Title: Protocerebral bridge neurons that regulate sleep in *Drosophila melanogaster*

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Abstract

The central complex is one of the major brain regions that control sleep in *Drosophila*, but the

circuitry details of sleep regulation have yet to be elucidated.   We attempted to identify a novel

sleep-regulating neuronal circuit in the central complex.   *no-bridge^{KS49}* mutant flies with an

anatomical defect in the protocerebral bridge (PB) significantly decreased sleep.   By transient

activation of a subset of the PB neurons using 14 *Gal4* drivers, we found the sleep-promoting

R59E08-Gal4 and the wake-promoting *R52B10-Gal4*.   The *R59E08-Gal4* expressing PB

neurons were identified as the PB interneurons according to their morphological features.   On

the other hand, using genetic mosaic analysis, we showed that activation of neurons projecting

from the PB to the FB and contralateral NO (PFN neurons) in the *R52B10-Gal4* driver reduced

sleep.   A targeted GFP reconstitution across synaptic partners (t-GRASP) analysis demonstrated

synaptic contacts between the sleep-promoting PB neurons and the wake-promoting PFN neurons.

Furthermore, we found that activation of a pair of dopaminergic neurons with axons projecting

the PB (T1 DA neurons) significantly decreased sleep.   The wake-promoting T1 DA neurons

were more likely to physically associate with the sleep-promoting PB interneurons.   *Dopamine*

2-like receptor (*Dop2R*) knockdown in the *R59E08-Gal4* expressing PB interneurons

significantly increased sleep.   These results indicated that the neuronal circuit in the PB

regulated by dopamine signaling mediates sleep-wakefulness.

Introduction

Sleep is a basic physiological state evolutionarily conserved among animal species (Allada and

Siegel, 2008; Cirelli and Tononi, 2008).   The fruit fly, *Drosophila melanogaster*, has emerged

as a powerful model system for uncovering the molecular and cellular basis of sleep-wakefulness.

Sleep in *Drosophila* is defined by behavioral features including circadian control of the timing of

sleep, homeostasis of the amount of sleep and increased arousal threshold as in other animal

species that do not exhibit the characteristic electroencephalogram patterns of sleep (Campbell

and Tobler, 1984).   The central complex is a unique midline neuropil structures in the adult insect

brain, composed of four substructures, the protocerebral bridge (PB), the fan-shaped body (FB),

the ellipsoid body (EB) and the noduli (NO), and serves as a higher-order integrator for sensory

information and various motor control (Homberg, 2008).   Accumulating evidence from the number of neurogenetic studies has established a crucial role for the central complex in *Drosophila* sleep regulation.   The sleep-promoting neurons having extensive presynaptic arborizations in the dorsal layer of FB (dFB) has been identified (Donlea et al., 2011; Ueno et al., 2012).   Dopamine is a neurotransmitter that is essential for maintaining wakefulness in *Drosophila*, similar to mammals (Andretic et al., 2005; Kume et al., 2005).   The protocerebral posterior medial 3 (PPM3) cluster dopamine neurons projecting to the dFB neurons controls sleep through Dopamine 1-like receptor 1 (Dop1R1) signaling (Liu et al., 2012; Ueno et al., 2012). Homeostatic mechanism of sleep would be associated with changes in neuronal activity of the sleep-promoting dFB neurons and their functional upstream neurons, the R2 neurons in the EB (Donlea et al., 2014; Liu et al., 2016).   In addition, the dFB neurons form a recurrent circuit with the EB R2 neurons via helicon cells to regulate sleep homeostasis (Donlea et al., 2018). Regarding circadian regulation of sleep-wakefulness, recent studies have shown that sleep-modulating dorsal neurons 1 (DN1) of circadian clock neurons and EB ring neuron subtypes are functionally connected via sleep-promoting tubercular-bulbar (TuBu) neurons and that this circuit is likely to regulate sleep-wakefulness (Guo et al., 2018; Lamaze et al., 2018).   Besides, sleep-promoting lateral posterior neurons (LPNs), another group of clock neurons, appear to form close associations to the sleep-promoting dFB neurons and activate these neurons (Ni et al., 2019). Detailed mechanisms for regulating sleep-wakefulness by the central complex are being clarified. However, because the four substructures of the central complex are interconnected, a population of central complex neurons other than the dFB neurons and EB R2 neurons should also be implicated in the control of sleep-wakefulness.   Here, we begin to explore a novel sleep-regulating neuron in the central complex and discover that the sleep-promoting PB interneurons have direct neuronal connections to the wake-promoting PB neurons projecting from the PB to the FB and the NO.   Moreover, we reveal that T1 cluster dopamine neurons regulate sleep by acting on the sleep-promoting PB interneurons through D2 dopamine receptor signaling.

Materials and Methods

Fly strains and rearing conditions.   Fruit flies (*Drosophila melanogaster*) were raised at 25ºC

in 50-60% relative humidity on standard medium containing cornmeal, yeast, glucose, wheat

germ and agar.   They were maintained under a 12-h light:12-h dark (LD) cycle.   Zeitgeber time

0 (ZT 0) corresponds to the light onset and ZT 12 to the light offset.   Eleven mutant flies with

structural defects in the central complex *agnostic^{X1}* (*agn^{X1}*), *central-body-defect^{KS171}* (*cbd^{KS171}*),

cbd^{KS188}, *cbd^{762}*, *central-complex-broad^{KS145}* (*ccb^{KS145}*), *central-complex-deranged^{KS135}* (*ccd^{KS135}*),

central-complex^{KS181} (*cex^{KS181}*), *ellipsoid-body-open^{KS263}* (*ebo^{KS263}*), *ebo^{678}*, *ebo^{1041}* and *no-

bridge^{KS49}* (*nob^{KS49}*) were kindly provided by Roland Strauss.   *UAS-dTrpA1* lines on the second

or third chromosomes were gifts from Paul A. Garrity.   *tsh-Gal80*/CyO was a gift from Julie H.

