**  
2 **revealed by single-organelle genomics.**

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14 **Multicellularity is often considered a prerequisite for morphological complexity, as**  
15 **seen in the camera-type eyes found in several groups of animals. A notable exception exists in**  
16 **single-celled eukaryotes called warnowiid dinoflagellates, which have an eyelike “ocelloid”**  
17 **consisting of subcellular analogs to a cornea, lens, iris, and retina<sup>1,8,9</sup>. These planktonic cells**  
18 **are uncultivated and rarely encountered in environmental samples, obscuring the function**  
19 **and evolutionary origin of the ocelloid. By using isolated-organelle genomics, single-cell**  
20 **genomics, TEM, and FIB-SEM tomography, we show that ocelloids are built from pre-existing**  
21 **organelles, including a cornea-like layer made of mitochondria and a retinal body made of**  
22 **anastomosing plastids. We found that the retinal body forms the central core of a network of**  
23 **peridinin-type plastids, which in dinoflagellates and their relatives originated through an**  
24 **ancient endosymbiosis with a red alga<sup>2</sup>. As such, the ocelloid is a chimeric structure,**  
25 **incorporating organelles with different endosymbiotic histories. The anatomical complexity of**  
26 **single-celled organisms may be limited by the components available for differentiation, but**  
27 **the ocelloid shows that pre-existing organelles can be assembled into a structure so complex**  
28 **that it was initially mistaken for a multicellular eye<sup>3</sup>. Although mitochondria and plastids are**  
29 **acknowledged chiefly for their metabolic roles, they can also serve as building blocks for**  
30 **greater structural complexity in the absence of multicellularity.**

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34 Many organisms can orient to light. In single-celled algae, such as *Chlamydomonas* and  
35 many dinoflagellates, an “eyespot” directs photons onto photoreceptors on the flagellum,  
36 allowing the cell to respond to the intensity and direction of light<sup>4, 5</sup>. A vastly more complex  
37 structure is found in warnowiid dinoflagellates: the eye-like ocelloid. Ocelloids consist of  
38 subcellular components resembling a lens, a cornea, iris-like rings and a pigmented cup called  
39 the retinal body<sup>6-9</sup>, which together so resemble the camera-type eyes of some animals that they  
40 have been speculated to be homologous<sup>10</sup> (Figures 1 and 2). The first description of a warnowiid  
41 was dismissed as a cell that had scavenged the eye from a jellyfish<sup>3</sup>. Ultrastructural studies of  
42 the ocelloid subsequently suggested that the retinal body might be derived from a plastid, in  
43 that it contains thylakoid-like membranes during cell division<sup>4,8,9</sup>.

44 The ocelloid is among the most complex subcellular structures known, but its function  
45 and evolutionary relationship to other organelles remains unclear. This poor state of knowledge  
46 can be attributed to the fact that warnowiid cells are uncultivated and rarely encountered in  
47 environmental samples, with as few as two cells reported from the plankton per year for some  
48 species<sup>11</sup>. Modern single-cell genomics approaches, however, provide opportunities to study  
49 uncultivated eukaryotes at the molecular level, including rare species<sup>12,13,14</sup>. In an attempt to  
50 learn more about the cell biology of ocelloids, we employed a single-cell genomics approach on  
51 three different genera of warnowiids: *Erythrospidinium agile*, *Warnowia* sp., and *Nematodinium*  
52 sp. We also investigated ultrastructure details and the phylogenetic origin of the retinal body in  
53 *Nematodinium* sp. by using focused ion beam scanning electron microscopy (FIB-SEM) and a  
54 novel, single-organelle genomics approach.

