

A biologically accurate model of directional hearing in the parasitoid fly *Ormia ochracea*

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1 **Although most binaural organisms localize sound sources using**
2 **neurological structures to amplify the sounds they hear, some**
3 **animals use mechanically coupled hearing organs instead. One of**
4 **these animals, the parasitoid fly *Ormia ochracea*, has astoundingly**
5 **accurate sound localization abilities and can locate objects in the az-**
6 **imuthal plane with a precision of 2°, equal to that of humans. This**
7 **is accomplished despite an intertympanal distance of only 0.5 mm,**
8 **which is less than 1/100th of the wavelength of the sound emitted**
9 **by the crickets that it parasitizes. In 1995, Miles *et al.* developed**
10 **a model of hearing mechanics in *O. ochracea*, which works well for**
11 **incoming sound angles of less than $\pm 30^\circ$, but suffers from reduced**
12 **accuracy (up to 60% error) at higher angles. Even with this limita-**
13 **tion, it has served as the basis for multiple bio-inspired microphone**
14 **designs for decades. Here, we present critical improvements to the**
15 **classic *O. ochracea* hearing model based on information from 3D re-**
16 **constructions of *O. ochracea*'s tympana. The 3D images reveal that**
17 **the tympanal organ has curved lateral faces in addition to the flat**
18 **front-facing prosternal membranes represented in the Miles model.**
19 **To mimic these faces, we incorporated spatially-varying spring and**
20 **dampner coefficients that respond asymmetrically to incident sound**
21 **waves, making a new quasi-two-dimensional (q2D) model. The q2D**
22 **model has high accuracy (average errors of less than 10%) for the en-**
23 **tire range of incoming sound angles. This improved biomechanical**
24 **hearing model can inform the development of new technologies and**
25 **may help to play a key role in developing improved hearing aids.**

acoustics | binaural hearing | biomechanics | mathematical modeling |
sensory modeling | *Ormia ochracea* | parasitoidism | bioinspiration

1 **T**he ability to localize sound allows animals to avoid preda-
2 tors and assists them in finding mates and capturing
3 prey. Binaural organisms, those with two ears, locate sound-
4 emitting objects by comparing the intensity and timing of
5 incident sound waves arriving at their two hearing organs (Fig.
6 1A). Sound localization in binaural organisms is commonly
7 described using two metrics: 1) interaural time delay (ITD),
8 the difference in time it takes sound to reach the two hearing
9 organs, and 2) interaural amplitude difference (IAD), the
10 difference in sound amplitude between the two organs (Fig.
11 1A) (1).

12 In vertebrates, ITD is calculated in the superior olivary
13 nucleus of the brain stem and IAD is calculated in the infe-
14 rior colliculus in the midbrain nucleus (2). By comparison,
15 many invertebrates lack significant neural investment in cen-
16 tral processing and rely heavily on mechanical structures to
17 pre-process sensory signals (3–5). The particulars of sound
18 localization are complex and vary widely among animals, as
19 the ITD and IAD ranges experienced by binaural animals
20 demonstrate (Fig. 1B) and the biophysics of sound localiza-
21 tion for specific species are often too complex to be modeled
22 well by simple analytical models. However, simplistic insect

23 hearing models can be used to extract key principles of binau-
24 ral hearing without complex physiological modeling of neural
25 processes.

26 For the tachinid fly *Ormia ochracea*, the ability to hear
27 its host plays a key role in its reproductive cycle and over-
28 all fitness. As a parasitoid, *O. ochracea* listens to chirping
29 male crickets and follows the sound back to the source, where
30 female *O. ochracea* then deposit their larvae (6). Gravid *O.*
31 *ochracea* females will remain in an area for extended peri-
32 ods of time in response to cricket chirping sounds, even if
33 no cricket is present (7). Given its small size, if *O. ochracea*
34 relied exclusively on the distance between its prosternal tym-
35 panal membranes (Fig. 1C), the ITD it experienced would
36 be at the nanosecond scale or below (far too small to reli-
37 ably perceive differences in azimuthal angle between sound
38 source locations), and there would be no practical difference
39 in sound amplitude between the two membranes (IAD). To
40 solve this scaling problem without resorting to bulky neurolog-
41 ical investment, *O. ochracea* have two mechanically coupled
42 membranous tympana directly beneath their head (Fig. 1C).
43 These coupled tympana are composed of a pair of prosternal
44 membranes, joined together by an intertympanal bridge (8),
45 and are significantly larger in female *Ormia* (Fig. 1C). This
46 distinctive mechanical coupling serves to increase the ITD and

