

# Visual system and *Drosophila* behavior

苏祥彬, 陈江涛, 朱培雯  
2023-03-02

## Outline

- Overview of the visual system: from structure to functions —苏祥彬
- Visual system and sexual behavior —陈江涛
- Visual system and avoidance behavior —朱培雯
- Discussion

## The variety of visual features in animals

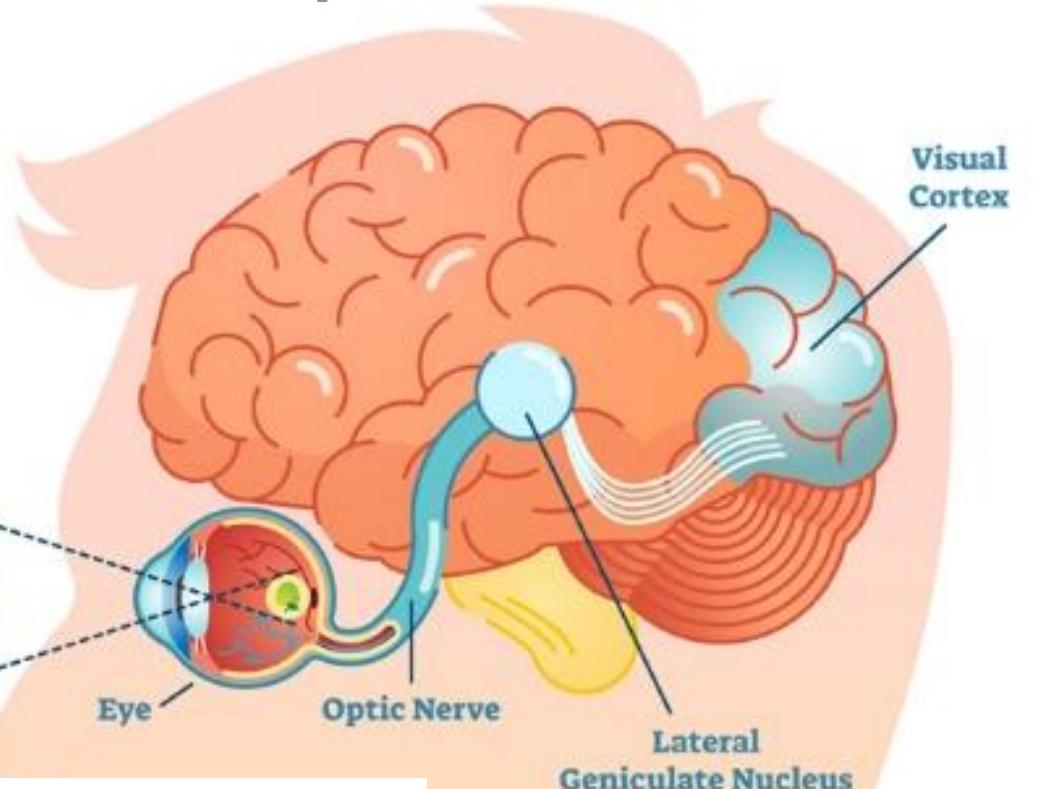
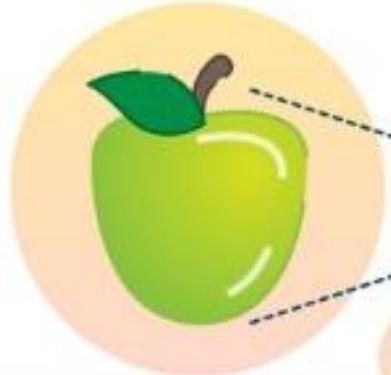


# Overview of the visual system: from structure to functions

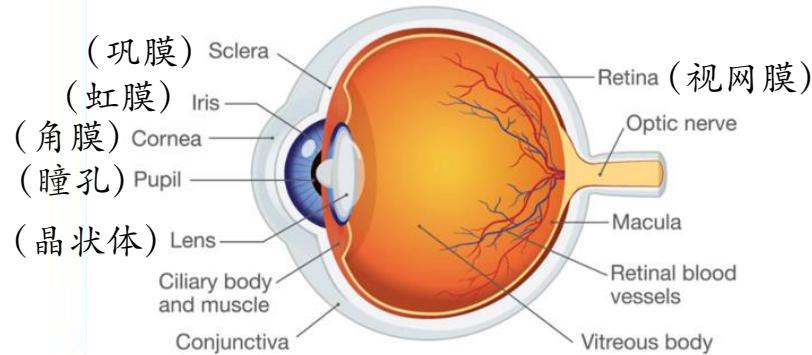
苏祥彬  
2023-03-02

# How the human eye works

## How the Eye Works



### Human Eye Anatomy



## Questions

How the *Drosophila* eye works?

What is the structure of the visual system in fruit flies?

What do fruit flies see?

How do **visual scenes** induce appropriate behavior in fruit flies?

## Contents

- The *Drosophila* adult visual system
- *Drosophila* larval visual system
- Visual feature-based behavior of *Drosophila*

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- The *Drosophila* adult visual system
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- Visual feature-based behavior of *Drosophila*

A major contributor to this section

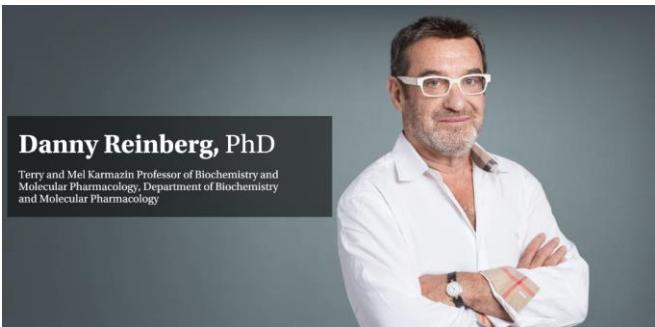


## Claude Desplan

Silver Professor; Professor of Biology and Neural Science

### RESEARCH

- Stochastic choices in development
- Generation of neural diversity: the development of the optic lobes
- Building the neural pathway for motion vision
- Aging and rejuvenation in a social insect in collaboration with [Danny Reinberg](#)



Danny Reinberg, PhD

Terry and Mel Karmazin Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Pharmacology, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Pharmacology

### RESEARCH

- Halting the spread of repressive chromatin
- Epigenetics in a model organism(ants)
- Polycomb group (PcG) of epigenetic regulators

› Science. 2022 Sep 2;377(6610):1092-1099. doi: 10.1126/science.abm8767. Epub 2022 Sep 1.

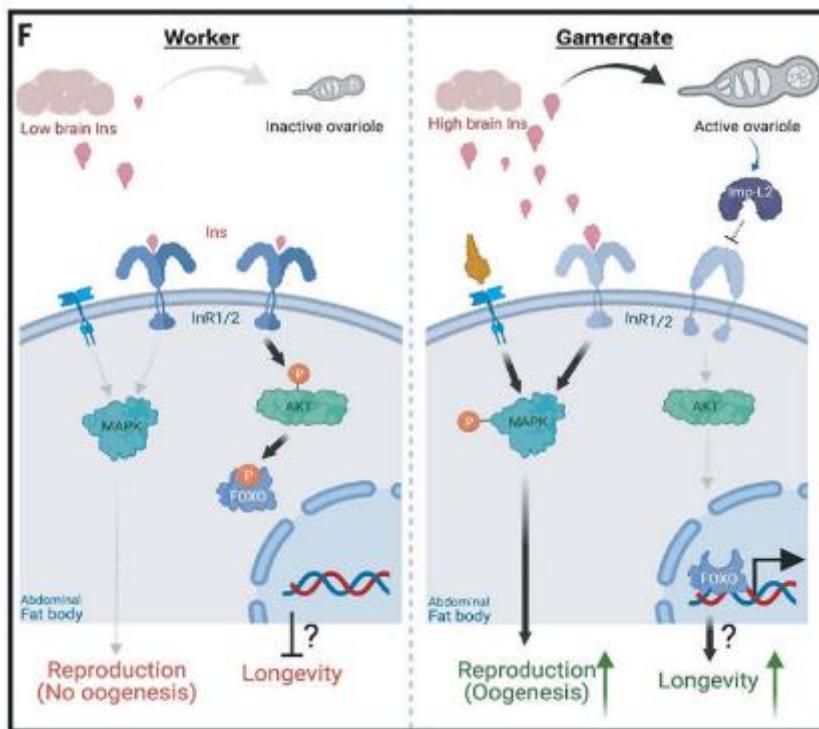
## Insulin signaling in the long-lived reproductive caste of ants

Hua Yan <sup># 1 2 3</sup>, Comzit Opachaloemphan <sup># 1</sup>, Francisco Carmona-Aldana <sup># 1</sup>, Giacomo Mancini <sup>4</sup>, Jakub Mlejnek <sup>4</sup>, Nicolas Descostes <sup>1</sup>, Bogdan Sieriebriennikov <sup>1 4</sup>, Alexandra Leibholz <sup>4</sup>, Xiaofan Zhou <sup>5</sup>, Long Ding <sup>4</sup>, Maria Traficante <sup>4</sup>, Claude Desplan <sup>4</sup>, Danny Reinberg <sup>1 2</sup>

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 36048960 PMCID: PMC9526546 DOI: 10.1126/science.abm8767

Free PMC article



› Cell. 2017 Aug 10;170(4):736-747.e9. doi: 10.1016/j.cell.2017.06.051.

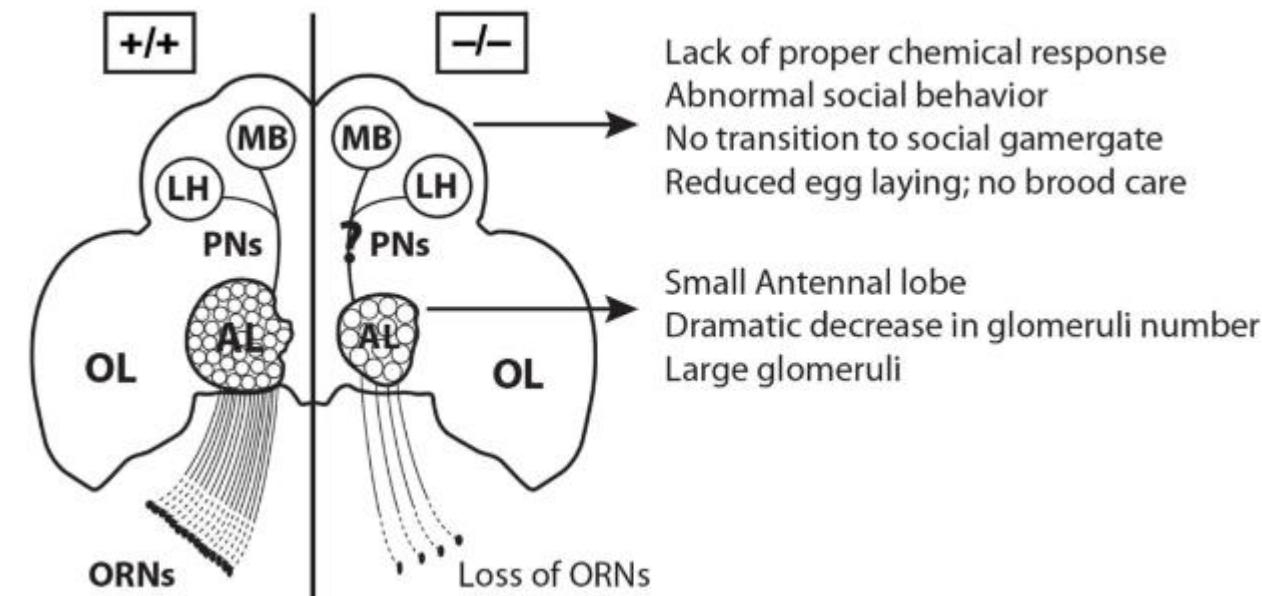
## An Engineered orco Mutation Produces Aberrant Social Behavior and Defective Neural Development in Ants

Hua Yan <sup>1</sup>, Comzit Opachaloemphan <sup>2</sup>, Giacomo Mancini <sup>3</sup>, Huan Yang <sup>2</sup>, Matthew Gallitto <sup>2</sup>, Jakub Mlejnek <sup>3</sup>, Alexandra Leibholz <sup>3</sup>, Kevin Haight <sup>4</sup>, Majid Ghaninia <sup>4</sup>, Lucy Huo <sup>3</sup>, Michael Perry <sup>3</sup>, Jesse Slone <sup>5</sup>, Xiaofan Zhou <sup>5</sup>, Maria Traficante <sup>3</sup>, Clint A Penick <sup>4</sup>, Kelly Dolezal <sup>4</sup>, Kaustubh Gokhale <sup>4</sup>, Kelsey Stevens <sup>3</sup>, Ingrid Fetter-Pruneda <sup>6</sup>, Roberto Bonasio <sup>7</sup>, Laurence J Zwiebel <sup>5</sup>, Shelley L Berger <sup>8</sup>, Jürgen Liebig <sup>9</sup>, Danny Reinberg <sup>10</sup>, Claude Desplan <sup>11</sup>

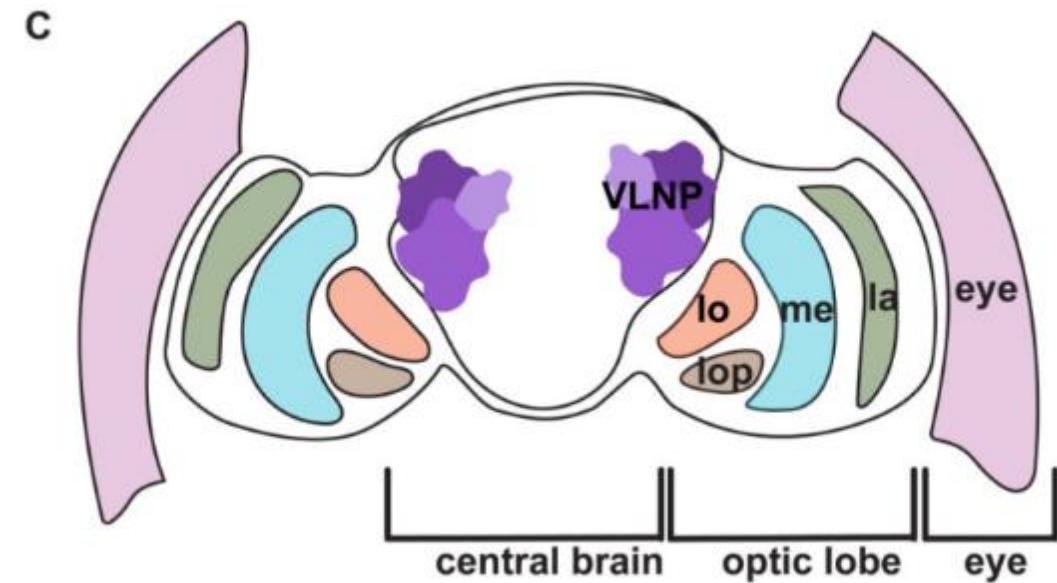
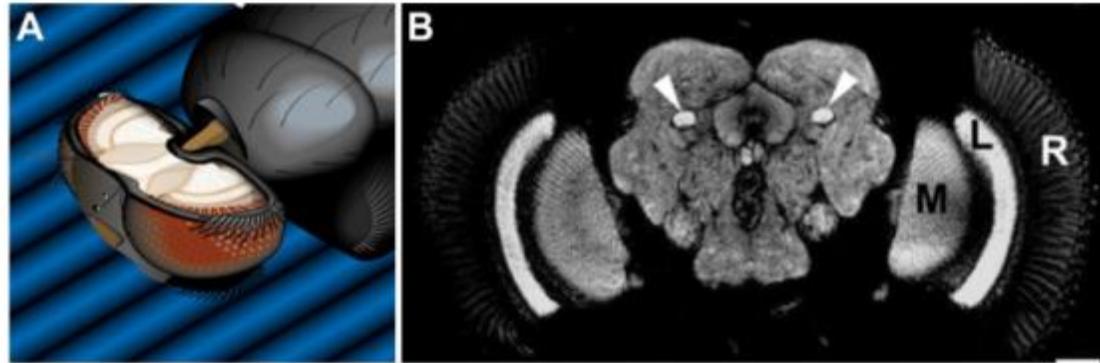
Affiliations + expand

PMID: 28802043 PMCID: PMC5587193 DOI: 10.1016/j.cell.2017.06.051

Free PMC article



# The visual system of *Drosophila*

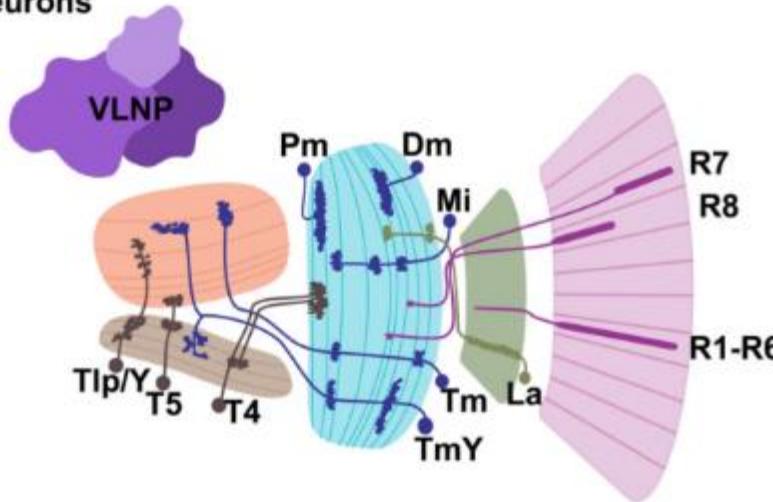


Four of these neuropils form the optic lobe: **lamina, medulla, and the lobula complex.**

The lobula complex is further subdivided into **the lobula and the lobula plate neuropils.**

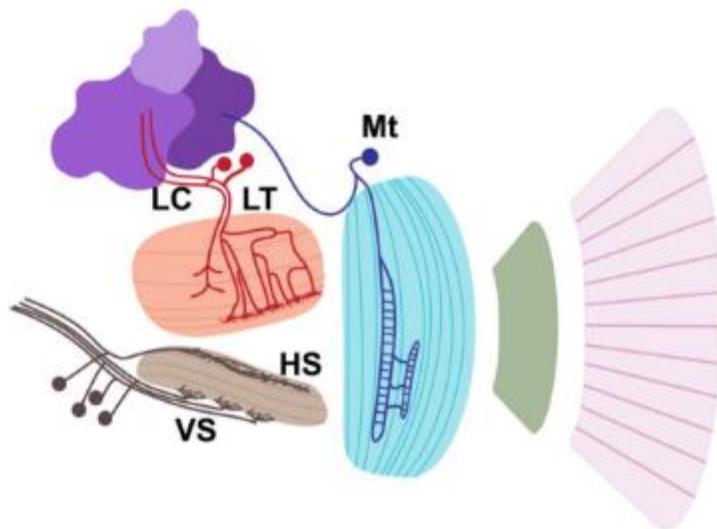
# The visual system of *Drosophila*

## D. Interneurons



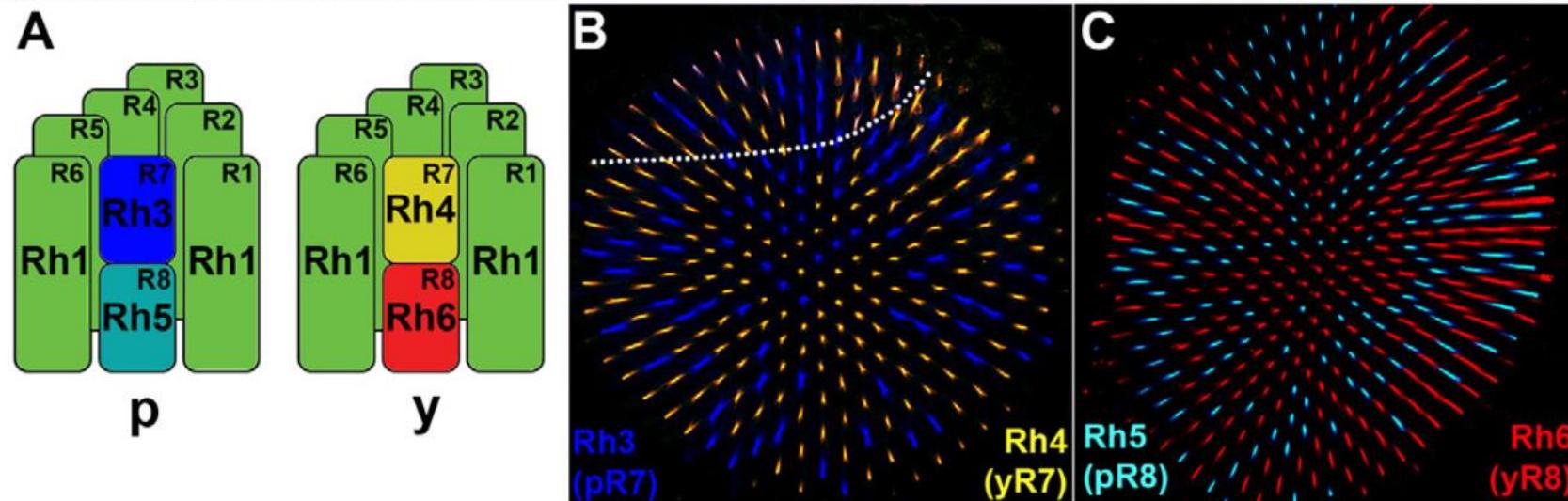
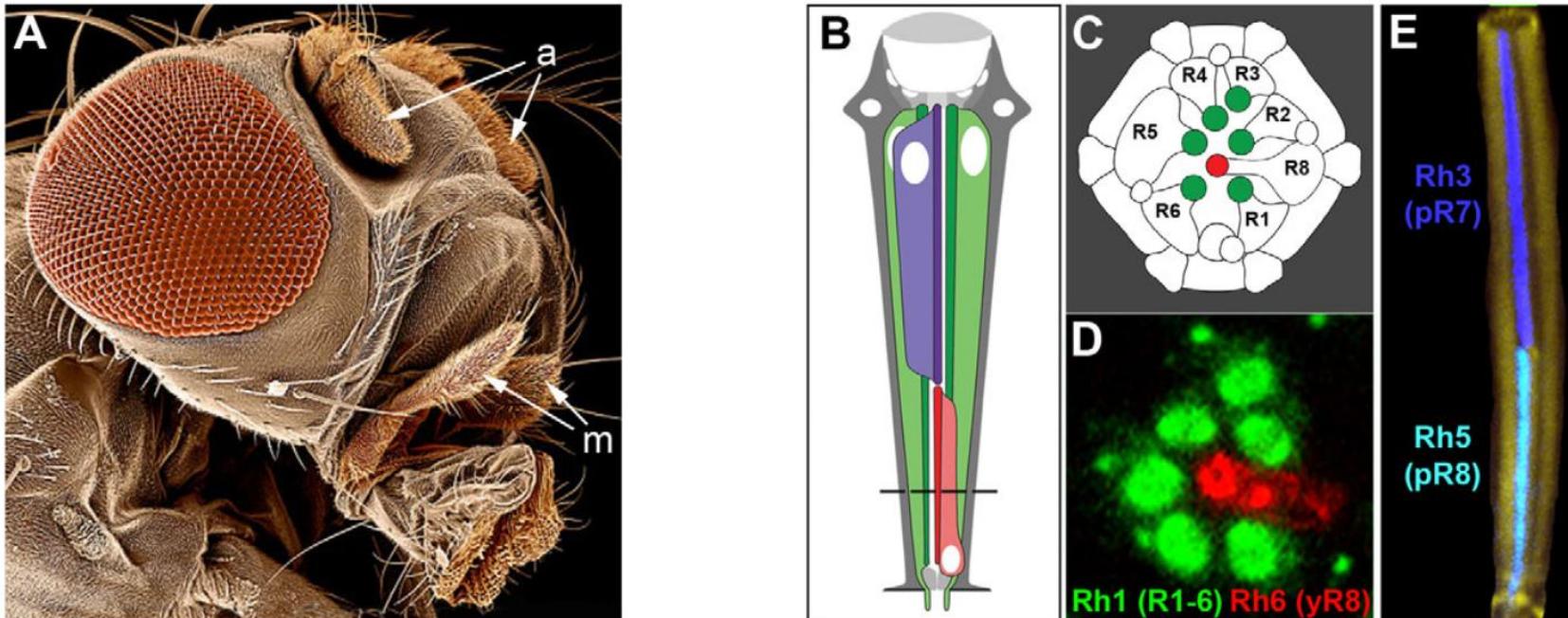
“**Interneurons**” whose cell bodies and projections remain within the optic lobe.

## E. Projection neurons

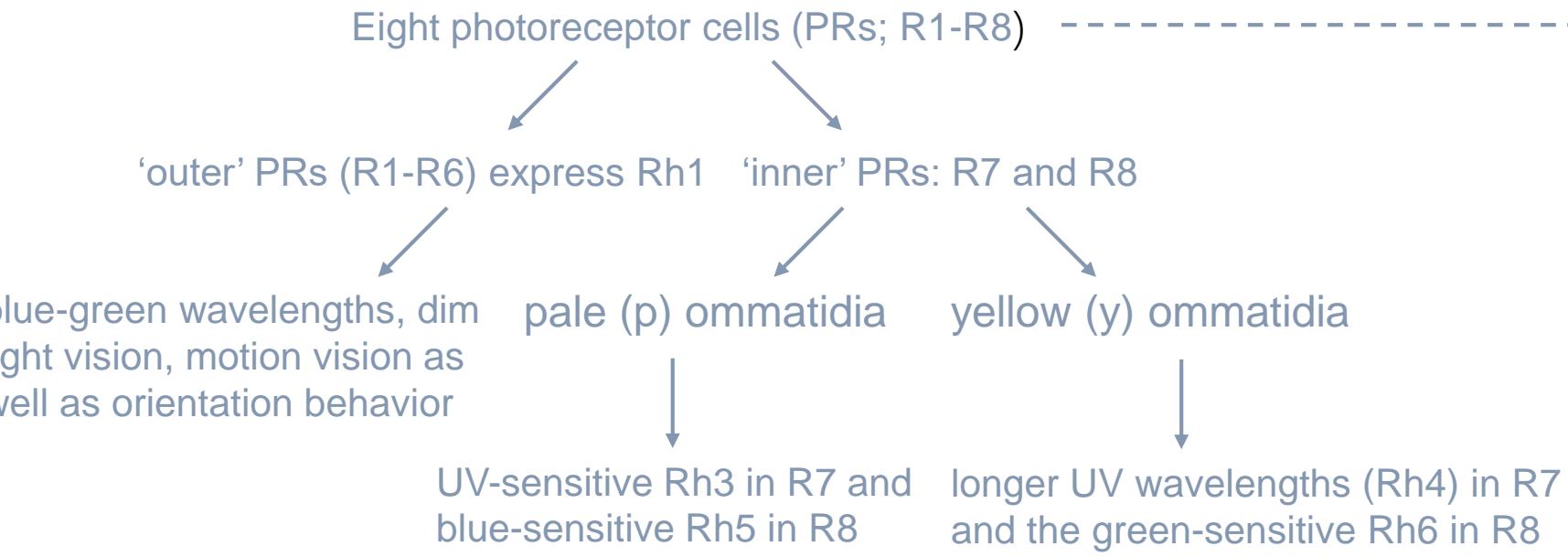


“**projection**” neurons, which connect the optic lobe to the CB.

# The compound eye



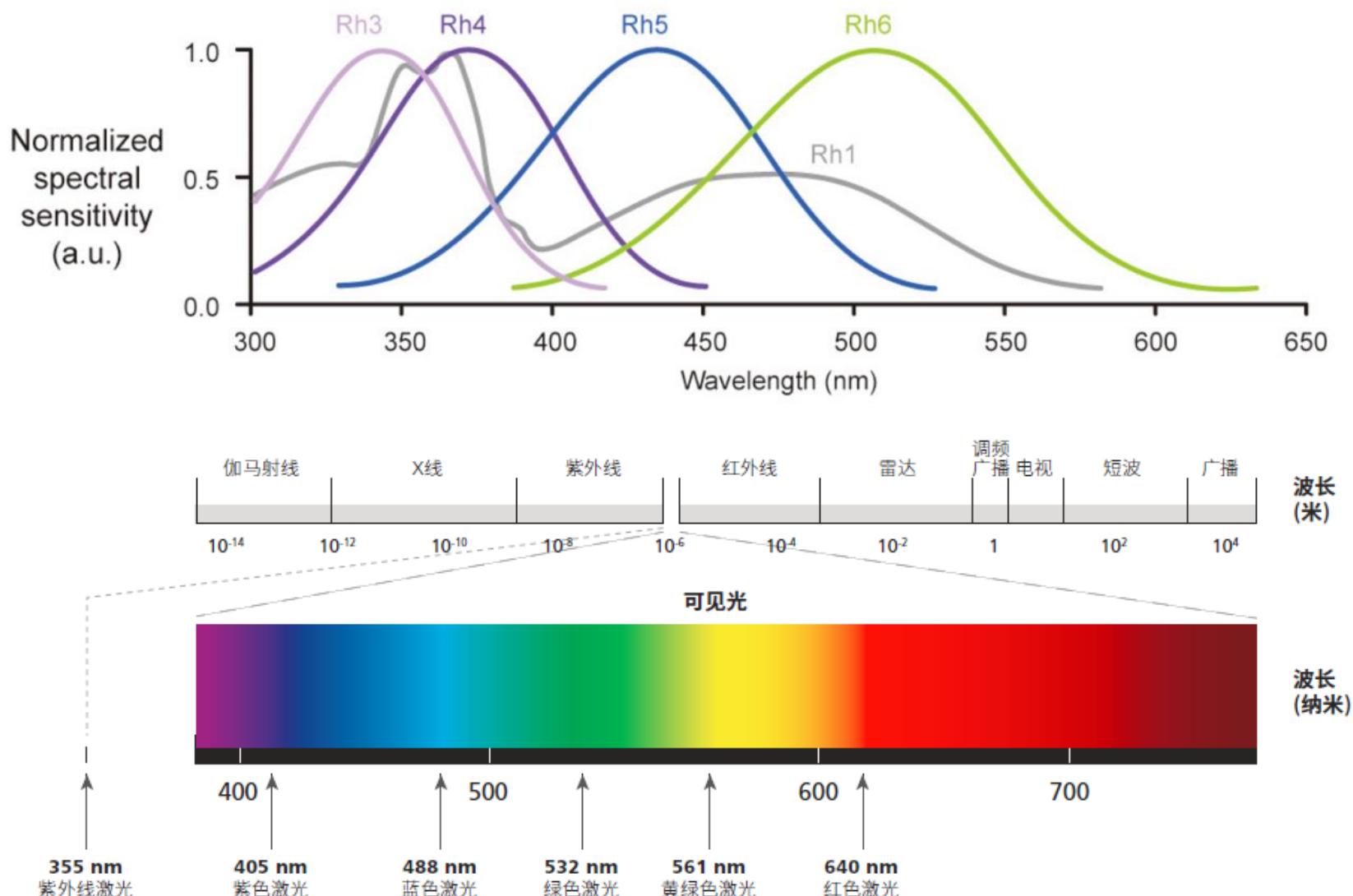
# The compound eye



Rhodopsins (Rhs), light-sensitive G protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs) that define the spectral sensitivity of the PR

Five Rh proteins – Rh1, Rh3, Rh4, Rh5 and Rh6 – with different spectral sensitivities are expressed in two classes of PRs in the *Drosophila* retina

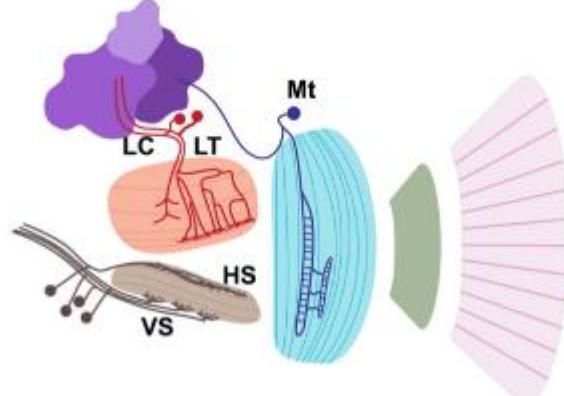
# Spectral sensitivity curves of rhodopsins expressed in photoreceptor cells



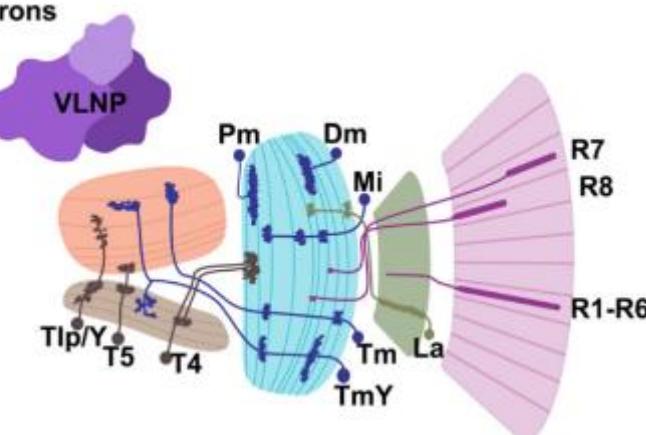
# Optic lobe

Structure	Compose	Function	Reference
lamina	interneurons	motion vision	Hofbauer and Campos-Ortega, 1990 Tuthill et al., 2013
medulla	projection neurons interneurons	motion vision, color vision and further computes	Morante and Desplan, 2008 Zhu, 2013 Chin et al., 2014
lobula complex	lobula	projection neurons	Otsuna and Ito 2006 Mu et al., 2012
	lobula plate	projection neurons(LPTCs) interneurons(T4 and T5 cells)	Behnia and Desplan, 2015 Borst 2014

E. Projection neurons



D. Interneurons



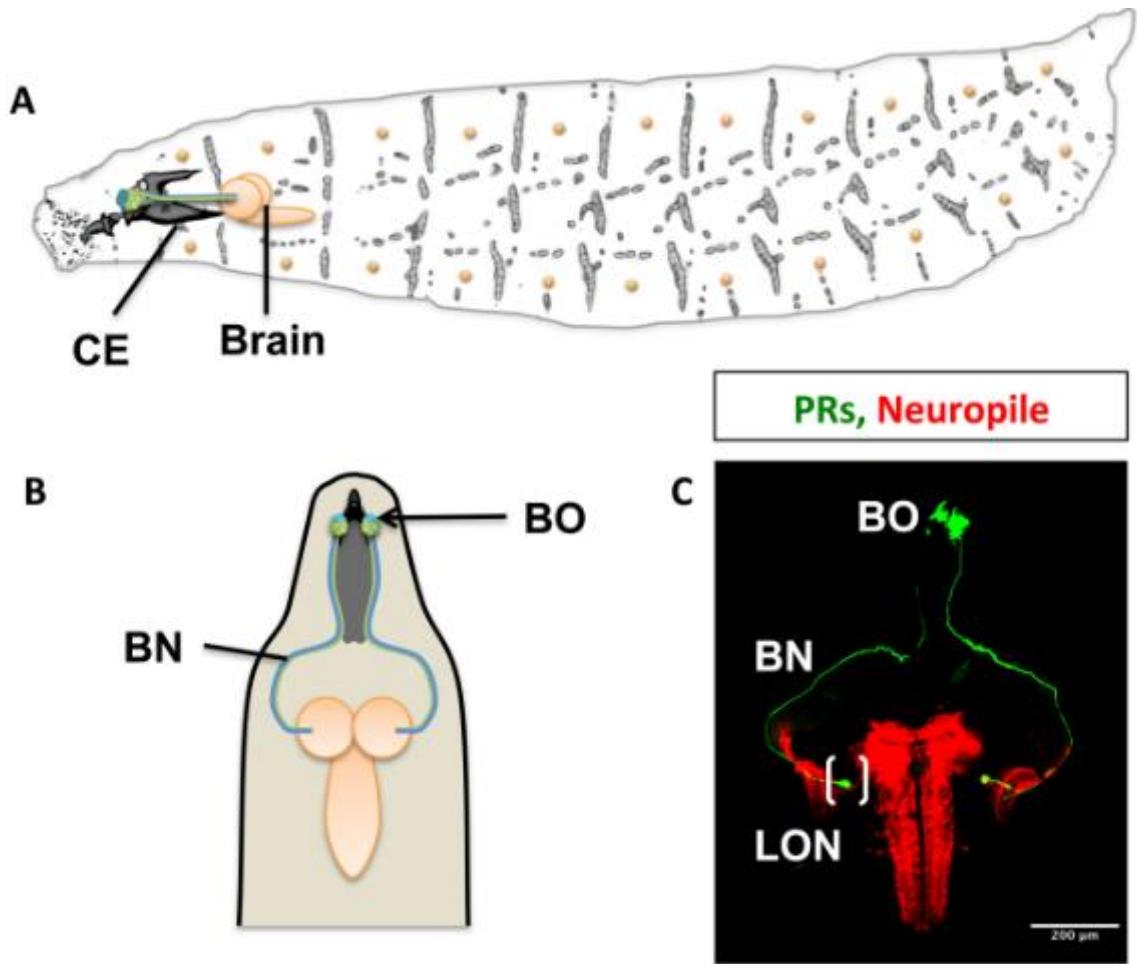
LPTCs, The Lobula Plate Tangential Cells

VLNPs, The Ventrolateral neuropils

## Contents

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- *Drosophila* larval visual system
- Visual feature-based behavior of *Drosophila*

## Differences in visual system between larva and adult

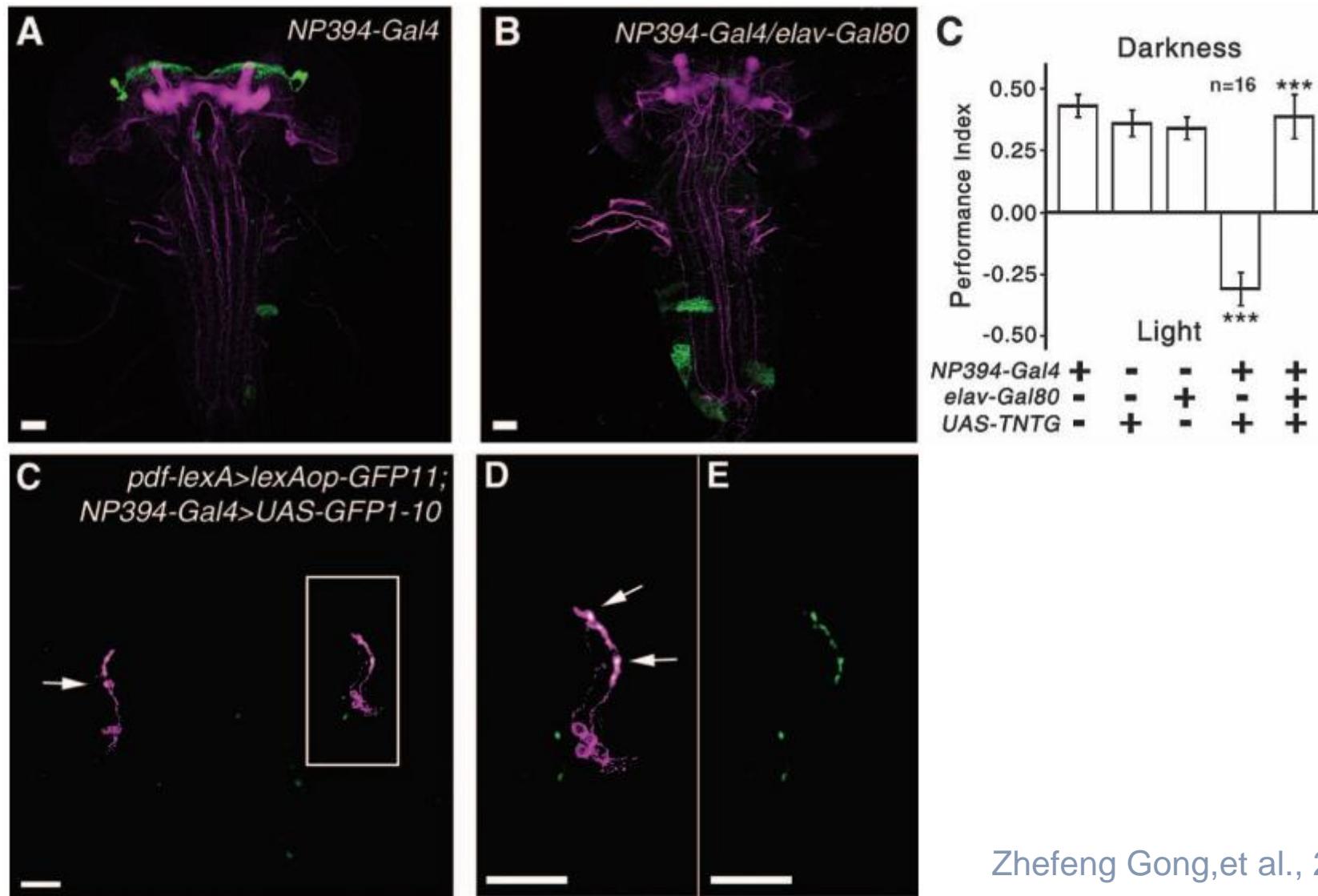


12 photoreceptors (PRs)

Four PRs express exclusively rhodopsin5 (rh5)  
and detect blue light

the remaining eight express only rhodopsin6(rh6)  
detecting green light

# Two pairs of neurons in the central brain control *Drosophila* innate light preference



Zhefeng Gong, et al., 2010

## Summary 1

How the *Drosophila* eye works?