55

### 56 **Plastid and mitochondrial features of the ocelloid**

57 Thylakoid-like structures have been reported only once before in the retinal body<sup>6</sup>, so we  
58 examined the ultrastructure of the ocelloid in *Nematodinium* sp. and *Erythrospidinium agile*  
59 using single-cell transmission electron microscopy (TEM). During interphase, the retinal body  
60 contains highly ordered waveform membranes (Figure 2), which are perpendicular to the plane  
61 expected for thylakoids in a chloroplast. However, we confirmed that near the end of  
62 interphase, the waveform membranes dedifferentiated into a plastid-like arrangement made of  
63 double-stacked thylakoid-like structures (Supplementary Figure 2). Thus, the thylakoids and  
64 waveform membranes represent two modes of the same membrane system. Moreover, we

65 found that the retinal body of *Nematodinium* sp. fluoresces strongly under 505 nm light—the  
66 primary wavelength for chlorophyll excitation (Supplementary Figure 1e). In *Nematodinium*, we  
67 also found mitochondria in the ocelloid; where they formed a cornea-like layer overlying the  
68 lens (Figure 1c, Supplementary Figure 3)<sup>1</sup>.

69

#### 70 **Single-cell and single-organelle genomics show a plastid origin of the retinal body**

71 In order to further investigate the possible plastid origin of the retinal body, we first examined  
72 transcriptomes from isolated cells of *Erythrospidinium agile* and *Warnowia* sp., both of which  
73 lack photosynthetic plastids. From polyadenylated cDNA libraries, we found that these  
74 heterotrophic genera expressed multiple photosynthesis-related genes, including light-  
75 harvesting proteins (Supplementary Table 1). In addition, *Warnowia* sp. expressed three  
76 transcripts corresponding to the chloroplast-soluble peridinin-chlorophyll-binding protein, which  
77 is distinctive for dinoflagellate peridinin-type plastids<sup>14</sup>. These proteins are likely present in the  
78 retinal body because it is the only pigmented structure apparent in light micrographs of  
79 *Erythrospidinium agile* and *Warnowia* sp. (Supplementary Figures 1a-b).

80 The provenance of the retinal body is, however, complicated by the complex evolution  
81 of plastids in dinoflagellates<sup>15</sup>. While the ancestral peridinin-type plastid of dinoflagellates was  
82 initially acquired from a red alga, several dinoflagellates have since replaced this plastid with  
83 those from either a haptophyte, a cryptophyte, a diatom, or a green alga, and several non-  
84 photosynthetic lineages have been found to possess relict plastids<sup>2,15,16</sup>. In order to investigate  
85 the phylogenetic origin of the retinal body more directly, we characterized genes from isolated  
86 organelles. Single cells of *Nematodinium* sp. were micro-dissected, and their individual retinal  
87 bodies were isolated (Figure 1). The individual retinal bodies from five cells were pooled, lysed,  
88 and their DNA was amplified with phi29 polymerase through multiple displacement  
89 amplification. As a control for contamination from remnants of the host cell cytoplasm during  
90 microdissection (e.g., from cryptic peridinin plastids clinging to the retinal bodies), we also  
91 pooled five intact *Nematodinium* sp. cells and subjected them to the same procedures for DNA  
92 amplification and sequencing. From sequence databases derived from both samples, we  
93 identified genes that are encoded in the plastid of other dinoflagellates. Overall, six plastid  
94 genes were identified from isolated retinal bodies, PsaB, PsbA, PsbB, PsbD, PetB, PetD, spanning  
95 photosystems I and II. These genes grouped strongly with the peridinin-containing plastids of  
96 dinoflagellates in individual and concatenated phylogenetic analysis (Figure 3, Supplementary

97 Figures 6-7), and collectively, plastid-encoded genes represented 13% of all reads. By contrast,  
98 the proportion of plastid/nuclear DNA in the whole-cell amplification was <0.0001%. The  
99 representation of plastid DNA in the retinal body was, therefore, over 1,600 fold higher than in  
100 whole cells (Figure 1).