Significance Statement

The ability to identify the location of sound sources is critical to organismal survival and for technologies that minimize unwanted background noise, such as directional microphones for hearing aids. Because of its exceptional auditory system, the parasitoid fly *Ormia ochracea* has served as an important model for binaural hearing and a source of bioinspiration for building tiny directional microphones with outsized sound localization abilities. Here, we performed 3D imaging of the fly's tympanal organs and used the morphological information to improve the current model for hearing in *O. ochracea*. This model greatly expands the range of biological accuracy from $\pm 30^\circ$ to all incoming sound angles, providing a new avenue for studies of binaural hearing and further inspiration for fly-inspired technologies.

Author contributions: M.R.M.-S. developed the modified model; M.R.M.-S. and A.E.S. designed and wrote the code; M.K.S. and J.J.S. performed 3D imaging data collection and analysis; M.R.M.-S. produced the hearing model data; M.R.M.-S. and A.E.S. analyzed the hearing model data; M.R.M.-S. and M.K.S. made the figures; P.E.M. performed photographic work; M.R.M.-S. wrote the paper, and M.R.M.-S., M.K.S., A.E.S., J.J.S., and P.E.M. edited the paper.

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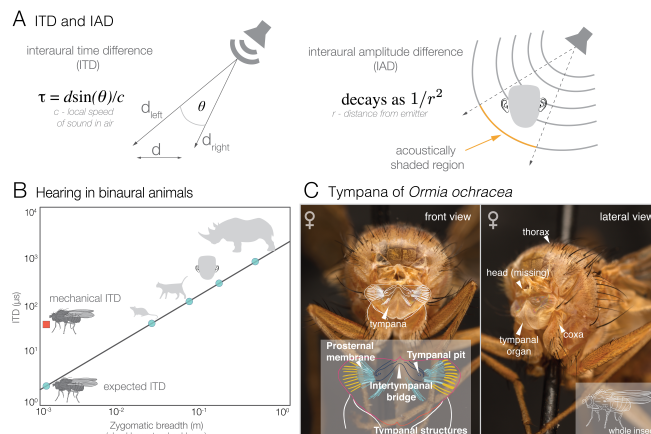
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47 IAD perceived by the fly. We will refer to the increased ITD
 48 and IAD as mITD (mechanical ITD) and mIAD (mechanical
 49 IAD), respectively. These mechanically amplified values allow
 50 it to successfully localize chirping crickets. Since *O. ochracea*
 51 are active at or after dusk, they also use their hearing to avoid
 52 predation by bats, exhibiting a startle response while in flight
 53 to bat sonar frequency sound, similar to preying mantises
 54 (9, 10). As such, the ability to accurately and quickly locate
 55 a source of incoming sound at high levels of lateral angular
 56 resolution is a significant advantage, especially in potentially
 57 noisy environments (11), suggesting that *O. ochracea* may be
 58 a good source of bioinspiration to tackle the so-called cocktail
 59 party problem (12) (isolating sounds in a noisy environment)
 60 for directional microphones and hearing aids.

61 Accurate models of binaural hearing in animals are generally
 62 highly complex. Because of the mechanical nature of its
 63 acoustic sensing organ, *O. ochracea* is one of the few excep-
 64 tions, and it has been the focus of numerous studies featuring
 65 its uniquely "simple" hearing organs and how they function
 66 (8, 9, 13–19). To investigate the biomechanical mechanisms
 67 that underlie *O. ochracea*'s unusual hearing abilities, Miles,
 68 Robert, and Hoy developed mechanical and mathematical mod-
 69 els of the ormiine's coupled tympana in 1995 (15). The authors
 70 validated their model against experimental data, recording
 71 tympanal membrane positions and velocities, and consequently
 72 mIAD and mITD, as a function of the incident sound pressure,
 73 intensity, and angle. The Miles model becomes analytically
 74 solvable under the assumptions of continuous sinusoidal input
 75 and symmetric model parameters, in addition to being numeri-
 76 cally solvable without requiring the assumptions of symmetry
 77 or continuity. The model allowed Miles *et al.* to demonstrate
 78 that *O. ochracea*'s impressive sound localization abilities are
 79 due to the pre-processing performed by their structurally cou-
 80 pled tympana, which mechanically amplify the ITD and IAD
 81 experienced by the fly.

