Revisiting the role of cAMP in Drosophila aversive olfactory memory formation

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Abstract

In the olfactory aversive conditioning of Drosophila melanogaster, an odor, the

conditioned stimulus (CS), is associated with electric shock, the unconditioned stimulus

(US). The Rutabaga adenylyl cyclase in Kenyon cells (KCs) of the fly brain synthesizes

cAMP, which is believed to serve as the coincidence detector synergistically stimulated

by calcium/calmodulin evoked by the odor reception and GαS released in response to

the dopamine signaling elicited by electric shock. However, live imaging analyses

revealed that olfactory stimulation itself prompted the activation of dopaminergic

neurons and resulted in the elevation of cAMP levels in KCs that received dopamine,

regardless of calcium signaling. This finding raises questions about the longstanding

and fundamental comprehension of conditioning mechanisms, as the cAMP levels in

conditioned stimulus-positive (CS+) KCs could not be distinguished from those in the

rest of the KCs. Our findings suggest that cAMP concentrations do not function as a

mnemonic engram to CS+ neurons. Rather, the collective dynamics of cAMP are

capable of integratively encoding the valence ascribed to odors being perceived at a

given time. Furthermore, our investigation revealed that associative conditioning

induces modifications in dopamine levels in response to both CS and US, resulting in

alterations in cAMP levels. The increase in cAMP exerts a deleterious effect on the

acetylcholine transmission from KCs. Accordingly, we postulate that, during

conditioning, cAMP depresses KCs, thereby skewing the valence of the CS+ odor

towards a more aversive state for the conditioned flies, and ultimately culminating in

the formation of aversive memories.

Introduction

A quintessential aspect of classical conditioning involves the temporal pairing of an

initially neutral stimulus, the conditioned stimulus (CS), with a reinforcing stimulus, the

unconditioned stimulus (US), and the preservation of this association at the level of

synaptic connections, leading to the manifestation of a conditioned response to the CS

(Rescorla, 1988). The temporal correlation between the CS and US is mediated by

coincidence detection mechanisms. One of the well-known coincidence detectors is

adenylyl cyclase (AC), which is stimulated by both calcium/calmodulin and G-proteins

coupled to receptors and catalyzes the conversion of ATP to cAMP. This was first

revealed by the pioneering studies on classical conditioning of gill-withdrawal in the sea

mollusca Aplysia. When siphon stimulation (CS) and electric shock to the tail (US) were

repeatedly paired, the CS elicited potentiated gill- and siphon-withdrawal reflexes

(Carew et al., 1981). Integration of the calcium influx resulting from the CS and the

serotonin release resulting from the shock to the tail (US) increased the cAMP levels

(Ocorr et al., 1985), as also shown biochemically (Abrams and Kandel, 1988; Yovell et

al., 1992). These physiological and biochemical studies highlighted the pivotal role of

adenylyl cyclase as a coincidence detector, which was strengthened by the genetic

dissection of another model for the classical conditioning of Drosophila olfactory

memory (Abrams and Kandel, 1988; Levin et al., 1992; Livingstone et al., 1984; Tully,

1987; Tully and Quinn, 1985). Odor information via acetylcholine (ACh) signaling

represents the CS (Gu and O'Dowd, 2006), and G-proteins coupled to dopamine

metabotropic receptors (Kim et al., 2007) activated by dopaminergic neurons encode

the US (electric shocks or sugar reward) in Drosophila (Burke et al., 2012; Liu et al.,

2012; Riemensperger et al., 2005; Schwaerzel et al., 2003). These two input pathways

converge on the Rutabaga adenylyl cyclase (AC) (Davis, 1993; Livingstone et al.,

1984) expressed in Kenyon cells (KCs)(McGuire et al., 2003; Zars et al., 2000) of the

mushroom bodies (MBs)(Heisenberg, 2003).

Genetically encoded fluorescent sensors have recently enabled the

microscopic visualization of the dynamics of AC activities in fly brains. Tomchik and

Davis showed the Rutabaga AC-dependent synergistic increase in cAMP in α/β and

α'/β' KCs when acetylcholine (CS) and dopamine (US) application were paired to *ex*

vivo brain explants (Tomchik and Davis, 2009). They also demonstrated that elevating

cAMP acutely enhanced KC excitability. Additionally, Handler et al. reported a

synergistic increase in cAMP levels in γ KCs upon temporal pairing of acetylcholine

application with dopamine neuron activation in *ex vivo* brain explants (Handler et al.,

2019). Gervasi et al. employed protein kinase A (PKA) activity as an indicator of cAMP

levels, and reported that the simultaneous administration of acetylcholine and

dopamine led to an augmentation of PKA activity exclusively in α/β KCs, in a manner

dependent on the Rutabaga AC (Gervasi et al., 2010). These findings collectively

indicate that the Rutabaga AC fulfills its long-held role as a coincidence detector. It is

worth noting, however, that these imaging experiments did not measure cAMP or PKA

transients at a cellular resolution, but rather as a unit of the lobe, comprising a cluster

of KC axons. It is estimated that, on average, roughly 5% of KCs exhibit a consistent

response to monomolecular odors such as 3-octanol (OCT) and 4-methylcyclohexanol

(MCH), as employed in these experiments (Honegger et al., 2011). This sparse nature

of coding is essential for distinguishing a conditioned stimulus (CS+) odor from a non-

conditioned stimulus (CS-) odor in classical conditioning. Thus, if the Rutabaga AC

serves as the coincidence detector, then upon pairing with dopamine input (US), the

cAMP levels in the odor-evoked Kenyon cells (CS+) should be notably elevated in

comparison to the remaining KCs. A recent report demonstrated that the axo-axonic

connections mediated by the muscarinic type-B receptor exert a suppressive effect on

dopamine-evoked cAMP in neighboring KCs, thereby preventing weakly activated and

unreliably responding KCs (off-target KCs) from being erroneously classified as the

genuine CS+ KCs. This phenomenon of lateral inhibition is deemed essential for

memory formation (Manoim et al., 2022). To the best of our knowledge, there is no

direct evidence that the cAMP levels in CS+ KCs are higher than those in the

remaining KCs following classical conditioning. However, this serves as a crucial

indicator of AC functioning as the coincidence detector. Therefore, live imaging should

ideally be conducted at a cellular resolution, with the CS and US provided by

presenting odors and electric shocks, respectively, to replicate the parsimony of coding

and the authenticity of signals. With this objective in mind, we established an imaging

system that simultaneously records cAMP and calcium transients in the KCs of head-

opened Drosophila melanogaster observed under a two-photon microscope. We

verified that odor presentation (CS) evoked not only calcium influx but also dopamine

release (Mao and Davis, 2009; Riemensperger et al., 2005) and discovered that it

induced robust cAMP increases even in the absence of the US, in axons that did not

exhibit elevated calcium levels. This substantial cAMP elevation, which is dependent

on dopamine signaling but not on calcium concentration, raises questions about the

long-established fundamental understanding of conditioning mechanisms. Based on re-

evaluations of the CS- or US-evoked cAMP, calcium, and dopamine transients, PKA

activity, and acetylcholine (ACh) release in KCs at near single-cell resolution, we

discuss what has been overlooked in the Drosophila model of classical conditioning.

Results

Odor presentation evokes cAMP elevation in a broad population of KCs

independently of calcium responses

The mushroom bodies (MBs) in the Drosophila brain are the locus of olfactory classical

conditioning (Heisenberg, 2003). The ~2,000 Kenyon cells (KCs) of the MBs are

classified into three subtypes that extend axons into the α/β, α'/β', and γ lobes

(Crittenden et al., 1998)(Figure 1A). These lobes can be subdivided anatomically and

functionally into 15 non-overlapping compartments, each innervated by distinct

dopamine neuron (DAN) populations (Aso et al., 2014; Tanaka et al., 2008). In

Drosophila olfactory conditioning, Rutabaga adenylyl cyclase (Rut AC) is thought to

serve as the coincidence detector in KCs (McGuire et al., 2003; Zars et al.,

2000)(Figure 1B). Dubnau and his colleagues have shown that Rutabaga adenylyl

cyclase expression is required in both α/β KCs and γ KCs to support aversive memory

fully (Blum et al., 2009), while the dopamine receptor Dop1R1 expression in γ KCs is

sufficient to support aversive memory (Qin et al., 2012). In addition, protocerebral

posterior lateral 1 (PPL1) cluster dopamine neurons (DANs) projecting to the γ1, γ2,

and α3 compartments and protocerebral anterior medial (PAM) cluster DANs projecting

to the γ3 compartment of KCs reinforced negative valence (Aso et al., 2012; Yamagata

et al., 2016). Elevations of cAMP levels and protein kinase A (PKA) activity reportedly

exhibited a synergistic effect following the pairing of a conditioned stimulus and an

unconditioned stimulus in the α lobe in the context of aversive conditioning paradigms

(Gervasi et al., 2010; Tomchik and Davis, 2009), and in the γ lobe in the context of

appetitive conditioning paradigms (Handler et al., 2019). Thus, we focused on the γ

and α lobes in subsequent live imaging experiments. Responses to odors were

measured as calcium transients with the genetically encoded fluorescent sensor

jRGECO1b (Dana et al., 2016) and cAMP levels were measured with G-Flamp1 (Wang

et al., 2022) simultaneously.