101

## 102 **Reconstructing organelle networks with FIB-SEM tomography**

103 Although the genomic data suggests that the retinal body is a derived plastid,  
104 there is another potential source of plastid DNA within the cell. Our isolates of *Nematodinium*  
105 contained small brown-pigmented bodies with double-stacked thylakoids typical of peridinin-  
106 type plastids. The presence of these plastids in addition to the retinal body raises the possibility  
107 that *Nematodinium* has two different morphotypes of peridinin plastids within the same cell.  
108 However, the physical relationship between these plastid types was unclear because the retinal  
109 body does not appear connected to the more canonical plastids under TEM; moreover, the  
110 retinal body appears differentiated throughout the cell cycle and produces daughter retinal  
111 bodies through binary fission<sup>6,8</sup>.

112 To investigate the physical connections between the different components of the  
113 ocelloid and surrounding structures, such as peridinin-type plastids, we performed FIB-SEM  
114 tomography on a single isolated cell of *Nematodinium* sp. The three-dimensional  
115 reconstructions of our FIB-SEM data demonstrated that the outer membrane of the retinal body  
116 is fused to a network of adjacent plastids, forming a membranous web throughout the cell  
117 (Figure 4e). Complex plastid networks such as this have been described in other algal lineages  
118 (e.g., euglenophytes and green algae), but they are difficult to infer from individual TEM sections  
119 and were accordingly overlooked in previous ultrastructural studies of *Nematodinium*<sup>20</sup>.

120 Tomographic reconstructions also confirmed a close association between mitochondria  
121 and the lens of the ocelloid. The mitochondria surrounding the lens were interconnected and  
122 formed a sheet-like “cornea” layer that was consistent with TEM data. The corneal layer  
123 surrounded all regions of the lens except for a few minor perforations and the side facing the  
124 retinal body (Figure 4e). Like the connection of the retinal body to the plastid network, the  
125 corneal mitochondria appear to form a continuous network with mitochondria in the nearby  
126 cytoplasm. The ocelloid, therefore, represents an intriguing mixture of components with  
127 endogenous and endosymbiotic origins; the lens composed of stacked vesicles formed

128 endogenously in the endomembrane system, and the retinal body and cornea layer are plastids  
129 and mitochondria, respectively (Figure 4)<sup>15, 20, 21</sup>.

130 Prior to this study, there was little evidence for homology between the ocelloid and  
131 other structures found in dinoflagellates<sup>4</sup>. Based on its resemblance to camera-type eyes, a  
132 relationship was even suggested between the ocelloid and the eyes of some animals<sup>10</sup>. To the  
133 contrary, our findings indicate that the ocelloid is a conglomerate of several membrane-bound  
134 organelles, including endomembrane vesicles, mitochondria and plastids. The ocelloid is likely  
135 homologous to the much simpler eyespots found in several other lineages of dinoflagellates  
136 (Supplementary Figure 4), most of which share features in common with the peridinin  
137 plastid<sup>4,18,19</sup>. Peridinin plastids stem from an ancient red alga that was incorporated by the  
138 common ancestor of all myzozoans (dinoflagellates, chromerids, and apicomplexans), many of  
139 which (including all apicomplexans) subsequently lost photosynthesis and reduced their plastids  
140 to cryptic, morphologically simple structures<sup>2</sup>. While morphological reduction is a common  
141 trend among endosymbiotic organelles, the ocelloid in warnowiids demonstrates that increased  
142 complexity can also arise.

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#### 145 **A hypothesis for the function of ocelloids**

146 In order to understand the function of the ocelloid, a basic knowledge of the life history  
147 of warnowiid dinoflagellates is required. Understanding warnowiid behavior is a very difficult  
148 problem, however, because their cells are rarely encountered, have never been cultivated and  
149 degrade rapidly when removed from the plankton<sup>11</sup>. Nevertheless, we observed one important  
150 detail of warnowiid life history using TEM of individual cells isolated directly from the ocean.  
151 Specifically, we found that the food vacuoles in *Nematodinium* contained trichocysts  
152 (Supplementary Figure 5), which are defensive extrusive organelles found in dinoflagellates<sup>26</sup>.  
153 These data suggest that *Nematodinium* feeds on other dinoflagellates, so one hypothesis is that  
154 the ocelloid is involved in the detection of other dinoflagellates as prey. Some dinoflagellates  
155 are capable of bioluminescence<sup>27</sup>, but most transmit polarized light through their distinctively  
156 large nucleus of permanently condensed chromosomes<sup>28</sup>. An intriguing possibility is that the  
157 ocelloid sensing polarized light, and by extension preferred prey. Testing such a specific  
158 phototactic behaviour will be challenging until warnowiids are brought into culture.  
159 Nevertheless, the genomic and detailed ultrastructural data presented here have resolved the