82 In addition to providing a physiological explanation for *O.*
 83 *ochracea*'s localization prowess, the Miles model also accurately
 84 predicted mITD for all incoming sound angles and mIAD for
 85 angles below $\pm 30^\circ$ in a sample *O. ochracea* population. Both
 86 the measured and predicted mITD indicated that *O. ochracea*
 87 possesses an mITD comparable to the ITD of an animal closer
 88 in size to a rat (Fig. 1B). Later experiments successfully
 89 determined that *O. ochracea* has a sound localization precision
 90 in the azimuthal plane of 2° (20, 21), a precision comparable
 91 to that of humans. This high precision, together with the
 92 relative simplicity of the model and the easily reproducible
 93 structure of the hearing mechanism used by *O. ochracea* led
 94 to a new stream of research in *ochracea*-inspired designs for
 95 directional microphones and hearing aids (22–28). Despite its
 96 utility, the model contains a number of simplifications that
 97 limit its biological accuracy.

98 The Miles model is a lumped-element model that primar-
 99 ily considers the dynamics of the intertympanal bridge and
 100 the front of the tympanal membranes (Fig. 1C), modeling
 101 each membrane as a flat plate with a purely one-dimensional
 102 amplitude response. The model's spring and damper coeffi-
 103 cients were adjusted until the model response approximated
 104 the experimental responses in recently deceased *O. ochracea*
 105 specimens measured using laser-vibrometry. Although the
 106 model is relatively accurate for mITD in a narrow range of
 107 incident sound angles, it displays significant errors in mIAD



108 **Fig. 1. Hearing in binaural animals and the fly *Ormia ochracea*.** (A) Physical
 109 meaning of ITD and IAD. ITD is the time delay between sound reaching one sensory
 110 organ relative to the other, defined by the equation $\tau = dsin(\theta)/c$, where d is
 111 the distance between the hearing organs and c is the speed of sound in air. IAD is
 112 the difference in response amplitude between the left and right sensory organs, due
 113 to acoustic shading or signal decay. (B) Approximate ITD values in representative
 114 animals (*O. ochracea*, rat, cat, human, and rhinoceros) for a sound source at a 45°
 115 angle from the midline, calculated using the formula in (A), with the zygomatic breadth
 116 (cheekbone-to-cheekbone distance) used as an approximate measure of interaural
 117 distance for mammals. Data from (29–32). (C) Female *O. ochracea* post-decapitation,
 118 showing location of prosternal membrane, tympanal pits, and intertympanal bridge,
 119 key physical features in the modeling of its binaural hearing.

120 for incident sound angles larger than approximately $\pm 30^\circ$ from
 121 the midline of the fly, and mITD becomes increasingly inac-
 122 curate at angles above approximately $\pm 40^\circ$. This inaccuracy
 123 across large angles limits the model's power for explaining
 124 binaural hearing in *O. ochracea* and its potential for inspiring
 125 new hearing-based engineering.

126 Previous scanning electron microscopy images of *O.*
 127 *ochracea* tympana had indicated that a certain degree of dy-
 128 namic curvature and morphological complexity was present
 129 (8). It was excluded, however, primarily to avoid increasing
 130 model complexity. We hypothesized that inclusion of 3D fea-
 131 tures could improve model accuracy and extend the effective
 132 range of the model, allowing it to predict more accurate tym-
 133 panal displacements for incoming sound at high angles when
 134 compared to experimental data. To identify the sources of
 135 inaccuracy in the model, we investigated the detailed morpho-
 136 logical structures involved. Using 3D reconstructions of *O.*
 137 *ochracea*'s tympana as a guide, we modified the original model
 138 by adding terms that simulate the mechanics of the hearing
 139 organ in the lateral plane. We represent these lateral mechan-
 140 ics mathematically via a spatially-dependent asymmetry in
 141 the model spring and damper coefficients.