The two sensors were initially expressed with the γCRE-p GAL4 driver

(Yamazaki et al., 2018), as it encompasses a smaller subset of γ KCs compared to

other γ KC drivers, enabling the ability to achieve single-cell resolution within a dense

neuropil. Specifically, the γCRE-p driver covers approximately 350 (Yamazaki et al.,

2018) out of 701 γ KCs (Li et al., 2020). The γ lobe comprises five compartments, with

the γ1 compartment being the most distal. Initially, imaging of the γ2-5 compartments

was performed to achieve the optimal balance of resolution and scanning speed

(Figure 1C). In general, a sequence of images, with a consistent focus, was captured

at a frequency of approximately 2 frames per second, while three distinct olfactory

stimuli, specifically 3-octanol (OCT), 4-methyl cyclohexanol (MCH), and apple cider

vinegar (ACV), each with a duration of 3 seconds, and an electrical shock lasting 10

milliseconds, were successively administered. Prominent calcium responses were

observed in a limited number of axons (Figure 1C), reflecting the sparse coding nature

of KCs (Honegger et al., 2011). The γ KC axons branch and traverse the lobe in a

meandering manner, as depicted schematically in Figure 1A, resulting in single-plane

images of calcium responses often appearing interrupted and patchy. As previously

reported (Wang et al., 2022), we also detected odor-evoked cAMP signals with the

second channel, which varied in a compartment-specific manner along the length of

the lobes with distinct characteristics for each odor, and the most robust signal was

identified within the γ4 compartment upon MCH or ACV presentation (Figure 1D).

Notably, there was no evidence of cAMP being selectively synthesized in odor-

responding (as marked by the calcium signals in Figure 1C) axons. A marked increase

in cAMP was temporally delayed relative to the rise in Ca^{2+} levels in a population of

axons spanning almost the entire width of compartments, although there were

variations in levels among individual compartments. Conversely, the calcium signal

was sparsely detected, indicative of a restricted number of Kenyon cells responding to

a specific odor. These profiles suggest that cAMP levels do not exhibit a proportional

relationship with calcium concentrations, but rather are regulated as a compartmental

unit. An electrical stimulus elicits cAMP synthesis in the γ2 compartment, albeit with

variable signal strength (Figure 1C). Thus, the fly's behavior should be vigilantly

monitored each time the electrical stimulus is administered, and the shock responses

must be confirmed. Note that only a minimal increase in calcium levels was detected

following electrical stimulation. Additionally, the split GAL4 driver MB364B, which is

expressed in α/β and γ KCs, was used to eliminate any potential bias in cAMP

signaling, as the γCRE-p driver consists of 12 tandem CRE (cAMP responsive

element) sequences in the control region (Yamazaki et al., 2018)and may be more

likely to drive a population of cells responsive to cAMP signaling. The γ1-5

compartments were similarly subjected to imaging upon exposure to comparable

olfactory and electrical stimuli. The calcium and cAMP transient profiles in MB364B-

positive γ KCs were virtually congruent with those observed in γCRE-p KCs (Figure

1E). A significant increase in cAMP levels was noted in axons traversing nearly the full

breadth of the γ lobe, whereas the calcium signal was only discernible in a limited

number of axons. An electrical stimulus elicited cAMP synthesis in the γ1 and γ2

compartments, and in γ3 to a lesser extent. Responses in β KCs were also imaged

using the MB364B driver; however, they were not further analyzed. We subsequently

used the OK107 driver to visualize the α3 compartment, which was similarly subjected

to olfactory stimuli and electrical stimulation. A transverse optical section of the densely

packed neuropil in the α3 compartment enabled the observation of all α KCs within a

single focal plane. This view unequivocally illustrated that cAMP synthesis is subject to

compartmental regulation, as indicated by the considerable increase in cAMP levels

observed in the majority, if not all, of KCs upon exposure to MCH or OCT, while

uniformly minimal responses were detected upon exposure to ACV, regardless of

individual KCs' odor-specific calcium responses (Figure 1F-H). In summary, the cAMP

levels display odor-specific and compartment-dependent patterns, regardless of

calcium levels. Our focus will be on investigating the behavior of γ KCs, as the γ1 and

γ2 compartments are the sites of short and mid-term aversive memory formation (Aso

et al., 2010; Aso and Rubin, 2016).

Dopamine elicits cAMP synthesis

We subsequently inquired whether the dopamine signal modulates the cAMP synthesis

elicited by odor stimulus, given that odor-evoked cAMP transients vary among odors

and odors activate DANs (Figure 1B) (Cervantes-Sandoval et al., 2017; Mao and

Davis, 2009; Riemensperger et al., 2005; Sun et al., 2020). The widespread

dissemination of cAMP within compartments may be attributed to dopamine's release

through the process of volume transmission (Liu et al., 2021). We subsequently

employed GRAB$_{DA}$ (Sun et al., 2020) and Pink Flamindo (Harada et al., 2017)

simultaneously in the γ lobe, to assess the geometric correlation between the

dopamine and cAMP signals, respectively. An example showed the interrelatedness

between the two signals: the elevation in cAMP levels was temporally delayed relative

to the rise in dopamine levels (Figure 2A, D and G). However, caution must be

exercised when drawing conclusions at the cellular level, given the divergent kinetics

between these two sensors and the comparatively lower signal-to-noise ratio of Pink

Flamindo compared to G-Flamp1. To further elucidate the role of dopamine, we

measured the cAMP levels in a functionally null mutant of the type I dopamine

receptor, Dop1R1 (Akiba et al., 2019), which is coupled with GαS (Sugamori et al.,

1995) and thus engaged in activating adenylyl cyclase. The cAMP signals showed

substantial attenuation in the Dop1R1 mutant, thereby implying the necessity of the

dopamine signal for the activation of adenylyl cyclase (Figure 2B, C, E and F). It is

worth noting that the simultaneously recorded calcium signal was significantly

augmented when odors were presented, in comparison to the genetic control (Figure

2H). These experiments showed that odor stimulus alone evokes cAMP synthesis by

activating both PPL1 DANs (Figure 1B), which project to the γ1 and γ2 compartments,

and PAM (protocerebral anterior medial) DANs, which project to the γ3-5

compartments. PPL1 DANs also reinforce electric shock and PAM DANs also reinforce

sugar reward, the US, implying that the presentation of the odors, CS, is inextricably

linked with the presentation of the US.

The cAMP levels are not regulated by calcium levels when odor and electric

shock are paired

As previously noted, the long-held principle of coincidence detection posits that cAMP

levels in CS+ KCs should be specifically elevated when the odor stimulus and electric

shock are paired. How does this occur, despite the fact that the odor-evoked cAMP rise

does not depend on the calcium concentration, but on dopamine released from the

same PPL1 neurons that also reinforce the shock information? To answer this

question, we conducted imaging of calcium and cAMP transients in the γ lobe of head-

fixed flies that expressed G-Flamp1 and jRGECO1b driven by the γCRE-p or 364B

GAL4 driver and were subjected to OCT in conjunction with the administration of

electric shock, replicating the established paradigm of aversive memory conditioning.

Electric shock increased cAMP levels in the γ1-2 compartments (Figure 1E), as two

sets of PPL1 DANs, γ1pedc and γ2α'1, are known to convey aversive signals. We

examined the cAMP transients specifically in the γ1 and γ2 compartments in an

enlarged imaging field. A substantial augmentation in cAMP was noted throughout the

entirety of each compartment, independent of the localized increase in calcium levels

(Figure 3A). In the γ1 compartment of the fly harboring the γCRE-p GAL4 driver, the

degree of elevation in response to the simultaneous application of OCT and shock was

nearly equivalent to the summation of responses to each stimulus presented

independently (Figure 3B). However, in the γ2 compartment, the degree of elevation

was even lower than the sum of the responses to each stimulus applied independently

(Figure 3B). These results were not unexpected, as the cAMP levels rely largely on the

dopamine release facilitated by the same DANs activated by both CS and US.

However, these findings are in stark contrast to previous reports that a synergistic

increase; i.e., larger than a simple sum, of cAMP or PKA levels was observed upon

association of the two stimuli (Gervasi et al., 2010; Tomchik and Davis, 2009).

The correlation between calcium and cAMP levels was further evaluated using

scatterplots (Figure 3C). We examined representative images. No significant

associations were observed between calcium and cAMP levels (γ1: R^2 = 0.0076, γ2: R^2

= 0.0881). It is worth contemplating that roughly 5% of KCs manifest temporal

dynamics that give rise to an elevation in calcium levels (Honegger et al., 2011), while

a significant majority of KCs synthesize cAMP in response to dopaminergic stimulation

upon exposure to a particular olfactory stimulus. Hence, it is plausible for the calcium

and cAMP signals to exhibit some degree of overlap, even in the absence of a

causative link between the two signals. On the contrary, assuming the complete

dependency of cAMP synthesis on calcium levels, the plot could be simulated in the

following manner. The timeline images extracted from the identical bout of calcium

imaging employed in Figure 3C were segregated into odd-numbered and even-

numbered images, and subjected to a scatterplot analysis against each other, thereby

simulating the representation of calcium levels in even-numbered frames as cAMP

levels (Figure 3D). This simulation yielded R^2 values of 0.462 (γ1) and 0.756 (γ2).