What is the structure of the visual system in fruit flies?

eye(compound eye), optic lobe, central brain

What do fruit flies see?

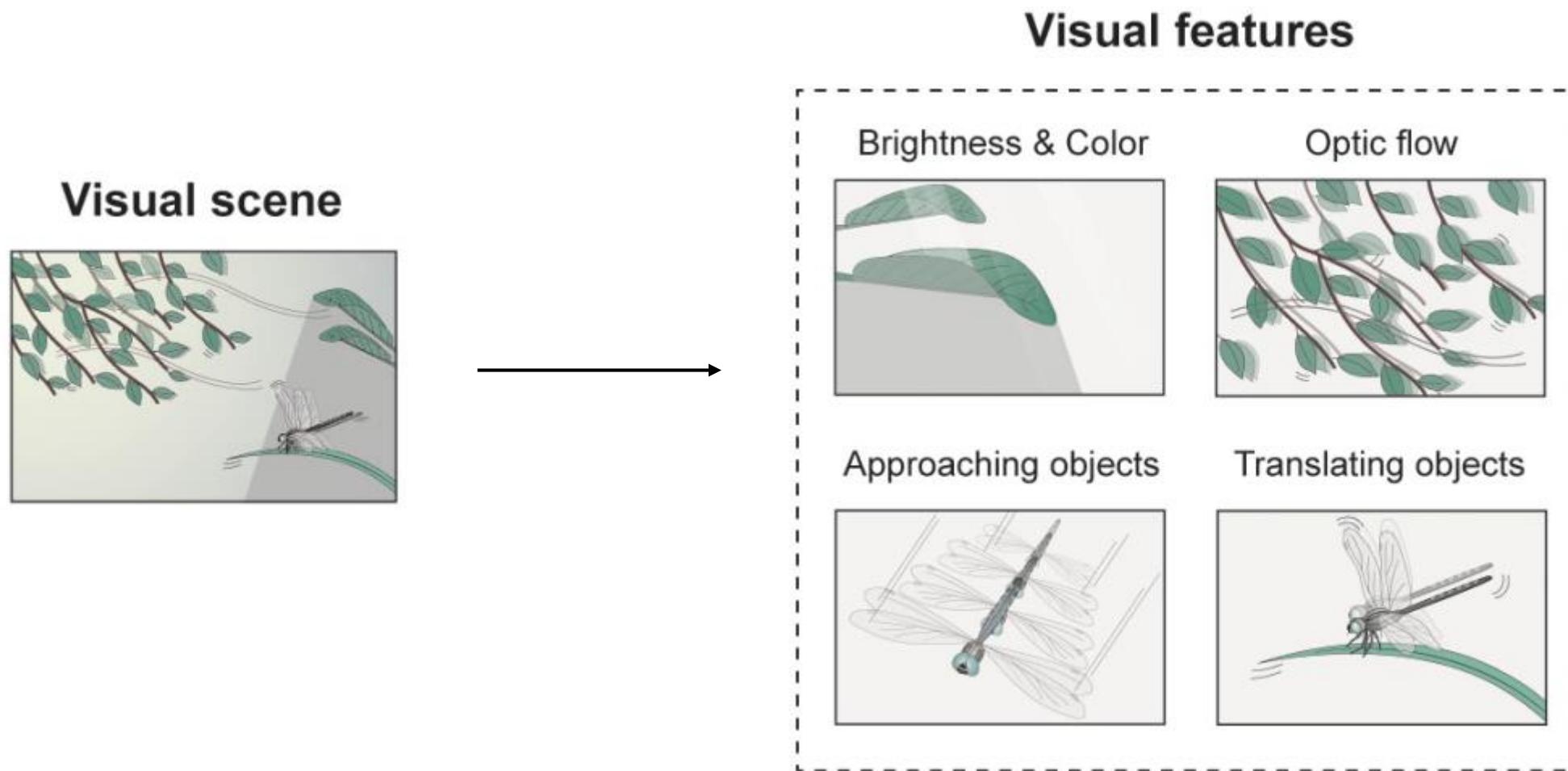
color(UV/blue/green) ,based on photoreceptors

How do **visual scenes** induce appropriate behavior in fruit flies?

## Contents

- The *Drosophila* adult visual system
- *Drosophila* larval visual system
- Visual feature-based behavior of *Drosophila*  
(such as phototaxis and optic flow)

# Spatiotemporal features in visual scenes



Leesun Ryu, Sung Yong Kim and Anmo J. Kim, 2022

# Brightness, color, and phototaxis

➤ Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 1967 Sep;58(3):1112-9. doi: 10.1073/pnas.58.3.1112.

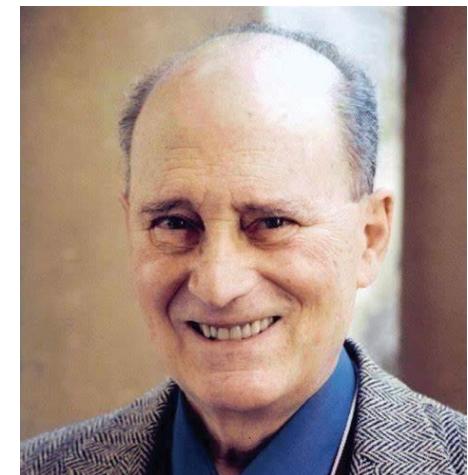
## BEHAVIORAL MUTANTS OF *Drosophila* ISOLATED BY COUNTERCURRENT DISTRIBUTION

S Benzer <sup>1</sup>

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 16578662 PMCID: PMC335755 DOI: 10.1073/pnas.58.3.1112

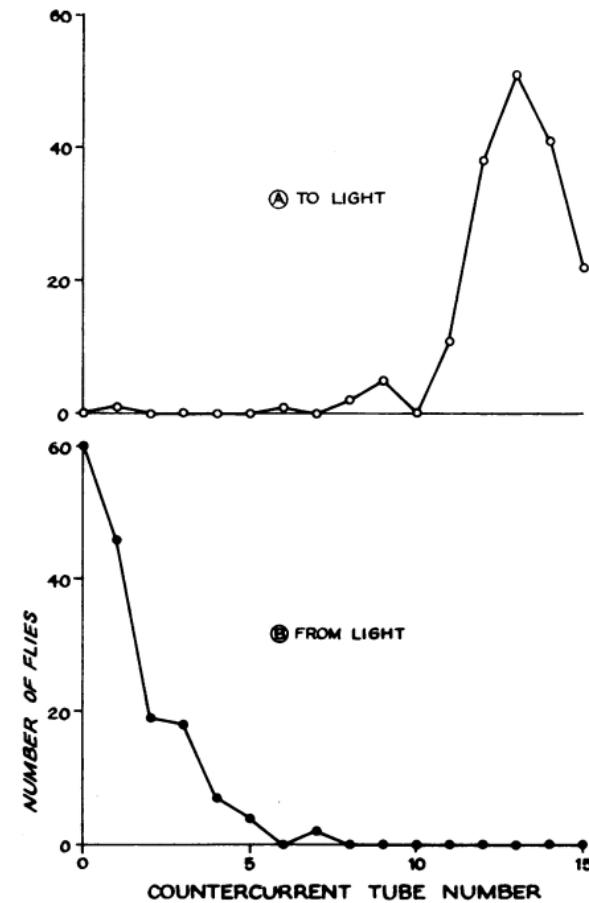
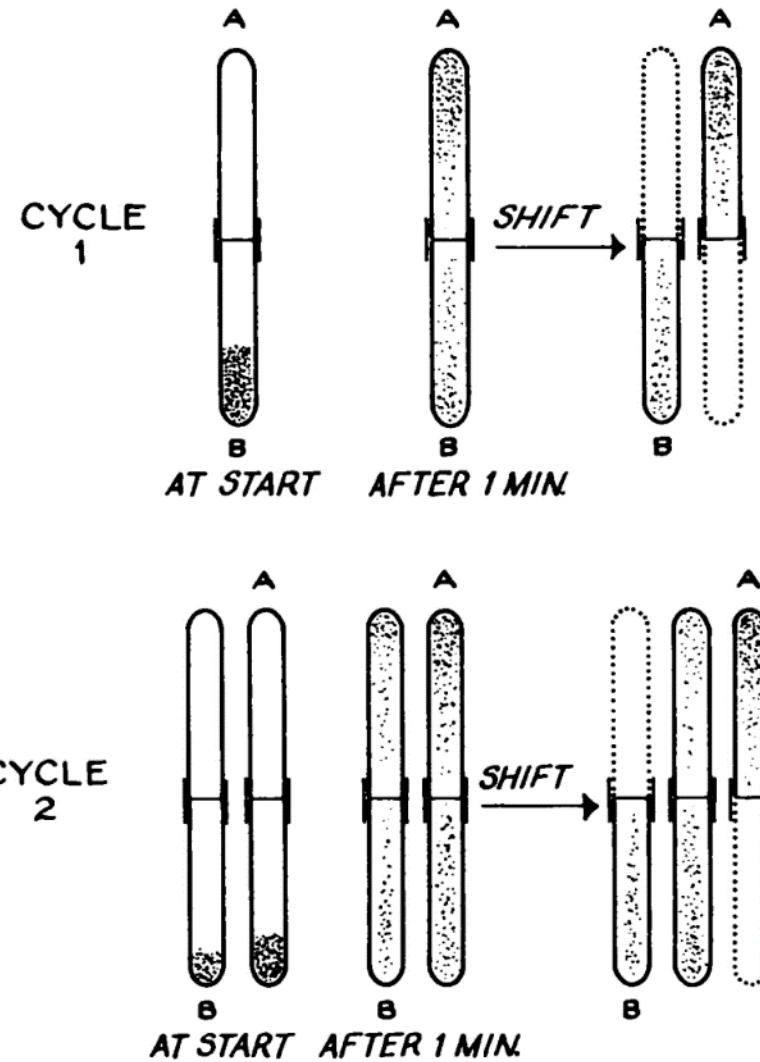
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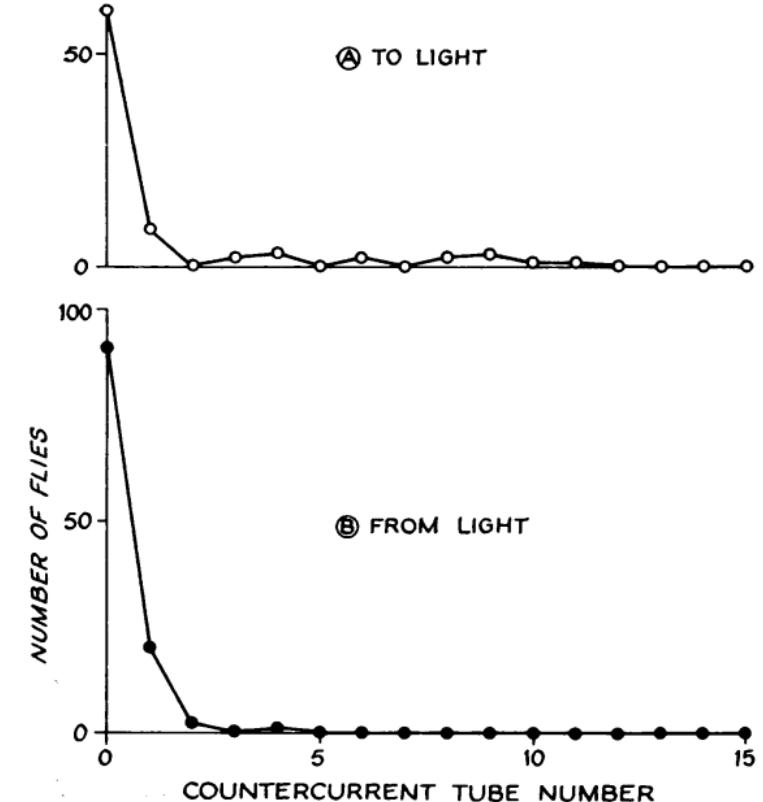
Benzer was a unique figure who made seminal contributions to physics, molecular biology and behavioural genetics.

- Using bacteriophage T4, he proved that genes are not indivisible units, but are composed of a linear array of chemical building-blocks, or bases, each of which can be subject to alteration.
- Benzer screened large numbers of flies to discover rare mutants with specific behavioural defects.  
*(fruitless, per, dunce, Shaker.....)*
- Benzer built counter-current apparatus for measuring phototaxis

# Behavioral mutants of *Drosophila* isolated by countercurrent distribution

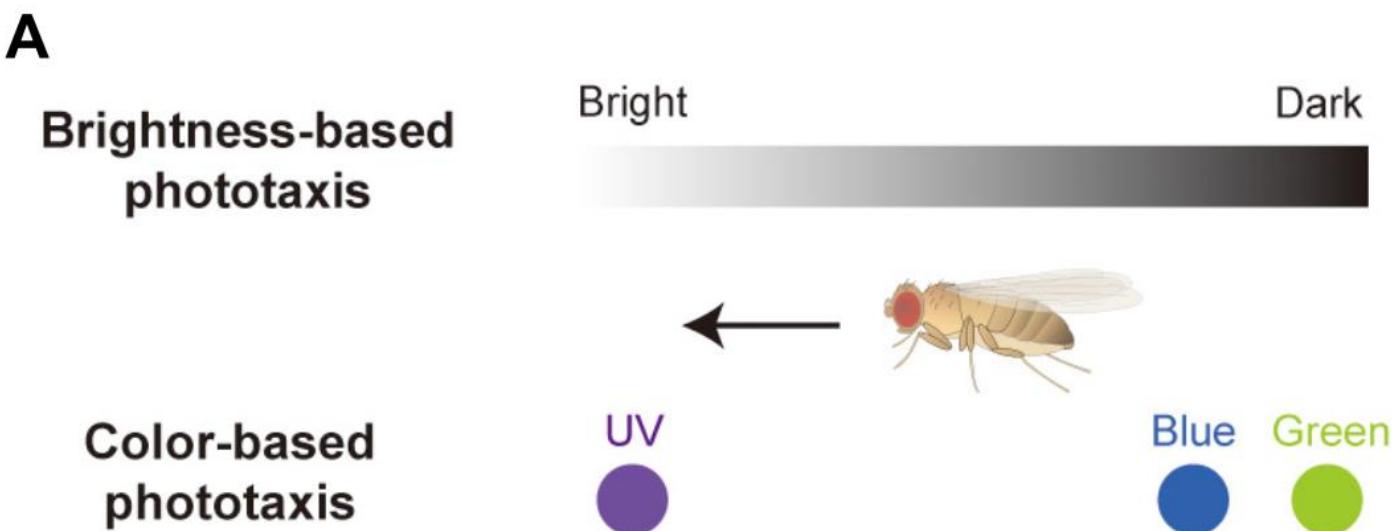
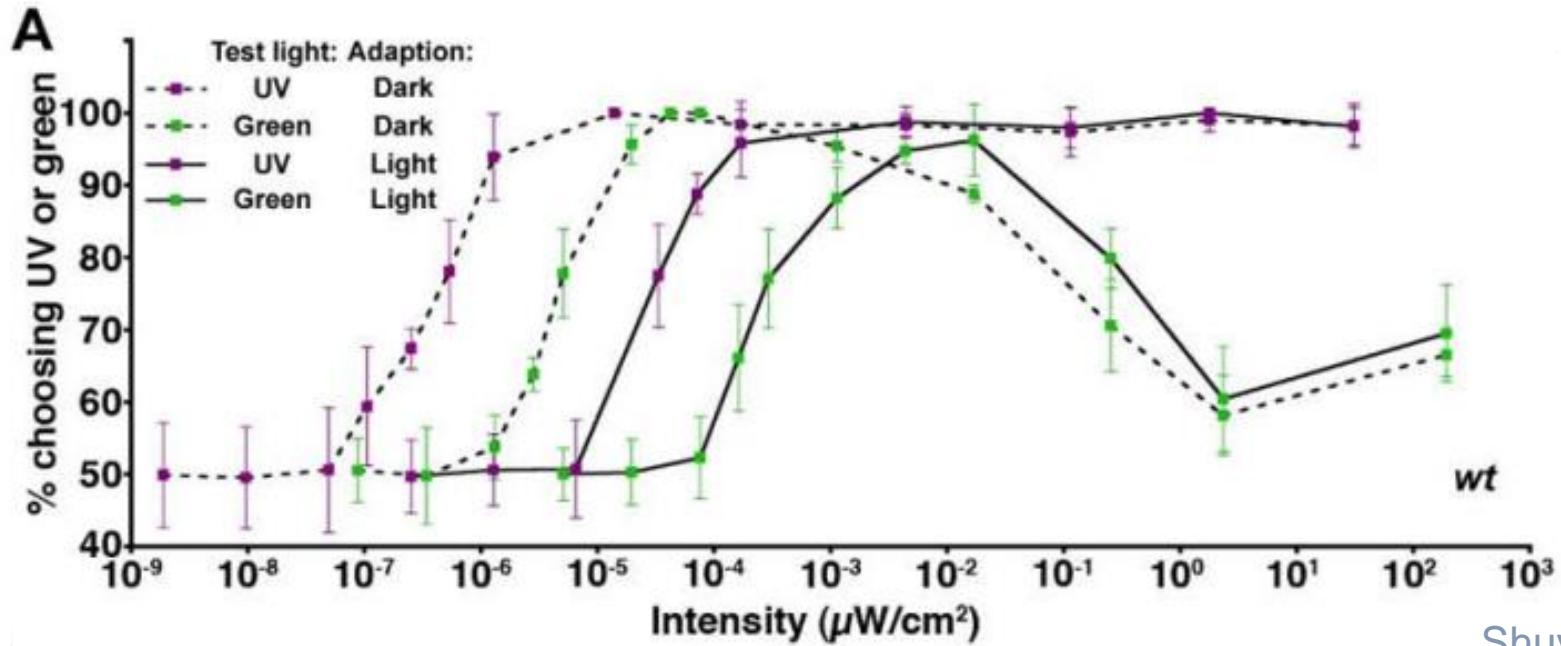


Canton S

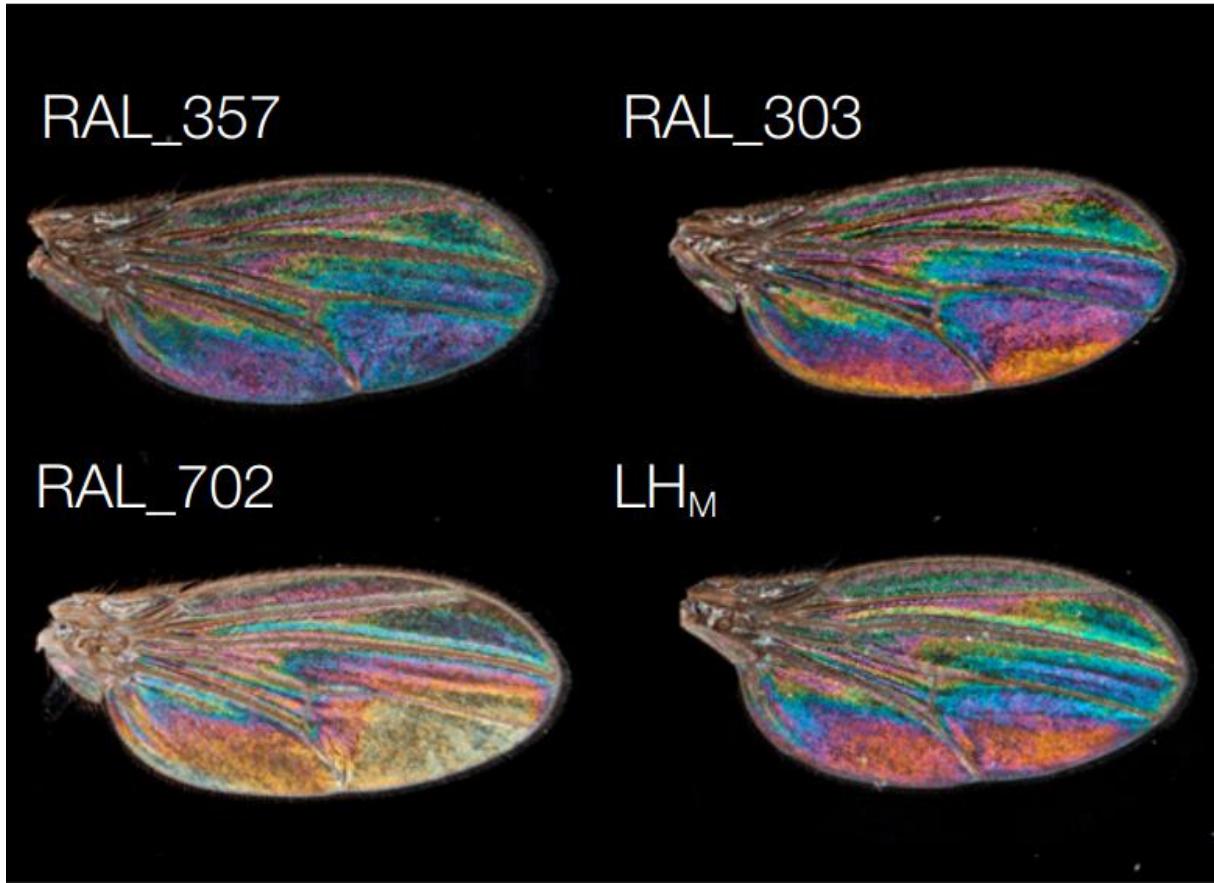


mutant

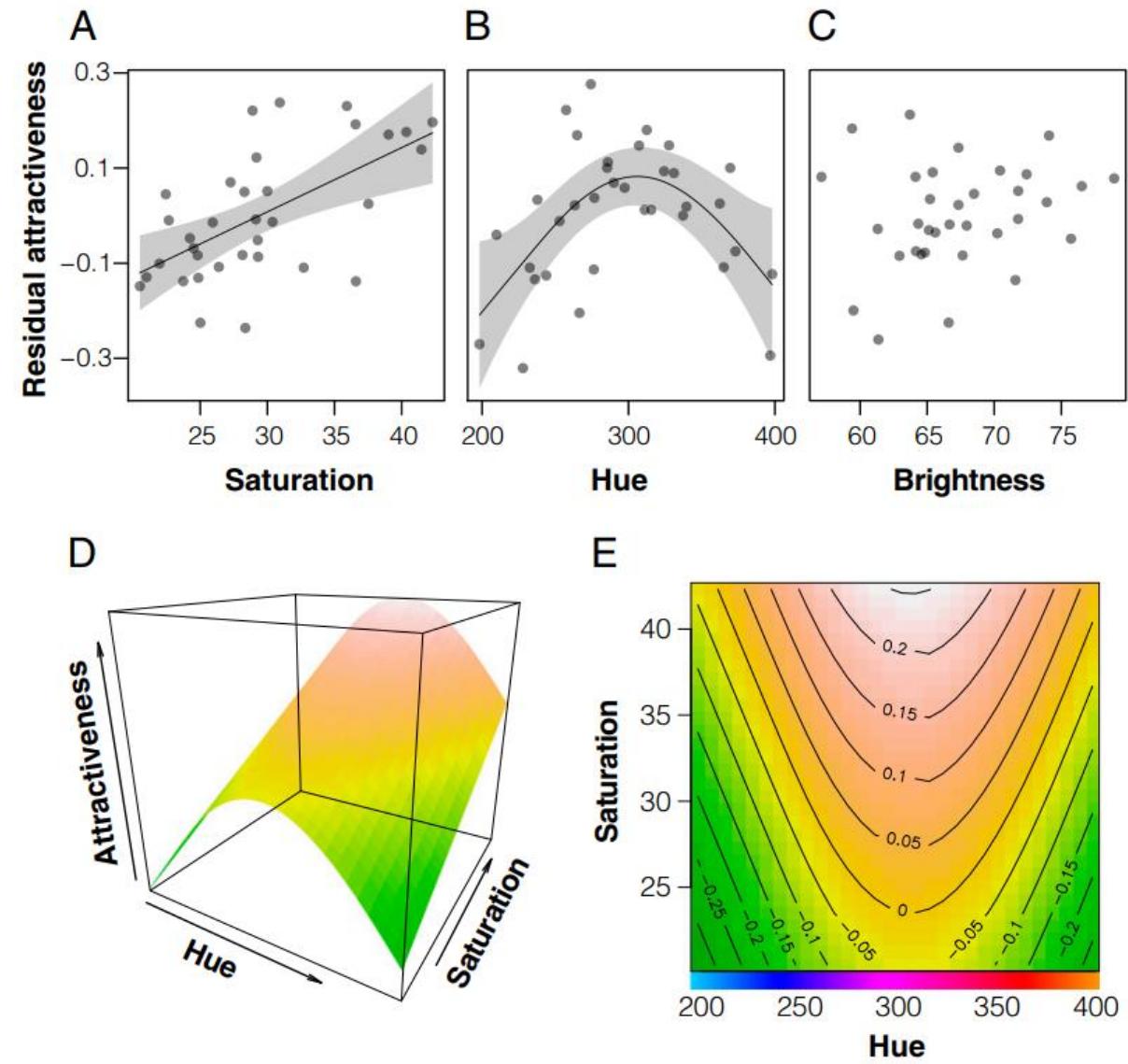
Wild-type flies were tested for fast phototaxis towards UV or green light



# Sexual selection on wing interference patterns in *Drosophila*

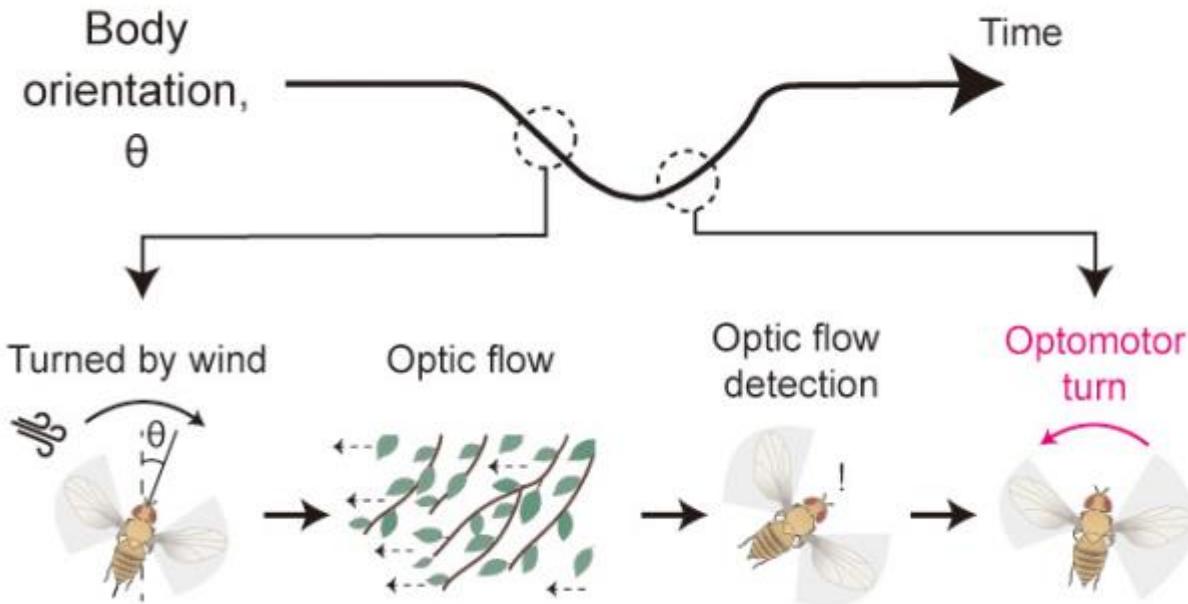
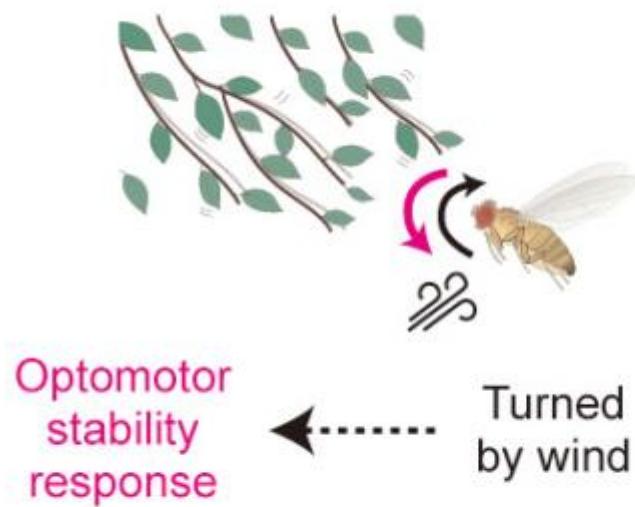


Natsu Katayama et al., 2014



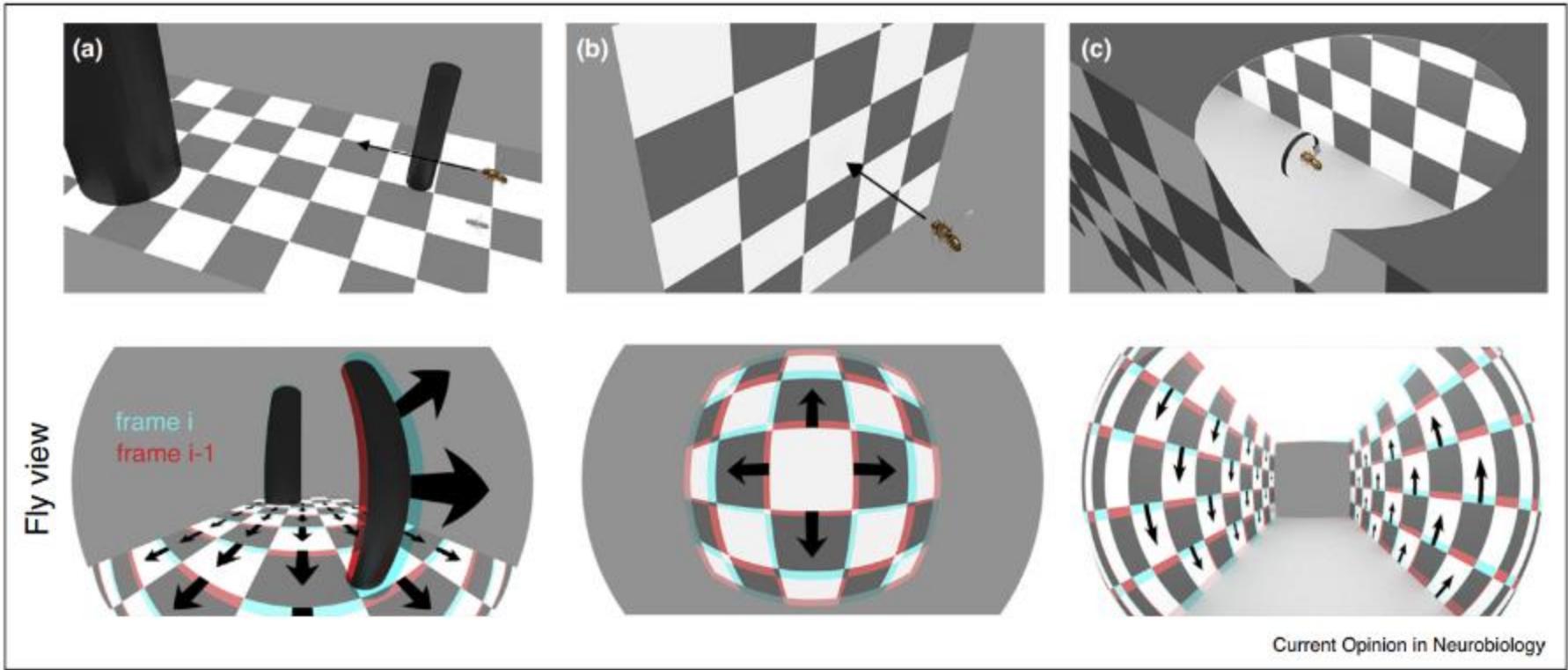
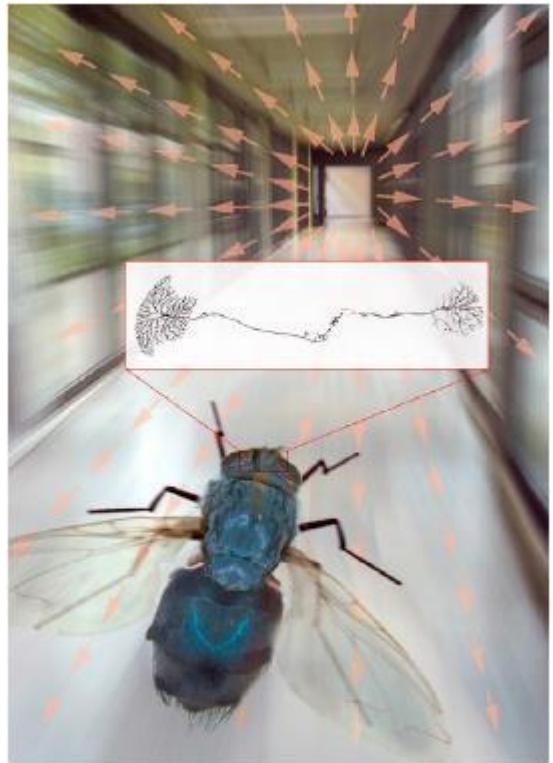
# Optic flow detection and optomotor response