160 basic components of its origins, and demonstrate how evolutionary plasticity of mitochondria  
161 and plastids can generate an extreme level of subcellular complexity that ostensibly supports  
162 predatory lifestyles within marine planktonic communities.

163

## 164 METHODS

### 165 **Collection**

166 From 2005 to 2009, *Erythrospidinium agile* and *Warnowia* sp. were collected from the  
167 marine water column in the vicinity of Shimoda, Japan. On an inverted light microscope, cells of  
168 *Erythrospidinium agile* were identified based on the presence of an ocelloid and a piston  
169 organelle (Supplementary Figure 1b, Supplementary Video 1). Cells of *Warnowia* sp. were  
170 recognized as ocelloid-bearing cells encircled three or more times by a helical groove  
171 (Supplementary Figure 1a, Supplementary Video 2). In the summer of 2012 and 2013,  
172 *Nematodinium* sp. was collected from surface water in Bamfield Inlet, Bamfield, BC, Canada with  
173 a 20 micron plankton net. Cells of *Nematodinium* sp. were identified based on the presence of  
174 an ocelloid and nematocysts (Supplementary Figure 2c). Uncultivated *Nematodinium* sp. cells  
175 containing putative prey organisms (visible as pigmented vacuoles) were chosen for  
176 transmission electron microscopy, so that their feeding habits could be inferred from  
177 intracellular remnants (Supplementary Figure 5).

178

### 179 **cDNA Libraries from *Warnowia* sp. and *Erythrospidinium agile***

180 Total RNA was extracted from two cells of *Erythrospidinium agile*, and four cells of  
181 *Warnowia* sp. Polyadenylated transcripts were reverse transcribed and cloned into competent  
182 *E. coli* cells (from ? kit). We obtained 1,152 and 2,658 clones from *Erythrospidinium agile* and  
183 *Warnowia* sp., respectively. Of these, 752 and 1,180 had cDNA inserts, and were Sanger  
184 sequenced (Supplementary Table 1).

185

### 186 **Fluorescence and DIC Microscopy**

187 Red epifluorescence of the *Nematodinium* sp. retinal body was excited with a 505 nm  
188 Argon laser on a Zeiss Axioplan inverted microscope (Supplementary Figure 1a). Differential  
189 interference contrast (DIC) observations of *Nematodinium* sp., *Warnowia* sp., and  
190 *Erythrospidinium agile*, were performed using the same microscope (Supplementary Figure 1).

191

192 **Single-Cell Transmission Electron Microscopy of Uncultivated *Nematodinium* sp.**

193 Each isolated cell of *Nematodinium* sp. was micropipetted onto a poly-L-lysine coated  
194 slide. Cells were fixed with 2% glutaraldehyde in filtered seawater for 30 min on ice. After two  
195 washes in filtered seawater, cells were post-fixed in 1% OsO<sub>4</sub> for 30 min. Cells were dehydrated  
196 through a graded series of ethanol (50%, 70%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 100%, 100%), infiltrated with  
197 acetone-resin mixtures (acetone, 2:1, 1:1, 1:2, Epon 812 resin), and embedded in Epon 812  
198 resin. Polymerization at 60° C produced a resin-embedded cell affixed to the glass slide. Using a  
199 power drill, resin was shaved to a 1 mm<sup>3</sup> block, which was removed from the glass slide with a  
200 fine razor. The block, containing a single cell, was super glued to a resin stub in the desired  
201 orientation for sectioning. Thin sections were produced with a diamond knife, post-stained with  
202 uranyl acetate and lead citrate and viewed under a Hitachi H7600 Transmission Electron  
203 Microscope.