Thus, while we cannot dismiss the possibility that cAMP synthesis may require a

specific threshold of calcium, it is irrefutable that the cAMP levels are not entirely

contingent upon calcium levels even when odor and electric shock are paired. In other

words, the concentration of cAMP alone does not serve as a cellular engram that

distinguishes the KCs that respond to the CS+ odor from the rest of the KCs.

The cAMP code of an odor is integrated with the cAMP code of an electric shock

during conditioning

As described, the cAMP level in the γ1-2 compartments depends on dopamine

transmitted by PPL1 DANs (Aso et al., 2012) and that in the γ3-5 compartments by

PAM DANs (Liu et al., 2012; Yamagata et al., 2016). Moreover, discrete compartments

can be identified in relation to odor valence, wherein DANs that innervate the γ2

compartment are indicative of an aversive olfactory valence, whereas those innervating

the γ4 compartment are indicative of an appetitive olfactory valence (Kato et al., 2023;

Siju et al., 2020) Furthermore, DANs integrate odor valence and shock signals (Huang

et al., 2022). Given the hypothesis that cAMP acts as an intermediary for dopamine's

role in determining odor valence, achieving a state of balanced cAMP levels across the

γ lobe could provide a representation of integrated valence as part of the overall

valence encoded within the entire KC compartments. This can be visualized as a two-

dimensional image displaying cAMP levels across different compartments (Figure 2C)

and is referred to as the cAMP code. We posited that the cAMP code might represent

the neural plasticity mechanism engaged in aversive conditioning. Although the

absolute cAMP levels exhibited variations among individuals for each odor, we

hypothesized that the relative cAMP levels of the γ2 (corresponding to negative

valence) and γ4 (corresponding to positive valence) compartments, the γ2/4 cAMP

ratio, may constitute a quantitative metric for evaluating the valence of an olfactory

stimulus for an individual. As such, any variations in the γ2/4 cAMP ratio prior to and

post-conditioning could be employed to assess the differential response to the

stimulus, reflecting the acquisition of memory. To this end, we attempted to replicate

aversive conditioning by subjecting the fly to three consecutive episodes of electric

shocks while exposing it to OCT, followed by exposure to MCH and ACV without

electric shocks (OCT as CS+), or exposing it to MCH with electric shocks and to OCT

and ACV without electric shocks (MCH as CS+), while observing it under a microscope

(Figure 4A). During the process, cAMP transients were recorded for each exposure

and quantified. Averaged images of a single sample and profiles of cAMP transients

from pooled samples are presented (Figure 4B and E). Note that, based on the innate

behavioral responses, OCT and MCH are both similarly aversive compared to air,

whereas ACV is attractive (Badel et al., 2016). The administration of electric shock

resulted in heightened cAMP levels within the γ1-3 compartments. In this and

subsequent quantifications, the signal emanating from the γ1 compartment was

excluded from statistical analyses due to the divergence in the focal plane utilized for

γ1 signal detection compared to other compartments. Consequently, not all brain

samples included data from the γ1 compartment. During the conditioning protocol

where OCT was paired with electrical shock, there was an increase in cAMP within the

γ2 compartment, as described (Figure 3), but these modifications did not attain

statistical significance in the series of experiments described here (Figure 4B, E and

K). This was in parallel with a significant decrease of cAMP levels in the γ4

compartment. Subsequent to the associative conditioning, the presentation of OCT

reverted cAMP levels to pre-conditioning states in the γ2 compartment, while

maintaining lower cAMP levels in the γ4 and γ5 compartments relative to pre-

conditioning states (Figure 4H), thereby preserving an elevated γ2/γ4 cAMP ratio post-

conditioning. No significant changes in the g2/4 cAMP ratio were detected in MCH or

ACV, which were not conditioned with an electric shock (Figure 4N). Conversely, when

MCH was conditioned with an electric shock, there was an increase in the γ2/4 cAMP

ratio of MCH, albeit to a lesser degree, while no significant alteration was observed in

either OCT or ACV (Figure 4C, F, I, L and O).

We next conducted the conditioning experiment with flies, wherein PPL1

DANs were specifically ablated through the expression of the tetanus toxin (TNT) light

chain (Sweeney et al., 1995), utilizing the TH-LexA > LexAop-TNT system

(Karuppudurai et al., 2014)(Figure 4D, G, J, M and P). DANs located within the PPL1

cluster are known for transmitting aversive information to the γ1 and γ2 compartments.

Despite this targeted ablation, weak cAMP signals persisted in the γ1 and γ2

compartments upon odor presentation but not upon shock delivery (Figure 4Q-R),

possibly due to the influence of other signals. Note that the peak of these cAMP

responses was delayed by two seconds compared to the control (Figure 4S) and was

absent during shock administration. We did not observe neural plasticity associated

with conditioning, and specifically no alterations in the γ2/4 cAMP ratio (Figure 4P),

thereby reaffirming the significant role of PPL1 DANs in the context of aversive

conditioning. Interestingly, in the γ 3-5 compartments of PPL1 dopamine neuron-

ablated flies, the levels of cAMP were elevated compared to the control group.

Considering the projection of PAM class dopamine neurons into the γ 3-5

compartments, this finding again suggests a reciprocal regulatory mechanism between

PPL1 DANs and PAM DANs. This implies the existence of a circuit mechanism that

regulates activities across PPL1 and PAM dopaminergic neurons. This regulatory

mechanism likely includes interneurons such as CRE011, which integrates inputs from

9 types of MBONs including γ2α'1 and provides inputs to reward DANs including γ4

(Shuai et al., 2024a).

Associative conditioning induces changes in dopamine levels, which

subsequently result in alterations in the cAMP code

Given that the cAMP code is structured by the dopaminergic system, we inferred that

cAMP dynamics would closely parallel those of dopamine during aversive conditioning.

Flies containing both the GRAB$_{DA}$ and Pink Flamindo sensors, driven by the CRE-p

GAL4 driver, but not by the 364B driver due to its effects on aberrant development,

were subjected to aversive conditioning and observed under the microscope. Averaged

images and time courses of ΔF/F0 for cAMP and dopamine levels are presented

(Figure 5A - B). Both signals exhibited a strong correlation, even throughout the

conditioning process, with dopamine levels rising earlier and more abruptly than the

increase in cAMP (Figure 5A - C'). It is important to note that the dopamine levels in the

γ2 compartment observed during the conditioning process surpassed those observed

when either the olfactory stimulus or electrical shock was administered alone, although

these modifications did not attain statistical significance (Figure 5C and D). Conversely,

a significant reduction in dopamine levels was observed in the γ4 compartment (Figure

5C and D). These alterations were reflected in the concurrently recorded cAMP levels

(Figure 5C' and D'). This suggests that the changes in cAMP levels during conditioning

can be attributed to the changes in dopamine levels, rather than a synergistic

interaction between dopamine and calcium acting upon the Rutabaga adenylyl cyclase.

Following conditioning, the dopamine γ2/4 ratio, upon exposure to the conditioned

stimulus paired with OCT (CS+OCT), became markedly elevated compared to the ratio

observed prior to conditioning. This increase parallels the changes noted in the cAMP

γ2/4 ratio (Figure 5 E and E').

The protein kinase A (PKA) activities coincide with the presence of cAMP

Protein kinase A (PKA) is a prominent subject of cAMP modulation, making it a suitable

indicator to probe the functional status of the observed cAMP population. We employed

the expression of a PKA sensor, ExRai-AKAR2 (Zhang et al., 2021), in combination

with Pink Flamindo, to examine whether the PKA activity aligns with the spatial

distribution of cAMP. The temporal extent of the alterations in PKA activities exhibited a

more prolonged persistence compared to that of cAMP (Figure 6B). Despite the

constraints posed by the signal-to-noise ratios of these sensors, which impeded our

comprehensive examination of signals at a cellular level, the dynamics of PKA

activities unveiled a profound correlation with the cAMP signal (Figure 6A). This

correlation was not only apparent within individual compartments but also manifested

as a population code, mirroring the cAMP code throughout the entirety of the memory

acquisition process (Figure 6A-C).