Simpson.   *Cha$^{7.4kb}$-Gal80* and *MB247-Gal80* were gifts from Takaomi Sakai.   *c465-Gal4* was

a gift from J. Douglas Armstrong.   *FLP^{243}* was a gift from Edward A. Kravitz.

UAS>stop>mCD8::GFP and *UAS>stop>dTrpA1* were gifts from Barry J. Dickson.   *R14F09-

Gal4* (stock number: 48652), *R15E12-Gal4* (#48608), *R16D01-Gal4* (#48722), *R37G05-Gal4*

(#48133), *R38G07-Gal4* (#50019), *R40A01-Gal4* (#50072), *R44B10-Gal4* (#50202), *R45G06-

Gal4* (#50244), *R52B10-Gal4* (#38820), *R52G12-Gal4* (#49581), *R52H12-Gal4* (#38856),

R55G08-Gal4 (#50422), *R59A12-Gal4* (#39206), *R59E08-Gal4* (#39219), *R67B06-Gal4*

(#48294), *R74C08-Gal4* (#46711) *R83A10-Gal4* (#48371), *R83H12-Gal4* (#40374), *R91A12-

Gal4* (#40573), *10×UAS-IVS-mCD8::GFP* (#32187), *10×UAS-IVS-mCD8::GFP* (#32188),

UAS-DenMark, UAS-syt.eGFP (#33064), *R52B10-LexA* (#52826), *R59E08-LexA* (#52832),

13×LexAop2-post-t-GRASP, 20×UAS-pre-t-GRASP (#79040), *UAS-CD4-spGFP1-10, lexAop-

CD4-spGFP11* (#58755), *UAS-Dop2R-RNAi* (#50621) and *y, v; P{CaryP}attP40* (control line for

TRiP RNAi lines, #36304) were obtained from the Bloomington *Drosophila* Stock Center,

Indiana University, Indiana, USA.   *UAS-Dop2R-RNAi* (VDRC ID: 1820), *UAS-Dicer-2* (60008)

and *w^{1118}* (the genetic background for VDRC RNAi lines, 60000) were from the Vienna

Drosophila RNAi Center (VDRC).   *P{neoFRT}19A* (stock number: 106482) and

P{neoFRT}19A, tubP-GAL80, hsFLP; Pin^{Yt}/CyO (#108064) were from the Kyoto Stock Center,

Kyoto Institute of Technology, Kyoto, Japan.

Locomotor activity and sleep analysis.   Locomotor activity of individual fly was measured using

the *Drosophila* activity monitoring system (TriKinetics) as described previously.   Flies were

placed individually in glass tubes (length, 65 mm; inside diameter, 3 mm) containing either

standard medium or sucrose-agar medium (5% sucrose and 1% agar) at one end and were

entrained for at least 3 days to LD cycles before transferring to constant dark (DD) conditions.

Two- to four-day-old male flies were used except for MARCM experiments.   Activity data were recorded continuously at 1-min intervals under both LD and DD conditions.   *Drosophila* sleep was defined as continuous immobile periods lasting 5 min or longer based on previous reports (Hendricks et al., 2000; Shaw et al., 2000; Huber et al., 2004; Kume et al., 2005).   Total activity counts, total amount of sleep and waking activity index were analyzed by Microsoft Excel-based software as previously described and averaged over 3 days.   For conditional dTrpA1 activation experiments, control and experimental flies were grown at 22ºC.   Sleep measurements were performed in DD following LD cycles.   The temperature was raised from 22ºC to 29ºC for 24 h or 48 h to activate dTrpA1-expressing neurons and then returned to 22ºC.

Video tracking of locomotion.   Offspring from the control (*R59E08-Gal4 × tsh-Gal80*) and the experimental (*R59E08-Gal4 × tsh-Gal80*; *UAS-dTrpA1*) crosses were housed in glass tubes and entrained to an LD cycle at 22ºC.   After entrainment, these flies were maintained in DD with illumination by near-infrared LEDs.   At circadian time (CT) 0 on day 2 in DD, flies were transferred from 22ºC to 29ºC for 12 h to activate dTrpA1.   The behavior of flies was recorded at 2 frames/sec using a USB camera (Flea3 USB3.0: FL3-U3-13Y3M-C, Point Grey Research Inc.) during late subjective day (CT 8 to CT 12) at 29ºC.   The captured images were converted into 8-bit grayscale images.   A composite background image was subtracted from each video image.   The position of the center of mass for individual fly was calculated for each subtracted image using the Particle Tracker 2D/3D, an ImageJ plugin (Sbalzarini and Koumoutsakos, 2005).

The MARCM system.   To generate flies for MARCM, female flies carrying *FRT19A, tub-GAL80, hs-FLP*; *UAS-dTrpA1* (X ; II) crossed to males carrying *FRT19A*; *R52B10-Gal4, 10×UAS-IVS-mCD8::GFP* (X ; III) at 22ºC.   Following egg-laying for 48 h, embryos or first instar larvae were heat-shocked at 37ºC for 1 h to induce FLP-mediated recombination across two FRT sites.   The amount of sleep in mosaic female flies was measured at 22ºC and 29ºC under DD conditions. After sleep analysis, GFP expression co-expressed with dTrpA1 in the brains was immunohistochemically determined.

Immunohistochemistry.   To detect GFP expression in the MARCM experiments and reconstituted GFP signals in the t-GRASP and GRASP experiments, whole-mount immunofluorescence staining of adult brains was performed as described (Wu and Luo, 2006).