A



# What is optic flow?

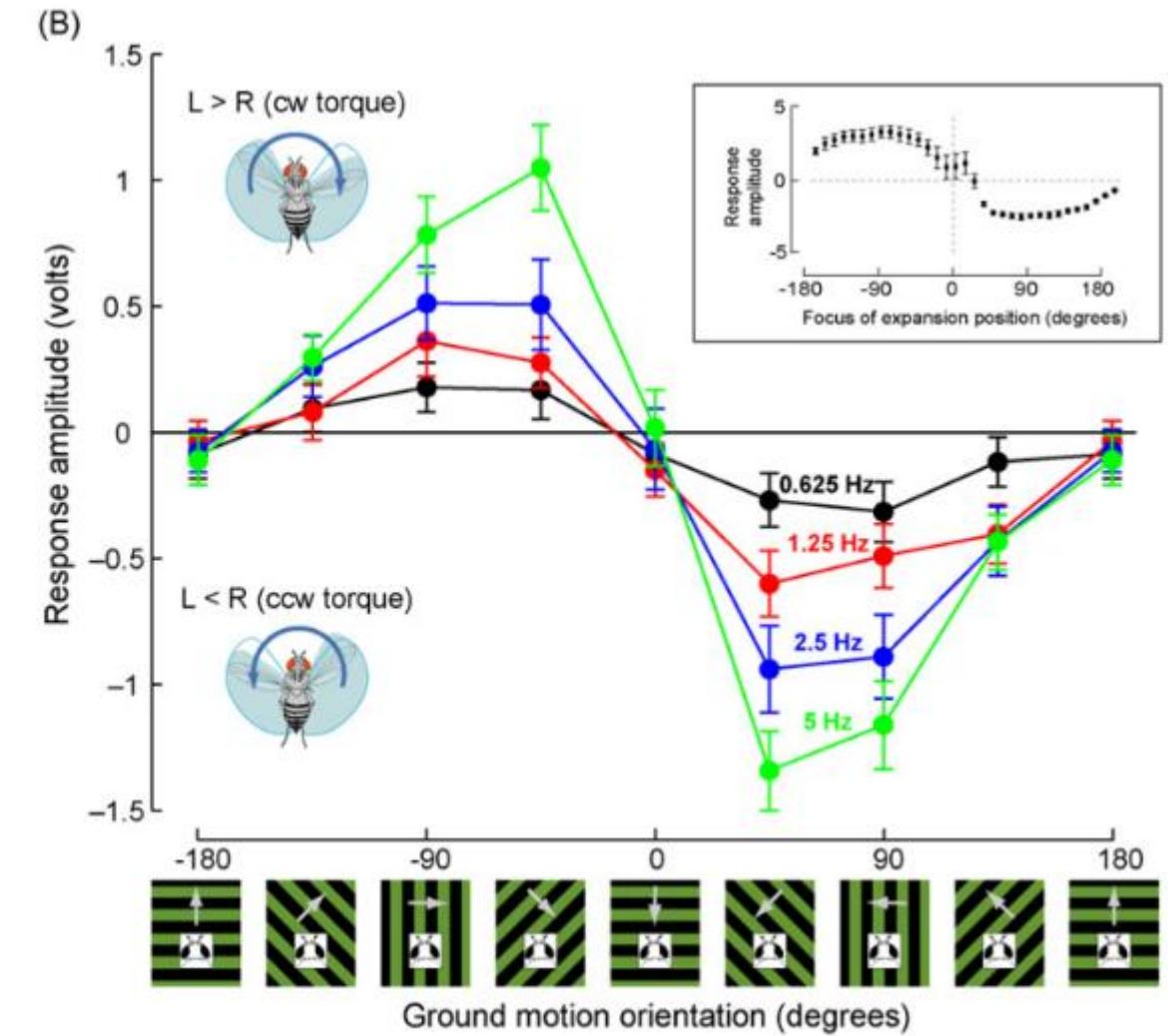
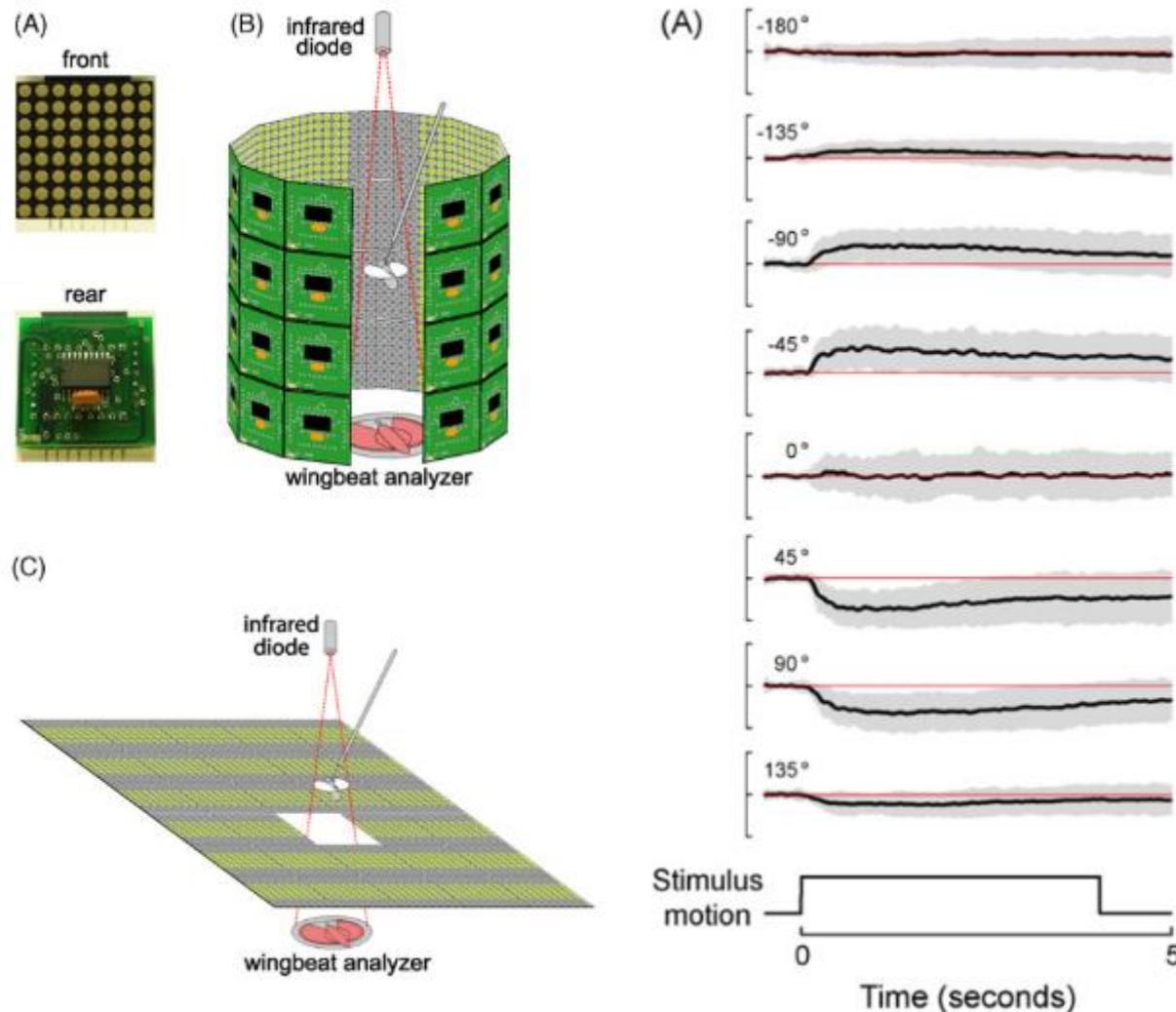
Visual feedback from self-motion as perceived by a flying insect



Current Opinion in Neurobiology

Alex S Mauss and Alexander Borst, 2020

# The steering response of *Drosophila* to ground motion of varying speeds and orientations, presented under open-loop conditions



## Other visual feature-based behaviors in *Drosophila*

1, approaching (looming) visual objects

—avoidance behavior(朱培雯)

2, translating object

—courtship behavior(陈江涛)

More complex behavior

3, visually-guided spatial navigation

4, visually learning

# Summary 1

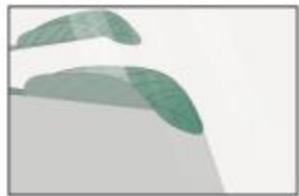
A

## Visual scene



## Visual features

Brightness & Color



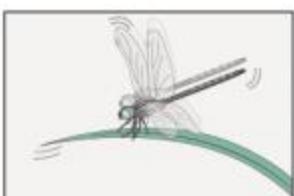
Optic flow



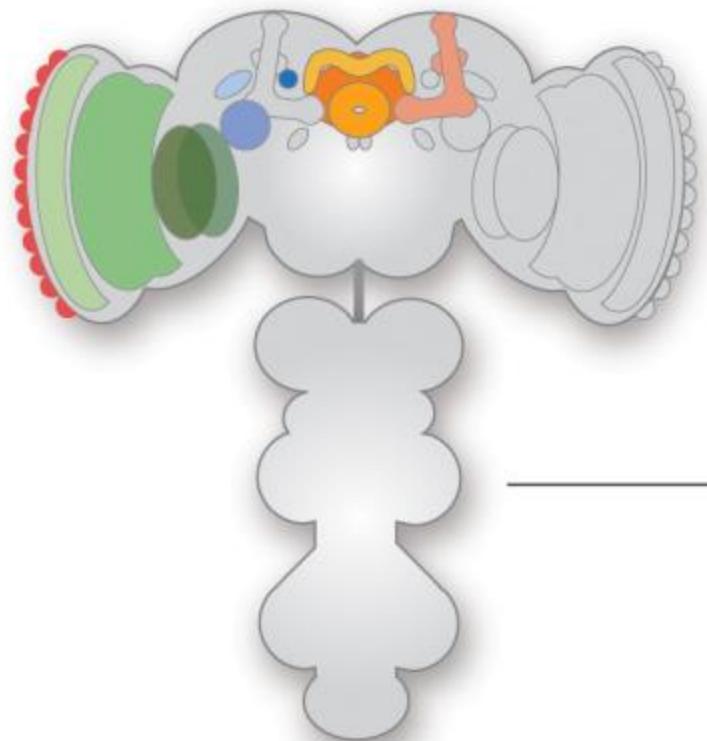
Approaching objects



Translating objects



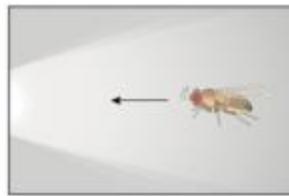
## Associated brain structures



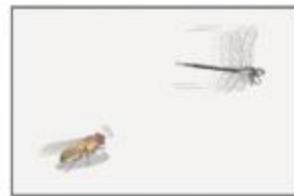
C

## Visual feature-based behaviors

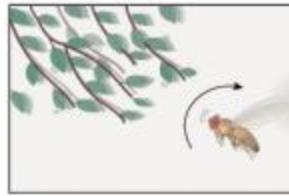
Phototaxis



Responses to translating objects



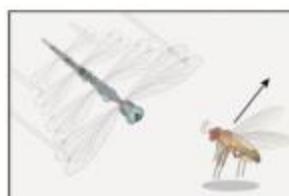
Optomotor stabilization



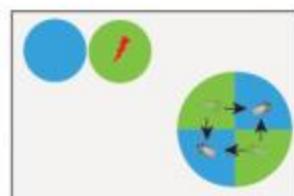
Navigation



Responses to approaching objects



Visual learning



# How neural circuits are implemented for major visual feature-based behaviors in *Drosophila*?



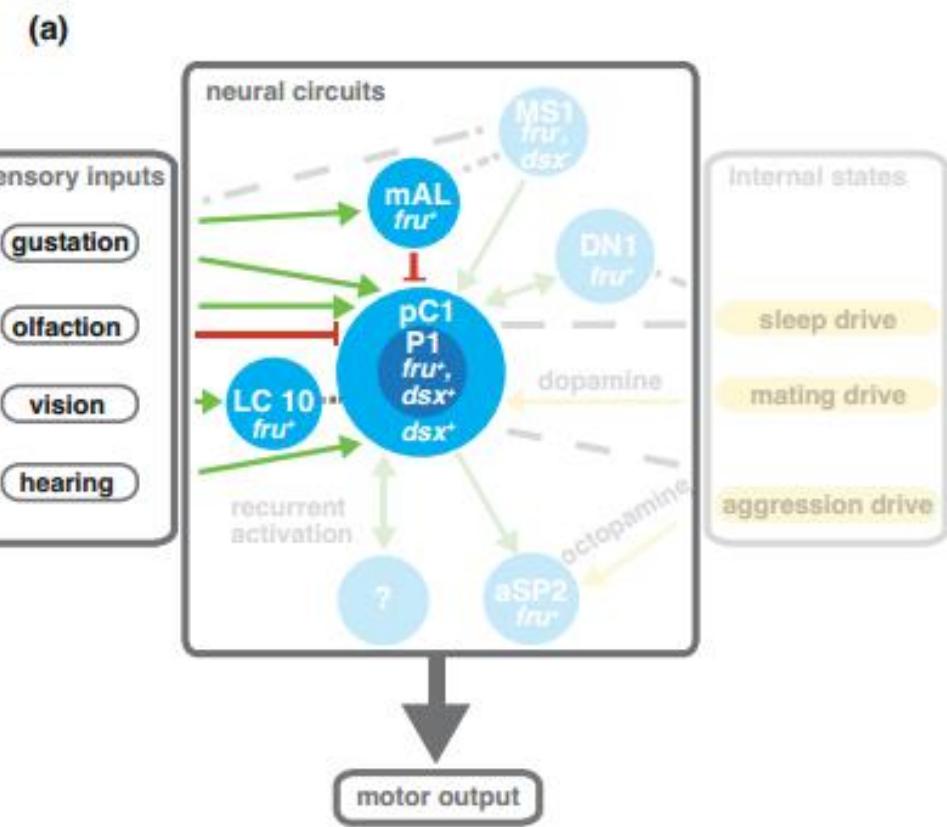
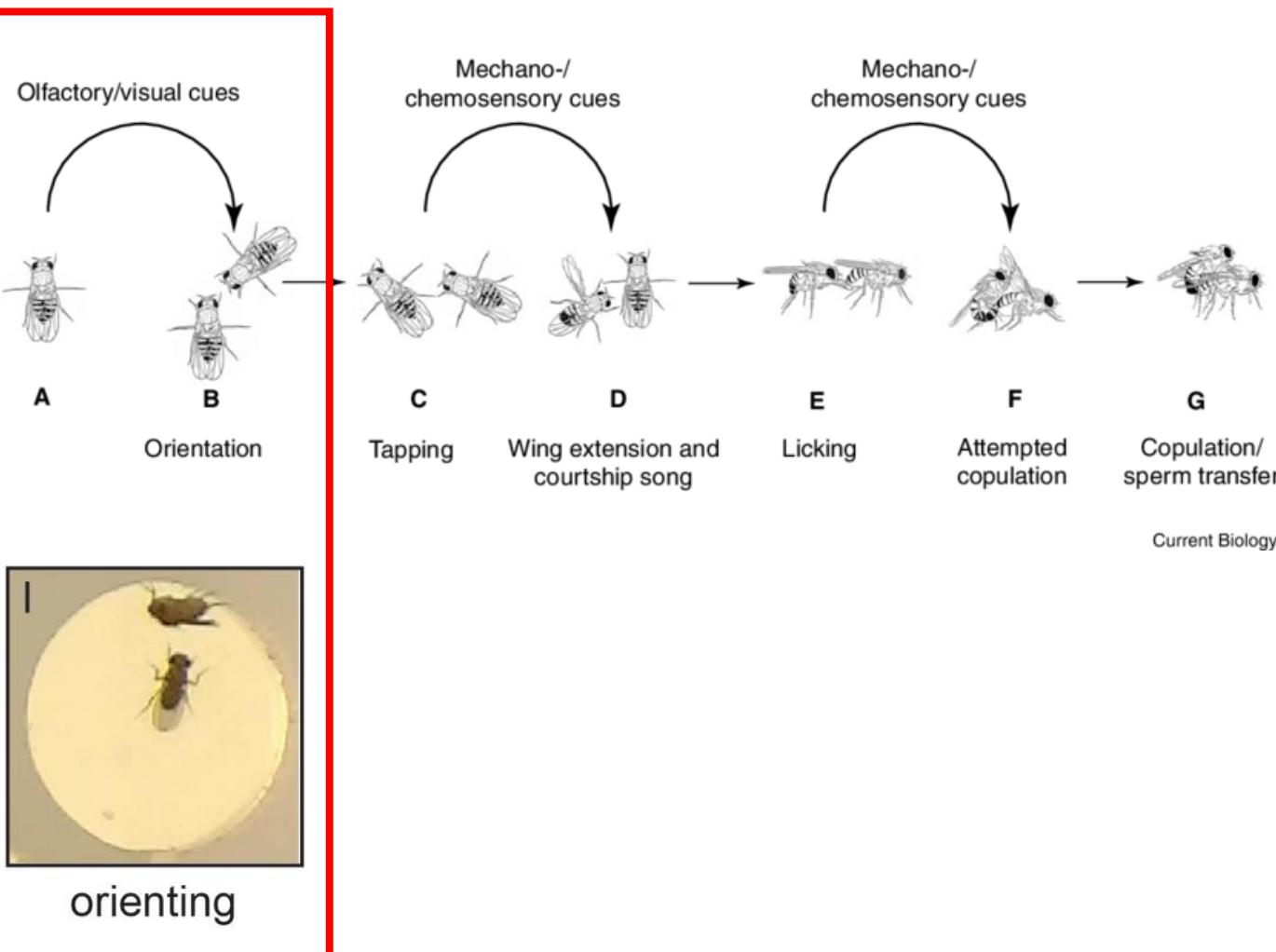
Visual system and courtship behavior(陈江涛)

Thanks!

# Visual system and sexual behavior

Chen Jiangtao  
2023/03/02

# Courtship steps performed by male *Drosophila*– Visual system



Schematic illustration of inputs to the courtship command cluster pC1/P1

# Sensory information and internal states are integrated ensuring appropriate action selection– P1

## Joint control of *Drosophila* male courtship behavior by motion cues and activation of male-specific P1 neurons

Yufeng Pan, Geoffrey W. Meissner, and Bruce S. Baker<sup>1</sup>

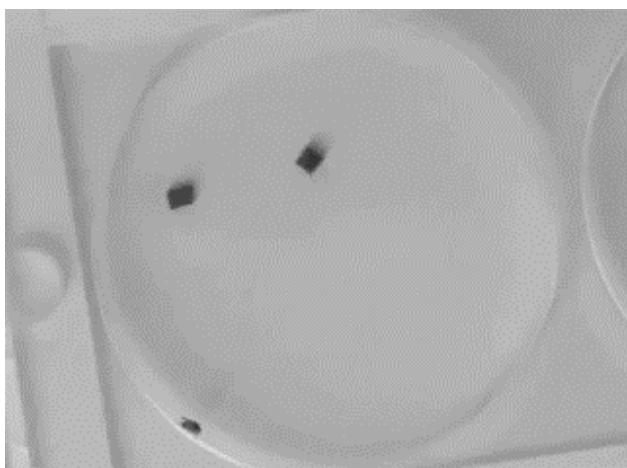
Janelia Farm Research Campus, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Ashburn, VA 20147

Contributed by Bruce S. Baker, April 29, 2012 (sent for review March 15, 2012)

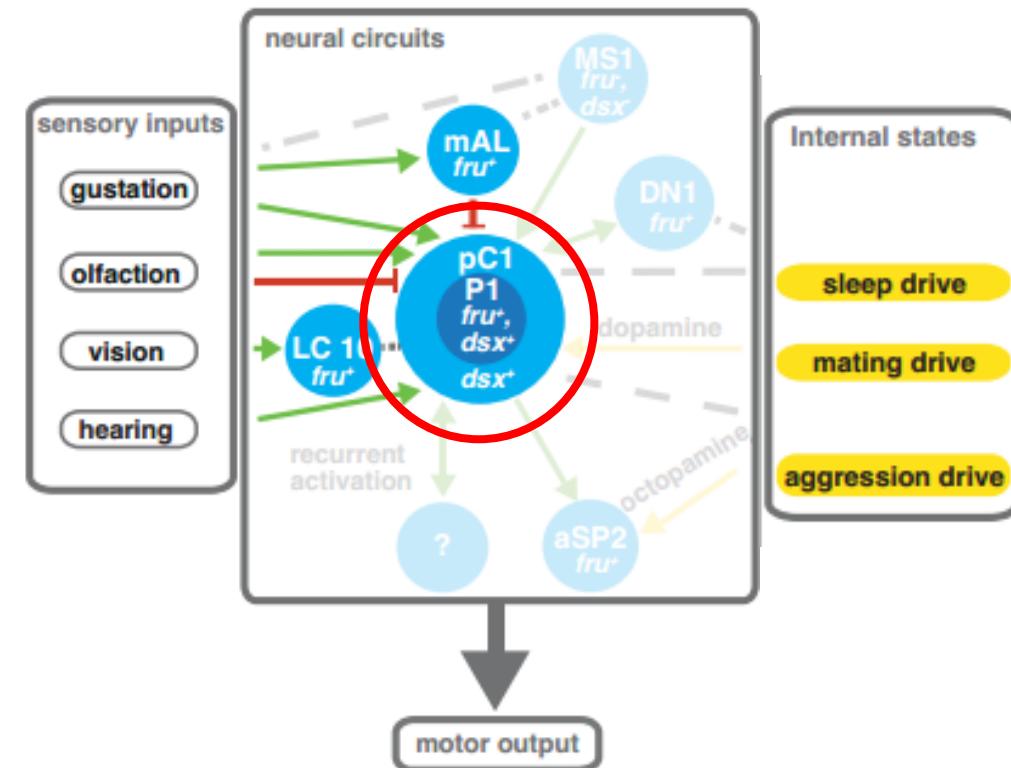
Sexual behaviors in animals are governed by inputs from multiple external sensory modalities. However, how these inputs are integrated to jointly control animal behavior is still poorly understood. Whereas visual information alone is not sufficient to induce courtship behavior in *Drosophila melanogaster* males, when a subset of male-specific *fruitless* (*fru*)- and *doublesex* (*dsx*)-expressing neurons that respond to chemosensory cues (P1 neurons) were artificially activated via a temperature-sensitive cation channel (dTRPA1), males followed and extended their wing toward moving objects (even a moving piece of rubber band) intensively. When stationary, these objects were not courted. Our results indicate that motion input and activation of P1 neurons are individually necessary, and under our assay conditions, jointly sufficient to elicit early courtship behaviors, and provide insights into how courtship decisions are made via sensory integration.

in the posterior brain, termed P1 neurons (29), stimulates courtship when masculinized (29) or activated (23, 25).

Surprisingly, intact males with activated *fru*<sup>M</sup> or *dsx* circuitry are able to respond to certain sensory cues from potential mates and thereby modify their behavior (24), suggesting that some sensory information may be perceived by non-*fru/dsx*-dependent pathways. In particular, courtship in males that are simultaneously *fru*<sup>M</sup> null and have their *dsx* circuitry activated is largely dependent on motion cues, as they court a moving female robustly, but do not court a headless (relatively immobile) female or a moving female in the dark (24). Such a strong dependence on motion cues is dramatically different from wild-type courtship in this species (30), but is similar to courtship in many other insects such as hoverflies (31) and houseflies (32). Despite the importance of motion detection for sexual behavior in insects, little is known about the neuronal pathways involved.



(a)



Schematic illustration of inputs to the courtship command cluster pC1/P1

# Content

1. 雄蝇求偶过程中视觉系统如何发挥作用？涉及到哪些关键神经元？

*LC10*

2. 视觉相关神经元与雄蝇求偶中枢 **P1**神经元是否存在直接或间接的相互作用？

*P1 neurons regulate LC10a signalling*

3. 求偶相关视觉神经元在雌雄神经系统中是否存在**性别二态性**的功能？雌蝇在性行为中的视觉响应是怎样的？

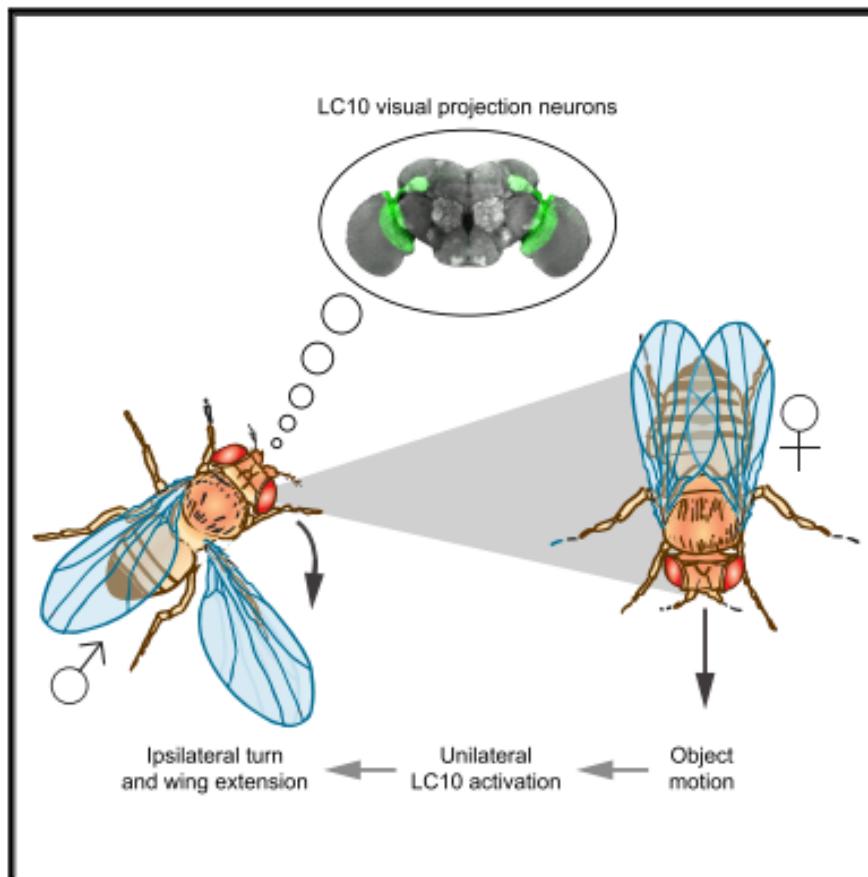
*aDNs; accelerated mating behavior*

**1. 雄蝇求偶过程中视觉系统如何发挥作用？涉及到哪些关键神经元？**

*LC10*

# Visual Projection Neurons Mediating Directed Courtship in *Drosophila*

## Graphical Abstract



## Authors

Inês M.A. Ribeiro, Michael Drews,  
Armin Bahl, Christian Machacek,  
Alexander Borst, Barry J. Dickson

## Correspondence

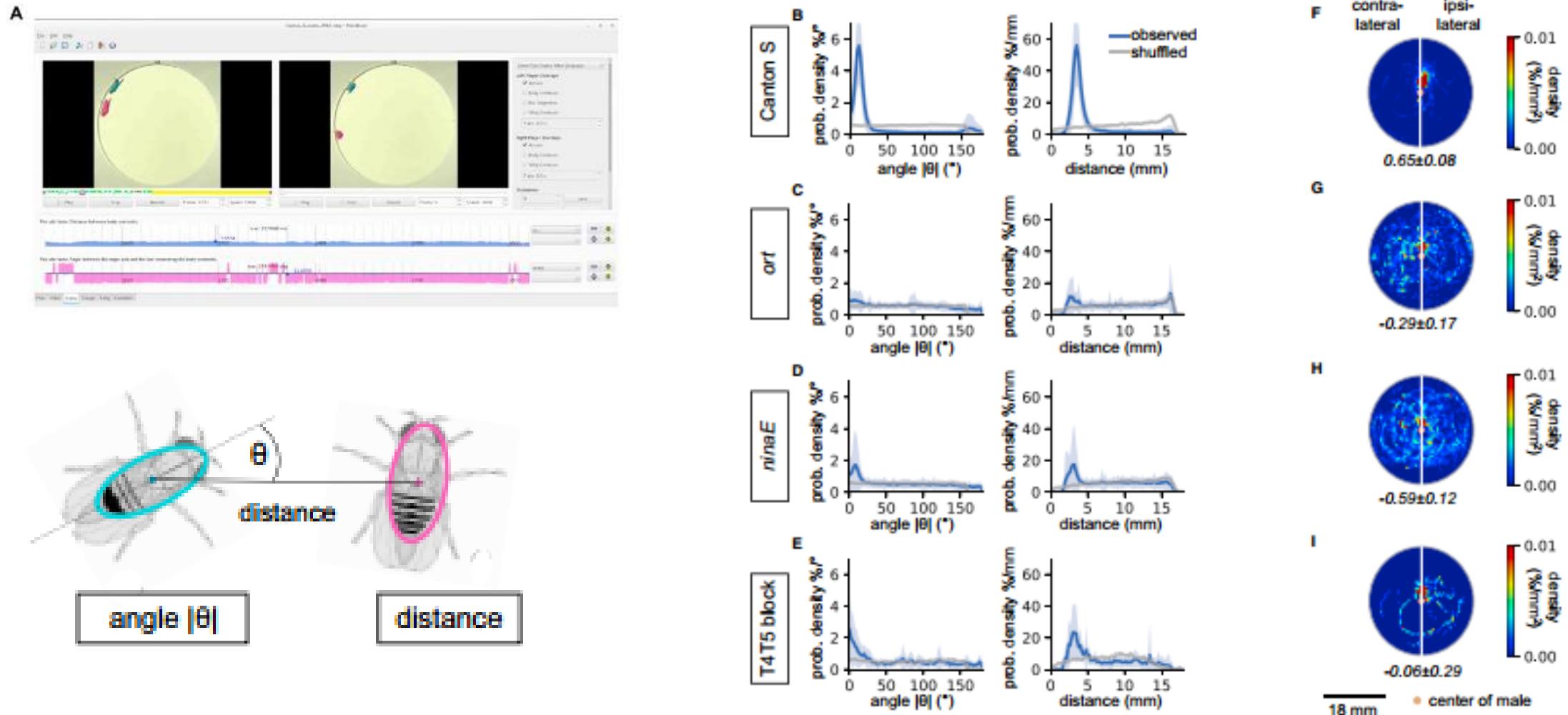
aborst@neuro.mpg.de (A.B.),  
dicksonb@janelia.hhmi.org (B.J.D.)

## In Brief

A specific class of visual projection neurons are dedicated to guiding courtship behaviors in *Drosophila*.

Q: 处理与求偶相关的视觉信号的神经元及神经回路是怎样的?

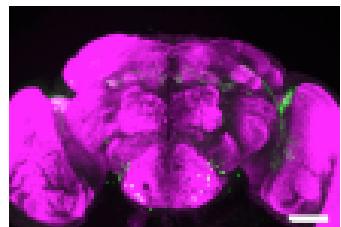
# 1、Visual Input Mediates Directed Courtship



视觉对于雄蝇在求偶开始时对雌蝇的定向、追随以及靠近雌性一侧翅膀振动的求偶歌是至关重要的

## 2、LC10 Visual Projection Neurons Are Required for Directed Courtship

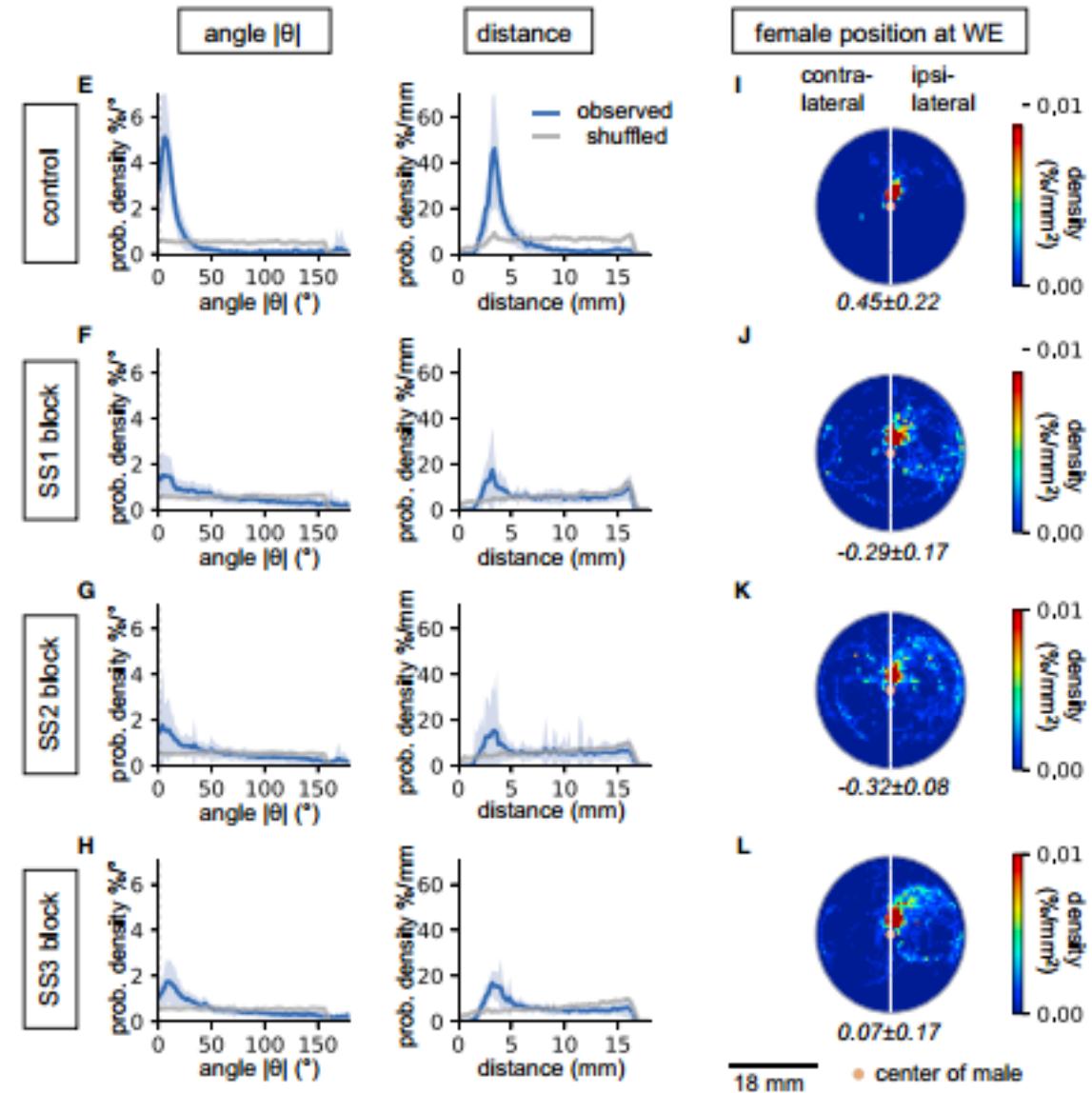
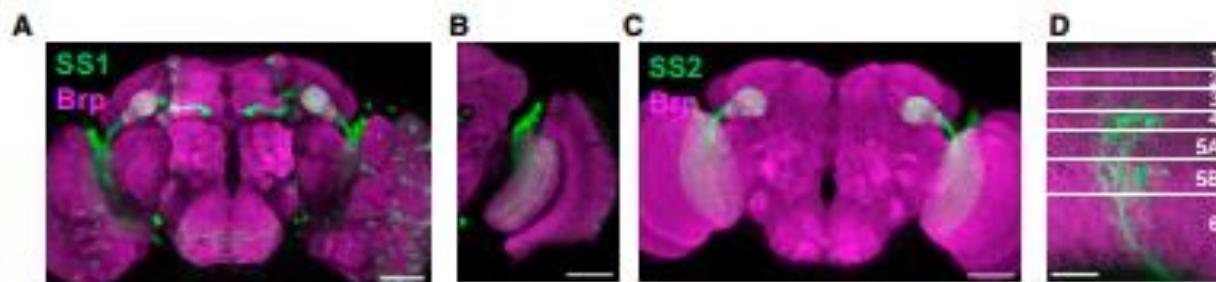
A VT043656-Gal4  $\cap$  fruFLP



courtship deficits flies

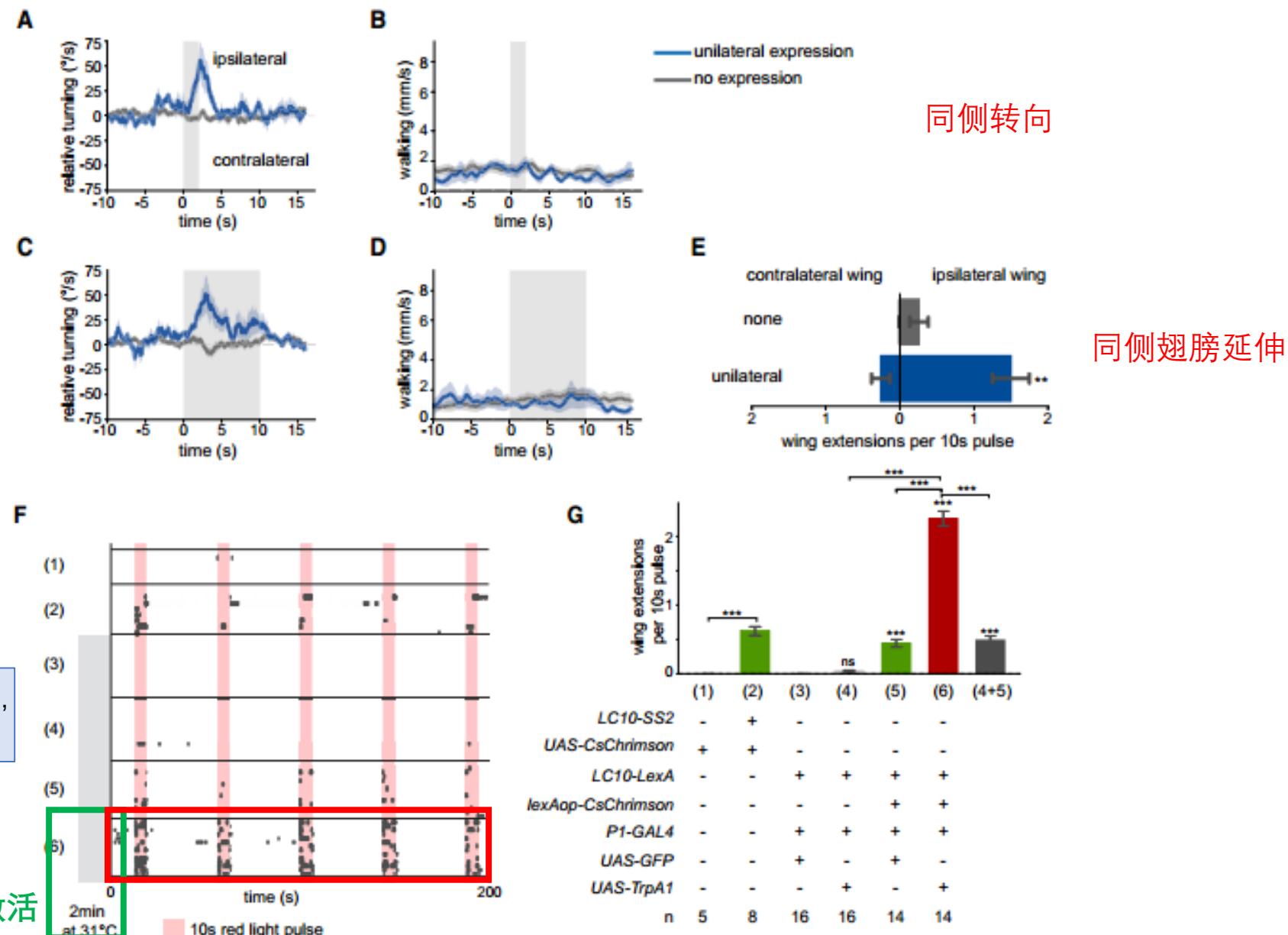
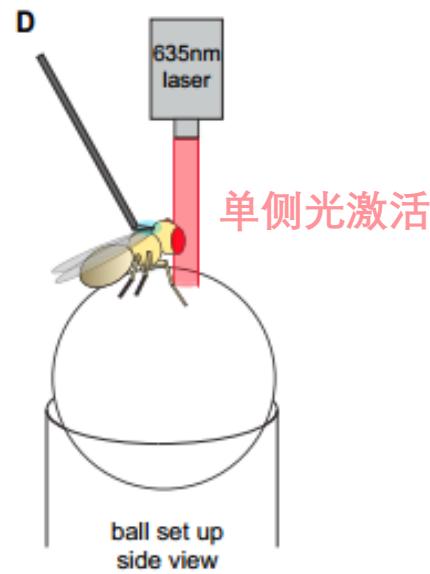
in which TNT was expressed in cells co-labeled by fru-FLP and various VT enhancer GAL4 lines