142 Materials and Methods

143 **Synchrotron x-ray imaging of the ormiine tympanal organ.** To
 144 examine the 3D nature of *Ormia ochracea*'s tympanal mor-
 145 phology, we performed tomographic imaging of preserved *O.*
 146 *ochracea* specimens using the synchrotron x-rays at the Ad-
 147 vanced Photon Source at Argonne National Laboratory. Two
 148 *O. ochracea* dried specimens were borrowed from the Virginia
 149 Tech Insect Collection. The specimens were placed in slender
 150 tubes made of polyimide, and the ventral thorax was imaged
 151 using beamline 2-BM. Each specimen was imaged using the

140 beamline's fast 2D phase contrast imaging, giving stacks of
141 images along the z -axis at intervals of $1.72 \mu\text{m}$.

142 Raw microtomographic images were cropped and down-
143 sampled using FIJI (33) and segmented in SlicerMorph, (34)
144 an imaging extension of 3D Slicer. To segment, features of
145 the tympana were highlighted and then rendered in 3D
146 applicable measurements. The three-dimensional scans are
147 available upon request.

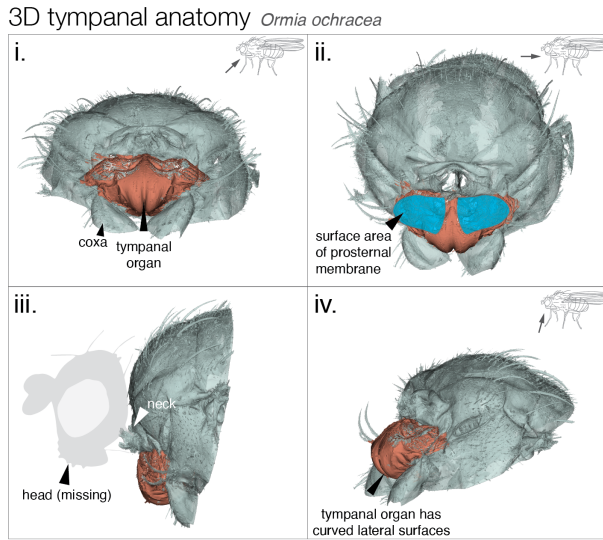


Fig. 2. 3D rendering of tympanal organs and frontal prothorax of the fly *Ormia ochracea*. Tympanal membranes highlighted in blue (ii.), with supporting structures highlighted in peach. Orientation of image relative to *O. ochracea* body indicated in schematics at top right of images. 3D images made in SlicerMorph software. (34)

148 **Previous model.** The previous model of binaural hearing in
149 *O. ochracea* includes two components: a mechanical model of
150 the anatomy and a corresponding mathematical model. The
151 mechanical model (15) treats the tympanal structure as a
152 pair of beams pinned at a central pivot, with lumped-mass
153 approximations of the two sides of the hearing organ located
154 at the ends of the beams (Fig. 3A,B). The beams are anchored
155 to the substrate at their distal ends with a pair of symmetric
156 spring-damper elements, and to each other with a third spring-
157 damper element (Fig. 3B). Pressure forces from incident sound
158 waves are applied to the point masses via a forcing function
159 composed of the product of the incident pressure magnitude,
160 the inward-facing unit normal vector, and the tympanal surface
161 area, A (see the Supplemental Material for numerical values
162 used in this study). A time delay is applied between the left
163 and right sides based on the angle θ the incoming sound
164 wave has relative to the midline of the fly, with 0° defined as straight
165 ahead (15).

166 The mathematical model is a set of coupled ordinary dif-
167 ferential equations that are the equations of motion for the
168 mechanical model. It treats the incident acoustic pressure act-
169 ing on the tympanal membranes as two point forces, $f_1(t)$ and
170 $f_2(t)$, acting on the point masses representing the tympanal
171 membranes and associated structures. The dependent variable
172 in the problem is $\mathbf{x}(t)$, which represents the one-dimensional

response of each tympanum. The model can be written as:

$$\begin{bmatrix} k_1 + k_3 & k_3 \\ k_3 & k_2 + k_3 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{x} + \begin{bmatrix} c_1 + c_3 & c_3 \\ c_3 & c_2 + c_3 \end{bmatrix} \dot{\mathbf{x}} + \begin{bmatrix} m & 0 \\ 0 & m \end{bmatrix} \ddot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{f}, \quad [1]$$

$$\mathbf{f} = \begin{bmatrix} f(t) \\ f(t + \delta t) \end{bmatrix} \quad [2]$$

177 where $\mathbf{x} = (x_1(t), x_2(t))$ is the unknown response vector con-
178 taining the vertical displacement of the left and rightmost
179 tips of the beams in Figure 3B, which represent the two sides
180 of the intertympanal cuticular bridge, the applied force is
181 $\mathbf{f} = (f_1(t), f_2(t))$, and $(\dot{})$ represents differentiation with re-
182 spect to time, t . The parameters k_i and c_i are spring stiffness
183 and damper constants, respectively, and the parameter m
184 is the effective mass of all the moving parts of the auditory
system (15).