The role of the Rutabaga adenylyl cyclase

The Rutabaga adenylyl cyclase has been regarded as the coincidence detector, as

described, and indeed demonstrated to increase cAMP levels synergistically only in the

presence of both the CS and US (Gervasi et al., 2010; Tomchik and Davis, 2009). We

failed to observe the anticipated synergistic elevation of cAMP levels upon pairing CS

and US in the fly harboring wild-type Rutabaga, and only observed additive elevation

(Figure 3B). Nevertheless, we were still contemplating what we might observe in the *rut*

mutants, given the pivotal role of rut in aversive memory formation.

rutabaga^1 (*rut^1*), which is well known for its distinctive learning deficit phenotype

in the context of aversive memory, was initially isolated from the X chromosome

collection mutagenized by ethyl-methanesulfonate (Livingstone et al., 1984). This

mutation bears a point mutation that leads to the total loss of its adenylyl cyclase

activity (Levin et al., 1992). We assessed cAMP transients using G-Flamp1 in the *rut^1*

flies during aversive conditioning, adhering to the aforementioned experimental

protocol, with OCT serving as the conditioned stimulus (Figure 7B, D, F, H and J). The

cAMP levels in the *rut^1* flies were not significantly lower compared to the control group

(Figure 7A-F), implying that Rutabaga's contribution to cAMP production in the KCs is

limited as previously reported (Noyes and Davis, 2023; Tomchik and Davis, 2009).

Nonetheless, we subsequently detected distinct cAMP codes in the *rut[1]* flies compared

to the control flies, even prior to the conditioning phase. In the *rut[1]* mutant, when

aggregating all instances of odor exposure (MCH, OCT, and ACV), cAMP levels were

higher in the γ2 compartment and lower in the γ4 compartment as compared to the

genetic control (Figure 7K). In response to shock, cAMP levels in the γ4 compartment

were elevated in the *rut[1]* mutant relative to the genetic control, while those in the γ2

compartment remained comparable (Figure 7L). During the conditioning procedure, the

cAMP increase in the γ2 compartment or the decrease in the γ4 and γ5 compartments

in the *rut[1]* mutant was less pronounced than that in the control group (Figure 7G-H).

These phenomena led to a γ2/4 ratio that remained unchanged after the conditioning

process (Figure 7 I, J), consistent with the impaired aversive memory formation linked

to *rut[1]*.

cAMP depresses ACh release from KCs

The KCs are recognized as cholinergic (Barnstedt et al., 2016; Yasuyama and

Salvaterra, 1999), and their ACh release after aversive conditioning is reportedly

attenuated in the γ1 (Zeng et al., 2023)γ2 and γ3 (Stahl et al., 2022; Zeng et al.,

2023)and α3' compartments (Zhang et al., 2019). It was recently reported that

Rutabaga decreases ACh release from KCs upon conditioning (Noyes and Davis,

2023). Our findings were in concordance with these observations. We conducted

simultaneous imaging of ACh and cAMP transients in the γ KCs of flies expressing the

ACh sensor, GRAB$_{ACh\ 3.0}$, and Pink Flamindo, under the control of the MB364B GAL4

driver. Subsequently, aversive conditioning was administered to the flies while they

were observed under the microscope (Figure 8). In the genetic control group, in

response to exposure to the CS+ OCT odor, there was a significant reduction in

relative cAMP levels within the γ4 and γ5 compartments following electric shock

conditioning (Figure 8 A, D and G), as previously described. ACh levels decreased

within the γ1 and γ2 compartments but remained constant within the γ4 and γ5

compartments (Figure 8 A', D' and G'), leading to a decrease in the γ2/4 ACh ratio and

an elevation in the γ2/4 cAMP ratio following conditioning (Figure 8 J). No such

changes were observed in CS- MCH or ACV. This becomes apparent when the

responses in cAMP and ACh are simultaneously visualized in a two-dimensional plot

(Figure 8M). The relative levels of ACh do not consistently demonstrate a direct inverse

correlation with the levels of cAMP. This inverse correlation becomes notably

conspicuous in the response to the CS+ odor after conditioning (Figure 8M).

We conducted simultaneous imaging of ACh and cAMP transients in the rut^1

background (Figure 8B, B', E, E', H, H', K and N). In this background, no significant

alterations in ACh transients were detected in either the γ2 or γ4 compartment, both

during and after the conditioning process (Figure 8 B', E' and H'). The response

trajectories of cAMP and ACh release in the rut^1 mutant displayed notable uniformity

across diverse olfactory stimuli, regardless of the conditioning status (Figure 8N). This

contrasts with the diverse response patterns observed in the genetic control (Figure

8M). The levels of ACh release in the γ2 and γ4 compartments were higher compared

to the genetic background, irrespective of their cAMP levels (Figure 8P). These

observations suggest that the Rut adenylyl cyclase plays an indispensable role in the

modulation of synaptic plasticity.

We subsequently analyzed the ACh responses following exposure to three

distinct olfactory stimuli in the Dop1R1 mutant, to examine if the steady state levels of

ACh are regulated by the dopamine signal (Figure 8C', F' and I'). In this context, we

observed a significant elevation in ACh levels compared to the genetic control (Figure

8Q). This finding contradicts previous reports indicating a reduction in ACh levels under

Dop1R1 knockdown conditions (Noyes and Davis, 2023) and aligns with the

hypothesis that ACh levels are decreased by dopamine and/or cAMP.

Subsequently, we proceeded to monitor the release of ACh by activating

adenylyl cyclase through the bath application of Forskolin, aiming to investigate

whether cAMP, rather than another component downstream of dopamine, attenuates

the ACh release (Figure 9). Upon Forskolin administration, we observed a remarkable

increase in the cAMP levels, concurrent with a reduction in the ACh levels, in the γ2

compartment (Figure 9A and B). The Forskolin administration also reduced ACh

release in response to odor (OCT) presentation, with subsequent recovery following

Forskolin washout (Figure 9C and D).

Discussion

Our study demonstrates that cAMP levels do not differentiate CS+ KCs from the

remaining KC population. Instead, cAMP acts as a reinforcer downstream of dopamine,

suppressing acetylcholine release from KCs and consequently modulating the DAN-

KC-MBON recurrent feedback loop (Adel and Griffith, 2021; Cognigni et al., 2018;

Felsenberg et al., 2018, 2017; Jovanoski et al., 2023; Kato et al., 2023; Li et al., 2020;

Modi et al., 2020; Otto et al., 2020; Rubin and Aso, 2023) in a valence-dependent

manner. We hereby propose that the cAMP levels across the γ compartments of the

mushroom body can be designated as the "cAMP code", which serves as an indicator

of the integrated valence experienced by the individual. In this context, we posit that

the cAMP code can holistically encode a memory engram.

The levels of cAMP do not differentiate CS+ KCs from other KCs

Physiological and cellular studies on Aplysia gill withdrawal (Abrams and Kandel, 1988;

Ocorr et al., 1985; Yovell et al., 1992) and genetic studies on Drosophila olfactory

conditioning (Heisenberg, 2003; Levin et al., 1992; Livingstone et al., 1984; Mons et al.,

1999; Tully, 1987; Tully and Quinn, 1985) solidified the idea of adenylyl cyclase as a

coincidence detector. This also holds for vertebrates. For example, pre-post pairing

(CS) and dopamine (US) signals are thought to converge on adenylyl cyclase in reward

learning (reward prediction error) in the striatum (Urakubo et al., 2020; Yagishita et al.,

2014).

Our research aimed to directly examine this long-standing hypothesis by

observing the *in vivo* cAMP and calcium or dopamine transients at near single-cell

resolution, which revealed some incongruities. First, the presentation of an odor elicits

dopamine release from the same populations of DANs that mediate shock signals, as

previously reported (Mao and Davis, 2009; Riemensperger et al., 2005), demonstrating

that the CS is invariably coupled with the US. Indeed, the odor presentation alone

induces a robust elevation of cAMP levels in KCs, independent of their response to the

relevant odor. The anticipated synergy was not detected, as we failed to observe a

specific increase in cAMP levels in CS+ KCs, even in the γ1 and γ2 compartments,

which are indispensable and adequate for the acquisition of short- and middle-term

memories (Aso et al., 2012). These results contradict the notion that the concentration

of cAMP alone serves as the cellular engram for association (Figure 10A). In

considering this variability, we cannot definitively exclude the possibility that the

electrical stimulation was suboptimally delivered. Our method entailed the deployment

of three consecutive 60-volt electrical shocks, each with a tenure of 10 milliseconds.

Verification of this protocol came from observations of the flies' leg flailing and brief

abdominal spasms—responses that signify effective shock delivery. Nonetheless, the

flies manifested olfactory-triggered responses, confirmed by calcium imaging and the

initiation of ambulatory leg motions, the sporadic activity observed in response to

olfactory stimuli, signifying maintained physiological integrity. However, upon increasing

the shock duration to 20 milliseconds, while calcium imaging continued to reflect

olfactory responses, there was an absence of autonomous leg activity following the

administration of two consecutive shocks. It should be noted that following the

conditioning procedure employed in this study, we observed a significant reduction in

Ach release within the γ2 compartment, a phenomenon recognized as the engram of

aversive memory (Noyes and Davis, 2023; Stahl et al., 2022). These insights imply that

the experimental parameters we employed were both necessary and adequately

calibrated.