LC10 (LC10-SS1、LC10-SS2、LC10-SS3 )



LC10神经元沉默的雄性无法定位或保持与雌性的接近，在唱歌时主要不使用同侧翅膀

### 3、Activation of LC10 Neurons Elicits Directed Courtship Actions

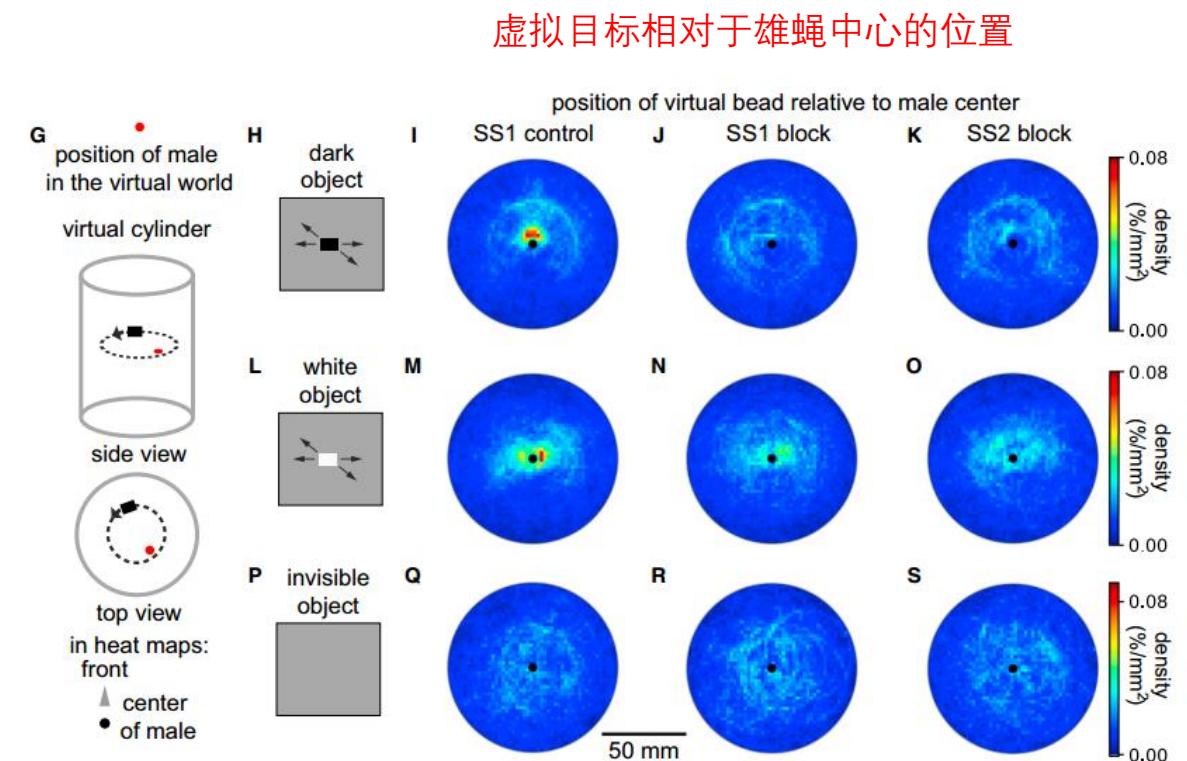
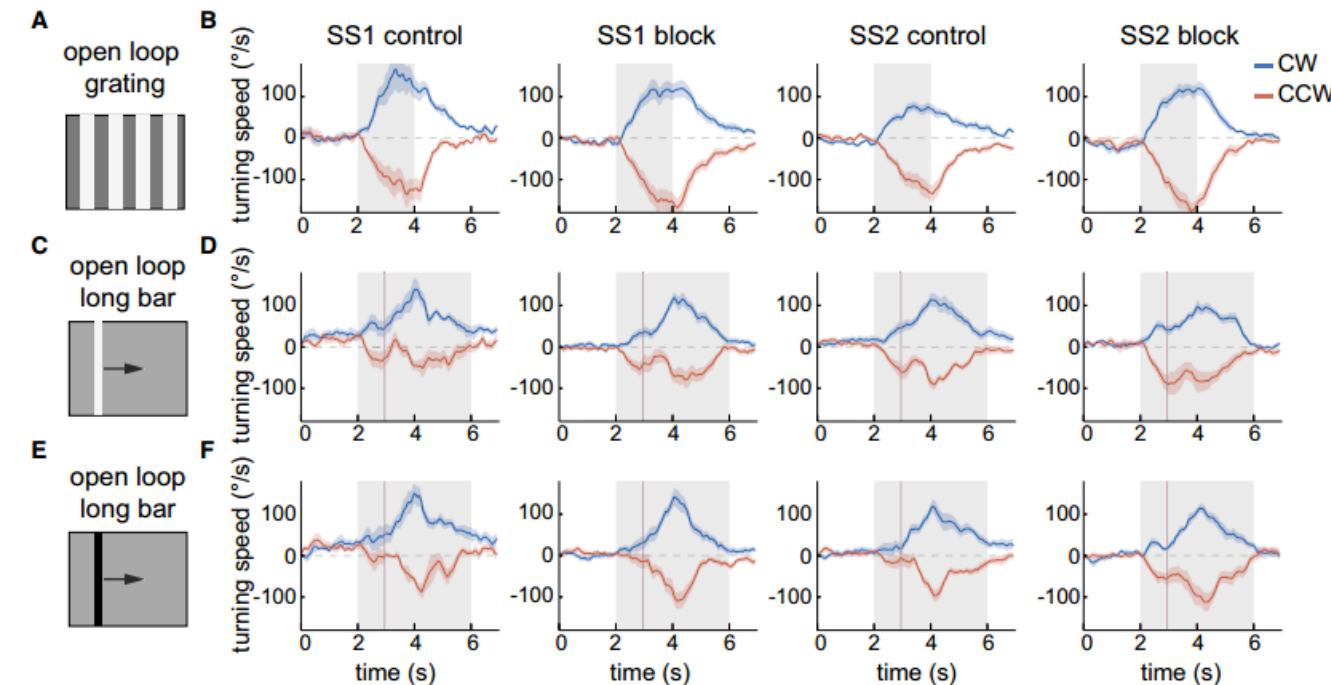


LC10的激活能够引起定向求偶行为，并通过求偶唤醒而增强。

同侧转向

同侧翅膀延伸

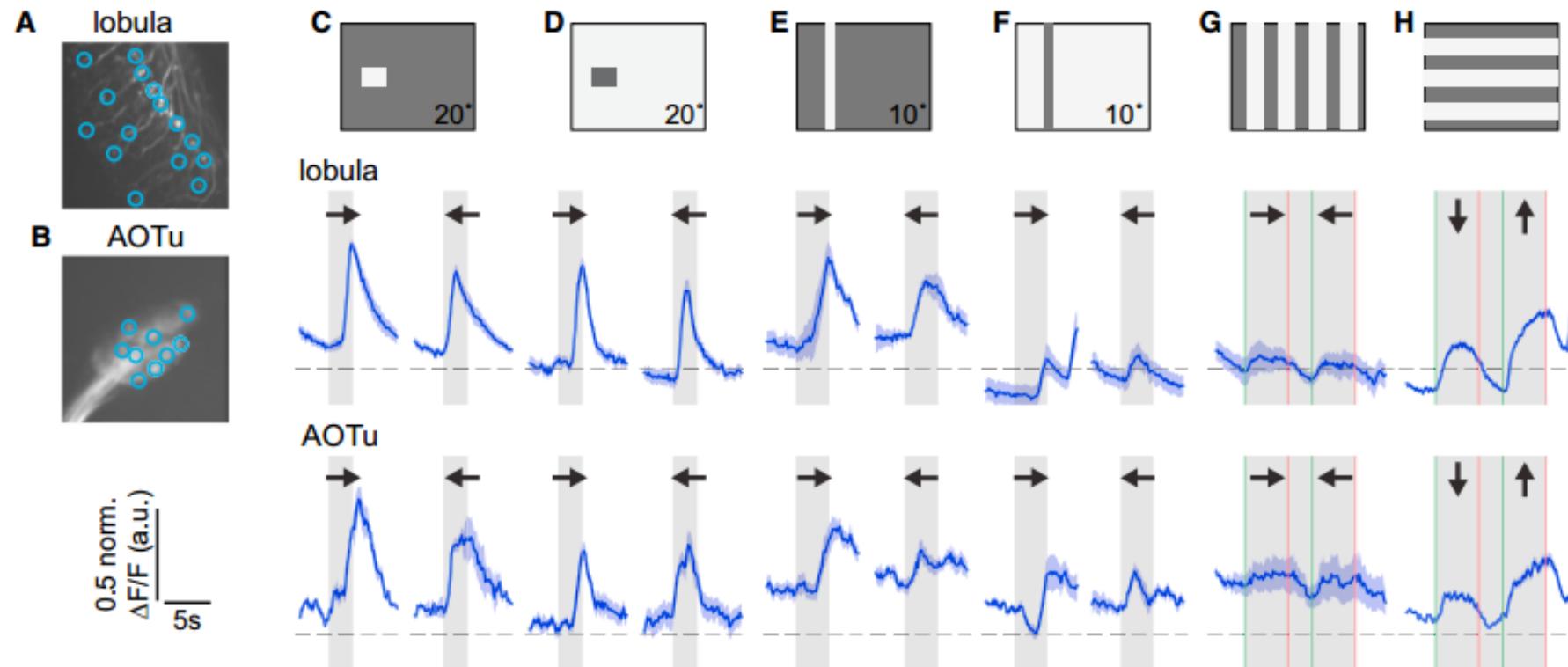
## 4、LC10 Neurons Are Sensitive to Small, Moving Visual Objects



LC10神经元对具有自然角度大小和速度的物体敏感

## 4、LC10 Neurons Are Sensitive to Small, Moving Visual Objects

LC10对类似果蝇的运动物体的反应比对整个视野的变化更强烈



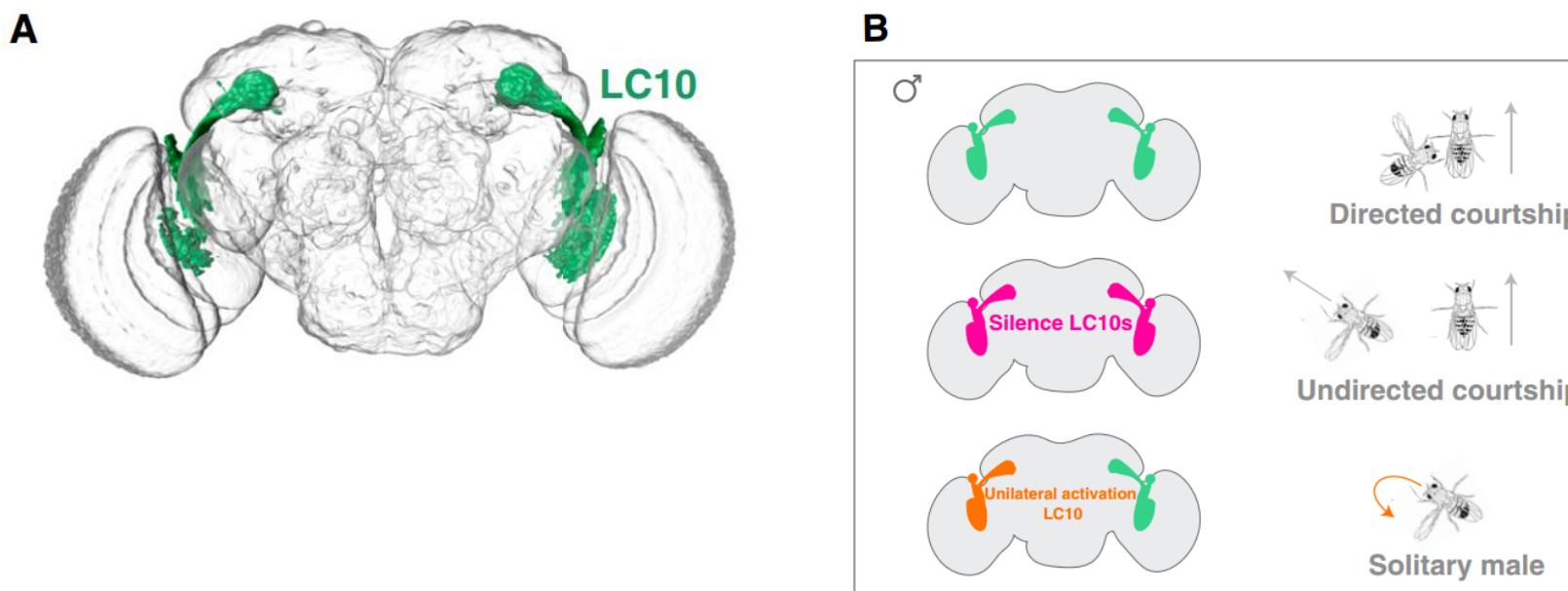
LC10神经元对具有自然角度大小和速度的物体敏感

# Summary

## 1. 雄蝇求偶过程中视觉系统如何发挥作用？涉及到哪些关键神经元？

LC10是负责雄蝇在求偶开始时对雌蝇的定向、追随以及靠近雌性一侧翅膀振动求偶歌行为的视觉投射神经元；

LC10主要感知移动的、类似于果蝇大小的小目标，这有助于雄蝇更好地寻找雌蝇交配。



2. 视觉相关神经元与雄蝇求偶中枢 **P1**神经元是否存在直接或间接的相互作用？

*P1 neurons regulate LC10a signalling*

## Article

# Sexual arousal gates visual processing during *Drosophila* courtship

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-021-03714-w>

Tom Hindmarsh Sten<sup>1</sup>, Rufei Li<sup>1</sup>, Adriane Otopalik<sup>1</sup> & Vanessa Ruta<sup>1,2,3</sup>

Received: 4 September 2020

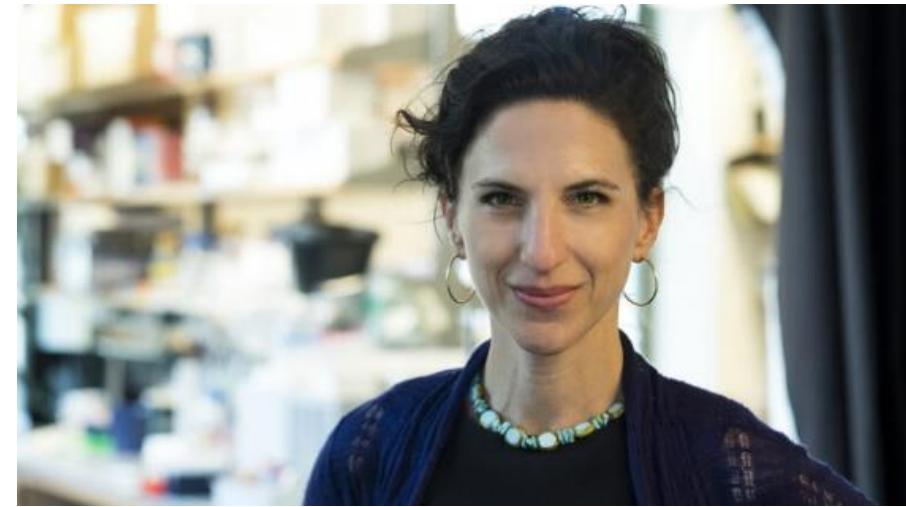
Accepted: 9 June 2021

Published online: 7 July 2021

 Check for updates

Long-lasting internal arousal states motivate and pattern ongoing behaviour, enabling the temporary emergence of innate behavioural programs that serve the needs of an animal, such as fighting, feeding, and mating. However, how internal states shape sensory processing or behaviour remains unclear. In *Drosophila*, male flies perform a lengthy and elaborate courtship ritual that is triggered by the activation of sexually dimorphic P1 neurons<sup>1–5</sup>, during which they faithfully follow and sing to a female<sup>6,7</sup>. Here, by recording from males as they court a virtual ‘female’, we gain insight into how the salience of visual cues is transformed by a male’s internal arousal state to give rise to persistent courtship pursuit. The gain of LC10a visual projection neurons is selectively increased during courtship, enhancing their sensitivity to moving targets. A concise network model indicates that visual signalling through the LC10a circuit, once amplified by P1-mediated arousal, almost fully specifies a male’s tracking of a female. Furthermore, P1 neuron activity correlates with ongoing fluctuations in the intensity of a male’s pursuit to continuously tune the gain of the LC10a pathway. Together, these results reveal how a male’s internal state can dynamically modulate the propagation of visual signals through a high-fidelity visuomotor circuit to guide his moment-to-moment performance of courtship.

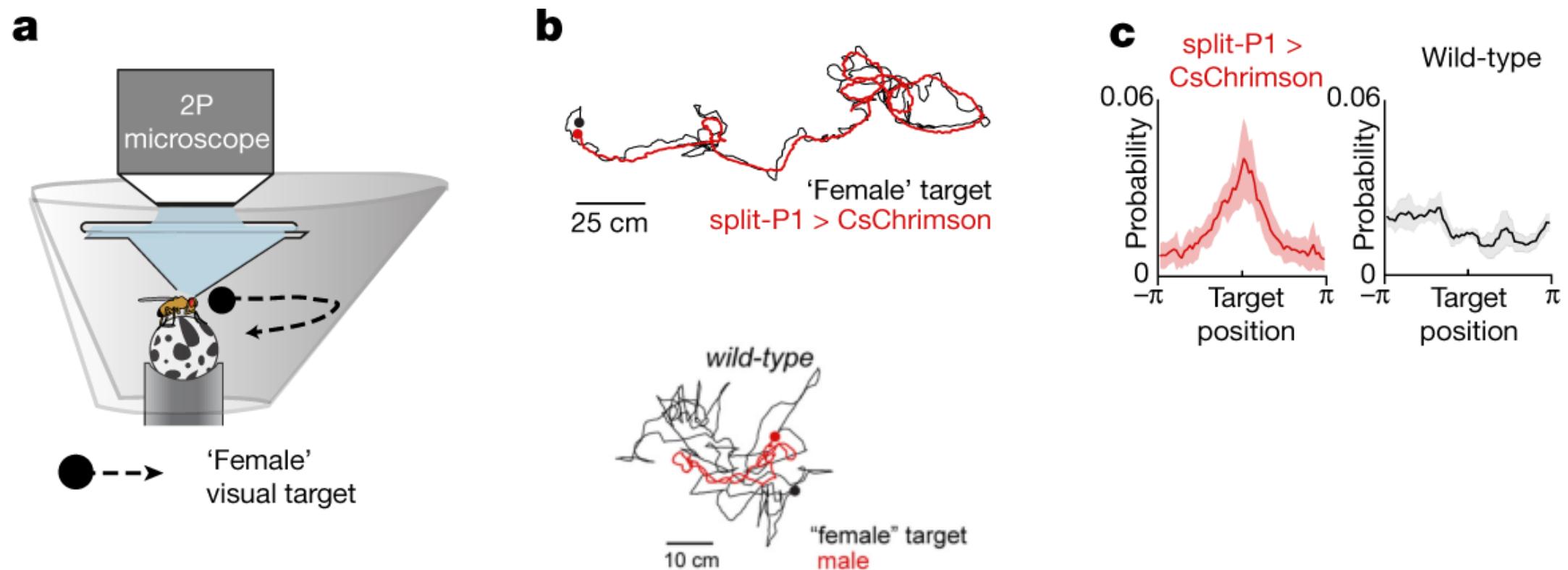
在果蝇求偶过程中性唤醒影响视觉处理的具体神经环路



Vanessa Ruta, PhD—The Rockefeller University

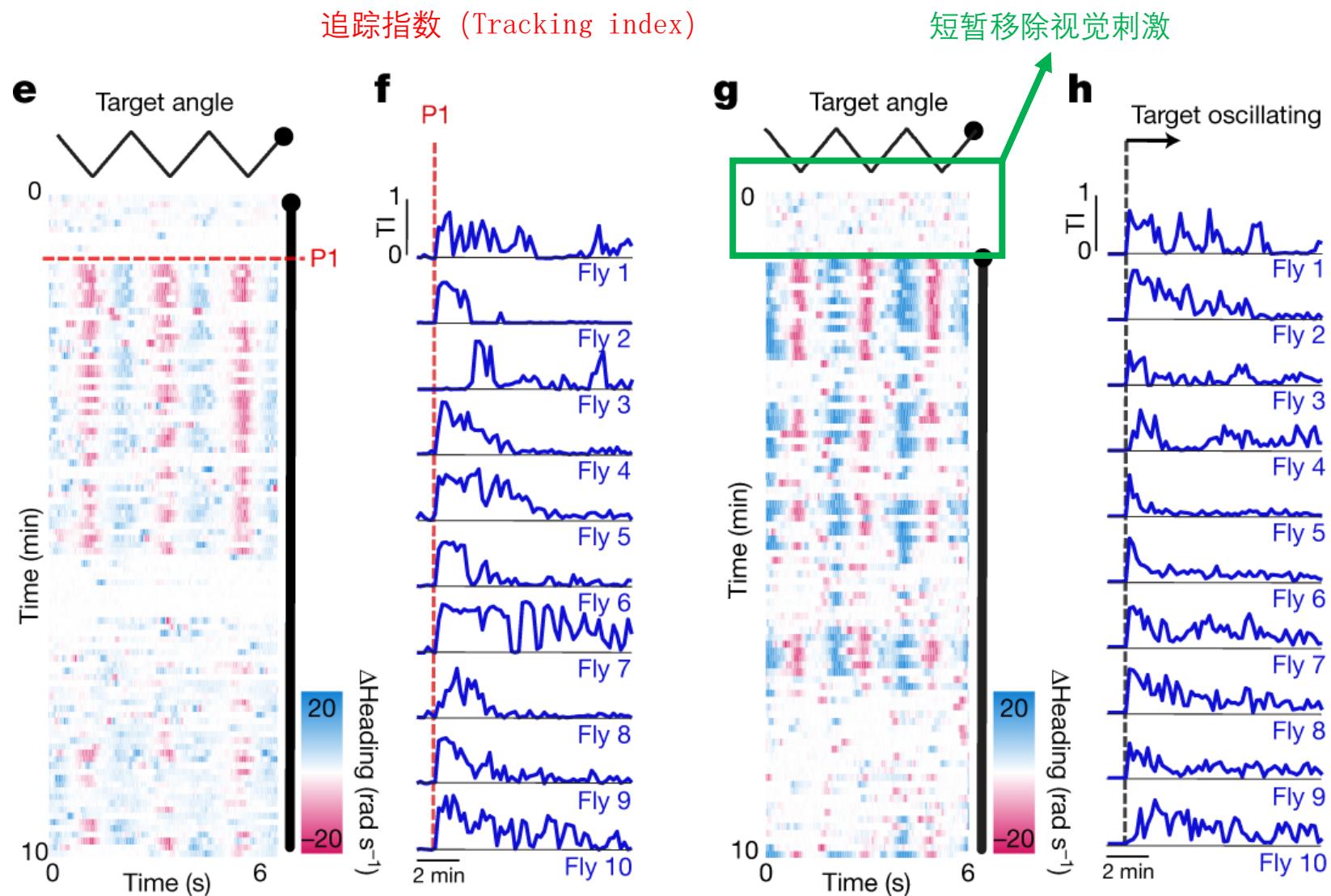
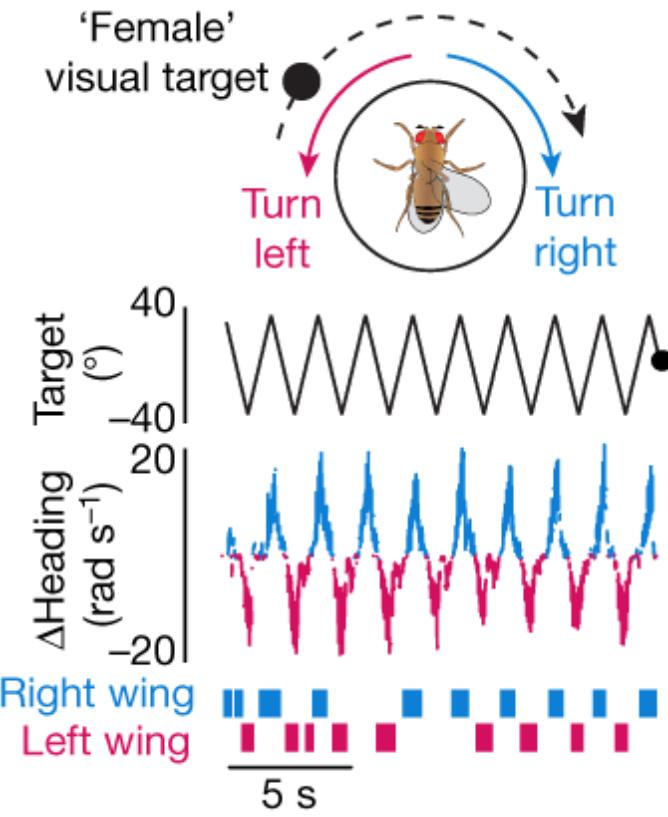
黑腹果蝇求偶神经回路；  
昆虫嗅觉受体气味识别的结构基础；  
多巴胺受体相关通路与联想学习的关系

# 1. P1 neurons release and reflect a dynamic state of sexual arousal



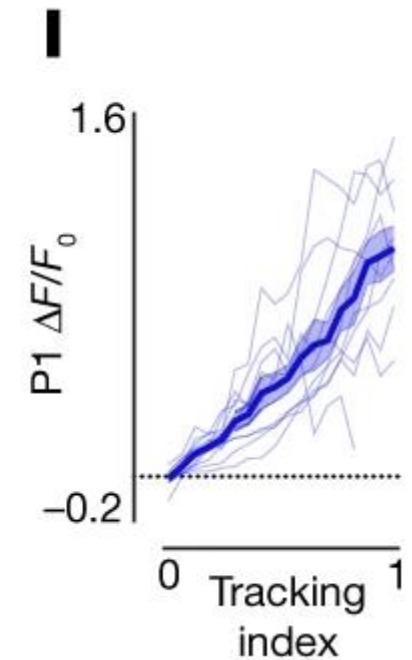
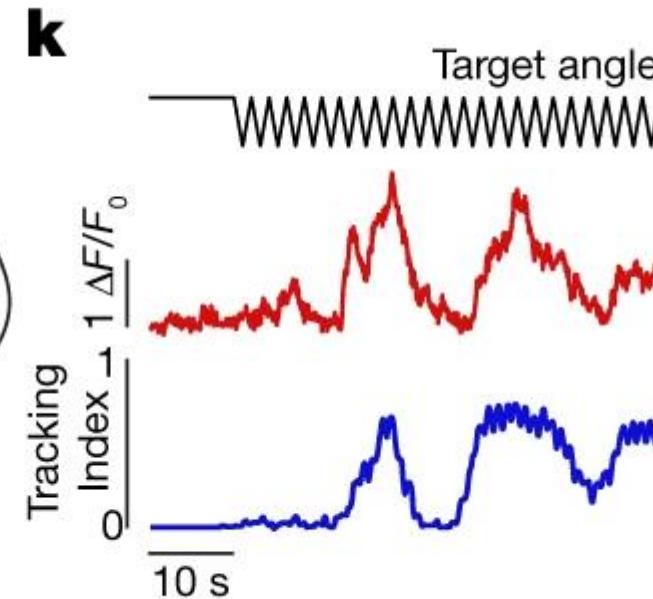
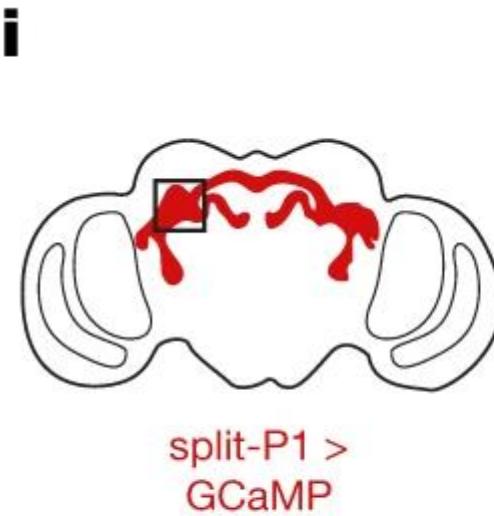
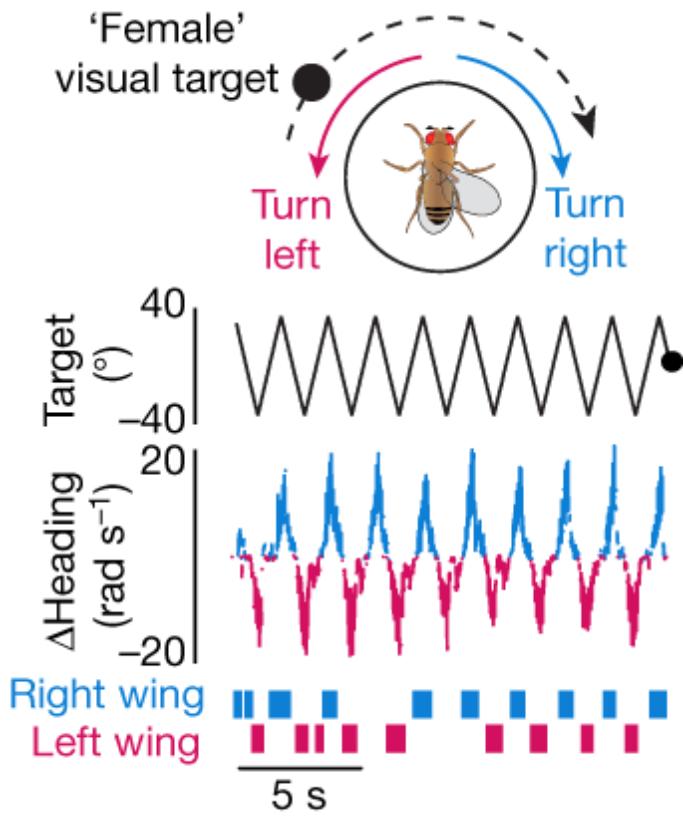
Schematic of behavioural setup

# 1、P1 neurons release and reflect a dynamic state of sexual arousal



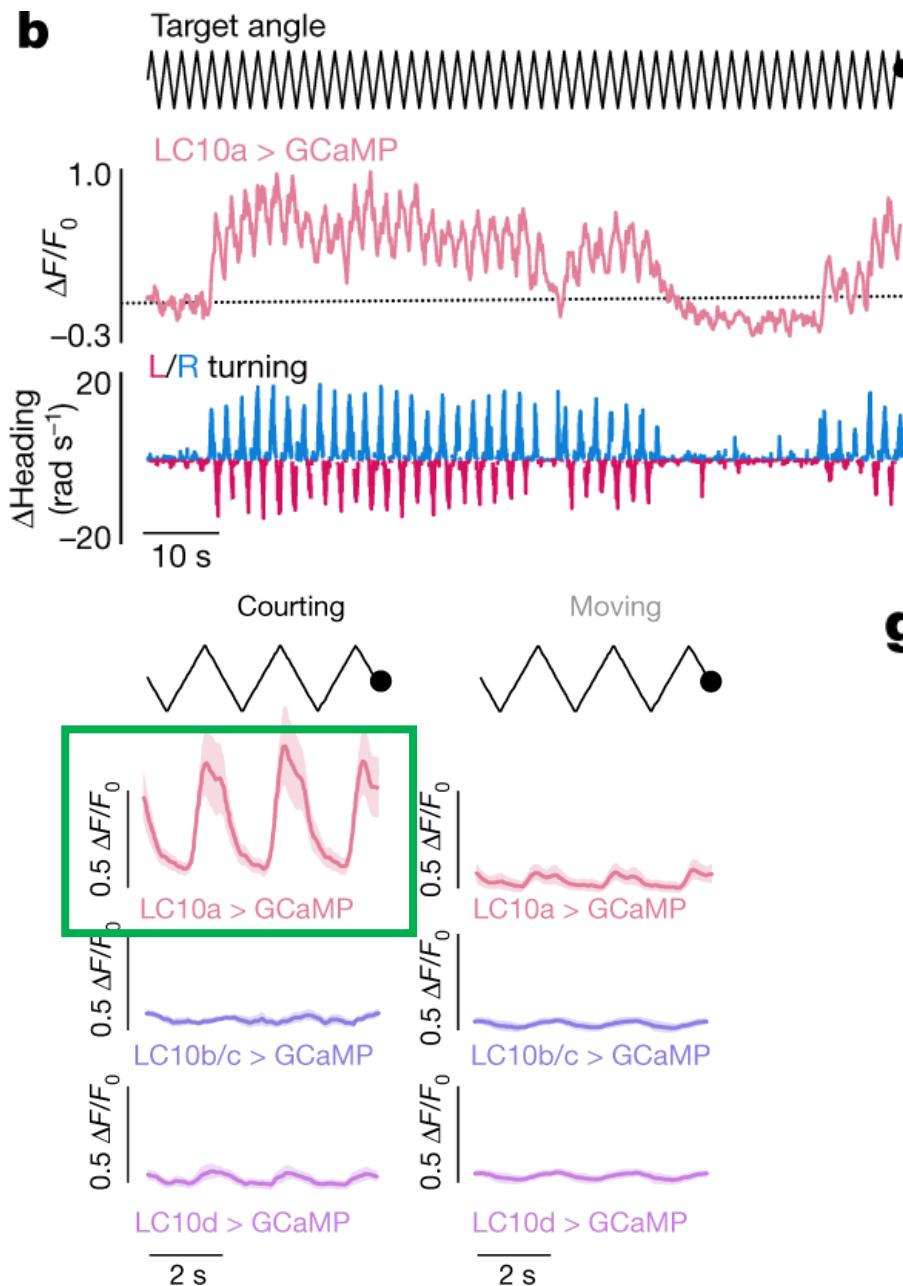
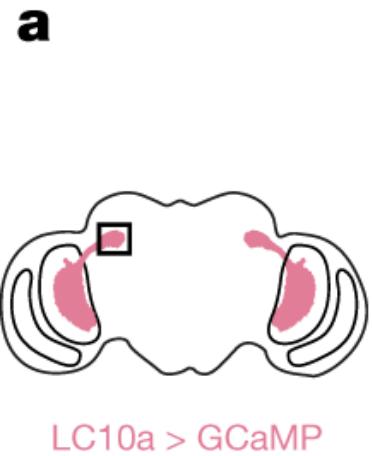
P1激活的雄蝇反应了一种动态、潜在的持续性唤醒状态