For determination of GFP expression, GFP polyclonal antibody (A6455, Invitrogen) was used at 1:250 dilution and goat anti-rabbit IgG, Alexa Fluor 568 (A11036, Invitrogen) was used at 1:200 dilution as secondary antibodies. We used GFP recombinant rabbit monoclonal antibody (G10362, Invitrogen) at 1:300 dilution and monoclonal anti-GFP, clone GFP-20 (G6539, Sigma-Aldrich) at 1:100 dilution for detection of reconstituted GFP signals in t-GRASP and GRASP experiments, respectively. Alexa Fluor 488, goat anti-rabbit IgG (A11008, Invitrogen) and goat anti-mouse IgG (A11001, Invitrogen) were used at 1:200 dilution as secondary antibodies. Immunostained brain tissues were imaged by laser scanning confocal microscopes Zeiss LSM 510 or LSM 800 (Carl Zeiss). Adult brains and ventral nerve cords expressing *mCD8::GFP* or *syt-GFP* under the control of Gal4 were dissected and scanned by the confocal microscopes without staining.

Statistical analysis. Data were analyzed as described in the figure legends using Microsoft Excel and R: a language and environment for statistical computing (R Core Team, 2020, https://www.R-project.org/).

Results

The PB defective mutant flies, *nob*[KS49] decreased sleep

In order to examine the role of the CC in sleep regulation, we tested eleven mutant strains with morphological defects in the CC. These mutant flies were isolated histologically following ethyl methanesulfonate mutagenesis, except for *agn*[XI], which was isolated from a wild population (Strauss and Heisenberg, 1993). Flies were entrained to 12 h light : 12 h dark (LD) cycles for at least 3 days, then maintained in constant dark (DD) conditions. Locomotor activity was recorded in both LD and DD conditions. Sleep was defined as periods of immobile state lasting 5 min or longer, as previously described (Hendricks et al., 2000; Shaw et al., 2000; Huber et al., 2004; Kume et al., 2005). Because most of these CC structural mutants are still uncharacterized, their total daily activity and sleep were compared to those of three control strains (Canton-S (CS), *y w* and *w*[1118]) under constant dark (DD) conditions. There were no significant differences in total daily activity and sleep between the three control strains (*Figure 1A,B*). Among the CC mutant strains tested, *nob*[KS49] flies showed significant hyperactivity compared with two control lines (CS and *y w*). *nob*[KS49] mutants have a defect in the central part of PB (Strauss et al., 1992). No difference was seen in waking activity index, defined as total daily activity divided by the

active period length, between nob^{KS49} and controls, suggesting hyperactivity in nob^{KS49} flies is not

attributed to aberrant locomotion (*Figure 1C*).   On average, total daily activity significantly

increased by about 2-fold in nob^{KS49} relative to controls (*Figure 1A*).   In contrast, total daily sleep

of nob^{KS49} flies decreased to approximately half of that of the CS and *y w* controls (*Figure 1B*).

These results suggest that PB is involved in sleep regulation.

Activation of *Gal4*-expressing neurons in *Gal4* drivers that express in the PB affected sleep

To further explore the involvement of PB neurons in sleep regulation, we examined the effects of

transient thermogenetic activation of a subset of PB neurons using the temperature-sensitive

cation channel dTrpA1 on the amount of sleep.   For this, fourteen *Gal4* driver lines that express

strongly in PB neurons (*PB-Gal4*) were selected from the Gal4 image data of the FlyLight Image

Database (https://flweb.janelia.org/cgi-bin/flew.cgi; Jenet t et al., 2012).   Progenies from the

control (*PB-Gal4 × w^{1118}*) and the experimental (*PB-Gal4 × UAS-dTrpA1*) crosses were grown at

22ºC to adulthood.   Sleep was measured in adult progeny flies in DD following LD cycles.

These flies were transferred from 22ºC to 29ºC for 24 h to conditionally activate dTrpA1-

expressing neurons and then returned to 22ºC.   Of the 14 *PB-Gal4* drivers tested, the acute

activation of neurons with the 9 *Gal4* drivers significantly decreased sleep.   In particular, the

decrease in the sleep amount induced by activation of neurons using the *R52B10-Gal4* was most

remarkable and flies hardly slept during neuronal activation as previously reported (*Figure 2A,B*)

(Liu et al., 2016).   Although clear homeostatic sleep recovery (sleep rebound) after sleep loss by

the thermogenetic activation using the *R52B10-Gal4* was reported (Liu et al., 2016), such a clear

sleep rebound was not observed in our experimental conditions (*Figure 2B*).   On the other hand,

the activation of Gal4 expressing neurons in the 3 of 14 *PB-Gal4* drivers significantly increased

sleep (*Figure 2A*).   The largest effect on sleep induction was caused by the neuronal activation

using the *R59E08-Gal4*.   In this *Gal4* driver, the amount of sleep in the experimental flies peaked

in the middle of the subjective day at 29ºC as much as the control flies and was maintained at the

peak level during neuronal activation (*Figure 2C*).   Sleep amount in the experimental flies was

significantly reduced compared with that in the control flies for at least 2 days after stopping the

activation.   The expression patterns of the *R52B10-Gal4* or the *R59E08-Gal4* drivers in the adult

brains were visualized using *UAS-mCD8::GFP*.   The wake-promoting *R52B10-Gal4* drove

strong expression in several cell types of neurons named PFN projecting from the PB to the

ventral part of the FB and contralateral NO (*Figure 2D*) as shown in the FlyLight and the previous

report (Buchanan et al., 2015).   In addition to these central complex substructures, some neurons

in the anterior ventrolateral protocerebrum (AVLP) were also be seen as intense GFP signals

(*Figure 2D*).   The thermogenetic activation using the *R52H12-Gal4* or the *R83A10-Gal4* that

express strongly in the AVLP neuropil did not result in a marked decrease in the amount of sleep

(FlyLight and *Figure 2-figure supplement 1*).   The sleep-promoting *R59E08-Gal4* specifically

labeled the PB strongly in the central complex (*Figure 2E*).   These PB neurons were identified

as PB interneurons according to their previously described morphological features (Lin et al.,

2013; Wolff et al., 2015).   In addition, the ubiquitous strong expression of GFP in the medulla

cells was also detected in the *R59E08-Gal4* driver.   Neuronal activation using two *Gal4* drivers

(*R14F09-Gal4* and *R59A12-Gal4*), whose expression patterns in the medulla resemble that of the

R59E08-Gal4, did not significantly increase the amount of sleep (FlyLight and *Figure 2-figure*

supplement 2).