An additional consideration is that we cannot formally preclude the possibility

that the core site of the Rutabaga action or the coincidence detection was within a

microenvironment that we failed to access, or the population of cAMP synthesized with

Rutabaga at the coincidence detection was masked by the pool of cAMP synthesized

with other adenylyl cyclases. The overlap between the positive PKA and cAMP signals

suggests that the cAMP signal detected in the current study was sufficiently functional

to activate PKA. The following discussion is based on the assumption that the detected

cAMP signal is functional. Although our findings indicate that the CS+ KCs cannot be

differentiated from the other KCs based on cAMP levels, the cAMP signal still holds

significant importance in memory formation. In the realm of mammalian reward

learning, the convergence of calcium-mediated NMDAR signaling and dopamine has

been demonstrated and modeled to occur on AC (Urakubo et al., 2020; Yagishita et al.,

2014). Nair et al. presented a theoretical framework wherein the cAMP/PKA signal

activated by dopamine converges with the calcium signal at CaMKII, when the inputs of

calcium and dopamine are delivered in temporal proximity and in a dopamine-

following-calcium sequence (Nair et al., 2016). This role of CaMKII could underlie the

case of Drosophila olfactory conditioning, since CaMKII accumulation in the KC axons

is required for Drosophila aversive and appetitive conditioning (Adel et al., 2022; Chen

et al., 2022; bur see also Yamada et al., 2024).

The Rutabaga AC is not necessarily involved in all phases of aversive

olfactory memory, as it is crucial for labile anesthesia-sensitive memory (ASM), but

dispensable for anesthesia-resistant memory (ARM). In contrast, the Dunce

phosphodiesterase 4 is essential for ARM, but not for ASM, despite both Rutabaga and

Dunce serving in the cAMP pathway (Scheunemann et al., 2012). Additionally, the

presence of Rutabaga is concurrently required within both α/β and γ KCs, whereas

Dunce operates in both KCs and antennal lobe local neurons (Scheunemann et al.,

2012). Another olfactory memory paradigm, known as "trace conditioning," does not

require the Rutabaga AC and allows the presentation of the conditioned stimulus (CS)

and the unconditioned stimulus (US) to be temporally separated by intervals of up to 60

s (Shuai et al., 2011). The Rutabaga AC has been identified as the sole type-I AC in

Drosophila (Livingstone, 1985), and its activation by calcium and the GαS subunit has

led to its postulation as a coincidence detector for the CS and US. This implies that the

underlying mechanism for the convergence of ARM and trace conditioning relies on

another AC or an alternative mechanism.

Another model for coincidence detection

Several research findings have revealed an alternative mechanism of coincidence.

Saitoe et al. showed that the aversive input of electric shocks is conveyed by

glutamate, but not dopamine; rather, dopamine release is elicited after this pairing

event and serves solely as a reinforcement, but not the US (Saitoe, 2021; Ueno et al.,

2017). They further demonstrated that the glutamate transmission is mediated by the

ensheathing glia (EG) that surround the MBs (Miyashita et al., 2023). Yamada and

Hige recently demonstrated that the targeted application of forskolin alone does not

induce presynaptic plasticity (Yamada et al., 2024), manifested as long-term

depression (LTD), which is characteristically observed at the KC-MBON synapse after

the associative pairing of olfactory cues with aversive stimuli (Hige et al., 2015).

However, when the optogenetic stimulation of Kenyon cells is coupled with the

application of forskolin, LTD is indeed induced, implying that these two inputs converge

somewhere downstream of cAMP synthesis (Yamada et al., 2024). Qiao et al.

demonstrated that the PPL1 DANs modulate the input-timing-dependent plasticity of γ

KC synapses from projection neurons, depending on type 2 dopamine receptor (DD2R)

(Qiao et al., 2022). Their findings further indicated that the activation of the PPL1-

DD2R pathway elicits a rise in calcium levels, which is dependent on the voltage-gated

calcium channel (VGCC). They concluded that the VGCC could serve as the

coincidence detector. However, this conclusion does not extend to all phases of

aversive memory, as the authors also demonstrated that DD2R is not necessary for

short-term memory formation.

The potential role of the DAN-KC-MBON recurrent feedback loop in the

formation of olfactory memory raises the prospect that the synaptic connections

between KCs and MBONs may also rely on spike-timing-dependent plasticity (STDP)

(Zeng et al., 2023). Between KCs and MBONs in locusts, Cassenaer and Laurent have

shown that pre-post pairing causing STDP can, when accompanied by the local

administration of a reinforcement-modulating neuromodulator such as dopamine

(three-factor neo-Hebbian learning rule), designate the synapses subject to an

associative alteration (Cassenaer and Laurent, 2012). This is likely to apply to

Drosophila as well. It is noteworthy that comprehensive anatomical studies have

disclosed direct dopaminergic connections from DANs to MBONs in Drosophila α/β

KCs (Takemura et al., 2017). Pribbenow et al. have indeed demonstrated that

concurrent dopamine release and focal acetylcholine application to M6 (MBON-γ5β'2a)

dendrites, circumventing KC activity, induce plasticity in calcium transients within this

MBON (Pribbenow et al., 2022). Zeng et al. further found that the dorsal paired medial

(DPM) neuron releases 5-HT on KCs and regulates the coincidence time window,

which has been hypothesized by several theories to be a timing regulator (Zeng et al.,

2023).

The dopamine population activities serve as the substrate for the storage of

aversive olfactory memory

Upon exposure to different odors, distinct populations of DANs exhibit specific activity

patterns, as documented in multiple studies (Berry et al., 2012; Huang et al., 2022;

Kato et al., 2023; Mao and Davis, 2009; Yamagata et al., 2016). This, in turn,

generates the cAMP code in the γ lobe, which is approximately antithetical to the level

of ACh release (Figure 10B). Given that the sustained population dynamics among

DANs, likely facilitated by the dynamic interactions within the DAN-KC-MBON recurrent

feedback loop, integrate changes in physiological states and environmental cues

(Huang et al., 2022; Kato et al., 2023; Siju et al., 2020), the formation of associative

memories could be an integral component of this dynamism. This is consistent with the

additional finding that repeated exposure to an aversive odor can give rise to a labile,

self-reinforced aversive memory for that odor (Jacob et al., 2021). If the odor and

electric shock stimuli are expressed as the cAMP code, then it can be posited that the

electric shock serves as an extreme manifestation of the odor stimuli, since both

olfactory stimuli (CS) and electric shock (US) activate overlapping populations of

DANs. The imaging of dopamine levels indeed confirms this assertion. The alterations

in dopamine levels observed during the conditioning process were reflected in the

concurrently recorded cAMP levels, suggesting that the integration of the CS and US

takes place at the dopamine level (Figure 10C). Thus, in this particular memory

paradigm, there appears to be no significant distinction between the odor CS and the

electric shock US in terms of dopaminergic signaling. Assuming this to be true, the

inquiry into the location and mechanism of memorization for the learned population

activities of DANs could be comparable to the question of where and how odor-specific

population activities of DANs, in general, are retained.

605   In addition to the well-established function of the exogenously activated γ1-

pedc DAN as the aversive US (Aso et al., 2012; Aso and Rubin, 2016), the suppression

of the corresponding MBON, γ1-pedc>α/β, can also serve as an aversive US (König et

al., 2019; Ueoka et al., 2017), as noted (Yamada et al., 2023). These discoveries

suggest that not only the stimulation of the γ1pedc DAN, but also the inhibition of

γ1pedc>α/β MBON can trigger a series of events that tilt the population activities of

DANs towards the aversively learned state. Assuming that the population activities of

DANs are consistently revised by the DAN-KC-MBON recurrent feedback loop that

integrates inputs from relevant compartments, alterations in the γ1 compartment

triggered by augmented γ1 DAN activity or decreased γ1 MBON activity could

potentially trigger a complete rewrite of the population activities of DANs.

Recently, the postsynaptic plasticity traces associated with nicotinic

acetylcholine receptors in MBONs were reported to contribute to memory storage in

appetitive memory (Pribbenow et al., 2022), although their involvement in aversive

memory is yet to be established. The underlying cause of this plasticity can be

attributed to the previously described neo-Hebbian learning rule. However, it remains

unclear how this plasticity leads to changes in the population activities of DANs,

resulting in alterations in the shape of the cAMP code. Based on these assumptions,

we propose the following model for the formation of aversive olfactory memories. Upon

exposure to odor A paired with an electric shock, the release of ACh from the γ1 and

γ2 compartments of responsive KCs is attenuated because of the increase in cAMP

levels, leading to a depression of the γ1 and γ2 MBONs. This subsequently triggers the

reorganization of the dopamine population activities, as well as that of the ACh

receptors within the γ1 and γ2 MBON synapses. Consequently, the cAMP code for

odor A is shifted towards a more negative valence in comparison to its pre-conditioning

state. The cAMP pathway including PKA exerts inhibitory control over ACh release in

accordance with the population activities of DANs (Figure 10B). Despite the current

lack of knowledge regarding the higher-order mechanisms responsible for the

organization of the DAN-KC-MBON recurrent feedback loop, recent progress in

unraveling the hierarchical architecture of the DAN circuit (Rubin and Aso, 2024; Shuai

et al., 2024b; Yamada et al., 2023) holds promise for illuminating these mechanisms in

the near future.