# 1、P1 neurons release and reflect a dynamic state of sexual arousal

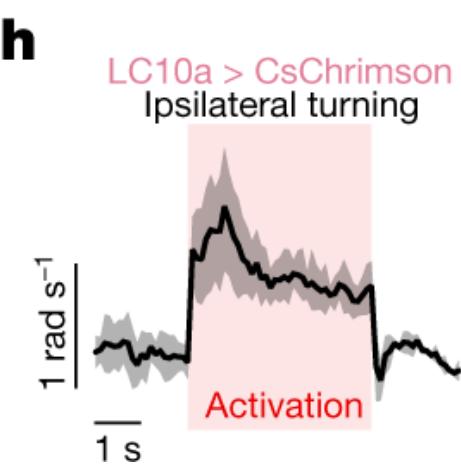
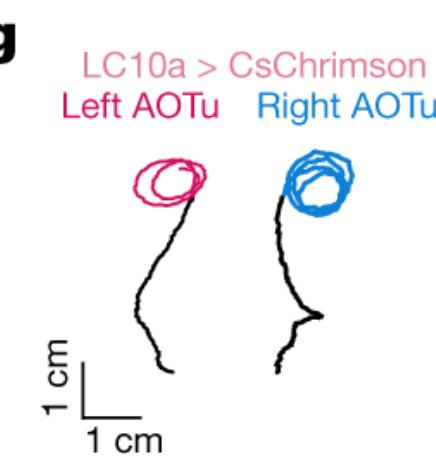
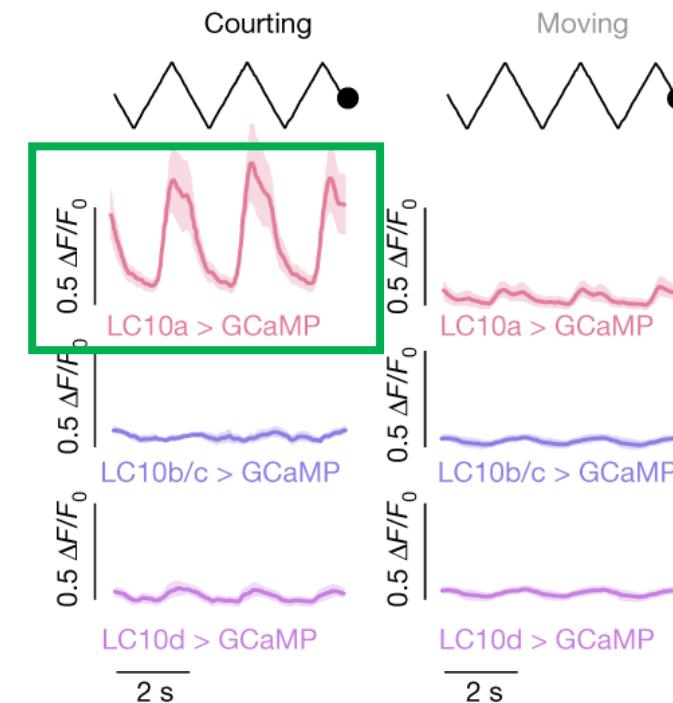
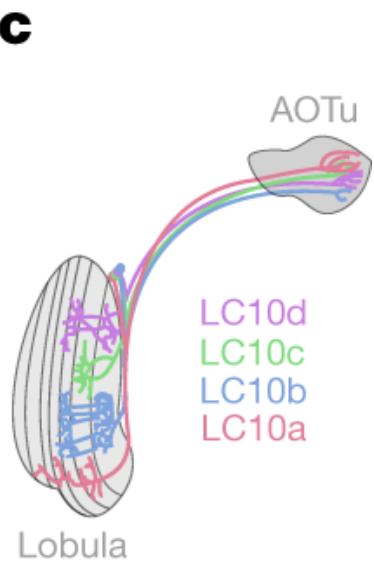


P1激活的雄蝇反应了一种动态、潜在的持续性唤醒状态

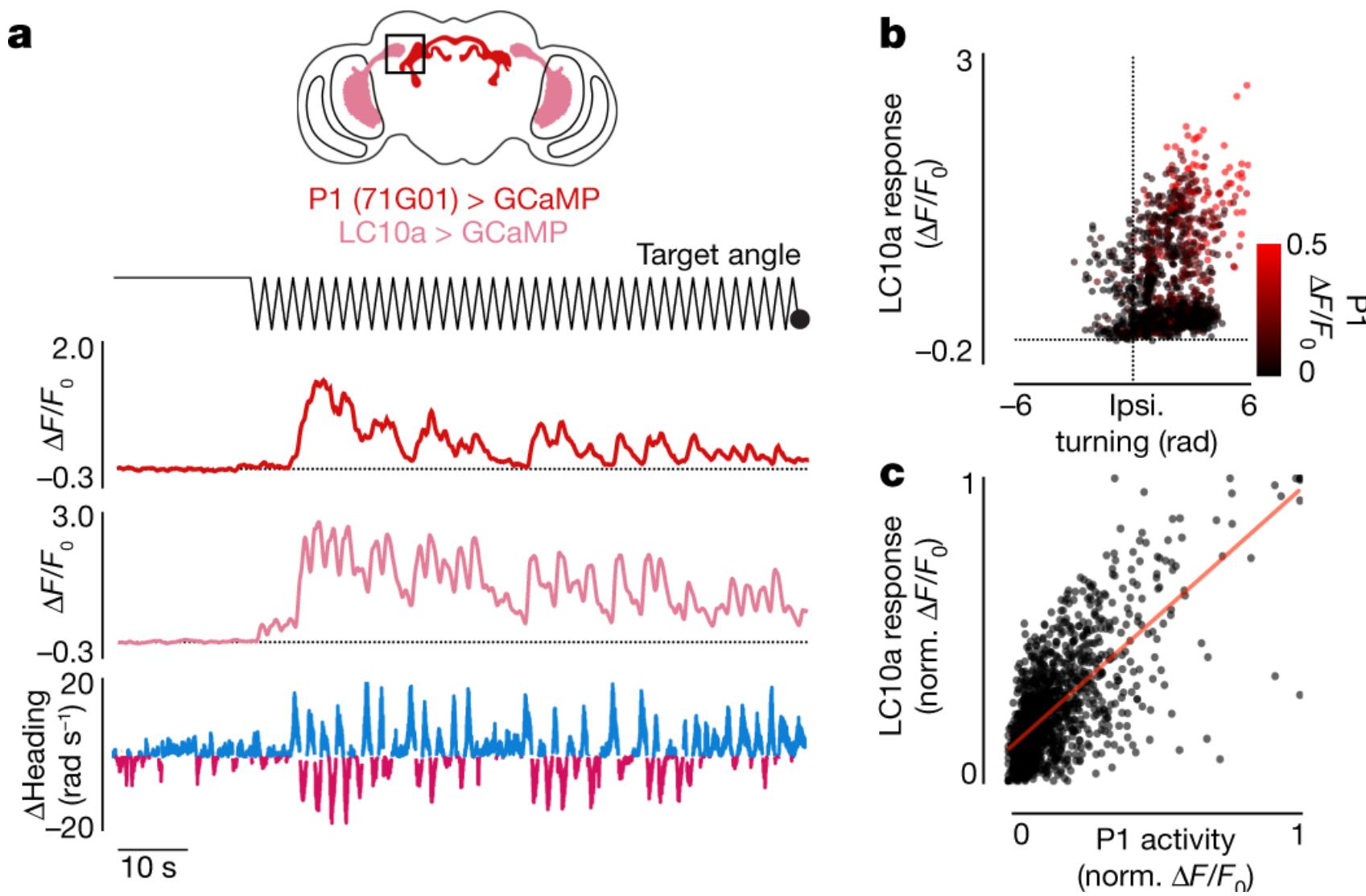
## 2、Modulation of LC10a neurons during courtship



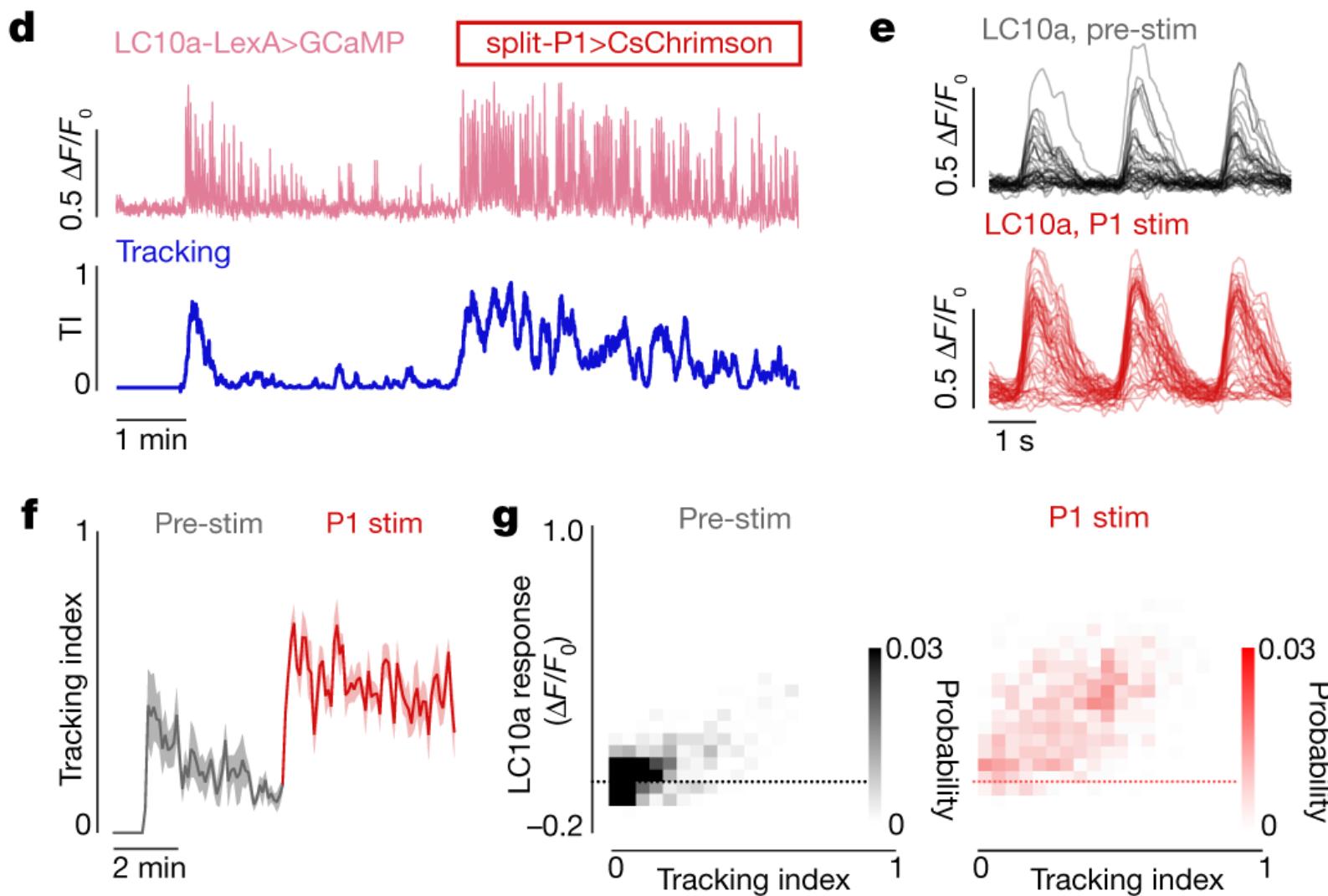
LC10a 在求偶过程中响应视觉信号  
并调节运动的特异性功能



### 3、P1 neurons regulate LC10a signalling



### 3、P1 neurons regulate LC10a signalling



# Summary

## 1. 雄蝇求偶过程中视觉系统如何发挥作用？涉及到哪些关键神经元？

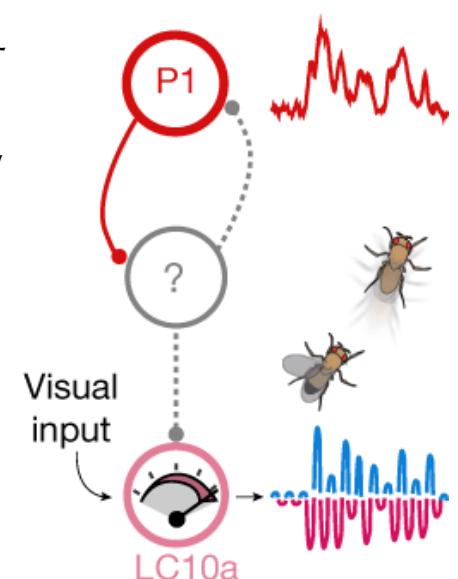
LC10是负责雄蝇在求偶开始时对雌蝇的定向、追随以及靠近雌性一侧翅膀振动求偶歌行为的视觉投射神经元；

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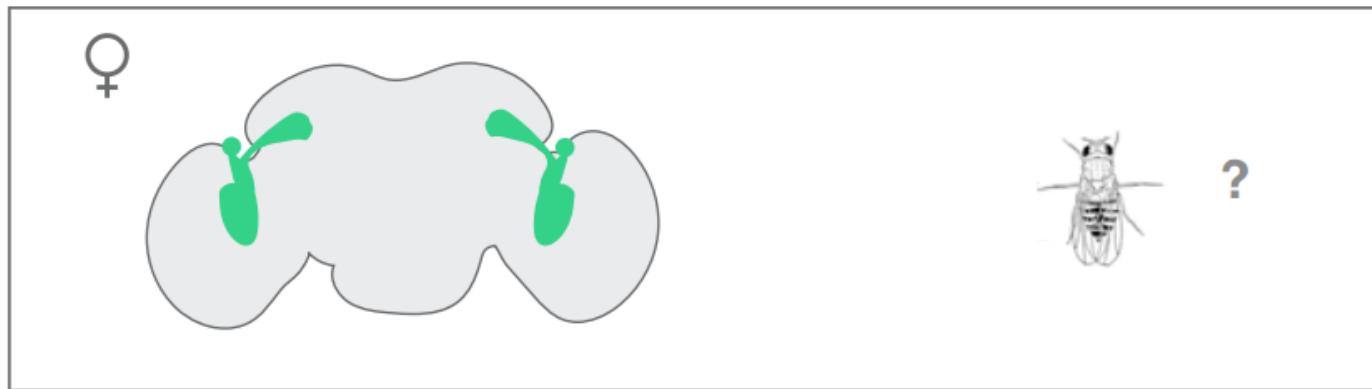
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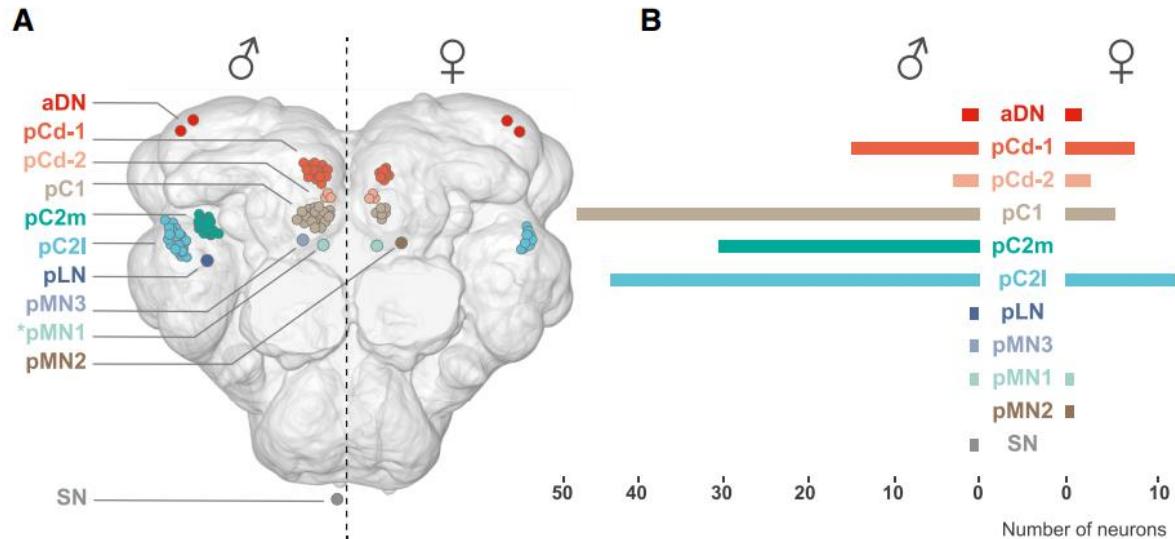


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雌蝇在性行为中的视觉响应是怎样的？**

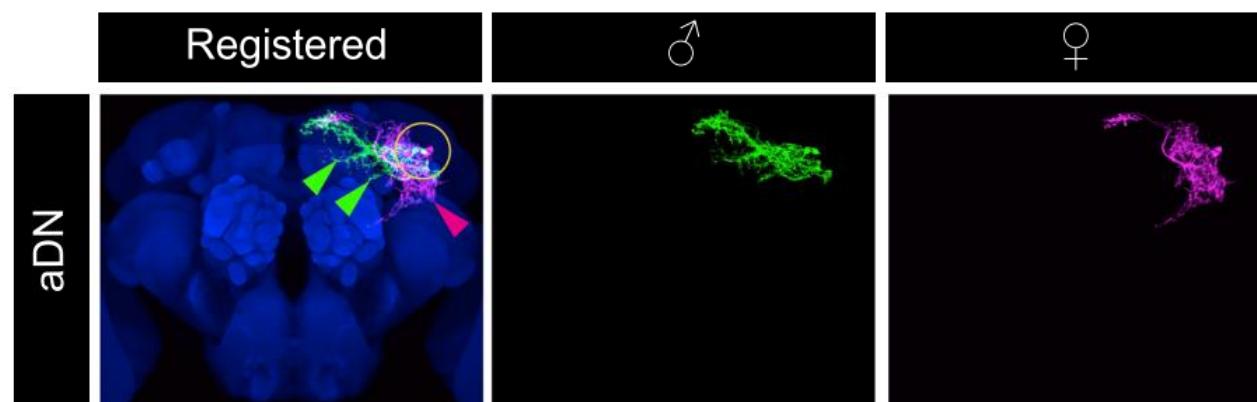
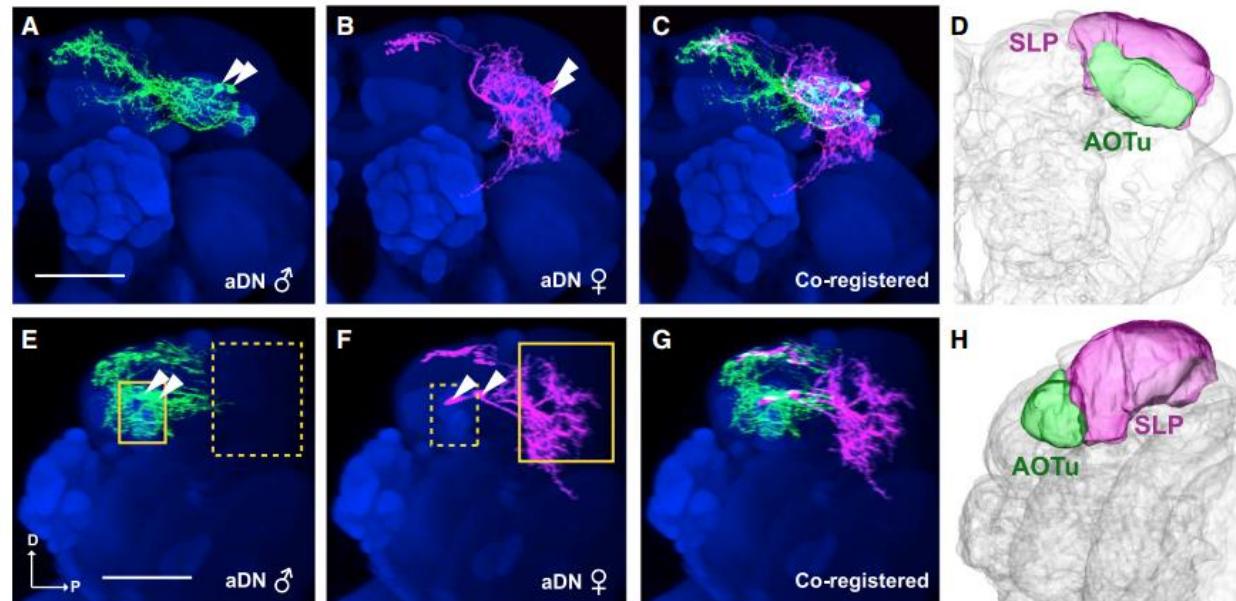
*aDNs; accelerated mating behavior*



# 1. *dsx*+ aDNs have sexually dimorphic dendritic input sites



A schematic drawing of *dsx*-expressing neurons in the male (left) and female (right) brain



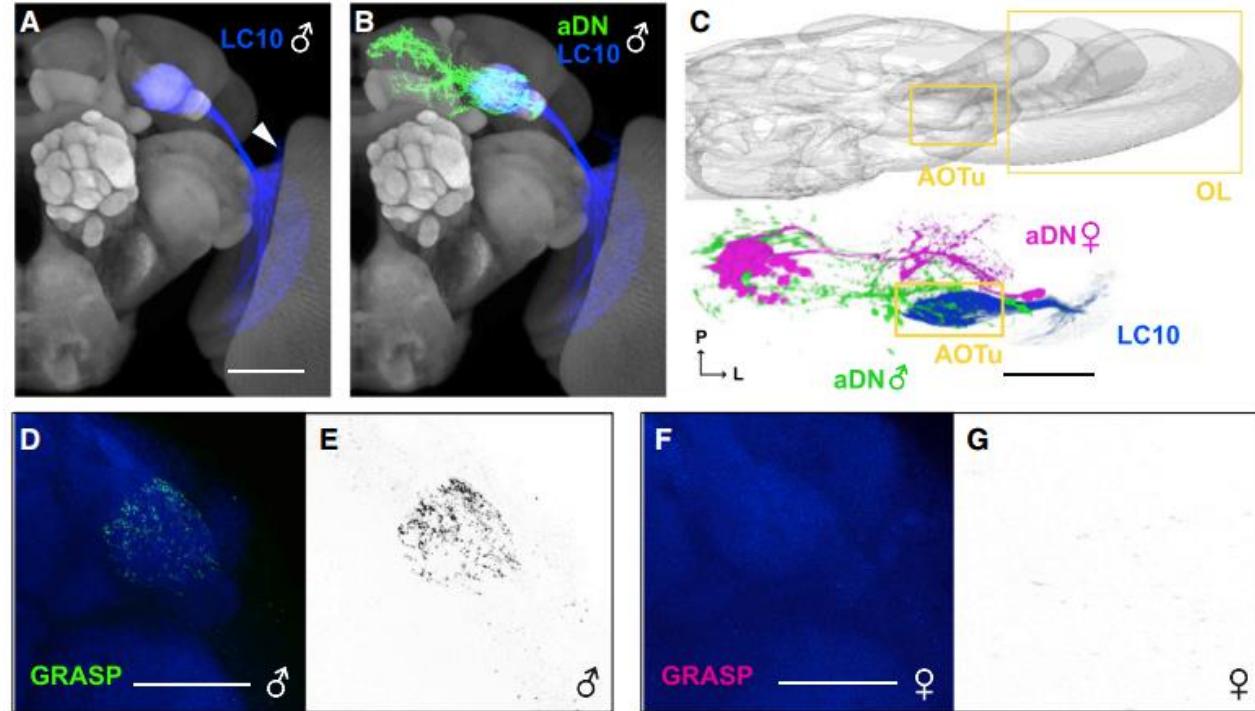
Male neurites

anterior optic tubercle (AOTu)

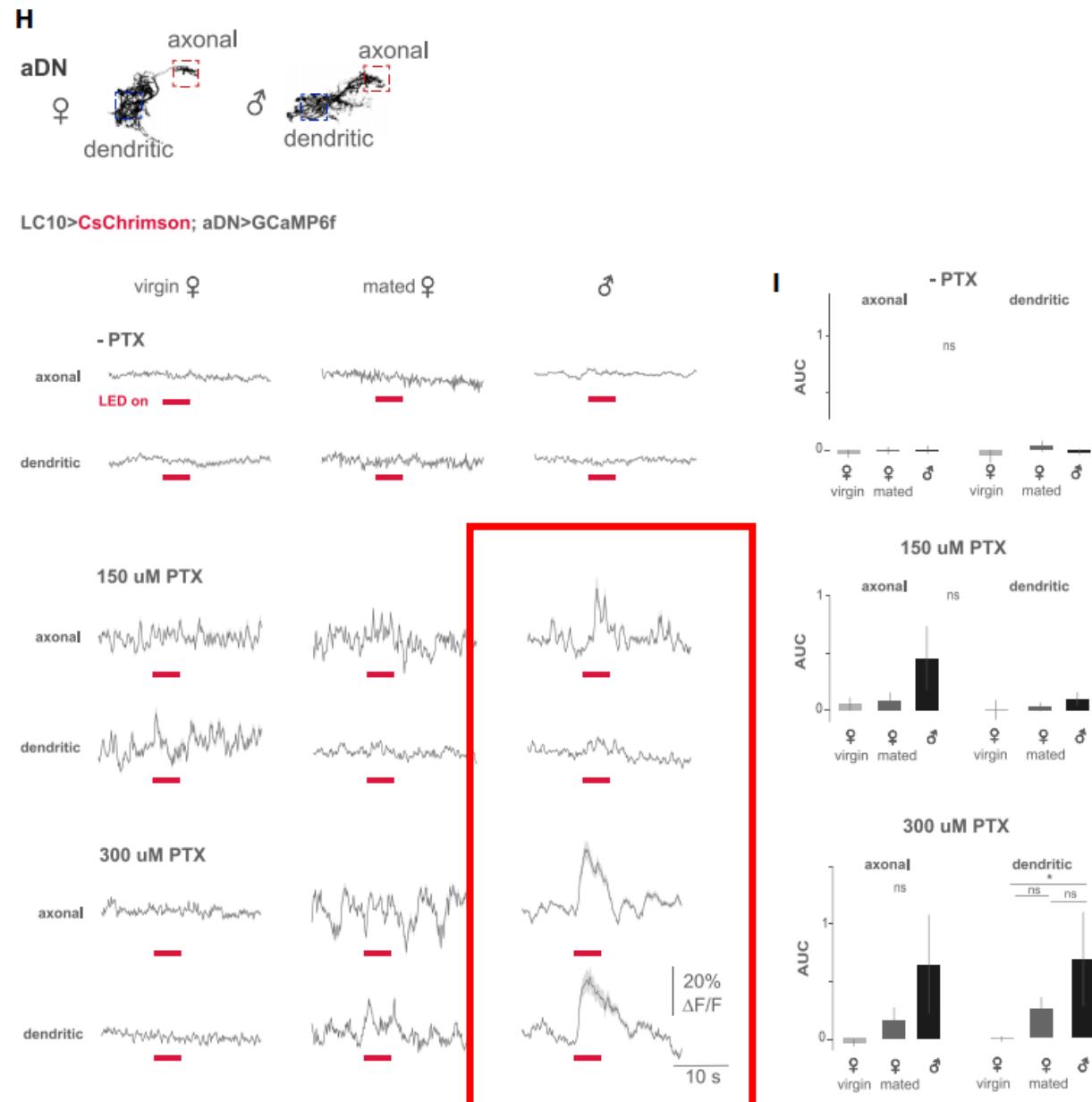
Female neurites

superior lateral protocerebrum (pSLP)

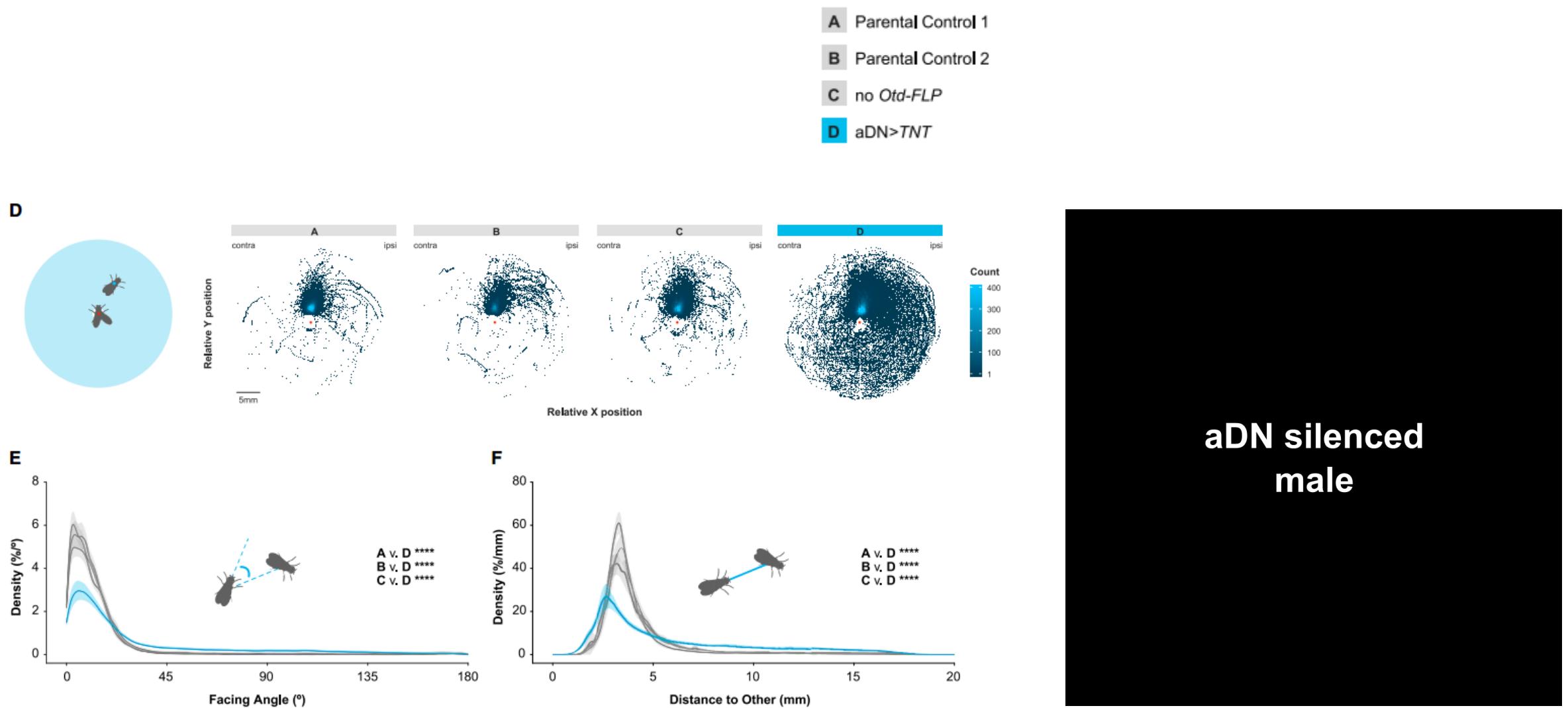
## 2、Male, but not female, aDN is a downstream cluster of LC10a



Male aDNs receive inputs from visual projection neurons

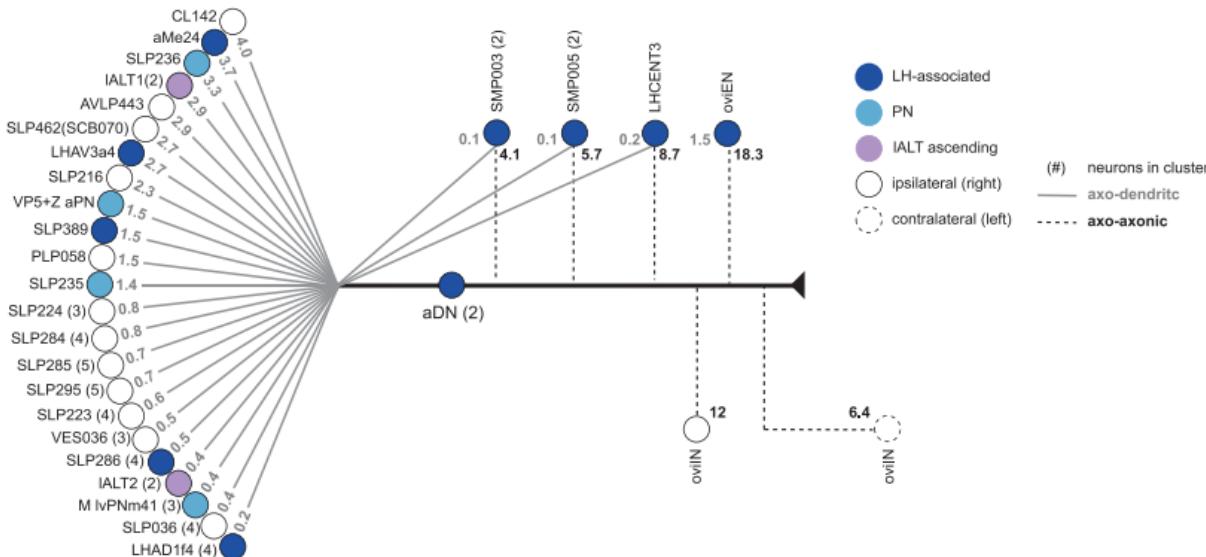


### 3、Silencing male aDN alters visually guided courtship behavior

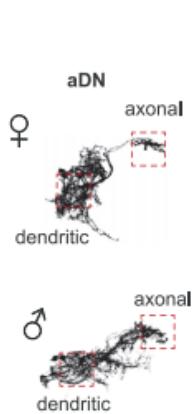


## 4、Female aDNs receive functionally relevant olfactory inputs

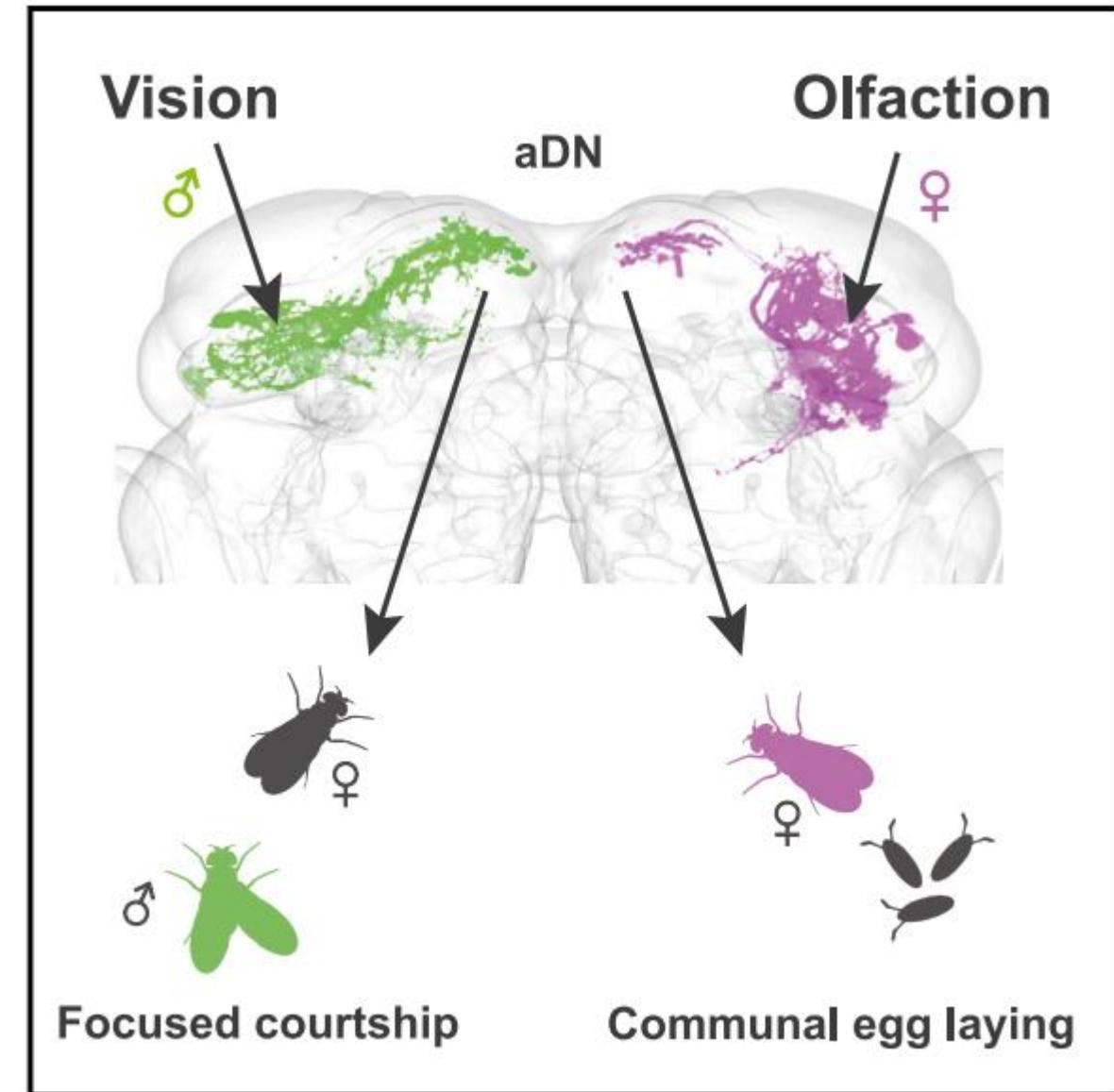
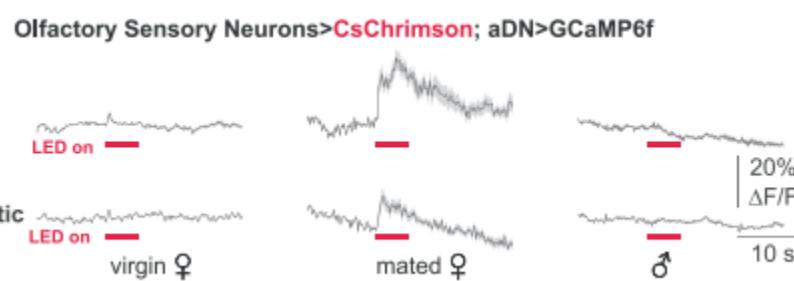
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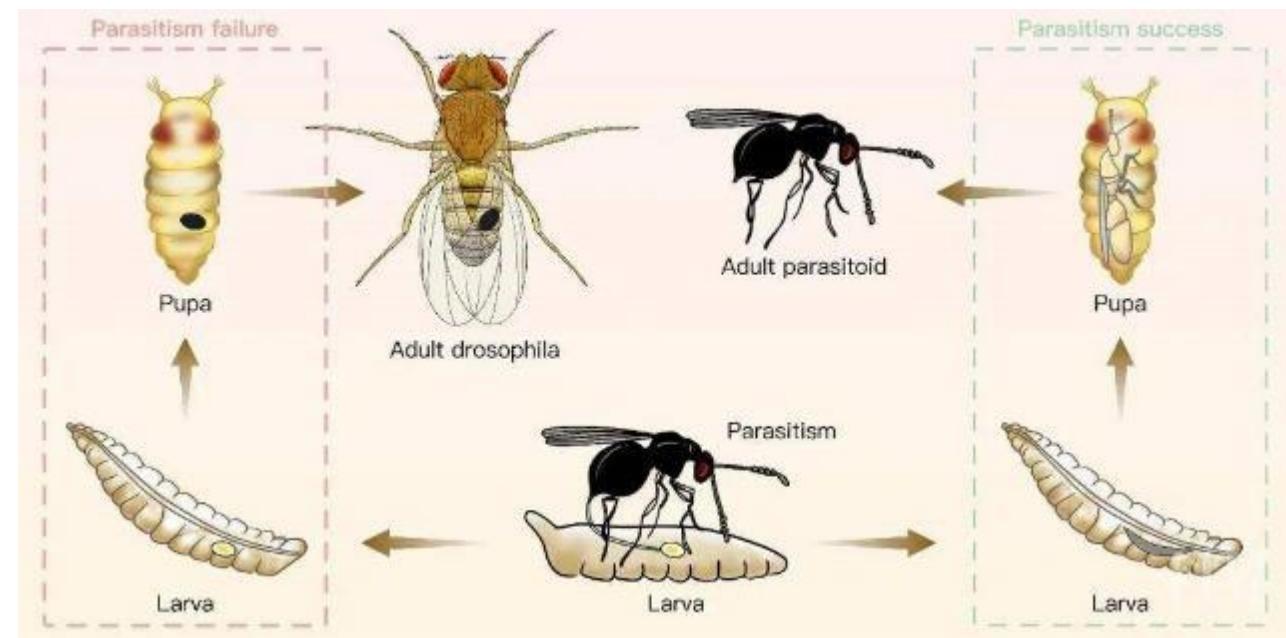