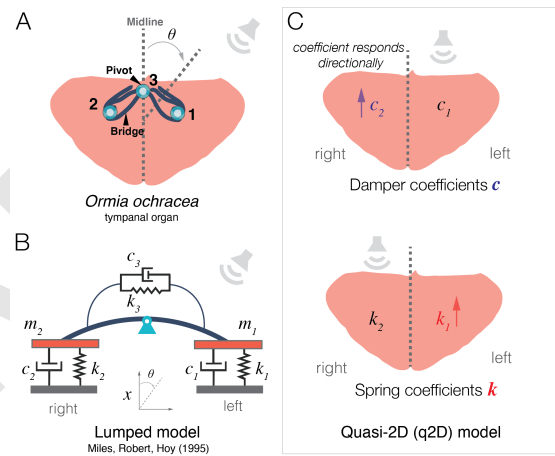


Fig. 3. Modeling of binaural hearing in the fly *Ormia ochracea*. (A) Schematic of the coupled tympanal membranes of *O. ochracea* (peach-colored, labeled 1 and 2), connected by the cuticular bridge (blue) with sound incident at θ degrees. (B) The hearing system can be represented as a pair of coupled beams joined and anchored by a set of springs and dampers (adapted from Liu *et al.* (35)). (C) The q2D model has an asymmetric response: the spring and damper coefficients on the contralateral (opposite) side from the sound source increase as a function of incident sound angle, while the coefficients on the ipsilateral side remain constant.

Q2D model modifications based on ormiine morphology. In Miles *et al.*'s analysis of their model, the ormiine hearing structure is assumed to be left-right symmetrical, and the spring and damper coefficients on the right and left sides are identical and constant for all incident sound angles, with $k_1 = k_2 = k$ and $c_1 = c_2 = c$, independent of the values of k_3 and c_3 .

In order to add a realistic degree of sensitivity to the angle of the incoming sound, we modified the spring and damper parameters to incorporate aspects of the 3D morphology of the fly's hearing organ. Specifically, we did this by treating the magnitude of k and c as functions of the incoming sound angle. The functions were structured such that for an incident sound angle above $\pm 30^\circ$, the k and c values corresponding to the contralateral tympanum are increased compared to those for the ipsilateral tympanum, mimicking the presence of lateral sides on the tympana, which can both shield the rest

of the structure and be more responsive to laterally oriented incoming sounds (Fig. 3C). We provided the following quasi-two-dimensional modification to the Miles model of ormiine hearing:

$$k(\theta) = \begin{cases} k_0 & \text{if } \theta < |30^\circ| \\ \alpha|\theta|k_0 + \beta & \text{if } |55^\circ| > \theta \geq |30^\circ| \\ k_f & \text{if } \theta \geq |55^\circ| \end{cases} \quad [3]$$

$$\alpha = \frac{k_f - k_0}{25^\circ} \quad [4]$$

$$\beta = \frac{2.6k_0}{25^\circ} \quad [5]$$

where k_0 and k_f are the minimum and maximum values that the spring stiffness coefficients can take on, respectively. The form of the modified spring coefficient function, two constant segments with a linear ramp between $|30^\circ|$ and $|55^\circ|$ (Fig. 3C, Fig. 4A), was informed by the lateralization behavior observed in *O. ochracea* (20) and the analysis of an *O. ochracea*-inspired sensor (35). These works indicated the presence of two separate behavioral regimes, a localization regime from 0° to $\leq |30^\circ|$ and a lateralization regime at higher angles. This choice is further supported by the accuracy of the fit to experimental data for sound incident at $\geq |30^\circ|$ (Fig. 4B,C), and physically represents a degree of elastic response to incoming sound waves in the lateral direction.