The role of Rutabaga AC

The rut^1 mutation was demonstrated to completely abolish Rutabaga AC activity (Levin

et al., 1992). However, in the rut^1 mutant, cAMP levels were found to be either

comparable to or slightly lower than those in the control strain. This finding suggests

that substantial cAMP levels in KCs are maintained by alternative adenylyl cyclases. It

has indeed been shown that innate odor preferences are reliant on another adenylyl

cyclase, ACXD (Noyes and Davis, 2023). Nonetheless, short-term aversive memory is

impaired in the rut^1 mutant, and this deficit can be ameliorated by expressing the wild-

type Rutabaga in γ and αβKCs (McGuire et al., 2003; Zars et al., 2000). This

underscores the crucial role of Rutabaga in the formation of aversive memory within γ

and αβKCs.

In our current imaging analyses of γKCs, we have made three significant

observations pertaining to the cAMP code specific to the rut^1 mutation:

(1) The cAMP code in the rut^1 mutant differs from that of the genetic control even prior

to conditioning, contrary to previous findings (Noyes and Davis, 2023). Specifically,

in the rut^1 mutant, the relative cAMP level in the γ2 compartment is higher, whereas

the relative level in the γ4 compartment is lower. This suggests that the rut^1 mutant

perceives these odors with a more negative valence than the wild type even before

conditioning.

(2) During conditioning, the cAMP levels in the γ2 and γ4 compartments remained

unchanged in the rut^1 mutant, in contrast to the genetic control. This phenomenon

could be partly attributed to lower levels of cAMP in the γ2 compartment and

slightly higher levels in the γ4 compartment induced by electric shock in the rut^1

mutant, compared to the genetic control.

(3) cAMP potentially suppresses ACh release, a phenomenon particularly evident after

conditioning, where ACh levels across the γ lobe exhibit an inverse correlation with

the cAMP code (Figure 8M). However, in the rut^1 mutant, ACh levels remain

unchanged post-conditioning and do not display an inverse correlation with the

cAMP code. In addition, compared to the genetic background, ACh levels in the

$rut1$ mutant are higher, despite the fact that the cAMP levels in rut^1 are not

significantly lower. This suggests that the inhibition of acetylcholine release may not

be a straightforward consequence of cAMP action and may involve Rutabaga-

specific adenylyl cyclase activity, as described (Noyes and Davis, 2023).

These characteristics provide an explanation for the impaired aversive

memory in the rut^1 mutant. Among the family of adenylyl cyclases, the molecular

determinants that endow Rutabaga with its specialized role in mediating synaptic

plasticity have yet to be elucidated. This prompts the question of whether the specificity

of Rutabaga is attributable to its sensitivity to calcium ions, a hypothesis that has not

yet been substantiated through our research. To elucidate these points, further

physiological and biochemical studies will be necessary. Considering that the locus for

coincidence detection was established by rescuing the rut^1 mutation, it may be

necessary to reevaluate this if Rutabaga does not contribute to this process.

Materials and methods

Fly strains

Fly strains were maintained on standard food containing cornmeal at 25°C. The

following strains were used. CRE-p65-AD/CyO; MB247-GAL4-DBD (Yamazaki, 2018),

UAS-G-Flamp1 attp40/CyO and UAS-G-Flamp1 VK00005 (gifts from Jun Chu and

Yulong Li, Nat. Commun., 2022.13:5363), TH-lexA vk00040 (a gift from Yoshinori Aso),

UAS-jRGECO1b VK00005 (#BL63795), MB364B-GAL4 i.e., R13F02-p65-AD attp40;

R21B06-GAL4-DBD attP2 (#BL68318), OK107-GAL4 (#Kyoto DGRC 106098), UAS-

Pink Flamindo su(Hw) attP5 and UAS-Pink Flamindo VK00027 (this study), UAS-

GRAB_DA2m attp40 (BL#90878), Dop1R1^{KO} (D1R1 KO, a gift from Taro Ueno, Eur. J.

Neurosci. 2020;51:822–839), UAS-ExRai-AKAR2 VK00005 (this study), and UAS-

GRAB_ACh3.0 attp40 (BL#86549).

Fly genotypes used by figures

Figure	Genotype

1C, 1D	CRE-p65-AD, UAS-G-Flamp1 attp40 / UAS-G-Flamp1 attp40; MB247-GAL4-DBD, UAS-jRGECO1b VK00005 / UAS-jRGECO1b VK00005
1E	R13F02-p65ADZp attP40 / UAS-G-Flamp1 attp40; R21B06-ZpGdbd attP2, UAS-jRGECO1b VK00005 / +
1F, 1G, 1H	UAS-G-Flamp1 attp40 / +; UAS- jRGECO1b VK00005 / + ; OK107-GAL4 / +
2A, 2D, 2G	CRE-p65-AD, UAS-GRAB_DA2m attp40, UAS-Pink Flamindo su(Hw)attp5 / UAS-GRAB_DA2m attp40, UAS-Pink Flamindo su(Hw)attp5; MB247-GAL4-DBD, UAS-Pink Flamindo VK00027 / +
2B, 2E	same as 1C
2C, 2F	CRE-p65-AD, UAS-G-Flamp1 attp40 / UAS-G-Flamp1 attp40; MB247-GAL4-DBD, UAS-jRGECO1b VK00005, Dop1R1^{KO} / UAS-jRGECO1b VK00005, Dop1R1^{KO}
2H	Control: same as 2A; Dop1R1$^{KO/KO}$: same as 2C
3A	left: same as 1C; right: same as 1E
3B, 3C, 3D	same as 1C
4B, 4C, 4E, 4F, 4H, 4I, 4K, 4L, 4N, 4O	same as 1E
4D, 4G, 4J, 4M, 4P	R13F02-p65ADZp attP40 / UAS-G-Flamp1 attp40; R21B06-ZpGdbd attP2, UAS-jRGECO1b VK00005 / TH-lexA vk00040, LexAop-TNT
4Q, 4R, 4S	control: same as 1E; TH-lexA>TNT: same as 4D
5A, 5A', 5B, 5B', 5C, 5C', 5D, 5D', 5E, 5E'	same as 2A
6A, 6A', 6B, 6B', 6C, 6C'	R13F02-p65ADZp attP40 / UAS-Pink Flamindo su(Hw)attp5; R21B06-ZpGdbd attP2 / UAS-ExRai-AKAR2 VK00005

Figure panels	Genotype
7A, 7C, 7E, 7G, 7I	R13F02-p65ADZp attP40 / + ; R21B06-ZpGdbd attP2, UAS-G-Flamp1 vk00005 / +
7B, 7D, 7F, 7H, 7J	rut^1/ rut^1; R13F02-p65ADZp attP40 / + ; R21B06-ZpGdbd attP2, UAS-G-Flamp1 vk00005 / +
7K, 7L	control: same as 7A; $rut^{1/1}$: same as 7B
8A, 8A', 8D, 8D', 8G, 8G', 8J, 8M	R13F02-p65ADZp attP40, UAS-Pink Flamindo su(Hw)attp5 / UAS-GRAB_ACh3.0 attp40; R21B06-ZpGdbd attP2 / +
8B, 8B', 8E, 8E', 8H, 8H', 8K, 8N	rut^1/ rut^1; R13F02-p65ADZp attP40 / UAS-GRAB_ACh3.0 attp40, UAS-Pink Flamindo su(Hw)attp5; R21B06-ZpGdbd attP2 / +
8C, 8C', 8F, 8F', 8I, 8I', 8L, 8O	R13F02-p65ADZp attP40 / UAS-GRAB_ACh3.0 attp40, UAS-Pink Flamindo su(Hw)attp5; R21B06-ZpGdbd attP2, Dop1R1^{KO} / Dop1R1^{KO}
8P	control: same as 8A; $rut^{1/1}$: same as 8B
8Q	control: same as 8A; Dop1R1$^{KO/KO}$: same as 8C
9A, 9B, 9C, 9D	same as 8A

Construction of UAS-Pink Flamindo and UAS-ExRai-AKAR2

The Pink Flamindo cDNA was amplified by PCR from the plasmid (provided by

Kitaguchi, Addgene plasmid #102356). The amplified fragment was then integrated into

the 20xUAS vector originating from pJFRC7-20xUAS-IVS-mCD8::GFP (Pfeiffer,

Addgene plasmid #26220) by In-Fusion recombinase (Clontech Laboratories). The

ExRai-AKAR2 cDNA codon was optimized for Drosophila melanogaster (Eurofins

Genomics), and the resulting synthesized cDNA was cloned into the 20xUAS vector

described above.

Live imaging

Chemicals

Saline (103 mM NaCl, 3 mM KCl, 10 mM trehalose, 10 mM D-glucose, 26 mM

$NaHCO_3$, 1 mM NaH_2PO_4, 1.5 mM $CaCl_2\_2H_2O$, 4 mM $MgCl_2\_6H_2O$, 9 mM sucrose,

and 5 mM HEPES, (osmolarity adjusted to 270–280 mol/kg), Mineral oil (Fisher

Scientific, Fair Lawn, NJ, USA, Cat# O1214), 4-methylcyclohexanol, MCH (Cat#

66360, 98%>purity, Fluka, Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA), 3-octanol, OCT (Cat#

74870, 95%>purity, Fluka, Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA), Apple cider vinegar,

ACV (Mizkan jun-ringo-su, Mizkan holdings, Japan, ASIN#B000H2SCTW), Forskolin,

Fsk (Tokyo Chemical Industry, Cat# F0855), and Ethanol (Fujifilm Wako, Japan, Cat#

054-00466).