204

205 **Isolation of the Retinal Bodies of *Nematodinium* sp.**

206 In preparation for single-organelle genomics, five cells of *Nematodinium* sp. with no  
207 visible prey contents were selected in order to minimize the chances of genetic contamination.  
208 Each cell of *Nematodinium* sp. was micropipetted onto a slide in a droplet of TE buffer and  
209 affixed to a patch of Poly-L-Lysine. Cells were lysed with nuclease-free water. The nucleus and  
210 other cell contents were gently dislodged with rinses of TE buffer, leaving the retinal body  
211 behind for manual isolation (Figure 1d). Five different retinal bodies were isolated and pooled  
212 onto a new, sterile slide, and washed three times with TE buffer.

213

214 **Single-Organelle Genomics of *Nematodinium* sp.**

215 In order to test for the presence of a plastid genome in the retinal body, we performed  
216 genomic amplification using phiX 29 polymerase (Repli-G mini kit, Qiagen) on five individually  
217 isolated retinal bodies that were then pooled together. We performed a control reaction by  
218 amplifying a pool of five whole cells of *Nematodinium* sp. using the same procedures as for the  
219 retinal bodies. The whole cell amplification provided a measure of overall plastid DNA  
220 concentration, against which the retinal body plastid DNA concentration could be compared. In  
221 order to minimize amplification bias, each reaction was divided into four aliquots, run in parallel,  
222 and pooled after the 15 hr amplification period. Paired end sequencing on an Illumina MiSeq  
223 yielded 9,798 reads from the retinal bodies, versus 501,338 reads from whole cells. From these

224 reads, plastid genes were assembled using the de novo assembly program Ray, which  
225 fragmented the reads into a variety of hash sizes (“kmers”), then assembled them. We found  
226 the assembly from 53 bp kmers to be optimal, recovering six partial plastid genes (Figure 1d,e).  
227 In order to estimate the concentration of plastid reads in the whole cell vs. isolated retinal body  
228 amplifications, we counted plastid reads in Bowtie [Ref], a read mapping program, then divided  
229 them by the total number of reads in each amplification to measure plastid gene concentration.  
230 (Figure 1d,e).

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### 233 **Molecular Phylogenetic Analyses**

234 The six plastid genes, photosystem I P700 apoprotein A2 (PsaB), photosystem II protein  
235 D1 (PsbA), photosystem II CP47 protein (PsbB), photosystem II protein D1 (PsbD), cytochrome  
236 b6 (Petb), and cytochrome b6/f complex subunit 4 (PetD) were translated, and their amino acids  
237 aligned with a representative set of eukaryotes in Muscle [Ref], with fast-evolving and  
238 ambiguously aligned regions removed in Gblocks 0.91b [Ref]. Accession numbers are listed in  
239 Supplementary Figures 6 and 7. The concatenated alignment of 1,618 amino acids is available  
240 upon request. The amino acid substitution model (Protein GTR gamma) was estimated using the  
241 Models package in Mega 6.0.5 [Ref]. A maximum likelihood phylogeny was run with 500  
242 bootstraps in RAxML. A second, Bayesian analysis was run for 10,000 generations in MrBayes 3.2  
243 [Ref], using the high-heating setting of (nchains = 4), to account for rapid evolution of  
244 dinoflagellate plastids. These maximum likelihood analyses were run both for the mutliprotein  
245 dataset, and also for each protein gene individually (Supplementary Figures 6 and 7). A  
246 dinoflagellate phylogeny was estimated using 18S and 28S ribosomal rDNA sequences,  
247 concatenated as 2,331 nucleotide alignment, across 36 dinoflagellate taxa including published  
248 sequences from *Nematodinium* sp., *Warnowia* sp. and *Erythrospidinium agile*.