## ARTICLE

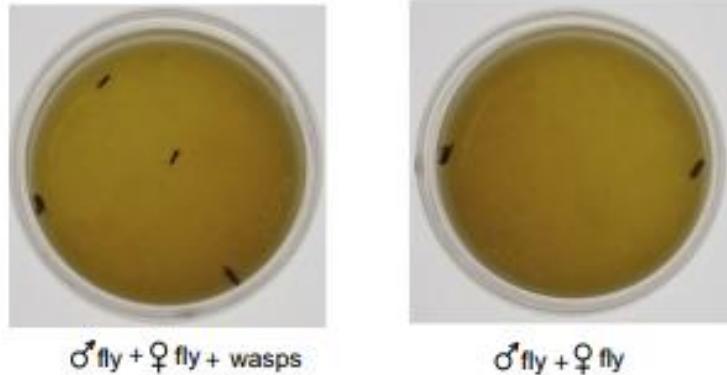

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-021-22712-0> OPEN

# Sight of parasitoid wasps accelerates sexual behavior and upregulates a micropeptide gene in *Drosophila*

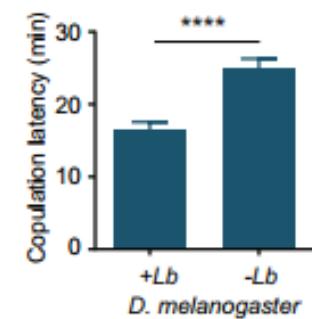
Shimaa A. M. Ebrahim<sup>1</sup>, Gaëlle J. S. Talross<sup>1</sup> & John R. Carlson<sup>1</sup>✉

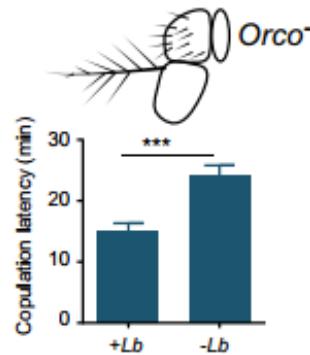
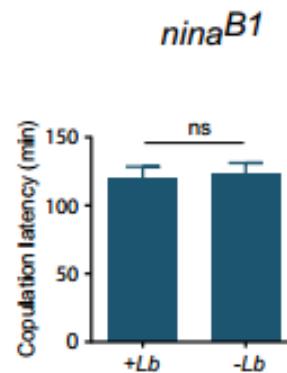
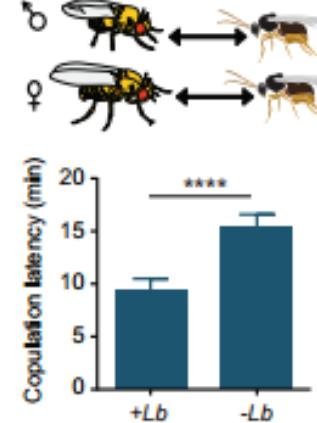
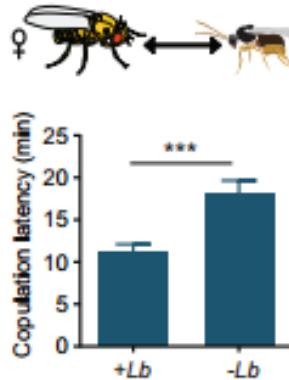
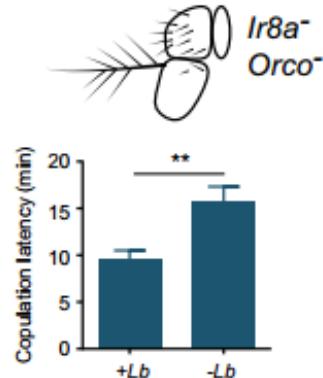
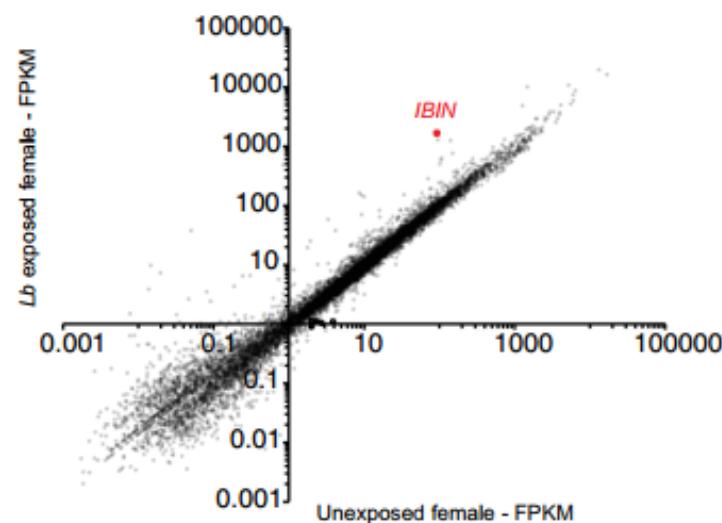
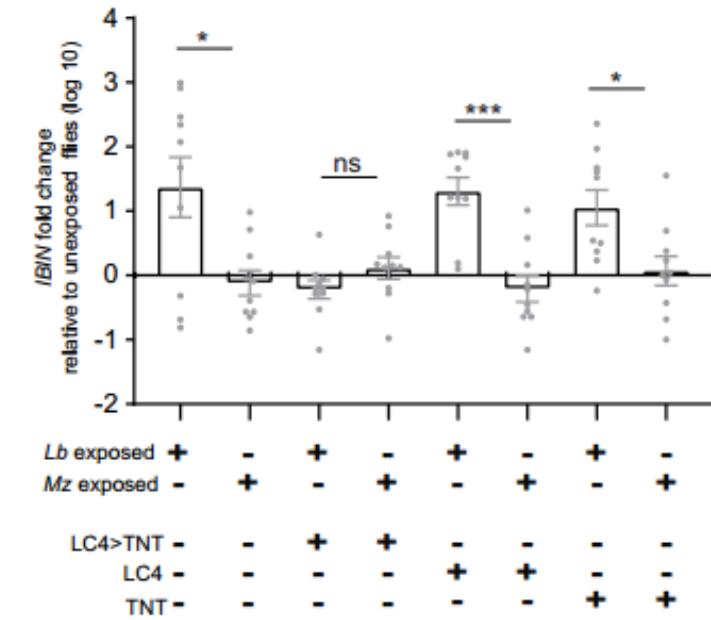


a



b



**a****e****a****b****c****a****b**

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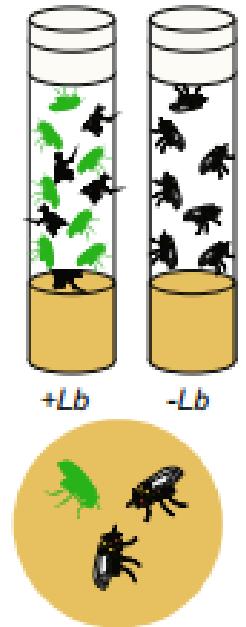
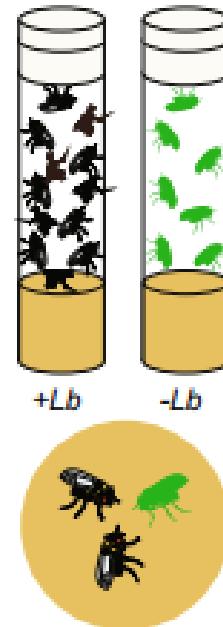
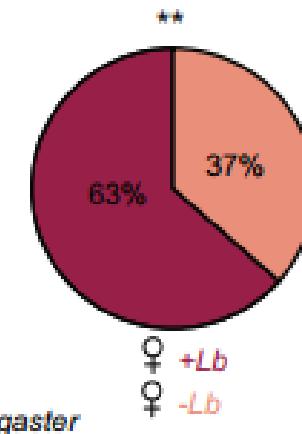
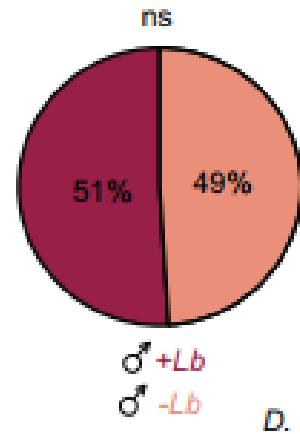
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aDNs作为一种独特的性别二态神经元，通过在雌雄果蝇的感觉通路中接受不同的感觉信息，介导两性之间不同行为（雄蝇求偶期间视觉追踪、雌蝇产卵地点选择偏好）；果蝇看到黄蜂会出现加速交配的防御反应，这种行为是由雌蝇的视觉感知介导的。

**THANKS!**

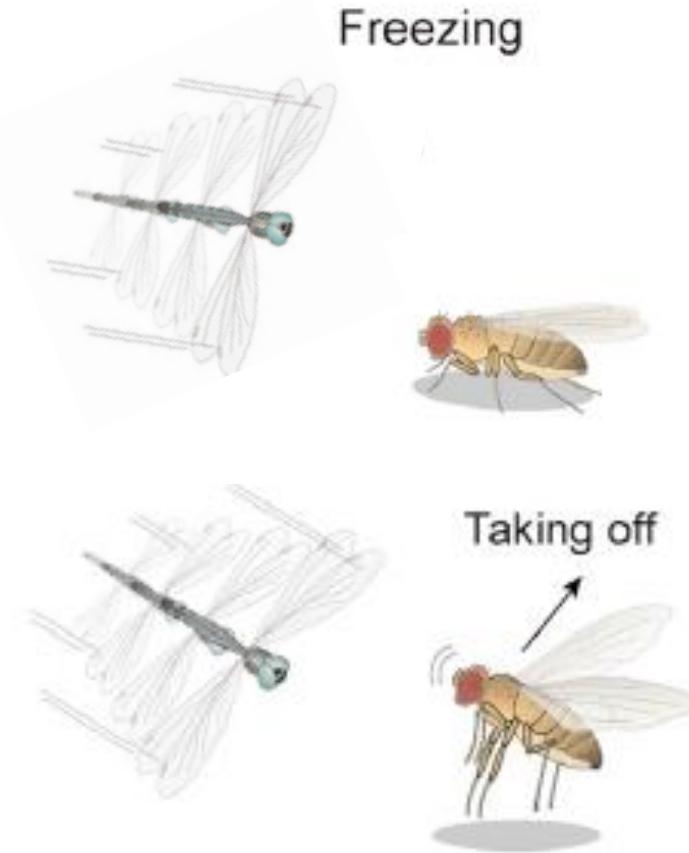
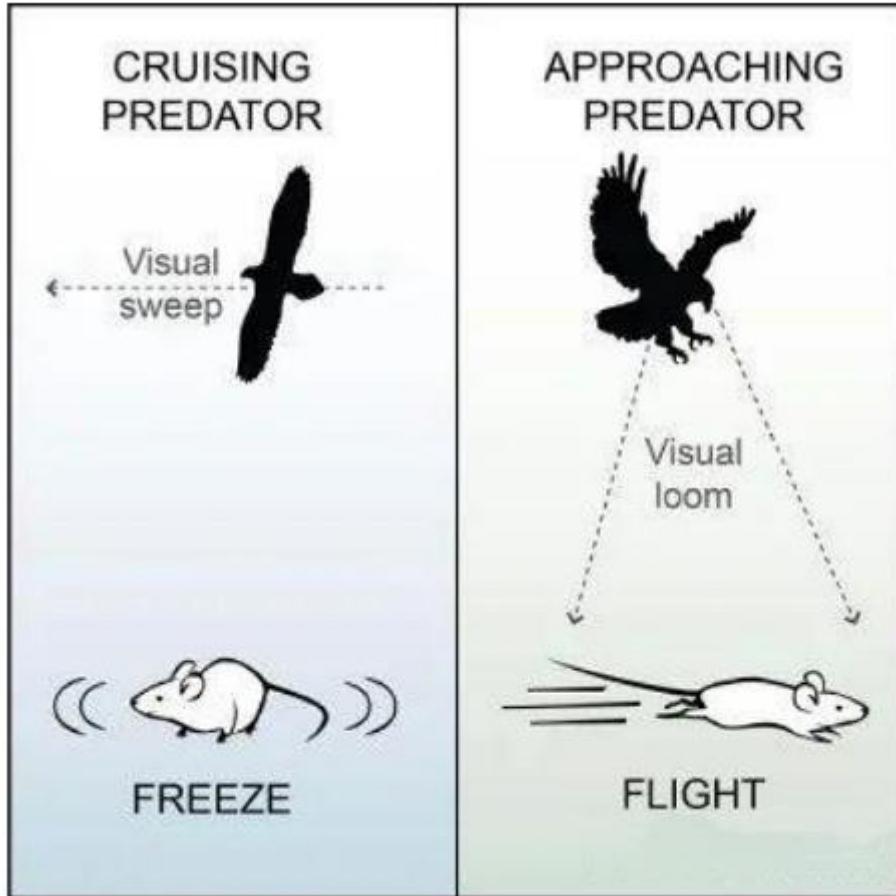
**d****d'****e***D. melanogaster*

# Visual system and avoidance behavior

朱培雯

2023.03.02

# Looming can induce avoidance behavior in animals



Drosophila  
Zebrafish  
Rodents  
Nonhuman primates  
Humans

# Leader in visual system and avoidance behavior



## Gwyneth Card, PhD

Investigator / 2022–Present

Dr. Card is an associate professor of neuroscience at Columbia University and a principal investigator at Columbia's Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute. She was a group leader at HHMI's Janelia Research Campus from 2010-2022.

INSTITUTION

Columbia University

SCIENTIFIC DISCIPLINE

Neuroscience



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**Card Lab** / We study the neural mechanisms and circuit architectures that underlie behavior choice for ecologically relevant, visually-guided behaviors of the fly. Our work combines high-throughput, high-resolution behavioral quantification with genetic, electrophysiological, and functional imaging techniques.

# Leader in visual system and avoidance behavior



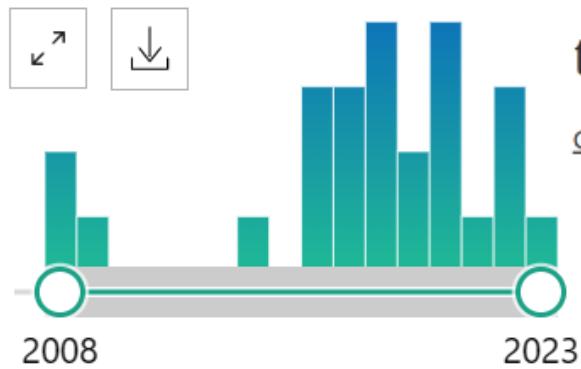
CURRENT RESEARCH

## Neural Circuits Underlying *Drosophila* Escape Behavior

Current Biology

Volume 18, Issue 17, 9 September 2008, Pages 1300-1307

RESULTS BY YEAR



Report

### Visually Mediated Motor Planning in the Escape Response of *Drosophila*

Gwyneth Card<sup>1</sup>, Michael H. Dickinson<sup>1</sup>

2008.09



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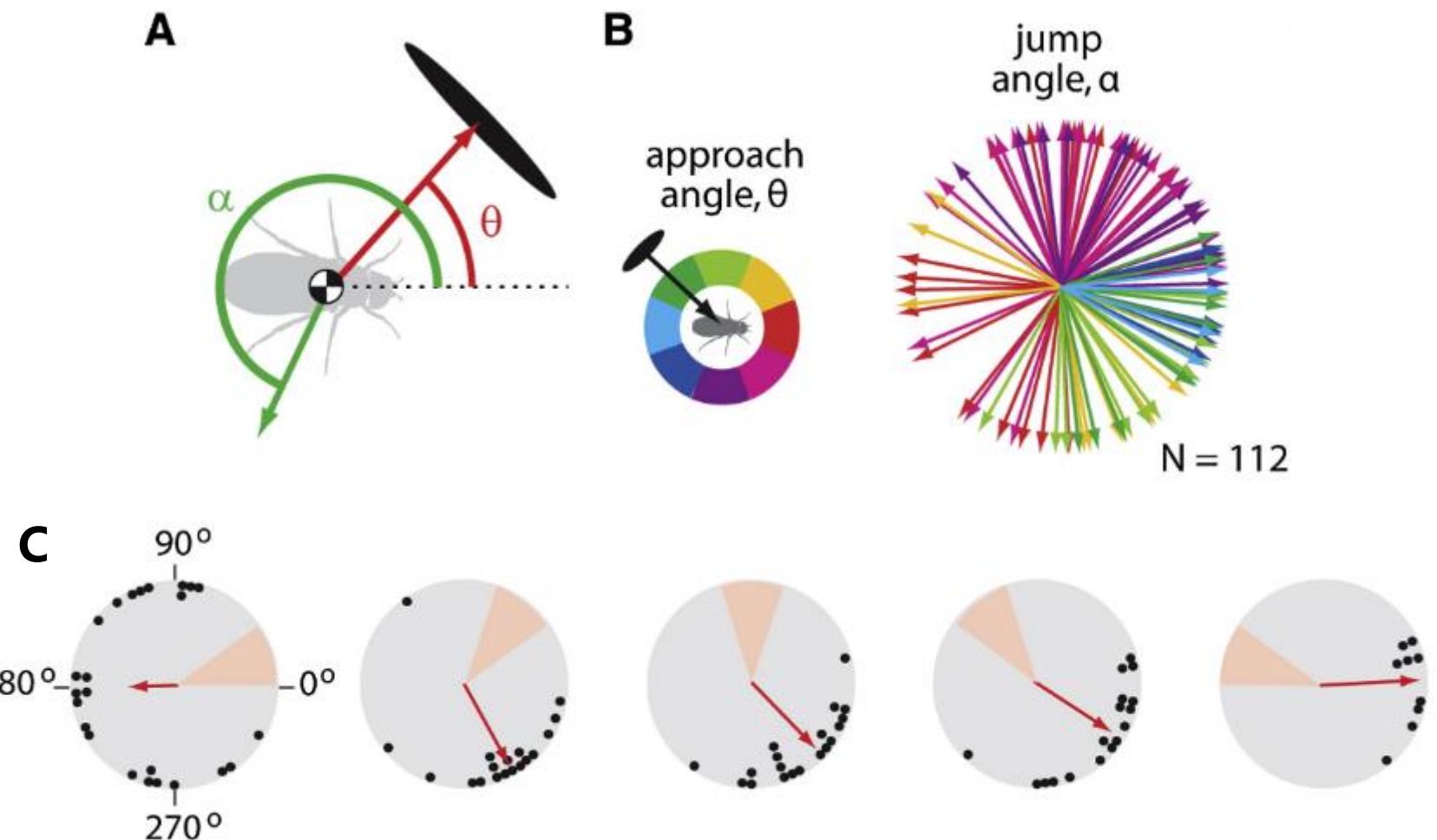
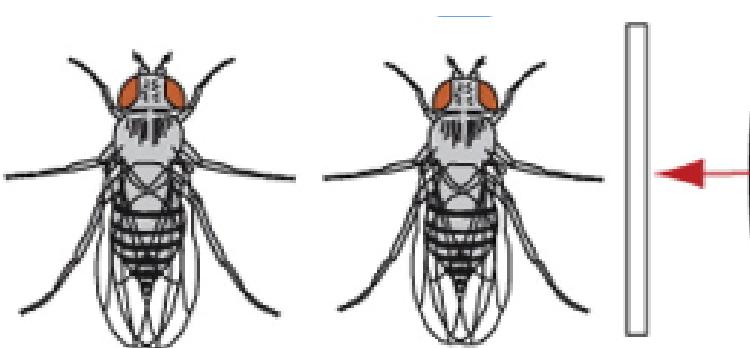
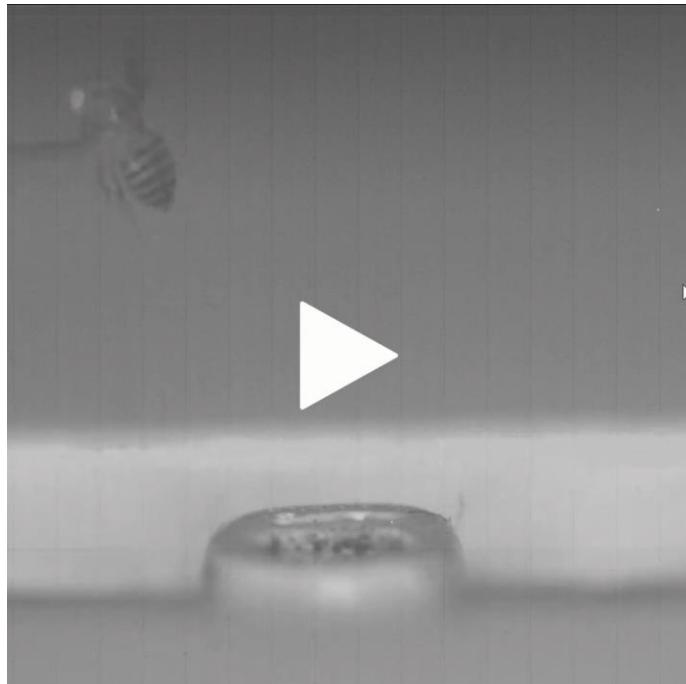
Article | Open Access | Published: 04 January 2023

### Synaptic gradients transform object location to action

Mark Dombrovski, Martin Y. Peek, Jin-Yong Park, Andrea Vaccari, Marissa Sumathipala, Carmen Morrow, Patrick Breads, Arthur Zhao, Yerbol Z. Kurmangaliyev, Piero Sanfilippo, Aadil Rehan, Jason Polksky, Shada Alghailani, Emily Tenshaw, Shigehiro Namiki, S. Lawrence Zipursky & Gwyneth M. Card

2023.01

Visual information alone is sufficient for a fly to determine the direction of an approaching threat

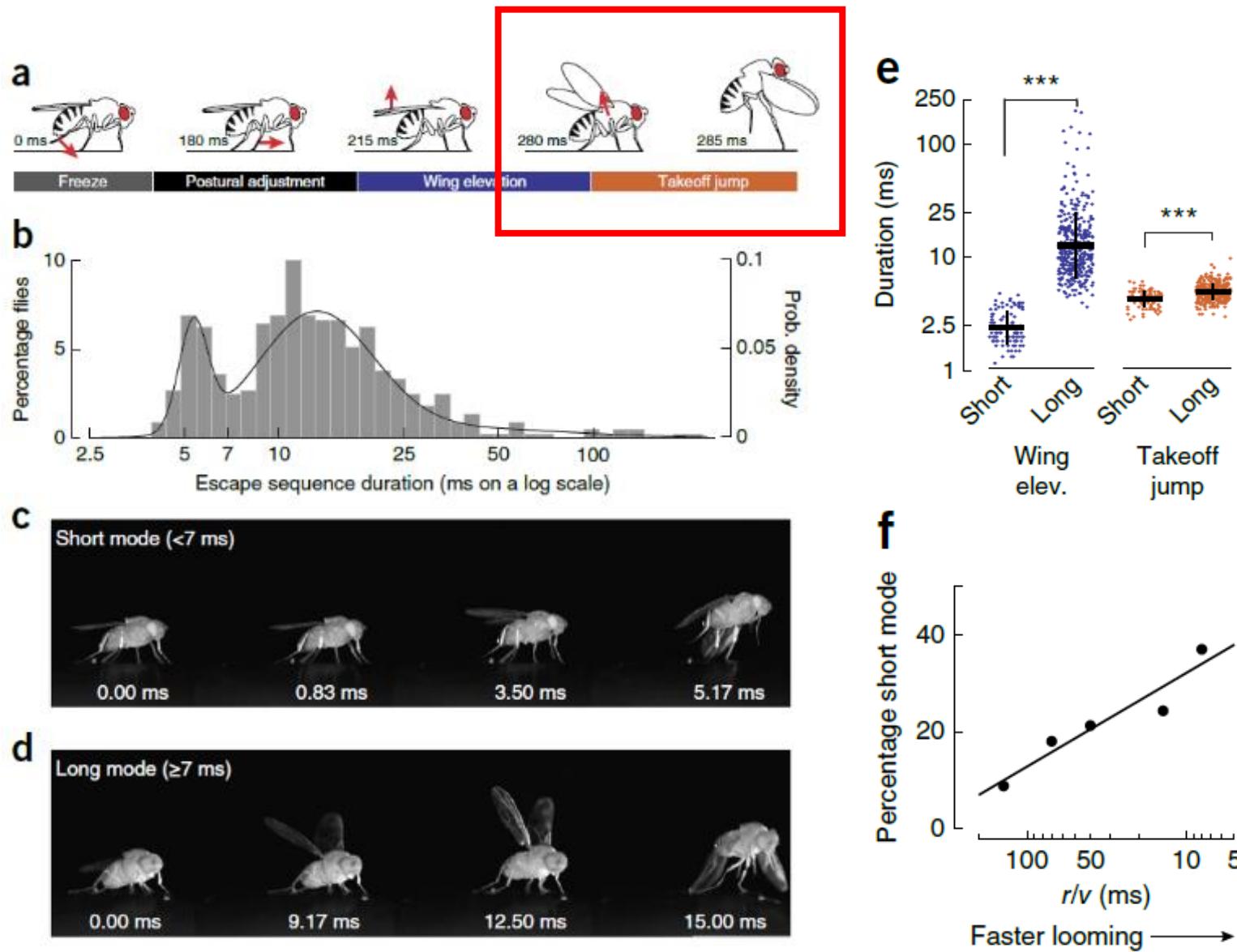
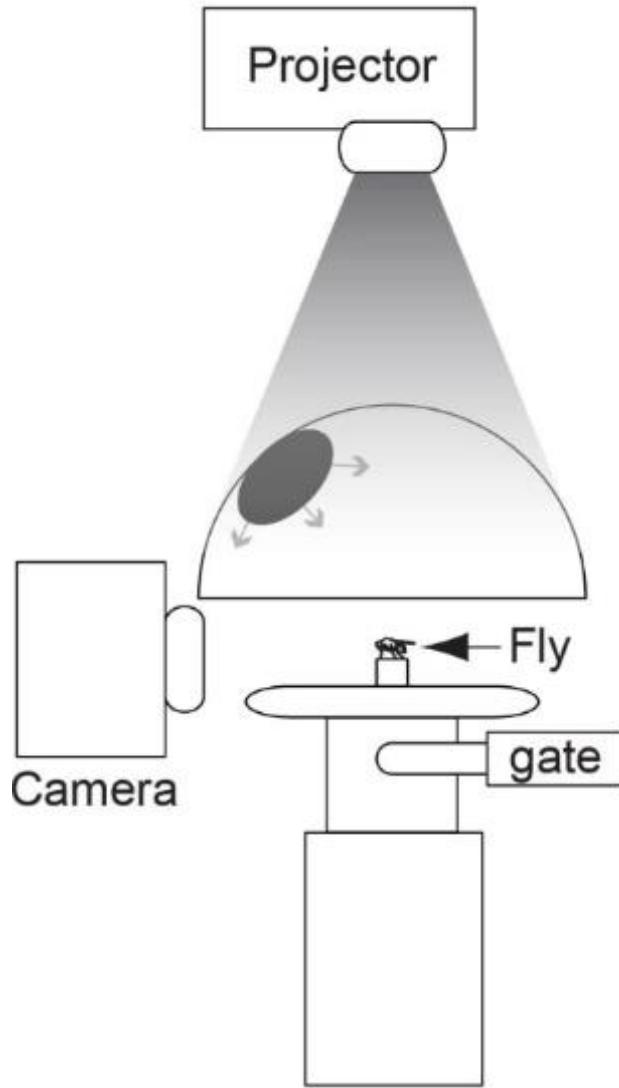


(Gwyneth Card & Michael H. Dickinson. Current Biology, 2008)

What are the neural circuits responsible for avoidance behavior to approaching (looming) visual objects?

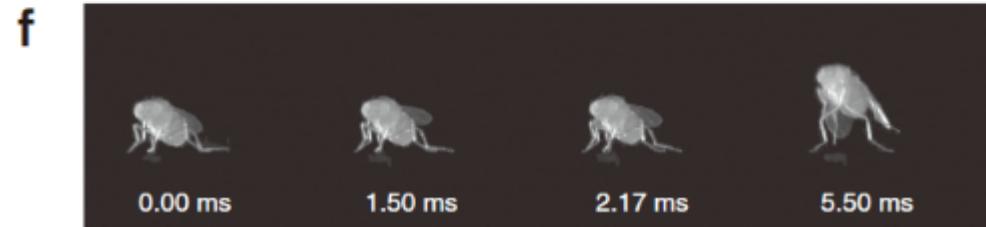
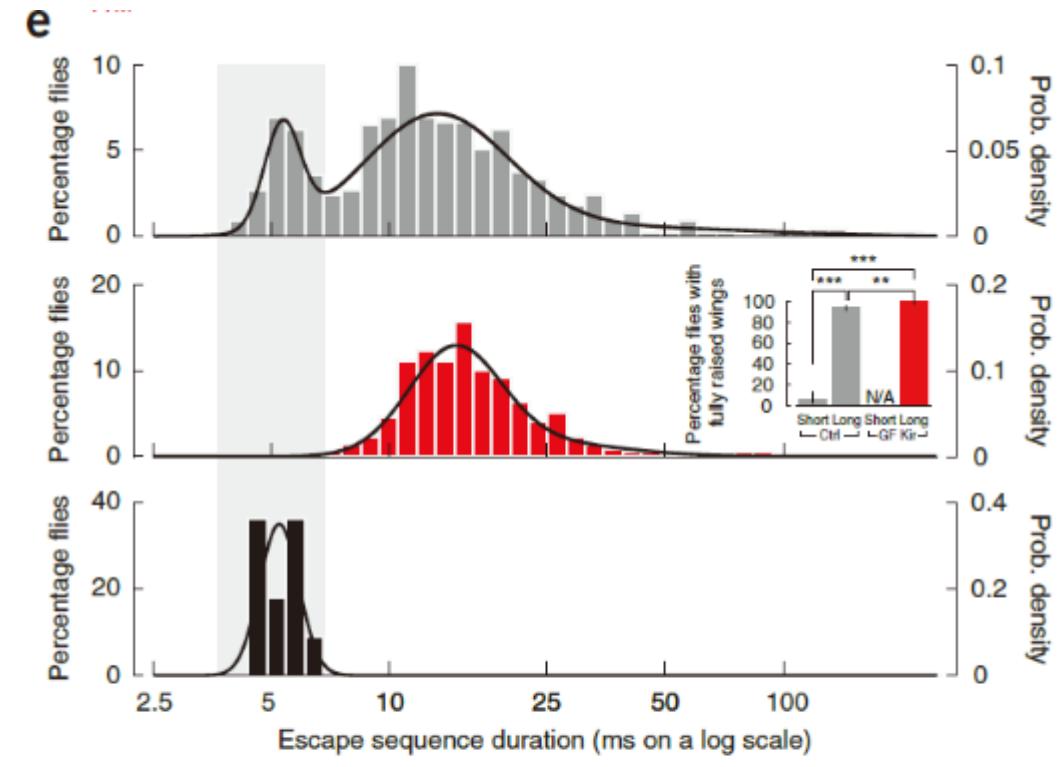
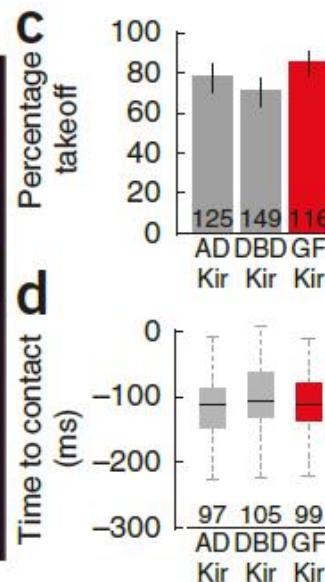
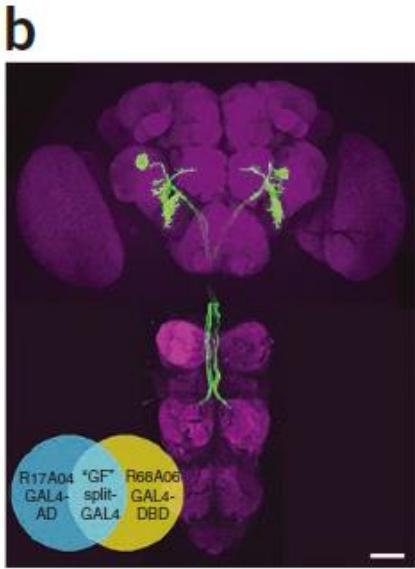
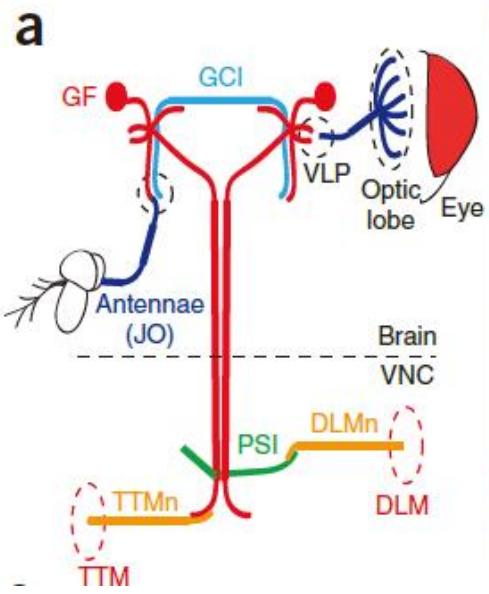
- Do flies choose different ways of avoidance when confronted with different visual objects?
  - When confronted with a fast-approaching object, such as a fly swatter
  - When confronted with a slowly approaching object
- Do flies in different behavioral states choose completely different ways of avoidance?
  - Resting or walking flies
  - Flies in flight