Fly preparation

Unless otherwise specified, female flies aged 5-16 days were used. A fly was mounted

on a custom-made imaging dish immediately after anesthetization by CO_2 gas spray for

3–5 s. The head capsule and dorsal thorax were secured to the dish by light-curing

glue (DYMAX Medical Adhesive, 1204-M-SC, USA). The proboscis was also glued

onto the capsule to reduce brain movement. A window on the top of the head capsule

was opened using sharp forceps (Corte Instruments, USA) and a thin injection needle

in saline. Air sacs and fat bodies were carefully removed, and muscle 16 was cut using

forceps to avoid excessive brain movements during imaging.

Olfactory stimulation

Odors were delivered with a custom-made, 8-channel olfactometer controlled by a

custom LabVIEW application (National Instruments). While a fly was mounted under

the microscope, a constant stream of pure air (0.4 L/min) was directed toward it. Thirty

mL of odor solution was placed in a 100 ml glass bottle (Duran, Cat# TGK 371-05-20-

03) with an Omnifit GL45 bottle cap (Diba Omnifit, Cat# OM4212), PTFE tube (Cat#

BLS181033, ⅛" x 2.4mm), and USL-PTFE joint (OOU-095-7x1/8", custom-made, 7mm

x ⅛", http//www.u-s-l.co.jp). All odorants except for ACV were diluted 1 : 10 vol/vol in

mineral oil. ACV was diluted 1 : 10 vol/vol in Milli-Q water. After a stimulation trigger, a

solenoid valve redirects a portion of the air stream through the headspace of the glass

bottle for 3 s. Two mass flow controllers (SEC-E40, HORIBA STEC, Japan) were used

in parallel to regulate the flow of pure air and odors. The odor stream rejoined the pure

air stream 40 cm from the end of the odor delivery tube (4 mm in diameter). The odor

was released from a position 5 mm in front of the fly at a flow rate of 0.4 L/min.

Subsequently, it was collected through a tube (3 mm in diameter) located 15 mm

behind the fly at a flow rate of 2 L/min, using a vacuum pump (ULVAC DA-20D,

ULVAC KIKO, Inc.) equipped with a charcoal filter. The intervals between odor

exposures were at least 60 seconds.

Electric shock delivery

A fly was subjected to electric stimulation by positioning one end of a platinum wire at

the base of its legs and the other end at the abdominal region, using a

micromanipulator (MNM-25, Narishige, Tokyo, Japan). At the time point 17.5 seconds

from the commencement of the recording, a 60-volt electric shock generated with an

Electric Stimulator (SEN-3401, Nihon Kohden, Japan) and Isolator (SS-203J, Nihon

Kohden, Japan) was administered to the fly for a duration of 10 milliseconds. In the

context of pairing odor and electric shock, electric stimulation was applied after a delay

of 1.5 seconds following the initiation of a 3-second odor presentation. The

administration of the shock was verified by observing the movements of the legs and

the occurrence of abdominal cramps, using a CCD camera (STC-TB33USB, Omron

Sentech, Tokyo, Japan).

Forskolin bath application

Forskolin, a compound of interest, was dissolved in a solution containing saline and

100% EtOH in a 3:1 ratio, to make a stock solution with a 5 mM Forskolin

concentration. From this stock solution, a working solution was prepared by dilution

with saline to achieve a concentration of 100 µM Forskolin in saline with 0.5% EtOH.

As a control, saline with 0.5% EtOH was used. For live imaging, the standard saline

solution was removed, leaving a small remaining volume of 50 µl on the objective and

dish. Then, a syringe containing saline with 0.5% EtOH was connected to the dish,

allowing the space between the objective and dish to be filled. The recording was

performed for a duration of 4 minutes. Subsequently, the saline with 0.5% EtOH was

replaced with 1 mL of the 100 µM Forskolin solution in saline with 0.5% EtOH, and

another 4-minute recording was conducted. During this time, the responses to odors

were recorded. At the end of the recordings, the 100 µM Forskolin solution in saline

with 0.5% EtOH was washed out by replacing it with the standard saline solution four

times, and the responses to odors under the wash-out conditions were also recorded.

Two-photon laser microscopy

For *in vivo* two-photon imaging, we employed a two-photon microscope (Olympus

FVMPE-RS; Olympus, Tokyo, Japan) equipped with a water-immersion objective lens

(XLPLN25XWM, 25x N.A. 1.05), a titanium:sapphire pulsed laser (INSIGHT DS DUAL-

OL; Spectra-Physics, Santa Clara, CA, USA), and a Galvano Scanner to facilitate live

imaging. The emitted light was collected using GaAsP photomultiplier detectors with

495-540 nm and 575-645 nm bandpass filters (FV30-FGR). G-CaMP6f and G-Flamp1

were excited at 925 nm, GRAB_DA2m, GRAB_ACh3.0, and ExRai-AKAR2 were

excited at 980 nm, while jRGECO1b and Pink Flamindo were excited at 1040 nm.

Using the Olympus FV31S-SW imaging software, we acquired time series images with

different dimensions: 400-430 x 130-120 pixels (0.14-0.19 µm/pixel, γ1-γ2 zoom in

Figure 3), 275-320 x 155-140 (0.33-0.50 µm/pixel, γ1-γ5 in Figures 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7),

and 180-250 x 150-165 (0.15-0.20 µm/pixel, α'3/α3 in Figure 1). The acquisition was

performed at a frame rate of either 333 or 500 ms/frame in a sequential line scan

mode, ensuring that the time difference between acquiring images for channels 1 and 2

was less than 2 ms. By default, images were acquired for a duration of 40 s to capture

the response to each stimulus and were saved for subsequent image processing. The

solenoid valve for odor stimulation was activated 15 s after the start of each recording,

and delivered the odor for a duration of 3 s, corresponding to frames #46-54 (333

ms/frame) or #31-36 (500 ms/frame). For quantitative analysis, $\Delta F/F0$ images of peak

responses were generated by averaging frames #51-65 (333 ms/frame) or frames #35-

44 (500 ms/frame). The experimental flies, which were housed in vials with food, were

transferred to an imaging room maintained at 22°C at least two days prior to the

imaging experiments.

Image analysis

The image analysis was conducted as described previously (Hiroi et al., 2013), with

several modifications. The images within each recording were stabilized using the

template matching plugin of Fiji (ImageJ). To mitigate the impacts of detector noise and

uncorrected movement, all reporter signals underwent an initial processing step

employing a median filter (with a radius of 1 pixel). For the images obtained from the

same fly, after stabilization, a template matching technique was utilized for alignment.

Subsequently, the ΔF values were computed based on the average (F0) of the one-

second interval following the opening of the valve (specifically, 15 seconds after the

start of the recording). It is important to note that the median filter (with a radius of 1

pixel) was once again applied during this stage. To identify the KC region (also known

as the region of interest, ROI), Li's binarizing algorithm was applied to the averaged

signal intensity across the entire duration of each recording, using Fiji. Regions of

interest (ROIs) for each compartment were first manually identified, using the

anatomical characteristics as a guide. The demarcation between the γ3 and γ4

compartments was occasionally challenging to determine, and it was pragmatically

established that the border lies within the middle of the regions assigned to the γ3 and

γ4 compartments. The drawing and preservation of ROIs, as well as the measurement

of ΔF/F0, were performed in a semi-automated manner using both built-in and custom-

written macro routines in Fiji. Furthermore, additional image processing tasks, such as

correlation testing and temporal dynamics plotting, were executed using MATLAB

scripts.

Scatter Plot Analysis

We computed the mean ΔF/F0 values of calcium and cAMP transients within the

designated γ1 and γ2 compartments for each pixel during the 1 to 6 seconds following

the delivery of OCT or OCT + electrical shock, employing the identical method outlined

in the preceding image analysis section. These calculated values were then plotted on

a scatter plot, with calcium represented on the X-axis and cAMP on the Y-axis for each

pixel. To assess the linearity of the relationship, we conducted a linear regression

analysis on the scatter plot and determined the R^2 value. To simulate the potential

maximum linearity between the two values in our experimental setup, we created an

additional scatter plot. We divided the dataset obtained from calcium transients into two

groups, based on whether the frame number was odd or even. Then, we plotted the

values from the odd-numbered frames on the X-axis and the values from the even-

numbered frames on the Y-axis. The processes of acquiring data, generating scatter

plots, applying linear regression analysis, and calculating R^2 values were all executed

utilizing the MATLAB software.