The constants in equations 3-5 were chosen to provide the best fit to the available behavioral data (15): mITD and mIAD derived from laser-vibrometry measurements of tympanal membrane vibrations in *O. ochracea* specimens in response to a 6 kHz sound source, as a function of incident sound angle. The coefficients are only modified on the contralateral side and remain constant for the side on which the sound source is located. As the incident sound angle approaches $\pm 90^\circ$ relative to the fly's head, the spring coefficient for the contralateral side increases from k_0 , and approaches k_f according to Equation 3. For example, for sound incident from 30° , the spring and damper coefficients for the left side, k_1 and c_1 , would change and k_2 and c_2 would remain unchanged. We assume the total tympanal surface area, A , is fixed, and we use previously established values (15) throughout this work ($A = 0.288 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}^2$). The increases in the spring and damper coefficients, normalized relative to their nominal values (k_0), are visible in Figure 4A.

MATLAB's ODE45 function was used to integrate equations 1-2 and a custom peak-finding algorithm was implemented to calculate mITD and mIAD. Further computational details and a link to representative code samples can be found in the Supplemental Material.

Results

The tympana of *O. ochracea* protrude anteriorly from underneath the cervix (fly's neck), with distinct lateral faces and sharp curvature (Fig. 2). Figure 2 shows 3D surface renderings of *O. ochracea* tympanal membranes in teal, with the supporting structures highlighted in peach. The organs are far from the simple two-dimensional surfaces most often depicted in the literature (14, 15, 28, 35). These new 3D models motivated our modifications to include aspects of actual morphology. The confirmation of significant lateral-facing portions of the tympana led to the modifications present in

the q2D model (equations 3-5), which account for the lateral tympanal response to acoustic stimuli.

Values of mITD and mIAD, calculated from the q2D and Miles models, are shown in Figure 4B as a function of incident sound angle, and are compared to experimental measurements in recently sacrificed *O. ochracea* specimens (15). Both models are identical for incident sound angles less than $\pm 30^\circ$, so the results are identical within that range (Fig. 4C, gray box). When we included the lateral response through the new $k(\theta)$ and $c(\theta)$ functions, the gap between experimental measurements and model results in both mIAD and mITD narrowed significantly for 6 kHz signal input (Fig. 4B,C), with the q2D model having average error of approximately 6% and a peak error of approximately 28% in mITD, and an average error of approximately 7% and a peak error of approximately 10% in mIAD. These results additionally confirm that aspects of mechanics in two dimensions are important elements of ormiine hearing.

Discussion

In this paper, we present the results of 3D X-ray synchrotron imaging of the mechanically-coupled tympana in the parasitoid fly, *Ormia ochracea*, and our subsequent modification to the classic mathematical model of hearing in *O. ochracea* inspired by those results. The tympanal organ was confirmed to be highly 3D, with significant lateral-facing membranes, in contrast to the commonly simplified representation of the membranes as flat, front-facing plates.

Detailed knowledge of the hearing organ's morphology allowed us to update the classic 1995 one-dimensional mathematical model into a quasi-two-dimensional model of ormiine hearing that mimics the tympanal organ response in the lateral direction. Our updated q2D model has significantly improved fidelity to available experimental data (15) compared to the Miles model, both in the mechanical interaural time delay (mITD) and in the mechanical interaural amplitude difference (mIAD) (Fig. 4B,C). When compared to the Miles model, the new q2D model exhibits maximum errors (relative to experimental values) reduced by approximately 50% and 85% respectively. This strongly supports the premise that there are important aspects of the mechanics of *Ormia* hearing aside from the response of the front-facing tympanal membranes, and that the entirety of the hearing organ structures are sensitive to the angle of incoming sound, a feature that was not included in the Miles model.