232   Activation of PB interneurons with *R59E08-Gal4* increased sleep

The sleep-promoting *R59E08-Gal4* was expressed not only in the adult brain but also in the

ventral nerve cord (VNC) (*Figure 3A*).   To determine which targeted neurons in this driver are

responsible for the sleep induction, we employed *tsh-Gal80*, which inhibits Gal4-mediated

transcription in the VNC.   The incorporation of the *tsh-Gal80* transgene successfully blocked

R59E08-Gal4 induced GFP expression in the VNC without affecting its expression pattern in the

brain (*Figure 3A*).   Activation of *R59E08-Gal4*-expressing neurons with *tsh-Gal80* also

markedly increased in the amount of sleep, indicating that brain neurons labeled by *R59E08-Gal4*

contribute dTrpA1-mediated sleep induction (*Figure 2B* and *Figure 3A*).   On the other hand,

decreased sleep caused after dTrpA1 activation was completely restored by introducing *tsh-Gal80*,

indicating that *R59E08-Gal4*-expressing the VNC neurons are involved in this sleep phenotype.

Thus, distinct populations of *R59E08-Gal4*-expressing neurons participate in the sleep

phenotypes induced during or after dTrpA1 activation.   Because the DAM system only detects

motions of a fly passing through an infrared beam that bisects a glass tube at the center, continuing

feeding or grooming away from the beam path are detected as apparent inactivity (continuous

bins with the value of zero).   To confirm that the flies certainly sleep by activation of *R59E08-*

Gal4-expressing brain neurons, we performed video analysis of the behavior of these flies in glass

tubes during the late subjective-day (CT 8 to CT 12) at 29ºC (*Figure 3C*).   The temperature was

shifted from 22ºC to 29ºC at CT 0.   As expected from the sleep patterns observed by the DAM

system, the experimental flies (*R59E08-Gal4 × tsh-Gal80*; *UAS-dTrpA1*) displayed little

locomotor activity compared to controls (*R59E08-Gal4 × tsh-Gal80*).   The immobile flies did

not show excessive feeding or grooming, and paralysis in naked-eye observation.   We also found

that the sleep phenotypes induced during or after activation of *R59E08-Gal4*-expressing neurons

were fully rescued by introducing *Cha^{7.4kb}-Gal80* transgene, which prohibits Gal4 activity in

cholinergic neurons (*Figure 3D*).   Taken together, these results indicate that the sleep-promoting

PB interneurons were cholinergic.

PFN neurons were wake-promoting neurons

As shown in *Figure 4A*, *tsh-Gal80* effectively attenuated the wake-promoting *R52B10-Gal4*

driven GFP expression in the VNC without effect on its expression in the brain.   Activation of

the brain neurons targeted by *R52B10-Gal4* resulted in a dramatic reduction in the amount of

sleep comparable to that evoked by activating both the brain and the VNC neurons using this

Gal4 driver (*Figure 2C* and *Figure 4B*).   Next, we searched for *R52B10-Gal4*-expressing brain

neurons that contribute to the promotion of wakefulness by genetic mosaic approach.   Using the

mosaic analysis with a repressible cell marker (MARCM) system, the *dTrpA1* and *GFP* were

randomly co-expressed in a subpopulation of neurons using *R52B10-Gal4* with FRT/FLP-induced

mitotic recombination.   We measured the amount of sleep in these genetically mosaic flies at

22ºC and then 29ºC under DD conditions.   The change in sleep amount (ΔSleep) in individual

flies was calculated by subtracting the amount of sleep during the 12-h subjective night at 29ºC

from that at 22ºC (*Figure 4C*).   In this experiment, ΔSleep value above the mean plus two times

standard deviation (+2 SD) was regarded as a significant decrease in subjective-night sleep at

29ºC.   Of 133 flies examined, 7 flies had a ΔSleep value above the mean +2 SD (426 min).

After measuring the amount of sleep, the brains of these flies were dissected and immunostained

to determine GFP expression co-expressed with dTrpA1.   GFP expression in the flies with

significantly reduced sleep labeled the PFN neurons in all but one of the flies shown in #7 in

Figure 4D.   By contrast, in the 7 individuals having ΔSleep value near the average, 2 flies were

labeled with the PFN neurons (#5 and #6 in *Figure 4E*), while the remaining flies were either not

labeled at all (#1 and #2) or labeled with neurons different from the PFN neurons (#3, #4, #7).

Moreover, to ensure that the PFN neurons labeled by *R52B10-Gal4* are the wake-promoting

neurons, we employed *c465-Gal4* that drives expression in these neurons participating in the

tuning of the magnitude of locomotor handedness (Buchanan et al., 2015).   Because *c465-Gal4*

is also strongly expressed in the mushroom bodies that is another brain neuropil structures

involved in *Drosophila* sleep regulation (Joiner et al., 2006; Pitman et al., 2006; Sitaraman et al.,

2015a), we used *MB247-Gal80*, which blocks the activity of Gal4 in the mushroom bodies

(*Figure 4F*).   As expected, activation of *c465-Gal4*-expressing neurons except for mushroom

body neurons significantly decreased sleep, as did the activation of *R52B10-Gal4*-expressing

neurons (*Figure 4G*).   These results indicate that the PFN neurons labeled by *R52B10-Gal4* are

wake-promoting.