249

### 250 **Focused Ion Beam Scanning Electron Microscopy (FIB-SEM)**

251 Cells of *Nematodinium* sp. were individually transferred into a droplet of filtered  
252 seawater. Cells were frozen immediately to minimize fixation artefacts, using a Leica EM HPM  
253 100 high-pressure freezer (Leica, Wetzlar, Germany). Freeze substitution was subsequently  
254 used to remove the aqueous content of the cells and replace it an acetone solution containing  
255 5% water, 1% osmium tetroxide and 0.1% uranyl acetate, at -80 °C for 48 hours, -20 °C for 6



256 hours, then graded back to 4 °C over 13 hours. The prepared samples were washed twice in  
257 100% acetone. Two cells were recovered by micropipette. Each cell was placed on a separate  
258 Thermonox (Fahlenbach, Germany) coverslip, where it adhered to a patch of poly-L-lysine. In  
259 preparation for FIB-SEM, cells were infiltrated with a 1:1 mix of acetone and Embed 812 resin  
260 for two hours, then 100% resin overnight. A second Thermonox coverslip was applied,  
261 sandwiching each cell in a thin layer of resin between the coverslips. Resin was polymerized at  
262 65 °C for 24 hours. The top coverslip was then removed with a razor blade to expose the resin  
263 face overlying the cell.

264 A single cell was imaged by a FEI Helios NanoLab 650 dual beam FIB-SEM. The ion beam  
265 milled through the cell in 20 nm increments, yielding 190 image slices. Slices were aligned as a z-  
266 stack in Amira 5.5. Features of interest, including mitochondria and chloroplasts, were semi-  
267 automatically segmented: that is, manually traced in approximately one of every three slices,  
268 before automatic interpolation filled in the volumes between the slices. Images that did not pass  
269 quality screening because of fluctuations in microscope beam power and autofocus were not  
270 directly segmented, but were interpolated from segmentation on neighbouring images, per  
271 manufacturer's instructions. Surfaces of the mitochondria, chloroplasts, and vesicles were  
272 generated, smoothed and colorized to produce a 3-dimensional model of the components that  
273 form the ocelloid.

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## 277 **Acknowledgements**

278 This work was supported by grants from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council  
279 of Canada (XXX to BSL and XXX to PJK). We thank XXXX. BSL and PJK are Senior Fellows of the  
280 Canadian Institute for Advanced Research.

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349 **Figure Legends**

350

351 **Figure 1: Genomics and structure of organelles in the ocelloid.** a. Illustration of *Nematodinium*  
352 sp. showing the basic components of the ocelloid with their putative organellar origins. b.  
353 Transmission electron micrograph of the ocelloid of *Erythrospidinium agile*, including the lens (l),  
354 crystalline layer (c), and retinal body (R). c. Transmission electron micrograph of the ocelloid of  
355 *Nematodinium* sp., depicting the edge of the lens (l) where it is overlain by a cornea like layer of  
356 mitochondria (asterisks). d. Genomic reads amplified from five whole cells of *Nematodinium* sp.  
357 e. Genomic reads amplified from five retinal bodies after they were micro-dissected from  
358 individual cells of *Nematodinium* sp.

359

360 **Figure 2: Ultrastructure of the retinal body in *Nematodinium* sp.** A composite of 12 electron  
361 micrographs depicting a glancing section through the retinal body and pigmented ring or “iris”  
362 of *Nematodinium* sp. Scale bar = 1  $\mu$ m. Crystalline layer (c). Lipid droplets (l). Pigmented ring  
363 (p) Waveform membranes (W).

364

365 **Figure 3: Phylogeny of retinal-body encoded proteins.** Six partial plastid genes from the  
366 retinal body of the ocelloid in *Nematodinium* sp. were amplified. Photosystem I P700  
367 apoprotein A2 (PsaB), photosystem II protein D1 (PsbA), photosystem II CP47 protein (PsbB),  
368 photosystem II protein D1 (PsbD), cytochrome b6 (Petb), and cytochrome b6/f complex subunit  
369 4 (PetD) were translated and concatenated for a 1,618 amino acid alignment. The tree was  
370 inferred by analyzing the 42-taxon alignment using maximum likelihood (ML). Statistical support  
371 for the branches was evaluated using 500 ML bootstrap replicates and Bayesian posterior  
372 probabilities. Support values are shown for all branches within the Myzozoa, a clade comprised  
373 of dinoflagellates, chromerids, and apicomplexans. Groups bearing plastids of red algal ancestry  
374 are highlighted in red or pink. Other plastids and cyanobacteria are shown in grey.