Prior to our study, the original Miles model was the only existing model of ICE (internally coupled ears)-based hearing in ormiine flies (36). This is one of the first attempts to update the foundational Miles model for hearing in *O. ochracea*. Our model may be further refined by incorporating additional mechanical behaviors of the tympana, such as tympanal deflection in the lateral direction or a representation of the tympanal response in the vertical direction. It could also be improved by simple analytic modifications to expand the model's capabilities without impacting its tractability, such as using functions that are more flexible than simple linear ramps for the spring and damper coefficients. For example, in our q2D model, the "bump" visible near $\pm 45^\circ$ in mIAD in Figure 4B and the uptick at the same point in mITD may be a result of the values for either the springs, dampers, or the ratio between the two, being slightly too high at that point. It is also important to

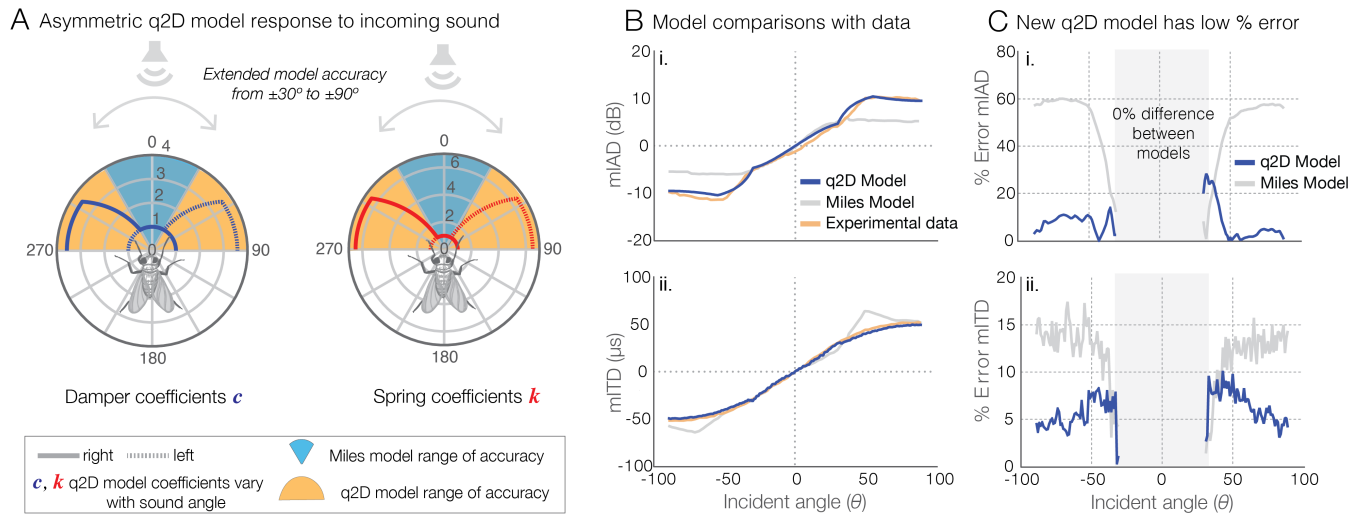


Fig. 4. Model modifications and comparison between the Miles model, experimental data, and q2D model. (A) The modified quasi-two-dimensional (q2D) model shows improved range of accuracy in its response to incident sound. In the q2D model, the normalized damper (red) and spring (blue) coefficients are functions of the incoming sound angle. The improved q2D model responds accurately within $\pm 90^\circ$, compared to $\pm 30^\circ$ for the Miles model. Experimental and model results (B) and error (C) in mITD and mIAD for the standard one-dimensional (Miles model) and q2D models. In (B), mITD and mIAD were calculated from the q2D and Miles models as a function of incident sound angle for a frequency of 6000 Hz, and compared with laser-vibrometry measurements from recently deceased *O. ochracea* specimens (15). The significant divergence from behavioral data present in the Miles model outside $\pm 30^\circ$, particularly for mIAD, is rectified in the modified q2D model. In (C), the gray box indicates errors below $\pm 30^\circ$, which are not considered because the q2D and Miles models are identical for these ranges. The errors for the q2D model peak close to $\pm 30^\circ$, then decrease as the incident sound angle is increased.

318 note that this work and the Miles model both rely on tuning
 319 the coefficients so that the model outputs better match the
 320 experimental response to sinusoidal input (2 kHz for the original
 321 1995 work and 6 kHz for the work here). Although the model's
 322 performance was not observed to degrade at other frequencies
 323 that we checked, the degree of improvement (relative to the
 324 6 kHz experimental data) was far less significant for other
 325 frequencies. The model's reduced performance at frequencies
 326 other than those tuned specifically for crickets could poten-
 327 tially be resolved by introducing other morphological features
 328 in the form of frequency-dependent functions, in a similar way
 329 as we have introduced spatially-dependent functions here.