PFN neurons had synaptic connections with the sleep-promoting PB interneurons

To visualize putative dendritic and axonal terminals of the wake-promoting PFN neurons, both

DenMark, a specific somatodendritic marker and synaptotagmin (syt)-GFP, a presynaptic marker

localized to synaptic vesicles were expressed using *R52B10-Gal4*.   These neurons displayed

specific dendritic DenMark labeling in the PB and strong labeling of presynaptic syt-GFP in the

layer 1 of the FB and in the ventral NO (*Figure 5A*).   In addition, weak labeling of presynaptic

terminals was also observed near the layers 2 to 3 of the FB and in regions of the NO other than

the ventral NO.   To assess synaptic connectivity between the sleep-promoting PB interneurons

and the wake-promoting PFN neurons, we employed a targeted GFP reconstitution across

synaptic partners (t-GRASP) technique (Shearin et al., 2018) under the control of two independent

binary systems.   A part of the *cacophony* gene tagged with the *GFP11* fragment of a *split-GFP*

(*pre-t-GRASP*), which is targeted to axonal terminals and a portion of the mouse *Icam5* gene

tagged with the *GFP1-10* (*post-t-GRASP*), which is targeted to dendritic terminals were expressed

by *R59E08-Gal4* and *R52B10-LexA*, respectively.   Reconstituted GFP signals were detected in

the PB (*Figure 5B*), suggesting that the sleep-promoting PB interneurons labeled by *R59E08-*

Gal4 have synaptic connections with the wake-promoting PFN neurons marked by *R52B10-Gal4*.

Dopamine signaling acted on the sleep-promoting PB interneurons for sleep regulation

Dopamine has been identified as a key neurotransmitter in the regulation of sleep in *Drosophila*

(Andretic et al., 2005; Kume et al., 2005; Pimentel et al., 2016).   In the *Drosophila* brain,

dopaminergic (DA) neurons are distributed in clusters, and each cluster is involved in various

physiological phenomena, including sleep-wake (Liu et al., 2012; Ueno et al., 2012; Sitaraman et

al., 2015b).   A pair of DA neurons, named T1, has been previously observed with dendrites

arborizing in the tritocerebrum and with axons projecting to the PB (Nässel and Elekes, 1992;

Alekseyenko et al., 2013).   The intersectional method combining the enhancer-trap flippase

(FLP) transgenic line, *FLP[243]* with a DA-neuron specific *TH-Gal4* driver allows for the selective

targeting of the T1 neurons (*Figure 6A*) (Alekseyenko et al., 2013).   Both activation and

inhibition of the T1 DA neurons using this intersectional method have been reported to

specifically facilitate inter-male aggression.   On the other hand, inactivation of these neurons

has no effect on locomotor activity and sleep amount (Alekseyenko et al., 2013).   We

conditionally activated the T1 neurons with dTrpA1 and found that the manipulation resulted in

a significant decrease in the amount of sleep (*Figure 6B*).   Next, we examined whether T1 DA

neurons directly connect with sleep-wake regulating PB neurons by GRASP analysis utilizing

membrane-tethered two complementary split-GFP fragments (CD4-spGFP1-10 and CD4-

spGFP11) (Feinberg et al., 2008).   *TH-Gal4* was used to express *UAS-CD4-spGFP1-10* and

R59E08-LexA or *R52B10-lexA* were employed to drive *lexAop-CD4-spGFP11*, respectively.

Immunohistochemical signals for reconstituted GFP in the PB were detected only in the

combination of *TH-Gal4* and *R59E08-LexA* (*Figure 6C,D*).   These signals were dot-like and

localized to the bilateral bends of the PB.   Alekseyenko and colleagues also demonstrate that

Dopamine 2-like receptors (Dop2R also known as D2R or DD2R), a functional counterpart of

mammalian D2 receptor, are expressed in the PB but not localized to the presynaptic terminals of

T1 neurons.   *Dop2R* knockdown using two independent RNAi lines in the *R59E08-Gal4*

expressing PB neurons resulted in a significant increase in the amount of sleep compared to

controls (*Figure 6E* and *Figure 6-figure supplement 1*).   These results support the idea that T1

DA neurons regulate sleep by acting on the sleep-promoting PB interneurons via D2 receptor

signaling.

Discussion

The data presented provide evidence that *Drosophila* sleep is controlled by the neuronal circuit

in PB consisting of the wake-promoting PFN neurons and the sleep-promoting PB interneurons

and by the T1-PB dopamine pathway.   Previous anatomical, electrophysiological and genetic

studies have revealed the physiological functions of the PB in several insect species.   For

example, in desert locusts, different types of the PB neurons generate a topographical map of the

sky polarization pattern underlying sun compass orientation (Homberg et al., 2011).

Morphological counterparts of these locust's PB neurons are found in migratory monarch

butterflies and serve similar functions in processing polarized-light information (Heinze and

Reppert, 2011).   Experiments in fruit flies have demonstrated a role for the PB in locomotor

control such as walking speed, leg coordination, maintenance of walking activity, locomotor

handedness and visual targeting in gap-crossing behavior (Strauss et al., 1992; Strauss and

Heisenberg, 1993; Martin et al., 1999; Triphan et al., 2010; Buchanan et al., 2015).   The

locomotor activity of nob^{KS49} mutants has been reported to be decreased compared to control flies

but was increased in the present study (Martin et al., 1999) (*Figure 1A*).   We and Martin et al.

assessed the number of activity counts per day or at a particular time of day (4.5 hours) in nob^{KS49}

flies as total locomotor activity, respectively.   This difference in assessment methods may have

caused the phenotypic discrepancy in locomotor activity. nob^{KS49} flies with a large gap at the

sagittal midplane in the PB showed a significant reduction in the amount of sleep (*Figure 1B*),

suggesting a physical impairment of sleep-promoting neurons in this mutant.   We found that

R59E08-Gal4-expressing PB interneurons promote sleep (*Figure 2* and *Figure 3*).   Analysis of

single PB neurons labeled by MARCM or multicolor flip-out technique has shown that PB

interneurons are classified into three cell types based on their pattern of glomerular innervation

in the PB (Lin et al., 2013; Wolff et al., 2015).   Two of the three cell types of PB interneurons

innervate all glomeruli, including the central part of the PB.   Because the sleep-promoting

R59E08-Gal4 was expressed throughout the PB, at least one of these two cell types of PB

interneurons would have been labeled with this driver.   Although the cell type of PB interneurons

that promote sleep has been unidentified in our results, the two cell types may be physically

damaged in nob^{KS49} mutants.