# Flies select between two escape sequences when confronted by a looming stimulus

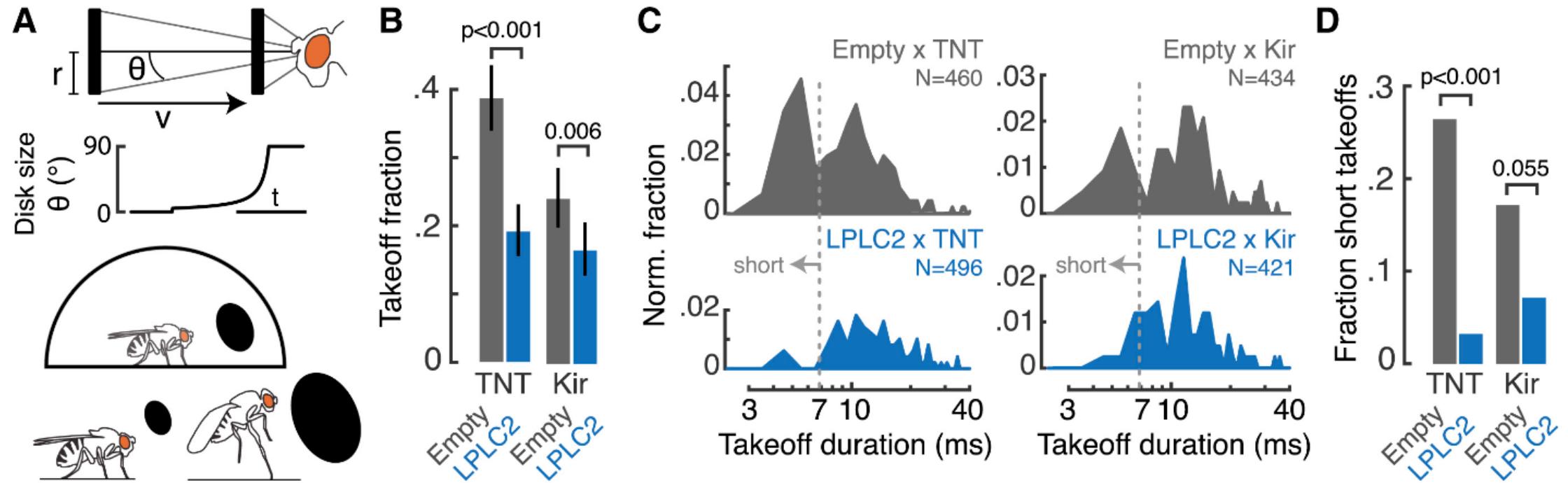


(Catherine R von Reyn, Gwyneth Card, et al. Nature Neuroscience, 2014)

# The GFs are necessary and sufficient for eliciting short-mode escapes

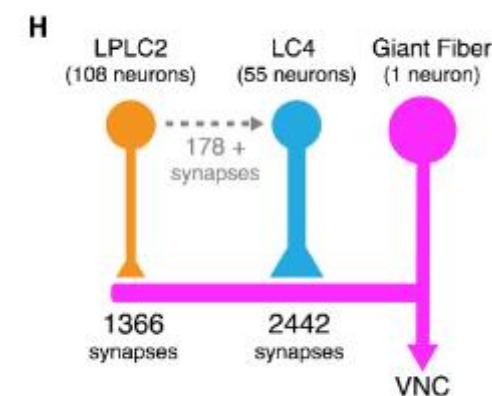
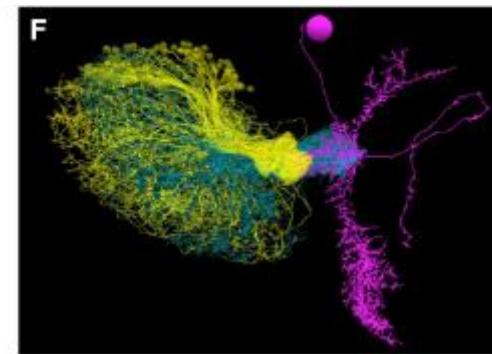
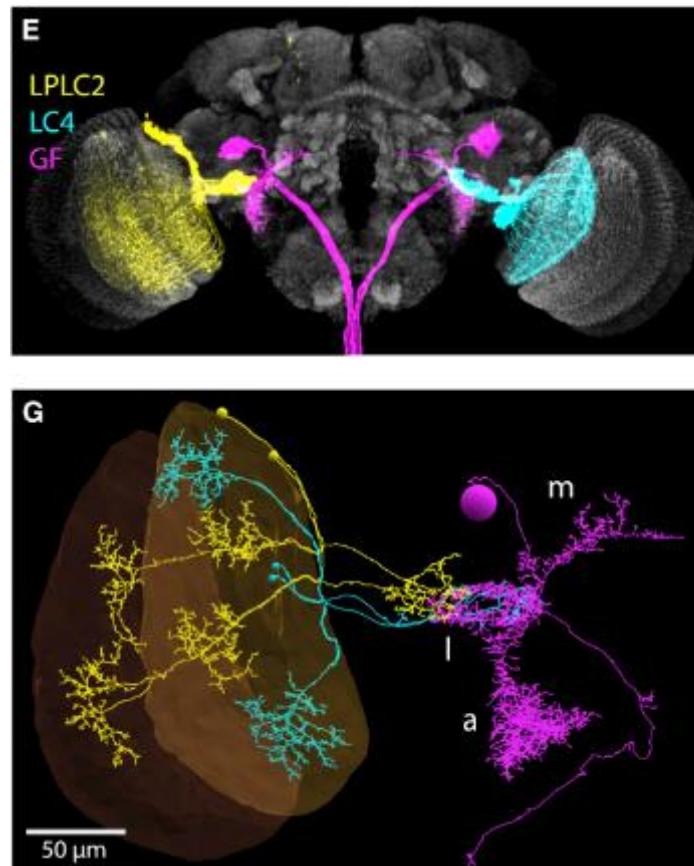


# LPLC2 visual projection neurons are required for giant fiber (GF)



(Jan M. Ache, Gwyneth Card, et al. Current Biology, 2019)

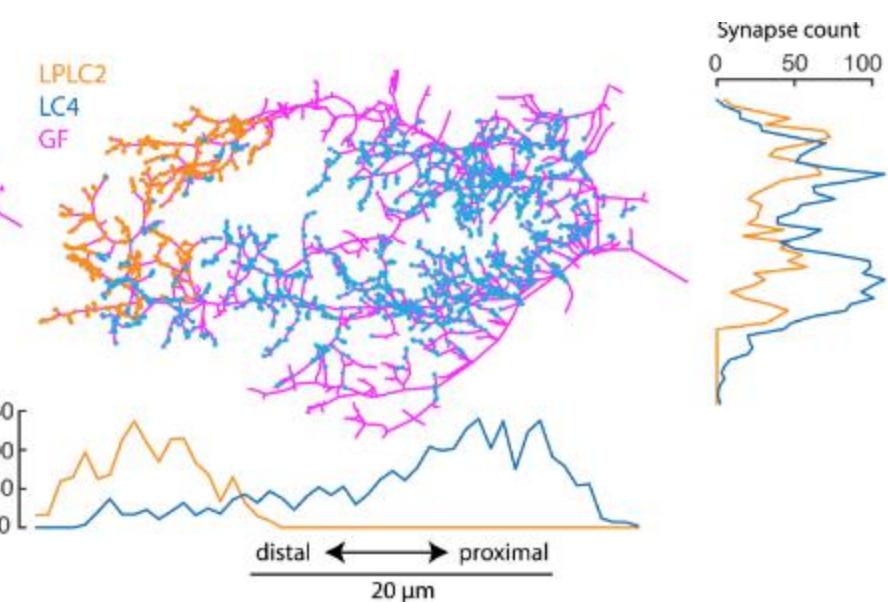
# LPLC2 and LC4 visual projection neurons are directly presynaptic to the GF



**I**

Lateral GF branch  
sub-branch 1  
sub-branch 2

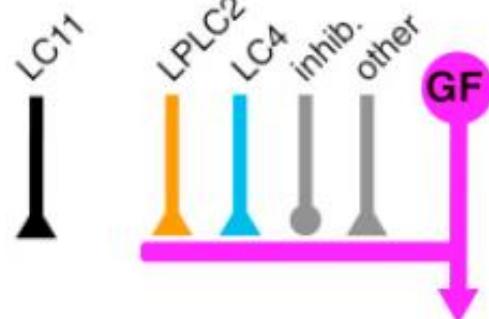
d  
I ← m ↓ v  
→ proximal



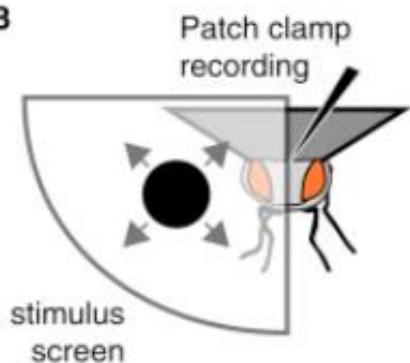
(Jan M. Ache, Gwyneth Card, et al. Current Biology, 2019)

# LPLC2 and LC4 provide all primary excitatory input to GF during visual looming

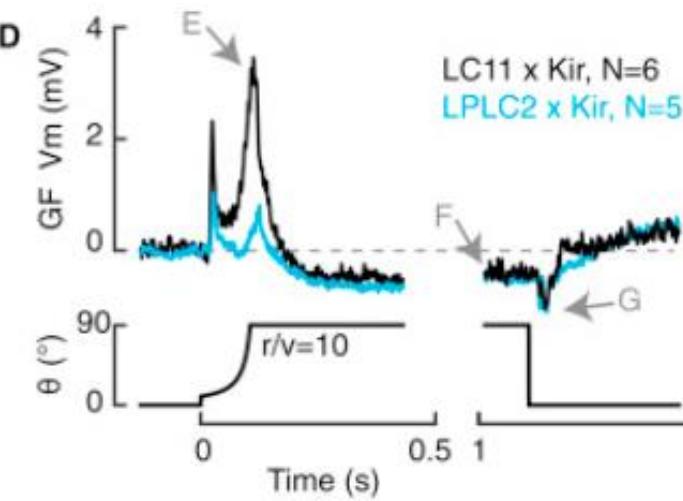
A



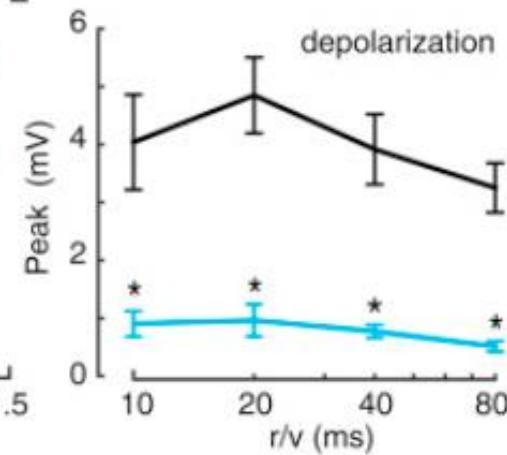
B



D

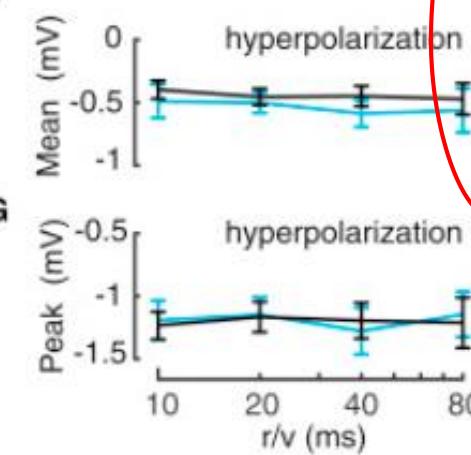


E

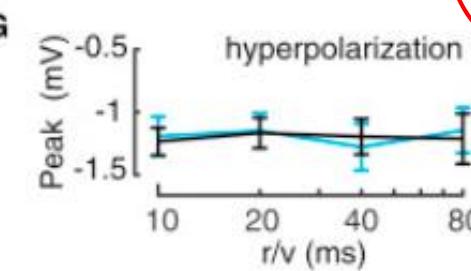


电生理学  
全细胞膜片钳技术

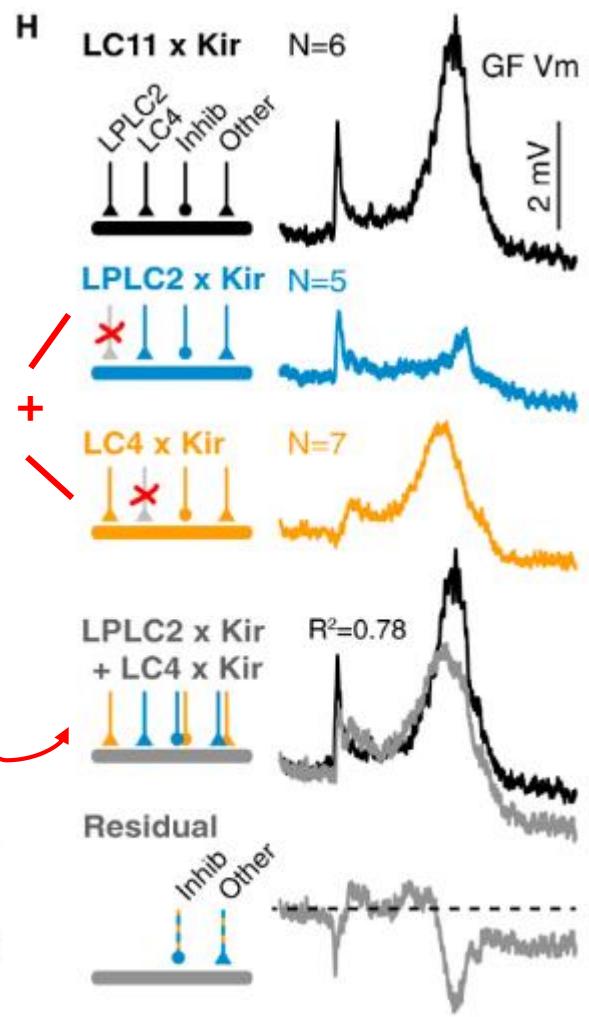
F



G



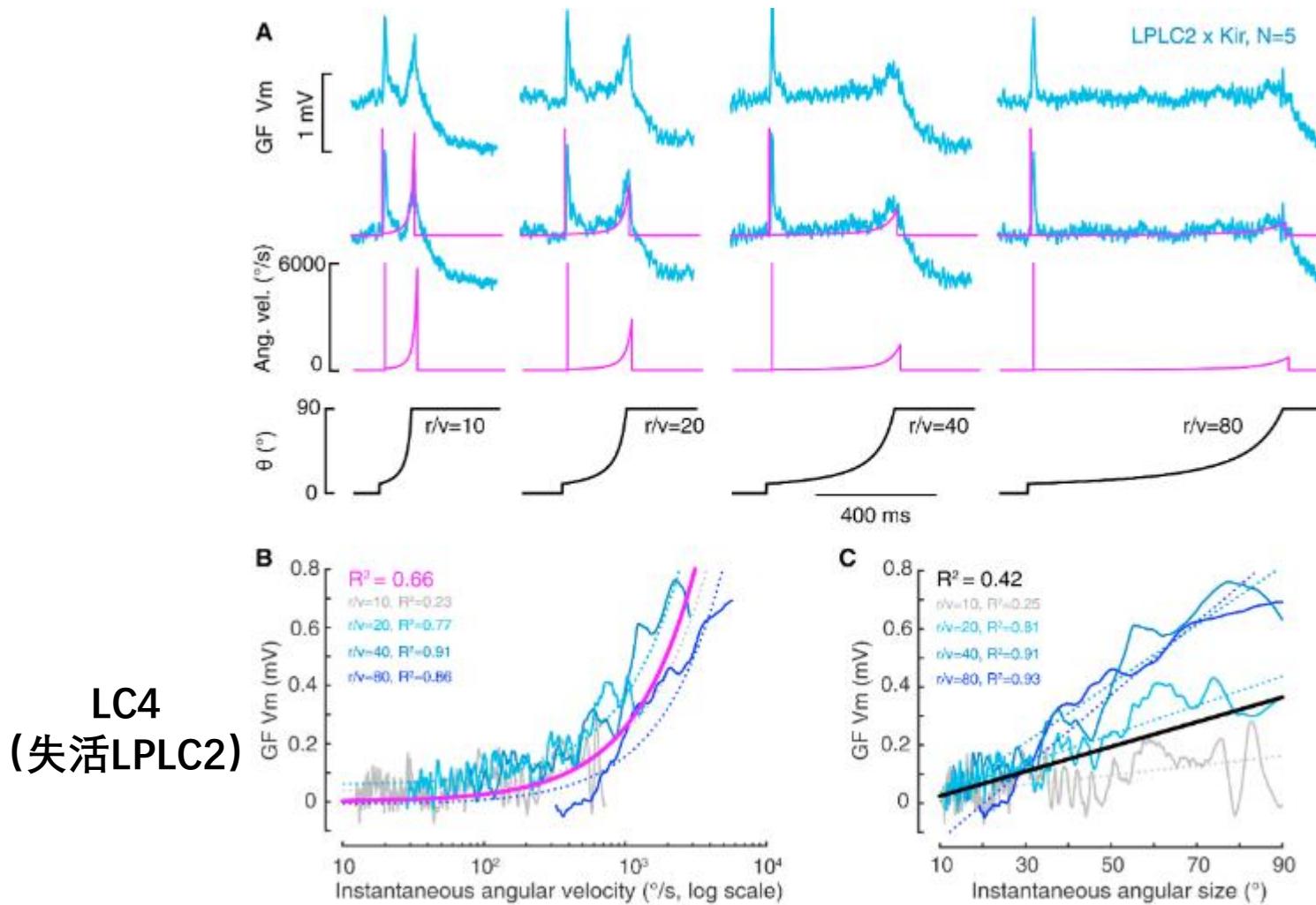
H



(Jan M. Ache, Gwyneth Card, et al. Current Biology, 2019)

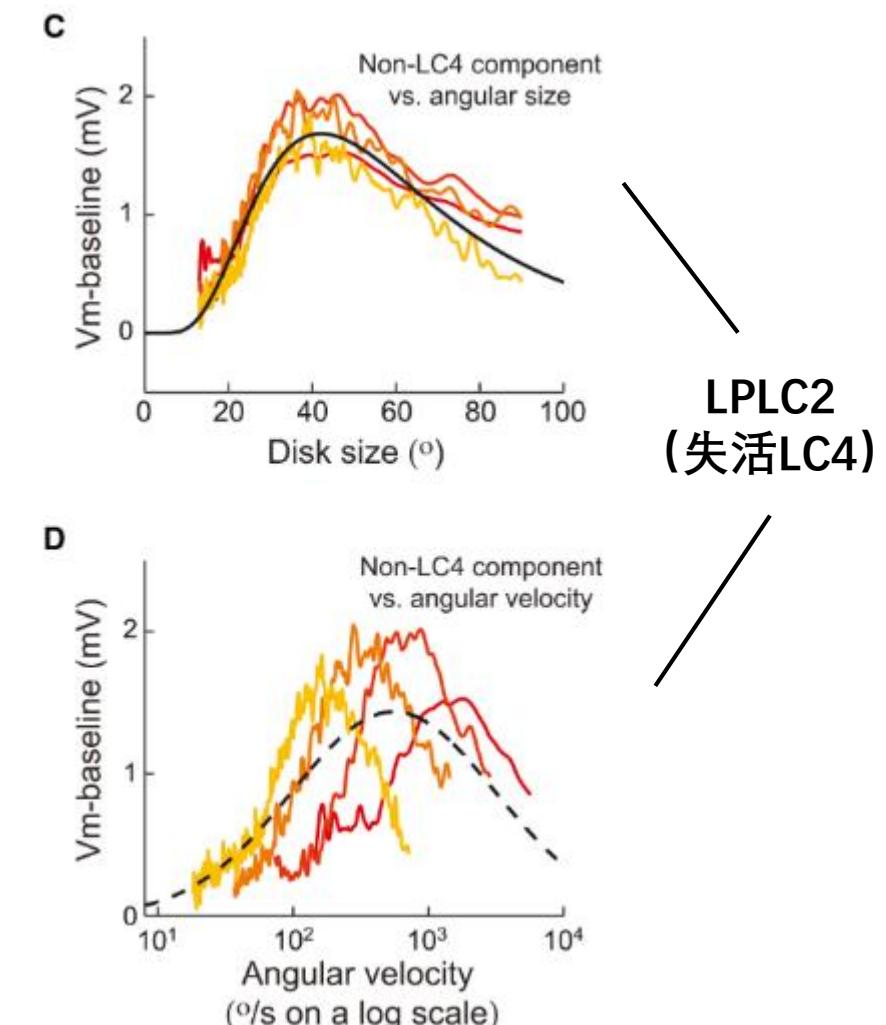


# The GF receives angular-size input from LPLC2 and angular-velocity input from LC4 during looming



LC4  
(失活LPLC2)

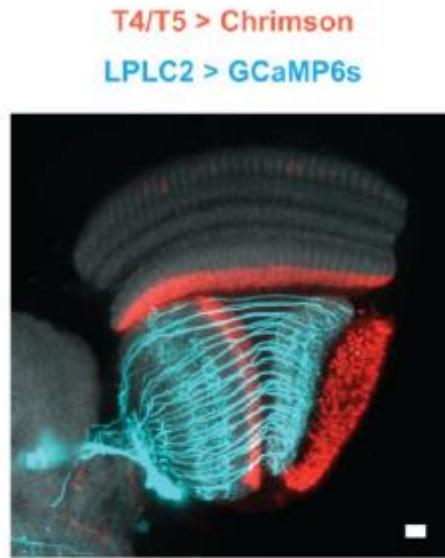
(Jan M. Ache, Gwyneth Card, et al.  
Current Biology, 2019)



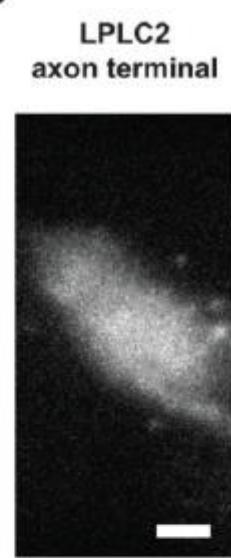
(Catherine R. von Reyn, Gwyneth Card,  
et al. Neuron, 2017)

# T4/T5 cells provide direct excitatory inputs to LPLC2 neurons

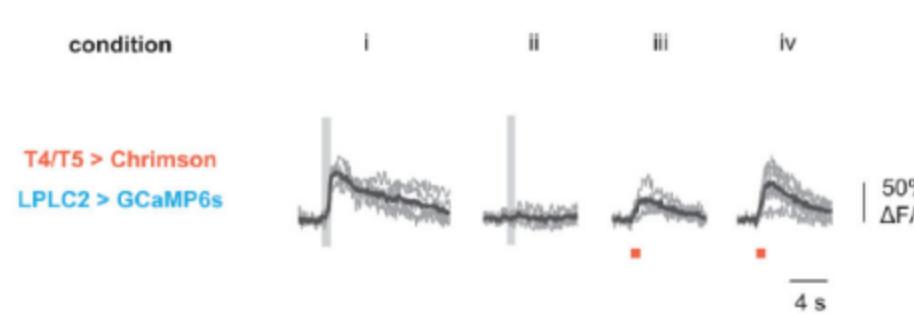
a



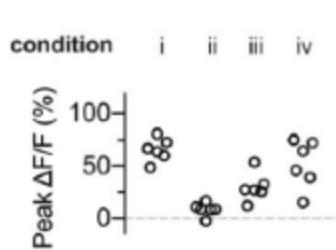
b



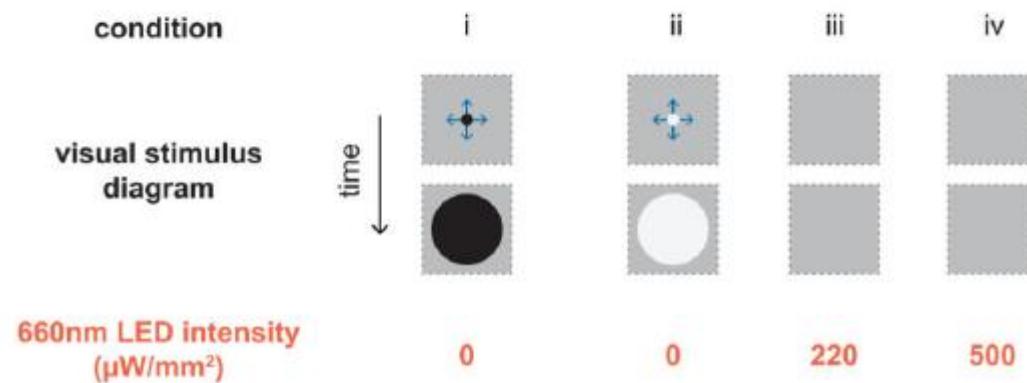
d



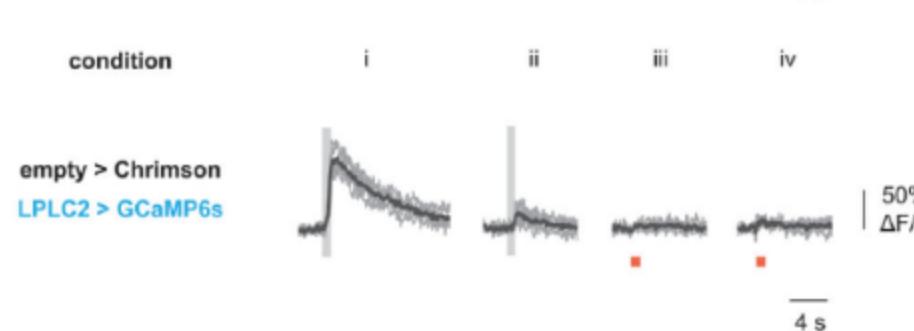
e



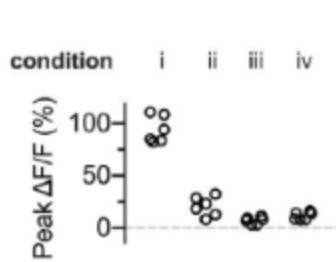
c



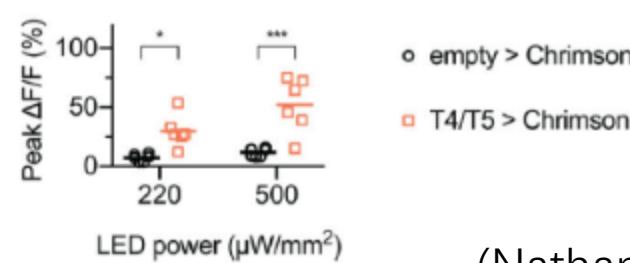
f



g

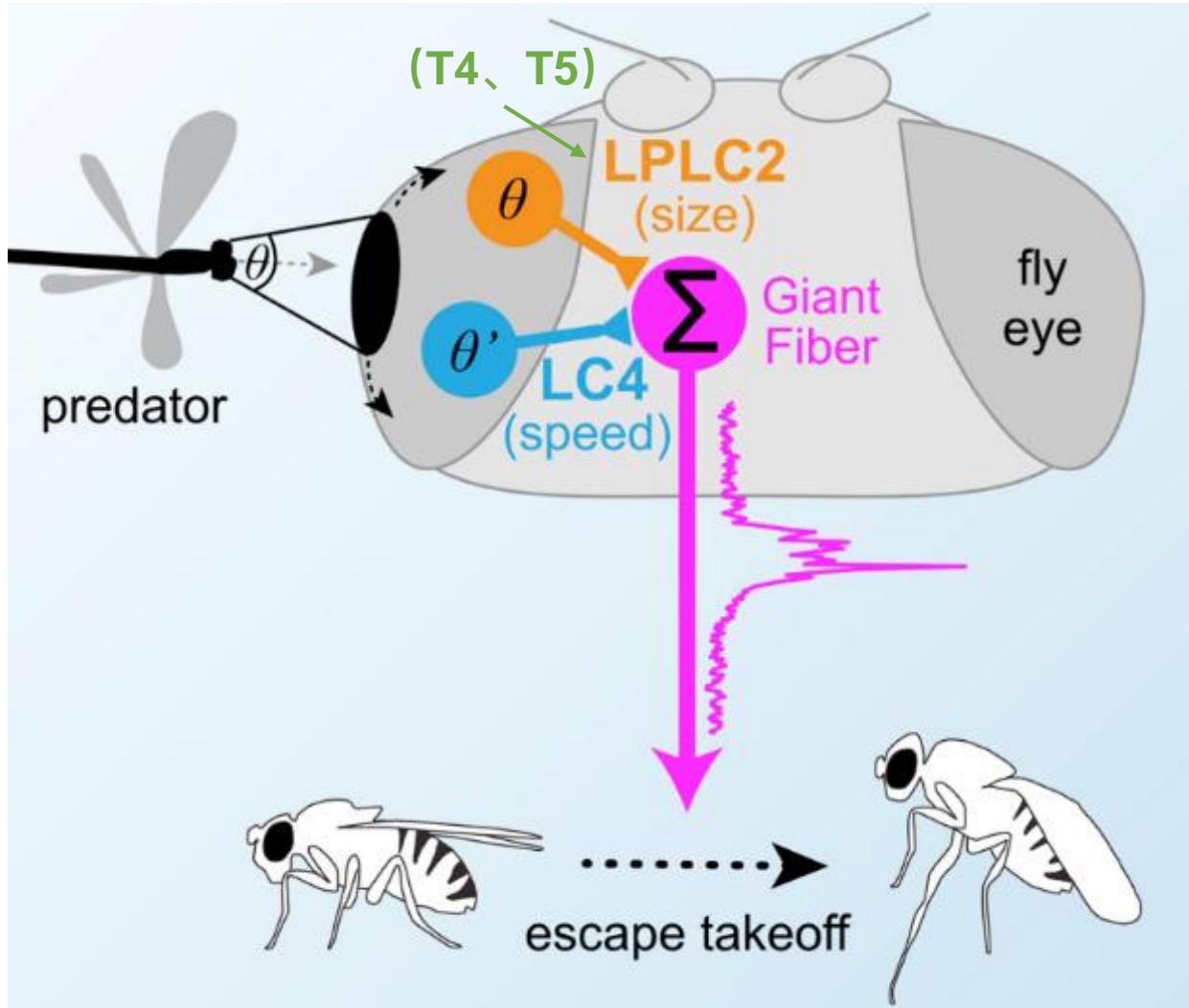


h



(Nathan C. Klapoetke, Gwyneth Card,  
et al. Nature, 2017)

When confronted with a fast-approaching object, such as a fly swatter, resting or walking flies execute a rapid, stereotyped take-off action



(Jan M. Ache, Gwyneth Card,  
et al. Current Biology, 2019)

# Leader in locomotor circuits in Drosophila

## Professor Barry Dickson

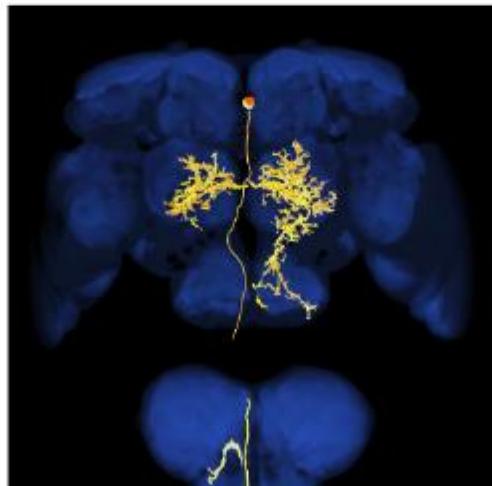
Professorial Research Fellow

Queensland Brain Institute

📞 +61 7 334 66328

✉️ [b.dickson@uq.edu.au](mailto:b.dickson@uq.edu.au)

[View researcher profile](#)

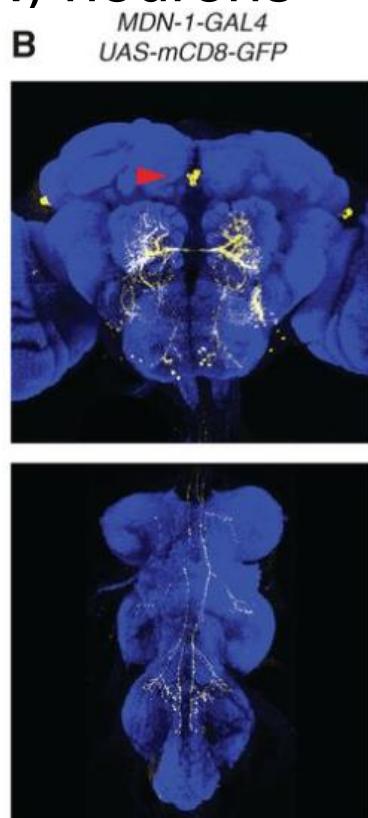


### Professor Barry Dickson: Locomotor Circuits in Drosophila

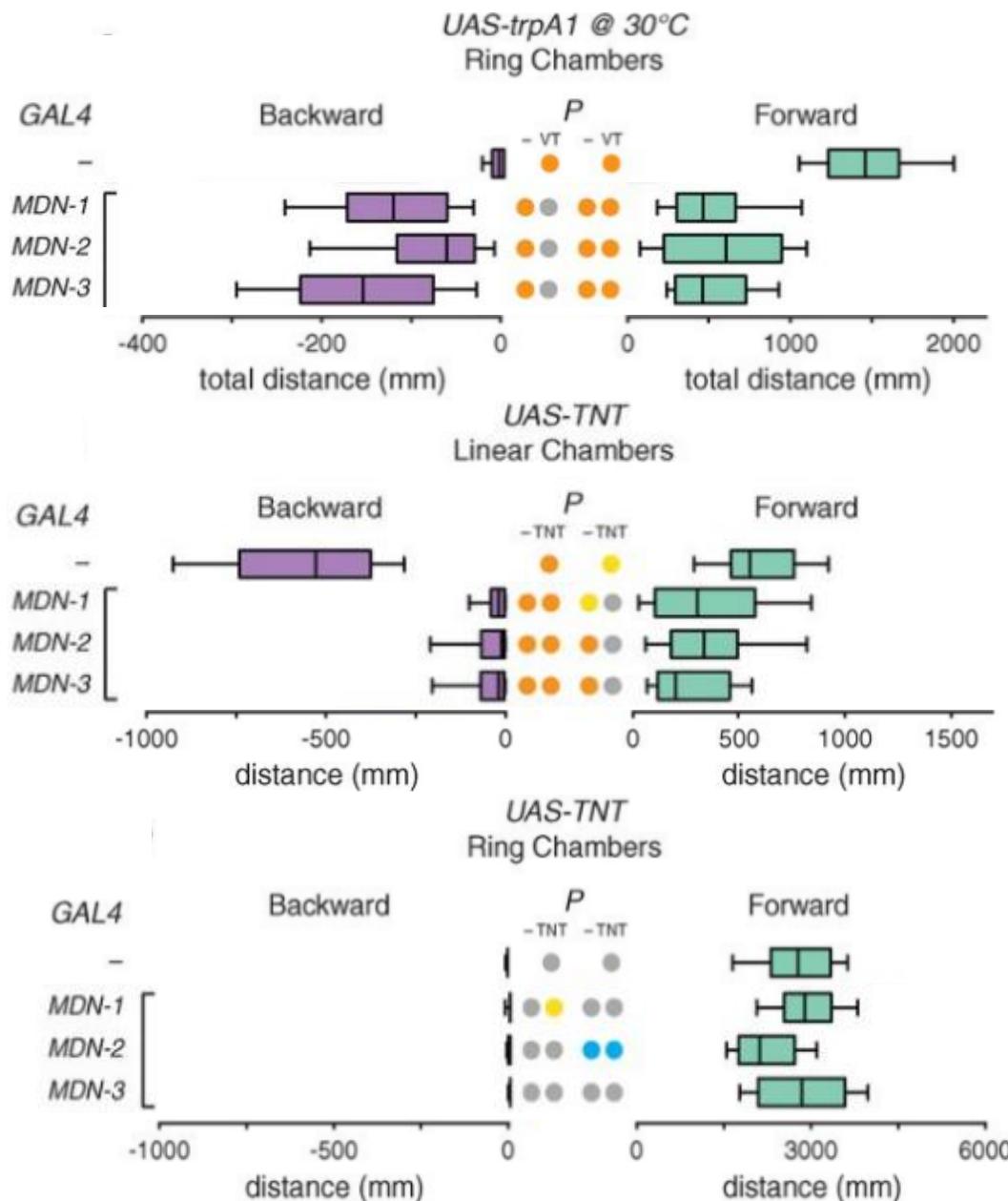
The Dickson laboratory investigates the neural circuits that control walking in the fruit fly, *Drosophila melanogaster*. The goal is to understand how local circuits in the nerve cord produce rhythmic motor patterns, how these patterns are co-ordinated across each leg joint and all six legs, and how descending signals from the brain modulate these operations to alter the fly's direction, speed and gait.