330 Our model demonstrates that the mechanics of hearing in *O.*
 331 *ochracea* are dependent on the complex tympanal morphology
 332 present in the animal, especially with respect to mIAD, and in-
 333 dicates that this morphology serves a specific angle-dependent
 334 role in responding to incoming sound waves. The inclusion
 335 of angle-dependent behavior in the spring and damper coef-
 336 ficients provides a more accurate understanding of how the
 337 insect receives sound. Previous work has demonstrated that
 338 *O. ochracea* engages in different behaviors depending on the
 339 relative angle of incoming sound (15, 20, 35, 37), with two
 340 distinct response patterns. In the first, from 0° to $\pm 30^\circ$, the
 341 fly makes relatively narrow adjustments to localize the origin
 342 of the sound (localization). In the other, at angles exceed-
 343 ing approximately $\pm 30^\circ$, the fly makes significantly larger
 344 adjustments, more akin to determining the side from which
 345 the sound originates (lateralization). Our results show that
 346 this difference in response is not strictly a result of behavioral
 347 differences, but is paired with a difference in physiological
 348 responses to incoming sound.

349 Furthermore, there is growing evidence that some *O.*
 350 *ochracea* are involved in an evolutionary arms race with their
 351 host species (38, 39), and that they are capable of differen-

352 tiating between different cricket host species based on their
 353 acoustic signalling, exhibiting preference towards local popu-
 354 lations (40). Consequently, the mechanical parameters for the
 355 model may depend heavily not only on the geographic origin
 356 of *O. ochracea* samples, but also when collection occurred.
 357 The degree of tuning to host-searching behavior, as opposed
 358 to predator-avoidance behavior, also remains unaddressed ex-
 359 perimentally, despite the startle responses when in flight and
 360 subjected to sound consistent with bat sonar frequencies (9).
 361 *O. ochracea* also exhibits a sorting behavior (being able to
 362 rapidly categorize sounds as belonging to a predator or not) in
 363 response to predator-consistent sound sources, as opposed to
 364 host or neutral sound sources (9). *O. ochracea* is also only one
 365 of many *Ormia* species, which parasitize a diverse range hosts,
 366 and display different behavioral responses to the acoustic sig-
 367 nalling of their hosts (7). Only *O. ochracea* has been examined
 368 in sufficient detail to develop a mechanical model with accu-
 369 rate parameters; consequently, it may be worth investigating
 370 the mechanics of other ormiine species (7, 41), and developing
 371 mechanical models similar to the q2D model presented here.
 372 It may also be worth revisiting the hearing organs in *Emble-*
 373 *masoma*, another group of parasitoid flies, which represent
 374 a case of convergent evolution in a distantly related family,
 375 *Sarcophagidae* (42, 43).

376 *O. ochracea*'s hearing system has repeatedly served as a
 377 source of inspiration for bio-inspired designs for directional
 378 microphones and hearing aids (22–28, 35). Including the
 379 angle-dependent behavior of the expanded q2D model in fu-
 380 ture *Ormia*-inspired device designs may also provide significant
 381 avenues for improvement in device performance, or may ex-
 382 panded the functionality of devices like acoustic sensors through
 383 miniaturization and tunable frequency sensitivities. Currently,
 384 work is being undertaken to explore the inclusion of lateral
 385 faces on a directional microphone to further study the role that

these elements play and to attempt to develop a novel practical application. However, there are numerous avenues for exploration remaining, both experimental and theoretical. These include the development of improved bio-inspired technology by incorporating higher-dimensional features and parameter variations in the mechanical system, studying the behavior of the model at frequencies commensurate with bat sonar, and investigating the role that mechanical differences play in *O. ochracea*'s hearing when addressing acoustic preferences. Finally, our expanded q2D model is the first mathematical model of hearing in an binaural fly that is accurate for all measured incident sound angles. It demonstrates the importance of incorporating higher-dimensional model elements consistent with observed physiology, furthering our understanding of binaural and insect hearing.

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Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in this manuscript:

ITD	Interaural Time Delay	494
IAD	Interaural Amplitude Difference (sometimes called the Interaural Intensity Difference)	496
mITD	Mechanical Interaural Time Delay	
mIAD	Mechanical Interaural Amplitude Difference	