Our MARCM experiment using *R52B10-Gal4* suggested that distinct types of PFN neurons

promote wakefulness (*Figure 2C,E*).   There are five cell types of PFN neurons, which are PB

output neurons, classified according to their patterns of projection to FB and NO (Wolff et al.,

2015).   Each PFN neuron belonging to each cell type arborizes in one PB glomerulus and

projects to one FB layer and to one contralateral NO.   The *Gal4* line *c465* drives expression in

the wake-promoting PFN neurons (*Figure 4F,G*) (Lin et al., 2013; Buchanan et al., 2015).   Of

the five cell types of PFN neurons, three are commonly labeled by *R52B10-Gal4* and *c465-Gal4*,

especially the cell type with axon terminals in layer 2 of the FB and in the ventral NO exhibits

high *Gal4* expression in these two drivers (Buchanan et al., 2015).   On the other hand, neuronal

activation with *R44B10-Gal4*, which high expression in all three cell types of PFN neurons

(Buchanan et al., 2015), was less effective in reducing the amount of sleep than neuronal

activation with *R52B10-Gal4* or *c465-Gal4* (*Figure 2A*).   Although *R52B10-Gal4*, *c465-Gal4*

and *R44B10-Gal4* label the same cell types of PFN neurons, it is possible that PFN neurons

arborizing in one specific PB glomerulus are implicated in promoting arousal and that these

neurons are co-labeled with *R52B10-Gal4* and *c465-Gal4*.

The t-GRASP experiment using *R59E08-Gal4* and *R52B10-LexA* suggested the sleep-promoting

PB interneurons form synaptic contacts with the wake-promoting PFN neurons (*Figure 5B*).

The symmetrical patterns of the t-GRASP signal intensity in PB glomeruli should indicate that

this signal is not non-specific, supporting the idea described above that particular subtypes of

PFN neurons promote arousal.   Sleep phenotypes of the flies in which *R59E08-Gal4-* or

R52B10-Gal4-expressing neurons were acutely activated, and axon-dendrite connectivity

between these sleep-regulating neurons suggest that the sleep-promoting PB interneurons inhibit

the activity of the wake-promoting PFN neurons.   Because the sleep-promoting PB

interneurons were cholinergic (*Figure 3D*), the wake-promoting PFN neurons were likely to be

regulated by inhibitory acetylcholine receptor signaling (Ren et al., 2015).   Functional

connectivity analysis of the central complex using Ca^{2+} imaging combined with optogenetics

has demonstrated that activation of one cell type of PB interneurons designated as $\Delta 7$ triggers

the inhibitory response of one cell type of PFN neurons (Franconville et al., 2018).   However,

since the $\Delta 7$ neurons are either glutamatergic or GABAergic, they must not be the sleep-

promoting PB interneurons.   Further anatomical and functional dissection of the sleep-

regulating neuronal circuits in the PB archived with promising *split-Gal4* lines will be required.

Previous studies have elucidated the control of *Drosophila* sleep by several clusters of DA

neurons (Liu et al., 2012; Ueno et al., 2012; Sitaraman et al., 2015b).   This study revealed that

the PB-projecting T1 DA neurons physically connected to the sleep-promoting PB interneurons

promote wakefulness (*Figure 6A-D*).   Because knockdown of *Dop2R* encoding Gi protein-

coupled dopamine receptor in *R59E08-Gal4*-expressing neurons significantly increased the

amount of sleep (*Figure 6E* and *Figure 6-figure supplement 1*), the simplest explanation is that

dopamine inhibits the sleep-promoting PB interneurons and thus promotes wakefulness.   *Dop2R*

null mutants have an increased amount of sleep (Deng et al., 2019).   The DopR2 function in the

pars intercerebralis (PI) neurons expressing Dilp2 and SIFamide has been shown to contribute to

this sleep-increasing phenotype.   Our results show that, in addition to the PI, Dop2R also

functions in the PB to regulate sleep.   T1 neurons were originally identified as neurons that

specifically modulate aggression between pairs of males (Alekseyenko et al., 2013).   Regarding

the interaction between sleep and aggression, it has been shown that aggressive behaviors are

suppressed in sleep-deprived male flies, and the changes are mediated by octopamine signaling

(Kayser et al., 2015).   Elucidation of the mechanisms controlling the activity of T1 neurons may

provide a novel link between sleep and aggression.

More recently, we have successfully demonstrated that the wake-promoting PFN neurons

directly activate the FB interneurons (also known as pontine neurons) that appear to transmit

inhibitory acetylcholine signals to the sleep-promoting dFB neurons (Kato YS et al., unpublished

results).   Further studies are required to determine the cellular and molecular details of how these

PB-dFB circuits control sleep-wakefulness.

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  Figure legends

Figure 1. The PB defective nob^{KS49} decreased sleep. Total daily activity **(A)**, total sleep **(B)** and waking activity index **(C)** for control flies (Canton-S, *y w* and w^{1118}, white bars) and mutant strains with structural defects in the central complex (black bars) in constant dark (DD) conditions. Data are averaged for 3 days and are presented as mean ± standard error of the mean (SEM) ($n =$ 3-11 for each group). Groups with asterisks indicate statistically significant differences (Tukey-Kramer HSD test for normally distributed data, $p < 0.05$).