375

376 **Figure 4: Three-dimensional reconstruction of the ocelloid of *Nematodinium* sp. using FIB-SEM**  
377 tomography. a. Stack of a halved cell, showing the nucleus and ocelloid (box). b. FIB-SEM slice of  
378 the ocelloid, depicting lens, mitochondria (blue) and retinal body (red). c. Translucent FIB-SEM  
379 stack of the region surrounding the ocelloid, including lens (yellow) and full plastid network

380 (red). d. Reconstructions of the ocelloid and its component parts, including the mitochondrial  
381 "cornea" layer, vesicular lens, and retinal body.  
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Supplementary Table 1. **Plastid-associated proteins expressed by heterotrophic warnowiids.**

From *Erythrospidinium agile* and *Warnowia* sp., 752 and 1,180 polyadenylated cDNAs were sequenced, respectively. Transcripts predicted to function in the photosystem are shown, annotated via BlastX.

|                               | Annotation  | Clone Count | Top BlastX Hit                      | Error  |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <i>Erythrospidinium agile</i> | Light harvesting protein  | 2           | <i>Symbiodinium</i> sp. C3          | 2 <sup>-67</sup><br>8 <sup>-23</sup>                     |
| <i>Warnowia</i> sp.           | Light harvesting protein  | 3           | <i>Symbiodinium</i> sp. C3          | 1 <sup>-48</sup><br>1 <sup>-37</sup><br>4 <sup>-37</sup> |
|                               | Chloroplast ferredoxin  | 2           | <i>Alexandrium fundyense</i>        | 7 <sup>-29</sup><br>1 <sup>-17</sup>                     |
|                               | Chloroplast soluble peridinin-chlorophyll-a-binding protein precursor | 3           | <i>Symbiodinium microadriaticum</i> | 1 <sup>-31</sup><br>1 <sup>-25</sup><br>1 <sup>-21</sup> |

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393

394 **Supplementary Figure Legends**

395

396 Supplementary Figure 1: **Light micrographs (LM) of warnowiids used in this study.** a. Still frame  
397 LM from a video of *Warnowia* sp. b. LM of *Erythrospidinium agile*. c. LM of *Nematodinium* sp.  
398 with a nematocyst (arrowhead). d. LM of the ventral side of *Nematodinium* sp. showing red  
399 pigmentation of the retinal body. e. Epifluorescence image of the same cell and angle, showing  
400 red fluorescence of the retinal body excited by 505 nm light. f. LM of *Nematodinium* sp. showing  
401 a bright spot of reflectivity (i.e., “eyeshine”) (arrowhead) in the ocelloid. Scale bars = 10  $\mu$ m.

402

403 Supplementary Figure 2: **Transmission electron micrographs (TEM) of thylakoid membranes in**  
404 ***Nematodinium* sp.** a. TEM showing a small, peripheral plastid in *Nematodinium* sp. with typical  
405 thylakoids (t) resembling peridinin plastids in other dinoflagellates. b. TEM showing thylakoids in  
406 the iris region of the ocelloid. c. TEM showing thylakoids in the iris positioned beside waveform  
407 membranes (w) of the retinal body, during interphase. d. TEM showing a retinal body towards  
408 the end of interphase, in which the waveform membranes dedifferentiate and are continuous  
409 with the typical thylakoids.

410

411 Supplementary Figure 3: **Transmission electron micrographs (TEM) of the cornea-like layer of**  
412 **mitochondria in the ocelloid of *Nematodinium* sp.** a: Low-mag TEM of the ocelloid, with  
413 rectangles delimiting the areas of higher magnification shown in images b, c and d. b, c, d: High  
414 magnifications of structures bordering the lens (L). Asterisks = mitochondria. P = pigmented  
415 ring. R = retinal body.