[Find out more](#)

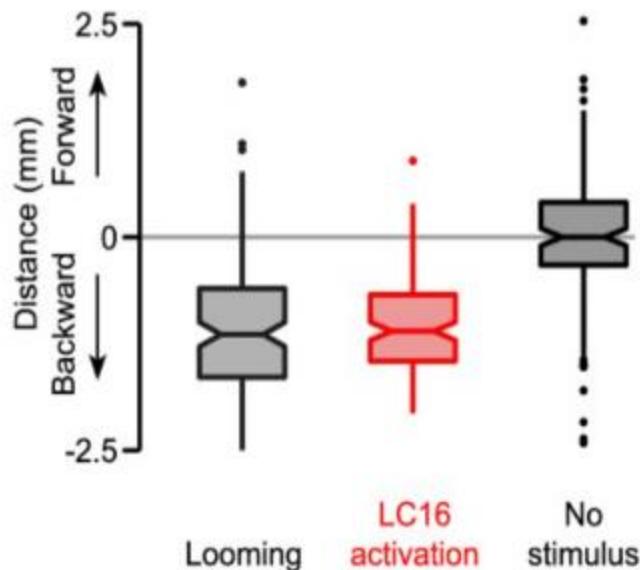
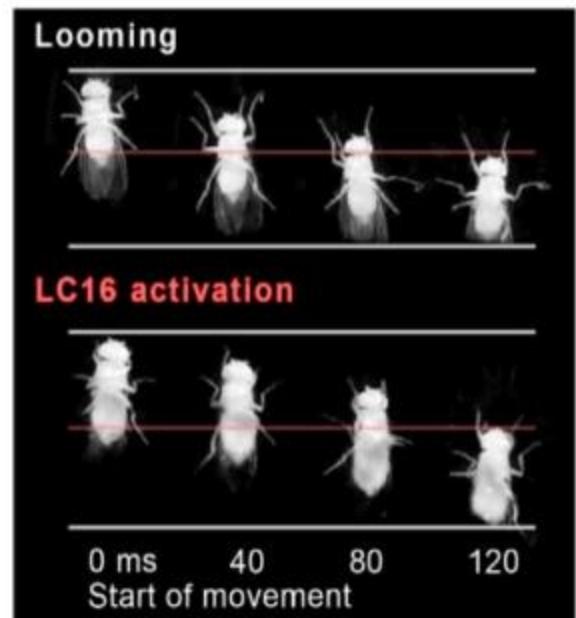
# Descending neurons for backward walking in Drosophila—the moonwalker descending neuron (MDN) neurons



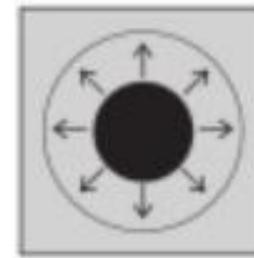
(Salil s. Bidaye, Barry J. Dickson, et al.  
Science, 2014)



# LC16 is tuned to slower looming speeds



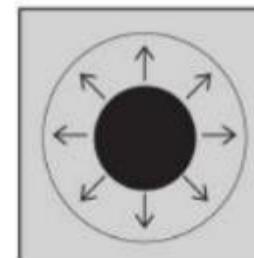
stimulus  
condition



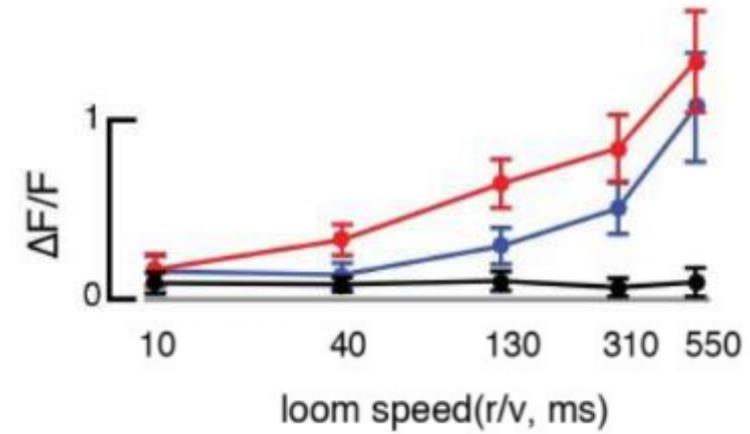
LC16  
LC6  
LC11

stimulus (R/V = 550 ms)  
timecourse

stimulus  
condition

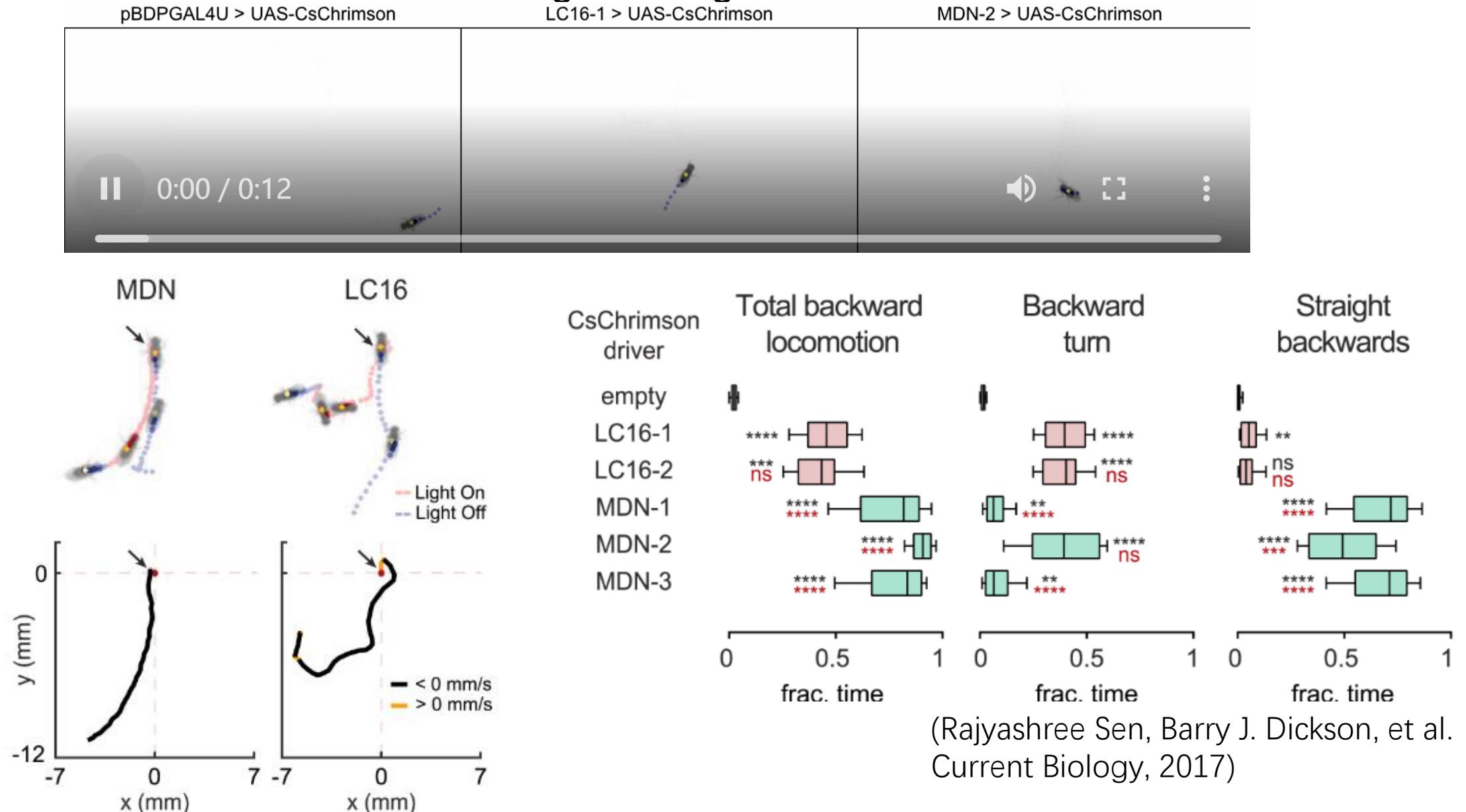


mean  $\Delta F/F$   
(loom stop  $\pm 2$  s)

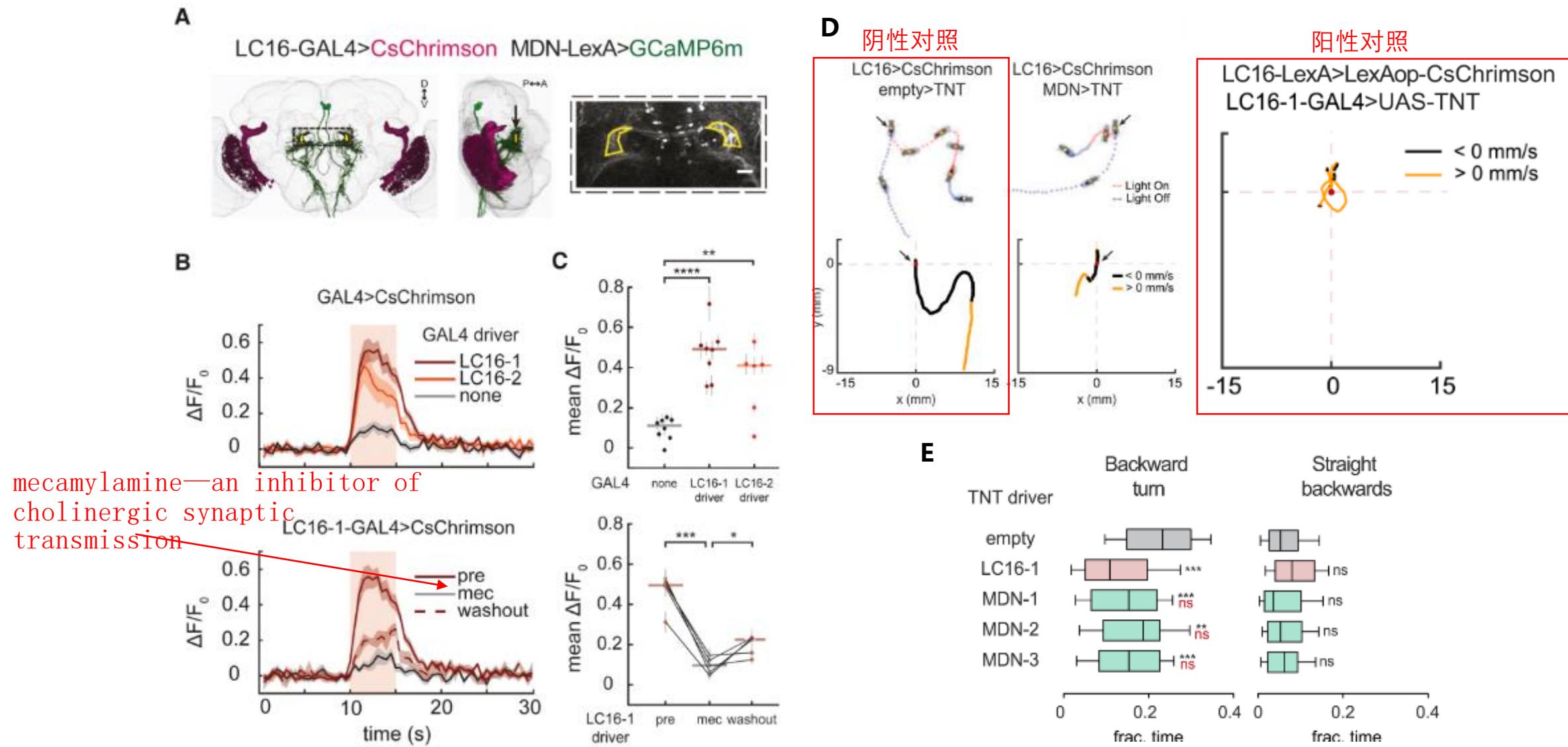


(Ming Wu, Gerald M Rubin, et al.  
eLife, 2016)

# Lobula columnar 16 (LC16) and moonwalker descending neuron (MDN) cells trigger backward locomotion during looming

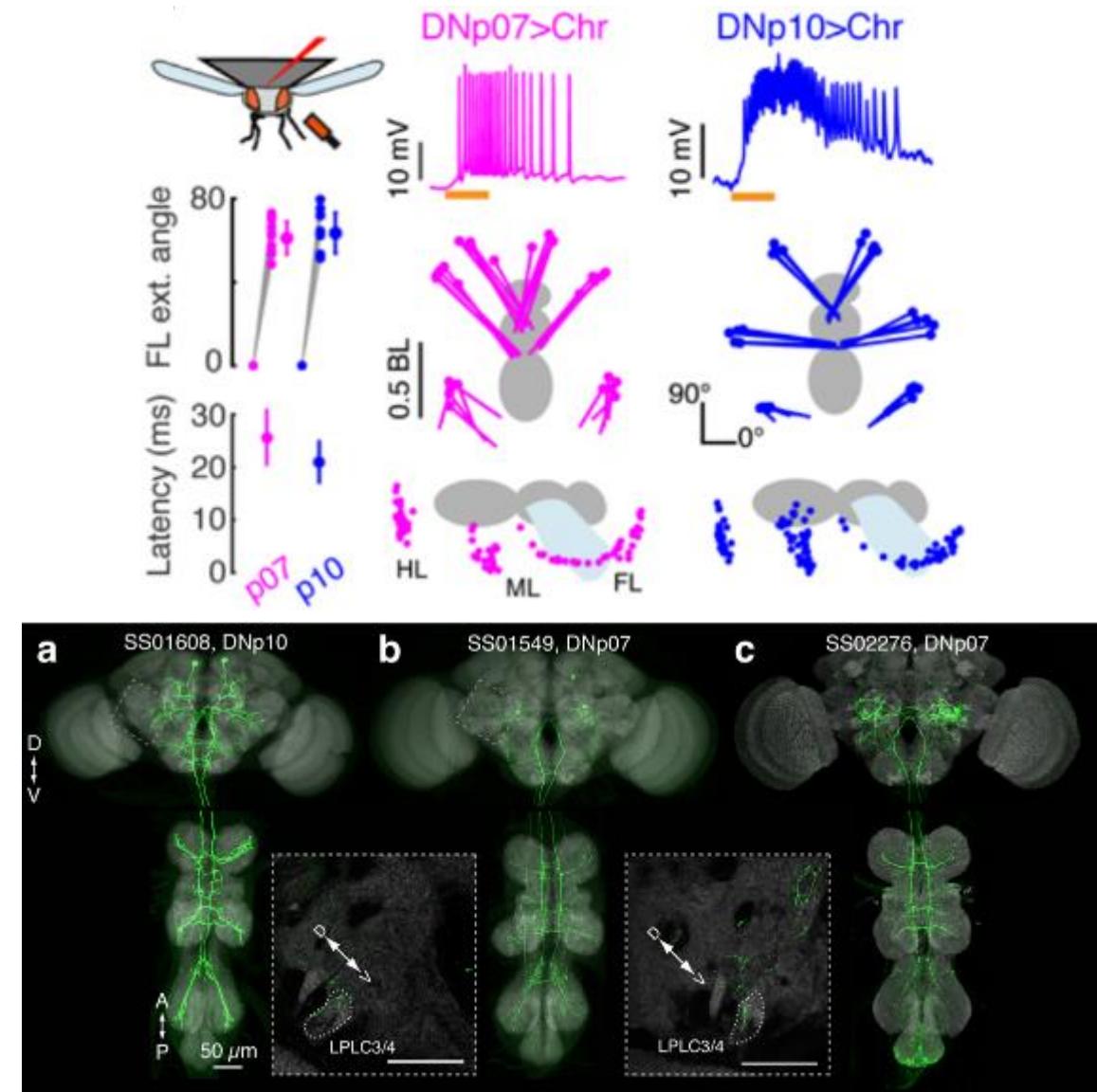
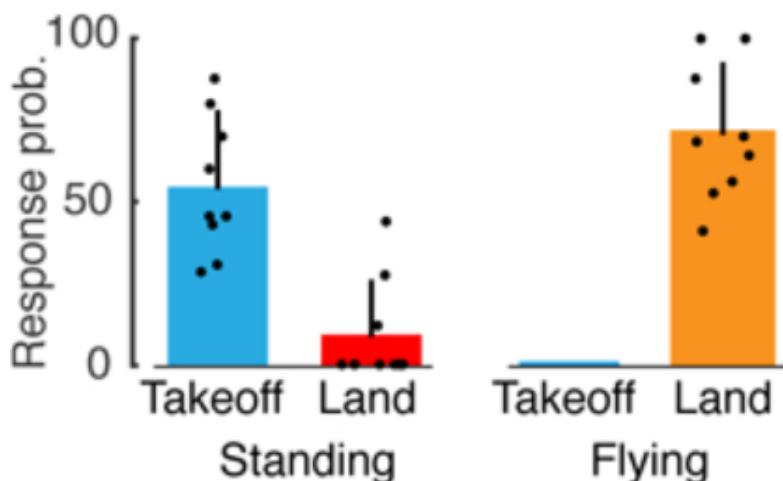
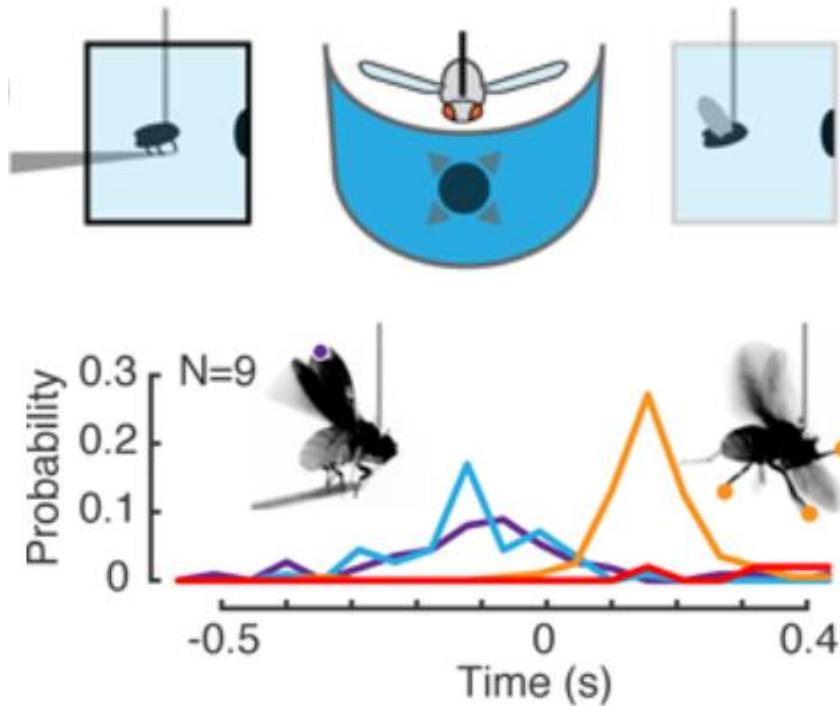


LC16 neurons activate MDN via excitatory cholinergic input to trigger backward movement



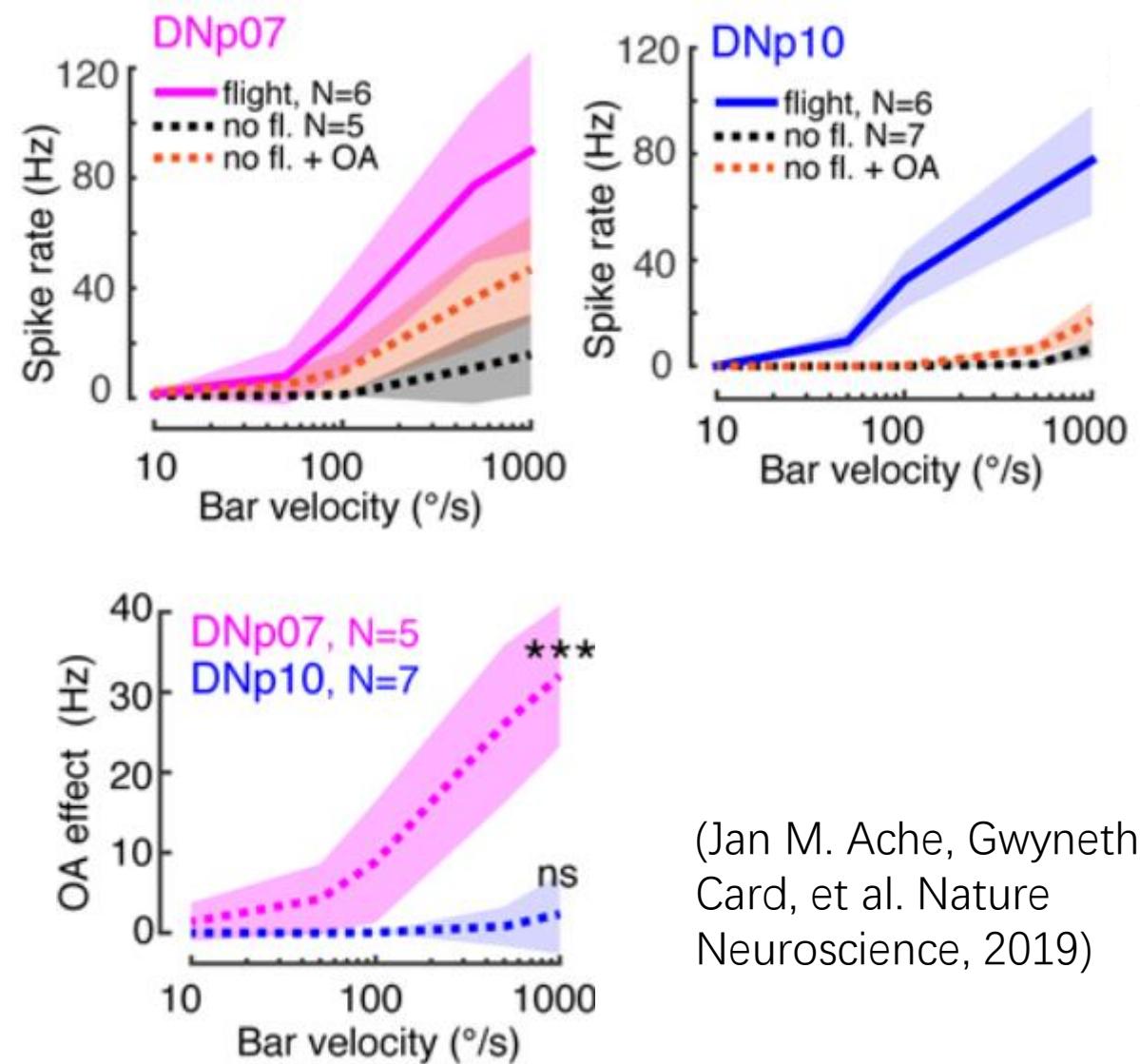
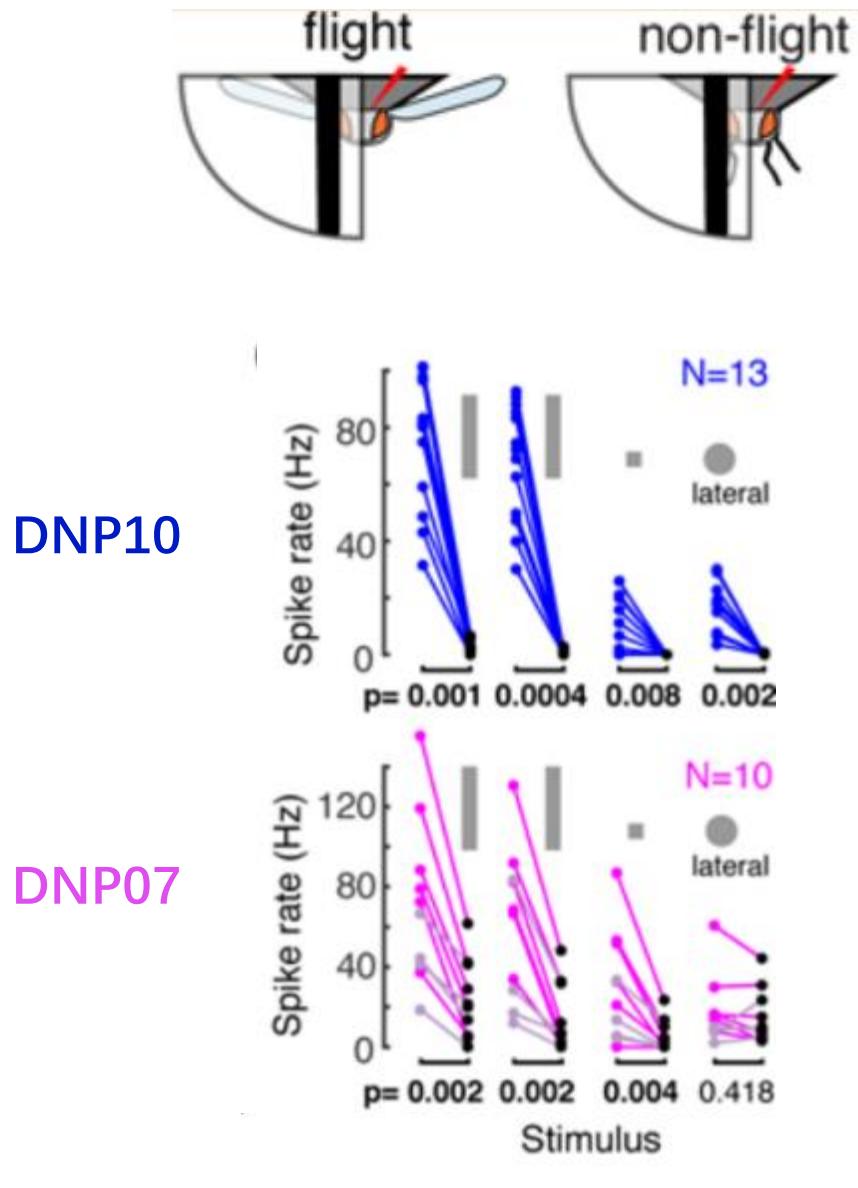
(Rajyashree Sen, Barry J. Dickson, et al. Current Biology, 2017)

# DNp07 and DNp10 contribute to landing responses



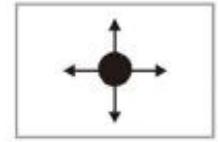
(Jan M. Ache, Gwyneth M. Card, et al.  
Nature Neuroscience, 2019)

# Visual responses of landing DNs are gated by flight

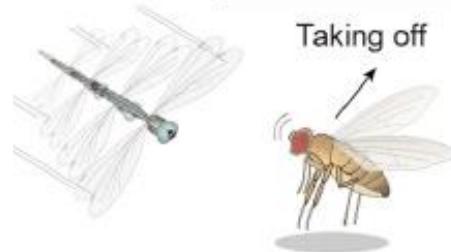


(Jan M. Ache, Gwyneth M. Card, et al. Nature Neuroscience, 2019)

# Summary



Looming visual pattern



Taking off

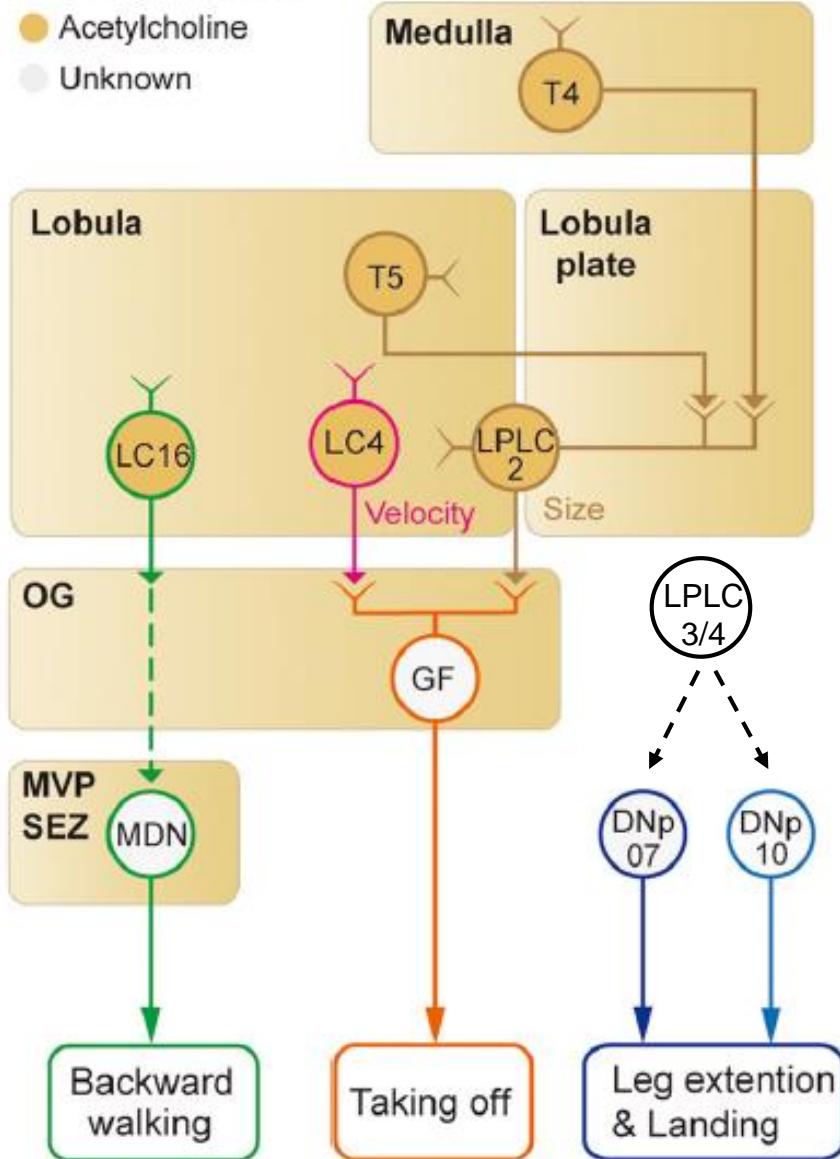
Landing

Backward walking

## Responses to approaching objects

### Neurotransmitters

- Acetylcholine (yellow circle)
- Unknown (grey circle)



### Flies in resting or walking:

a fast-approaching object ➔ Taking off

a slowly approaching object ➔ Backward walking

### Flies in flight:

a looming visual pattern ➔ Landing

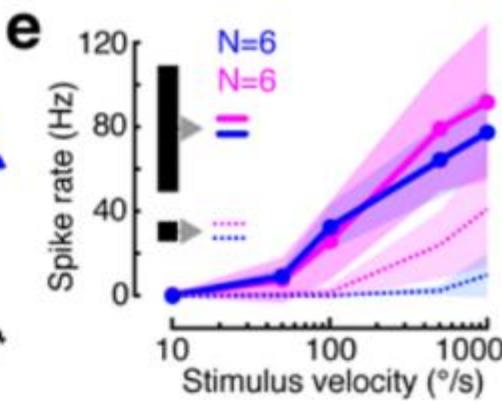
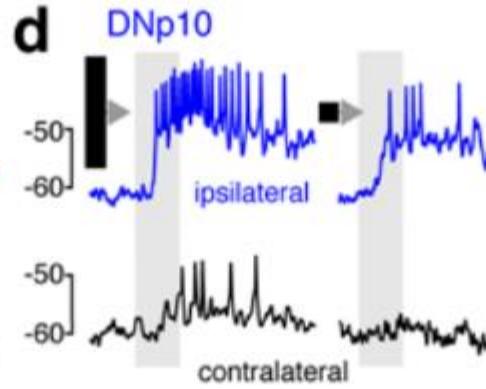
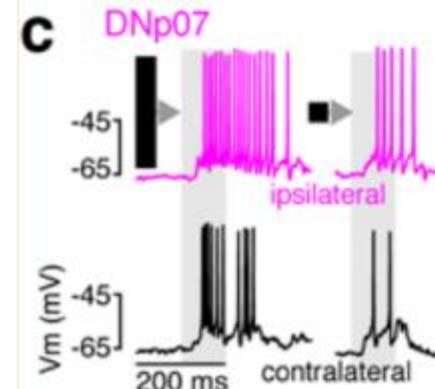
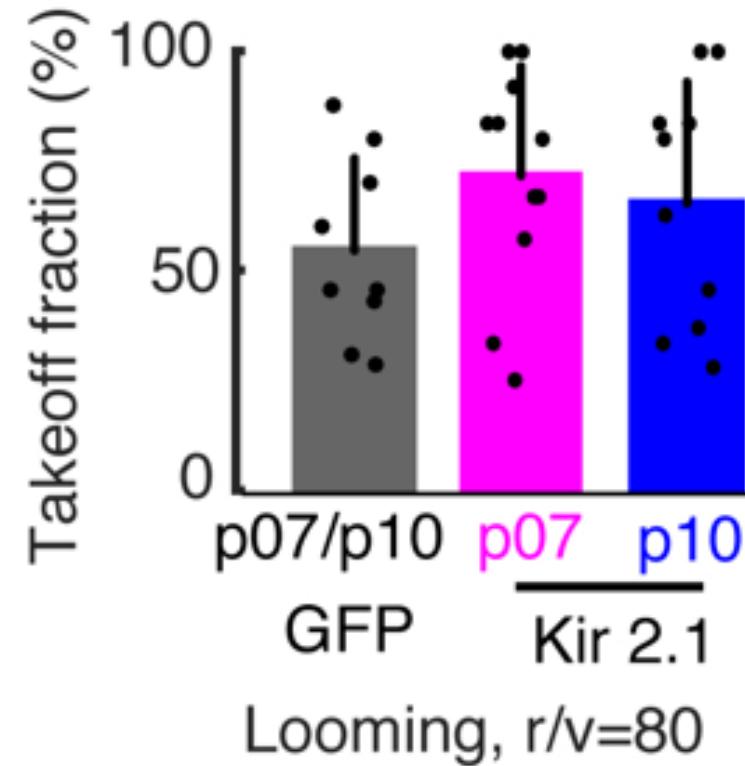
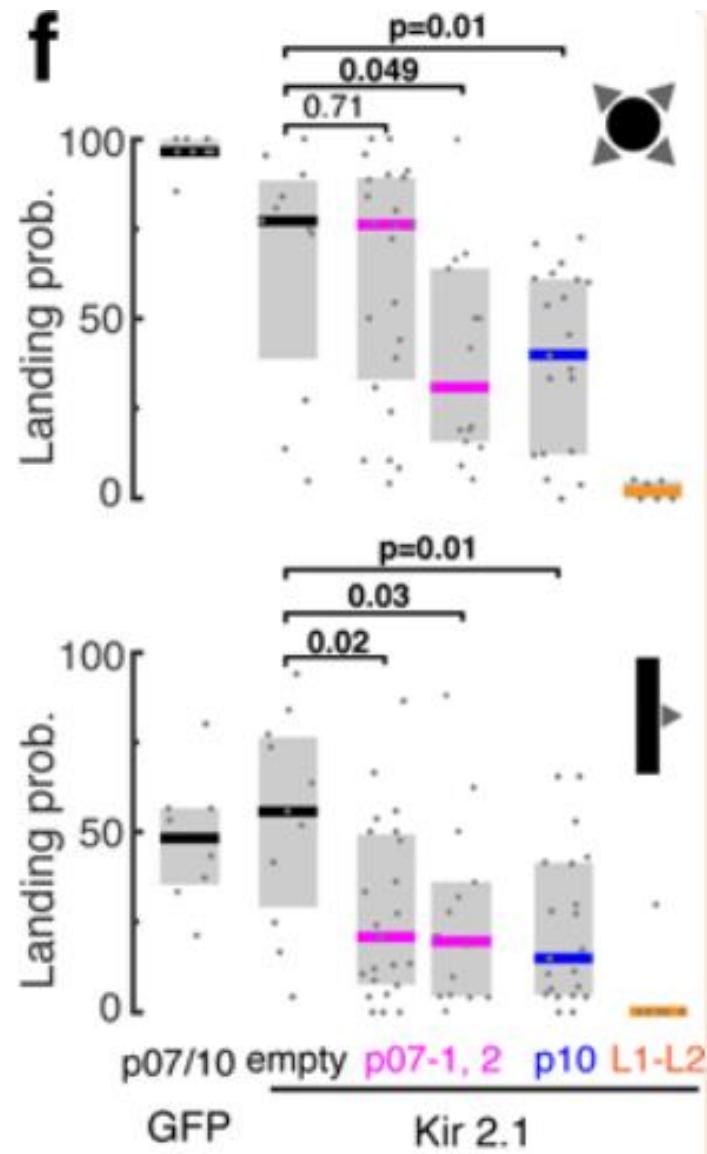
(Leesun Ryu, et al.  
Front Neurosci, 2022)

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10. von Reyn, C.R., Breads, P., Peek, M.Y., Zheng, G.Z., Williamson, W.R., Yee, A.L., Leonardo, A., and Card, G.M. (2014). A spike-timing mechanism for action selection. *Nature neuroscience* *17*, 962-970.
11. von Reyn, C.R., Nern, A., Williamson, W.R., Breads, P., Wu, M., Namiki, S., and Card, G.M. (2017). Feature Integration Drives Probabilistic Behavior in the *Drosophila* Escape Response. *Neuron* *94*, 1190-1204.e1196.
12. Wu, M., Nern, A., Williamson, W.R., Morimoto, M.M., Reiser, M.B., Card, G.M., and Rubin, G.M. (2016). Visual projection neurons in the *Drosophila* lobula link feature detection to distinct behavioral programs. *Elife* *5*.

**Thanks!**

# Supplementary Data



# Supplementary Data