Figure 2. Acute activation of the PB neurons affected sleep. **(A)** The amount of sleep per day at 29ºC in DD conditions in control flies (black bars) and flies expressing *dTrpA1* transgene by indicated *Gal4* drivers that highly express in PB neurons (red bars). For controls, each *Gal4* driver was crossed with w^{1118} (the genetic background of *UAS-dTrpA1* carrying flies). Data are presented as mean ± SEM ($n =$ 6-16 for each group). Asterisks indicate statistically significant differences from control determined by a *t*-test ($p < 0.05$). **(B)** Sleep profiles for 60-min intervals for controls (*R52B10-Gal4* × w^{1118}, black circles, $n = 16$) or flies expressing *dTrpA1* with *R52B10-Gal4* (*R52B10-Gal4* × *UAS-dTrpA1*, red circles, $n = 16$) in DD. Behavior was monitored in DD for 1 day at 22ºC, followed by 1 day at 29ºC (dTrpA1 activation), and 2 days at 22ºC. Gray and black bars under the horizontal axis indicate subjective day and night, respectively. Data are presented as mean ± SEM. **(C)** Sleep profiles for 60-min intervals for controls (*R59E08-Gal4* × w^{1118}, black circles, $n = 16$) or flies expressing *dTrpA1* with *R59E08-Gal4* (*R59E08-Gal4* × *UAS-dTrpA1*, blue circles, $n = 11$) in DD. Mean ± SEM is shown. **(D,E)** Maximum-intensity projection of the confocal brain images of *R52B10-Gal4* **(D)** or *R59E08-Gal4* **(E)** crossed to *UAS-mCD8::GFP* flies.

Figure supplement 1. Neuronal activation using *Gal4* drivers that express in the AVLP did not remarkably decrease sleep. **(A)** Sleep profiles for 60-min intervals for controls (*R52H12-Gal4* × w^{1118}, black circles, $n = 16$) or flies expressing *dTrpA1* with *R52H12-Gal4* (*R52H12-Gal4* × *UAS-dTrpA1*, red circles, $n = 16$) in DD. The behavior was monitored as described in Figure 2. Mean ± SEM is shown. **(B)** Sleep profiles for 60-min intervals for controls (*R83A10-Gal4* × w^{1118}, black circles, $n = 16$) or flies expressing *dTrpA1* with *R83A10-Gal4* (*R83A10-Gal4* × *UAS-dTrpA1*, red circles, $n = 11$) in DD.

Figure supplement 2. Neuronal activation using *Gal4* drivers that express in the medulla cells

did not increase sleep. **(A)** Sleep profiles for 60-min intervals for controls (*R14F09-Gal4 × w^{1118}*,

black circles, *n* = 16) or flies expressing *dTrpA1* with *R14F09-Gal4* (*R14F09-Gal4 × UAS-*

dTrpA1, red circles, *n* = 16) in DD. The behavior was monitored as described in Figure 2.

Mean ± SEM is shown. **(B)** Sleep profiles for 60-min intervals for controls (*R59A12-Gal4 ×*

w^{1118}, black circles, *n* = 15) or flies expressing *dTrpA1* with *R59A12-Gal4* (*R59A12-Gal4 × UAS-*

dTrpA1, red circles, *n* = 16) in DD.

Figure 3. *R59E08-Gal4*-expressing PB interneurons promote sleep. **(A)** Maximum-intensity

projection of the confocal brain or ventral nerve cord (VNC) images of flies expressing *UAS-*

mCD8::GFP under the control of *R59E08-Gal4* (left two panels) or *R59E08-Gal4* with *tsh-Gal80*

(right two panels). Transgene *tsh-Gal80* efficiently suppressed *R59E08-Gal4* driven GFP

expression in the VNC, while did not in the brains. **(B)** Sleep profiles in 60-min intervals for

control flies (*R59E08-Gal4 × tsh-Gal80*, black circles, *n* = 12) or flies expressing *dTrpA1* in

R59E08-Gal4 brain neurons (*R59E08-Gal4 × tsh-Gal80*; *UAS-dTrpA1*, blue circles, *n* = 11) in

DD. The behavior was monitored as described in Figure 2. **(C)** Horizontal movements of the

centroid of three representative control flies (*R59E08-Gal4 × tsh-Gal80*, black circles) or flies

expressing *dTrpA1* in *R59E08-Gal4* brain neurons (*R59E08-Gal4 × tsh-Gal80*; *UAS-dTrpA1*,

blue circles) in a glass tube at 29°C during the late subjective day (CT 8 to CT 12). Positions of

the cotton plug and the food were at the top and the bottom in each plot, respectively. The

behavior of flies was recorded at 2 frames/sec using an infrared video camera in DD conditions.

The fly position in a glass tube was calculated as the center of gravity for each image using ImageJ.

(D) Sleep profiles in 60-min intervals for control flies (*R59E08-Gal4 × w^{1118}*, black circles, *n* =

16) or flies expressing *dTrpA1* in *R59E08-Gal4* except cholinergic neurons (*R59E08-Gal4 × tsh-*

Gal80; *UAS-dTrpA1*; *Cha^{7.4kb}-Gal80*, blue circles, *n* = 16) in DD.

Figure 4. *R52B10-Gal4*-expressing PFN neurons promote wakefulness. **(A)** Maximum-

intensity projection of the confocal brain or VNC images of flies expressing *UAS-mCD8::GFP*

under the control of *R52B10-Gal4* (left two panels) or *R52B10-Gal4* with *tsh-Gal80* (right two

panels). The *tsh-Gal80* efficiently suppressed *R52B10-Gal4* driven GFP expression in the VNC,

while did not in the brains. **(B)** Sleep profiles in 60-min intervals for control flies (*R52B10-*

Gal4 × tsh-Gal80, black circles, $n = 16$) or flies expressing *dTrpA1* in *R59E08-Gal4* brain neurons

(*R59E08-Gal4 × tsh-Gal80*; *UAS-dTrpA1*, blue circles, $n = 16$) in DD.   The behavior was

monitored as described in Figure 2.   **(C)** Using the MARCM system, *dTrpA1* expression was

targeted to a limited number of neurons in *R52B10-GAL4*.   The behavior of mosaic flies was

monitored as described in Figure 2.   Sleep change (ΔSleep) of a single fly was calculated by

subtracting the amount of sleep during the subjective night at 29°C from that at 22°C (before