416

417 Supplementary Figure 4: **Dinoflagellate eyespot types within a phylogenetic context.**

418 Diagrams of whole cells and eyespots are shown for all dinoflagellates for which both  
419 ultrastructural descriptions and 18S and 28S ribosomal rDNA sequences have been published.  
420 Eyespot diagrams highlight plastid-like structures (crimson), as well as mitochondria (dark blue),  
421 lens-like vesicles (light blue), lipid droplets (red dots), and crystalline layers (grey dashes). The  
422 phylogenetic tree was inferred from a 2,331-nucleotide alignment of concatenated 18S and 28S  
423 ribosomal rDNA sequences across 36 genera; statistical support was evaluated with 500  
424 bootstraps using maximum likelihood and 10,000 generations of Bayesian analysis. Bootstrap

425 values above 60% are shown. For some taxa, 18S and 28S ribosomal sequences were  
426 concatenated from different species within the genus. Only the genus is shown for these taxa.  
427

428 **Supplementary Figure 5: Light micrographs (LM) and transmission electron micrographs (TEM)**  
429 **showing food vacuoles in *Nematodinium* sp.** a. Differential interference contrast LM showing a  
430 cell with prey (P) visible as green tinted food vacuole. b. Differential interference contrast LM  
431 showing a cell in which the condensed dinoflagellate-type nuclei are visible as birefringent  
432 chromosomes (n) in both the predator and prey. c. Differential interference contrast LM of a  
433 *Nematodinium* sp. cell containing digested prey (arrowhead) and co-occurring with potential  
434 prey, a smaller dinoflagellate. d. TEM showing a food vacuole inclusion consisting of a bolus of  
435 discharged trichocysts. e. Longitudinal TEM section of discharged dinoflagellate-type  
436 trichocysts showing their characteristic striation pattern.

437

438 **Supplementary Figure 6: Individual ribosomal gene and photosystem protein gene trees.** For c.  
439 and d., the photosystem genes for *Nematodinium* sp. were amplified from the retinal body of  
440 the ocelloid. Support values for all phylogenies were calculated from 100 bootstraps using  
441 Maximum Likelihood analysis. a. 18S ribosomal rDNA gene phylogeny derived from a 1,717 bp  
442 alignment across 33 dinoflagellate taxa. b. 28S ribosomal rDNA gene phylogeny derived from a  
443 970 bp alignment across 43 dinoflagellate taxa. For both a. and b., warnowiids are highlighted in  
444 yellow and *Nematodinium* sp. is highlighted in black. c. Photosystem I P700 apoprotein A2  
445 (PsaB) protein phylogeny derived from a 508 AA alignment across 42 photosynthetic taxa. d.  
446 Photosystem II protein D1 (PsbA) protein phylogeny derived from a 360 AA alignment across 39  
447 photosynthetic taxa. For c. and d., dinoflagellates are shaded in grey, and *Nematodinium* sp. is  
448 highlighted in black.

449

450 **Supplementary Figure 7: Individual photosystem protein trees.** All the photosystem genes from  
451 *Nematodinium* sp. were amplified from the retinal body of the ocelloid. Support values for all  
452 phylogenies were calculated from 100 bootstraps using Maximum Likelihood analysis. a.  
453 Photosystem II CP47 (PsbB) protein phylogeny derived from a 504 AA alignment across 38  
454 photosynthetic taxa. b. Photosystem II protein D1 (PsbD) phylogeny derived from an 342 AA  
455 alignment across 42 photosynthetic taxa. c. Cytochrome b6 (Petb) protein phylogeny derived  
456 from an 216 AA alignment across 32 photosynthetic taxa. d. Cytochrome b6/f complex subunit



457 4 (PetD) protein phylogeny derived from an 161 AA alignment across 31 photosynthetic taxa.  
458 Dinoflagellates are shaded in grey, and *Nematodinium* sp. is highlighted in black.