29°C) ($n = 133$).   The red horizontal bar indicates the mean.   **(D,E)** Maximum-intensity

projection of the confocal brain images of the flies whose ΔSleep were > +2 SD higher than the

mean (red oval) **(D)** or nearly equal to the mean **(E)**.   **(F)** Maximum-intensity projection of the

confocal brain images of *c465-Gal4, MB247-Gal80* crossed to *UAS-mCD8::GFP* flies. *c465-*

Gal4 drives expression in the PFN neurons.   **(G)** Sleep profiles in 60-min intervals for control

(*c465-Gal4, MB247-Gal80 × w^{1118}*, black circles, $n = 15$) or flies expressing *dTrpA1* in *c465-Gal4*

except for mushroom body neurons (*c465-Gal4, MB247-Gal80 × UAS-dTrpA1*; *UAS-dTrpA1*, red

circles, $n = 11$) in DD conditions.   Behavior was monitored as described in Figure 2, except that

flies were transferred to 29°C for 2 days to allow dTrpA1 activation.

Figure 5.   The sleep-promoting PB interneurons form synaptic contacts with the wake-

promoting PFN neurons.   **(A)** The dendritic arbors and presynaptic terminals of the PFN neurons

in *R52B10-Gal4* were visualized by expression of the postsynaptic marker DenMark and the

presynaptic marker syt-GFP, respectively.   **(B)** The neuronal connection of the sleep-promoting

PB interneurons to the wake-promoting PFN neurons was revealed using the t-GRASP method.

The *pre-t-GRASP* and the *post-t-GRASP* encode the split-GFP fragments, which are targeted to

presynaptic endings and dendritic terminals, respectively.   Brains expressing *pre-t-GRASP* with

R59E08-Gal4 and *post-t-GRASP* with *R52B10-LexA* were stained with a reconstituted GFP-

specific antibody.

Figure 6.   Dopamine regulates sleep by acting on the sleep-promoting PB interneurons.   **(A)**

Maximum-intensity projection of the confocal brain images of *TH-Gal4, FLP^{243}* crossed to

UAS>stop>mCD8::GFP flies.   *TH-Gal4, FLP^{243}* restricts expression to the T1 dopaminergic

(DA) neurons that project to the PB.   **(B)** Sleep profiles in 30-min intervals for control (*TH-Gal4*

× UAS>stop>dTrpA1, black circles, $n = 15$) or flies expressing *dTrpA1* in T1 DA neurons (*TH-*

Gal4, FLP^{243} × UAS>stop>dTrpA1, red circles, $n = 16$) in DD conditions.   The behavior was

monitored as described in Figure 2. **(C,D)** The anatomical connection of DA neurons in *TH-*

Gal4 to the sleep-promoting PB interneurons (C) or the wake-promoting PFN neurons (D) were

examined using the GRASP method. Brains were stained with a reconstituted GFP-specific

antibody. **(E)** Total daily sleep for control (white bar, $n = 15$) and *Dop2R* RNAi-expressing flies

using the *R59E08-Gal4* driver (black bars, $n = 16$) in DD conditions. Data are averaged for 3

days and are presented as mean ± SEM. *$p < 0.05$; *t*-test.

Figure supplement 1. *Dop2R* knockdown with *R59E08-Gal4* increased sleep. **(A)** Total daily

sleep for control (*UAS-Dicer-2;R59E08-Gal4* × w^{1118}, white bar, $n = 13$) and *Dop2R* RNAi

(VDRC 1820)-expressing flies using the *R59E08-Gal4* driver (black bars, $n = 13$) in DD

conditions. Data are averaged for 3 days and are presented as mean ± SEM. *$p < 0.05$; *t*-test.

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 4

A

R52B10-Gal4 > mCD8::GFP   *R52B10-Gal4 > mCD8::GFP + tsh-Gal80*

Brain   VNC   Brain   VNC

B

- *R52B10-Gal4 × tsh-Gal80* (control)
- *R52B10-Gal4 × tsh-Gal80 ; UAS-dTrpA1*

Sleep (min/60 min)

0   12   0   12   0   12   0   12   0 (h in DD)

22°C   29°C   22°C

C

ΔSleep (min)

Mosaic flies

D

#1   #2   #3   #4

#5   #6   #7

E

#1   #2   #3   #4

#5   #6   #7

F

c465-Gal4 > mCD8::GFP + MB247-Gal80

Posterior

G

- *c465-Gal4 , MB247-Gal80 × w1118* (control)
- *c465-Gal4 , MB247-Gal80 × UAS-dTrpA1 ; UAS-dTrpA1*

Sleep (min/60 min)

0   12   0   12   0   12   0   12   0 (h in DD)

22°C   29°C   22°C

Figure 5

A   *R52B10-Gal4 > DenMark, syt-GFP*

DenMark
syt-GFP

B   *R59E08-Gal4 > pre-t-GRASP*
R52B10-LexA > post-t-GRASP

α-GFP

Figure 6

A *TH-Gal4, FLP²⁴³ × UAS>stop>mCD8::GFP*

B
- *TH-Gal4 × UAS>stop>dTrpA1* (control)
- *TH-Gal4, FLP²⁴³ × UAS>stop>dTrpA1*

Sleep (min/60 min)

0 12 0 12 0 12 0 12 0 (h in DD)

22°C   29°C   22°C

C *TH-Gal4 > CD4-spGFP1-10*
R59E08-LexA > CD4-spGFP11

α-GFP

D *TH-Gal4 > CD4-spGFP1-10*
R52B10-LexA > CD4-spGFP11

α-GFP

E
Sleep (min/day)

□ × *y v* (control)
■ × *UAS-Dop2R* RNAi

*

R59E08-Gal4