Statistics

Statistical analyses were conducted using the Prism 9 software (GraphPad). All tests

were non-parametric, two-tailed, and the confidence levels were set at α = 0.05. The

figure legends provide the p values and specify the comparisons made for each

experiment, unless otherwise indicated. The bar graphs display the means ± SEM for

the data.

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imaging and statistical analyses; D.Y. constructed transgenes and performed live

imaging in the early phase; M.H. developed an imaging data acquisition and analysis

system; Y.M. conducted genetic and histological experiments; Y.U. performed statistical

analyses. T.A., D.Y. and T.T. wrote the manuscript.

Competing interest

The authors declare that no competing interests exist.

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Figure 1

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Figure 1. Odor presentation evokes cAMP elevation in a broad population of KCs

independently of calcium responses. (**A**) Schematic of Kenyon cells (KCs), referred to

Figure 1A (Bilz et al., 2020). The cell body, the α/β, α'/β' and γ lobes, and the α/β and γ

KCs are depicted. (**B**) Schematic of the role of the Rutabaga adenylyl cyclase (Rut AC)

as the coincidence detector. KCs innervated by PPL1 DANs. The odor acquisition (CS)

activates acetylcholine signaling and elevates calcium concentrations through voltage-

gated calcium channels. PPL1 DANs integrate odor information and noxious stimuli

(US) such as electric shock through regions including the lateral horns (LHNs), Crepine

(CRE), and superior medial protocerebrum (SMP)(Kato et al., 2023). DANs activities

are also regulated by the DAN-KC-MBON recurrent feedback loop (Adel and Griffith,

2021). The CS and US pathways can converge on the Rut AC, which is synergistically

activated by the calcium/calmodulin complex and the Gα subunit of the G-protein

complex coupled to the D1-like dopamine receptor Dop1R1. (**C**) Schematic

representation of *in vivo* imaging of KCs. The objective and frontal view of the KCs

along with the focal plane (upper left), and the dorsal view of γ KCs with color-coded

γ2-5 compartments (upper right) are shown. Two-photon live imaging was conducted

on the γ2-γ5 compartments of KCs in flies expressing jRGECO1b and G-Flamp1,

driven by the γCRE-p-GAL4 driver. Exemplary, finely resolved images are shown.

Averaged calcium responses during a 40-second air exposure were used to show the

regions of interest (ROIs) for each compartment, depicted in grayscale. Pseudocolor

images of averaged peak responses (10 frames for 5 s) of calcium and cAMP during

the presentations of 4-methylcyclohexanol (MCH), 3-octanol (OCT), apple cider

vinegar (ACV), and electric shock (Shock, two bouts). All images in the present study

were acquired using a dual-channel line-scanning mode. (**D**) The graph shows the

changes in calcium (in red) and cAMP (in green) levels over 15-30 seconds in

response to different odors (OCT, MCH, and ACV) in four γ lobe compartments (γ2-γ5)

driven by the γ-CRE-p-GAL4 driver. The odors were presented by opening the solenoid

valve between 15-18 seconds. Solid lines represent the average response from 8 flies,

and shaded areas show the standard error of the mean (SEM). (**E**) The focal plane of

live imaging for compartments γ1-γ5 is schematically presented (Upper panel). Two-

photon live imaging on the γ1-γ5 compartments of KCs in flies expressing jRGECO1b

and G-Flamp1, driven by the MB364B-GAL4 driver. Averaged calcium responses

during a 40-second air exposure were utilized to show ROIs for each compartment,

depicted in grayscale. The $\Delta F/F0$ images of averaged peak responses (10 frames, 5 s)

of calcium and cAMP during the presentations of MCH, OCT, ACV, and shock in

compartments γ1-γ5 (lower panels). (**F**) The focal plane of live imaging for the α3/α'3

compartments is schematically presented (upper panel). Two-photon live imaging on

the α3/α'3 compartments of KCs in flies expressing jRGECO1b and G-Flamp1, driven

by the OK107 driver. Averaged calcium responses during a 40-second air exposure

were utilized to show ROIs for each compartment, depicted in grayscale. Magnified

images of averaged peak $\Delta F/F0$ responses (10 frames, 5 s) of calcium and cAMP in

the α3 and α'3 compartments are shown. (**G**) The graph shows the changes in calcium

(in red) and cAMP (in green) levels over 15-30 seconds in response to different odors

(OCT, MCH, and ACV) in the α3 lobe compartment driven by the OK107-GAL4 driver.

The odors were presented by opening the solenoid valve between 15-18 seconds.

Solid lines represent the average response from 10 flies, and shaded areas show the

standard error of the mean (SEM). ACV elicited the highest calcium response but the

lowest cAMP response, compared to OCT and MCH. (**H**) The $\Delta F/F0$ images, obtained by

averaging the responses to odor stimuli over a duration of 5 seconds, corresponding to

10 frames, were quantified. The plots of the α3 compartment derived from the same

sample are connected with dashed lines. The bar graph illustrates the mean values. p-

values are shown for comparisons where a significant difference was observed. Dunn's

multiple comparisons test for all pairwise combinations, $p < 0.05$; n = 10.

1139

Figure 2

1140

Figure 2. Dopamine induces cAMP synthesis. (**A**) Two-photon live imaging on γ1-γ5

compartments of KCs in flies expressing Pink Flamindo and GRAB_DA2m, driven by

the γCRE-p-GAL4 driver. Averaged calcium responses during a 40-second air

exposure were used to show ROIs for each compartment, depicted in grayscale. ΔF/F0

images of averaged peak responses (10 frames, 3.3 s) of cAMP and dopamine during

the presentations of OCT, MCH and ACV. (**B,C**) Two-photon live imaging on the γ1-γ5

compartments of KCs in flies expressing jRGECO1b and G-Flamp1, driven by the

γCRE-p-GAL4 driver of the genetic control flies (**B**) and the *Dop1R1* mutant flies (**C**).

Averaged calcium responses during a 40-second air exposure were used to show

ROIs for each compartment, depicted in grayscale. ΔF/F0 images of averaged peak

responses (15 frames, 5 s) of calcium and cAMP during the presentations of OCT,

MCH, and ACV. (**D-F**) The quantification of the ΔF/F0 images, obtained by averaging

the responses of cAMP and dopamine (**D**), Ca^{2+} and cAMP (**E-F**) to odor stimuli. The

plots of different compartments derived from the same sample are connected with

dashed lines. The bar graph illustrates the mean values. γ1: n = 6, γ2-γ5: n = 10 (**D**),

γ1: n = 9, γ2-γ5: n = 10 (**E**) and γ1, n = 6, γ2-γ5, n = 8 (**F**). p-values are shown for

comparisons where a significant difference was observed. Dunn's multiple comparisons

test was performed for all pairwise combinations among γ2-γ5, p < 0.05; n = 10 (**D**), γ2-

γ5, p < 0.05; n = 10 (**E**) and γ2-γ5, p < 0.05; n = 8 (**F**). (**G**) The changes in cAMP (red)

and Dopamine (green) levels over 15-30 seconds in response to different odors (OCT,

MCH, and ACV) in five γ lobe compartments (γ1-γ5). The odors were presented by

opening the solenoid valve between 15-18 seconds. Solid lines represent the average

response from 7 flies, and shaded areas show the standard error of the mean (SEM).

(**H**) Comparison of the odor-evoked calcium responses in the γ2-γ5 compartments

between control and *Dop1R1^{KO/KO}* mutant flies. All values represent the mean ± SEM

values. p-values are shown for comparisons where a significant difference was

observed. Mann-Whitney U test, control: n = 10; *Dop1R1$^{KO/KO}$:* n = 8.

1168

Figure 3

A

CRE-p-Gal4> jRGECO, G-Flamp1

MB364B-Gal4> jRGECO, G-Flamp1

Figure 3. cAMP levels are not dependent on calcium levels when odor (CS) and

electric shock (US) are paired. (**A**) The top panels display the averaged

representations of raw intensity values extracted from 80 frames, spanning a duration

of 40 seconds including both stimulus and non-stimulus periods. The following three

panels below present exemplary $\Delta F/F0$ images of averaged peak responses (10

frames, 5 s) of calcium and cAMP during the presentation of OCT, Shock, and both

paired in the γ1-γ2 compartments expressing jRGECO1b and G-Flamp1 driven by the

γCRE-p (left) or MB364B GAL4 (right) driver. (**B**) The averaged $\Delta F/F0$ images of the

γCRE-p flies were quantified. The plots of different stimuli derived from the same

sample are connected with dashed lines. The bar graph illustrates the mean values.

Dunn's multiple comparisons test was conducted using OCT (CS+) stimulation as the

control group to examine differences between the other stimulus groups, $*p < 0.05$, $**p$

< 0.01, ns, not significant; n = 9. (**C**) Scatter plots of $\Delta F/F0$ values derived from

representative averaged calcium and cAMP images of each γ compartment. These

values are derived from the same dataset used in (**B**). The X-axis represents the $\Delta F/F0$

of calcium, while the Y-axis represents the $\Delta F/F0$ of cAMP. The individual points in the

plot correspond to each pixel within the γ1 or γ2 compartment in the averaged $\Delta F/F0$

images, and linear regression lines are plotted. OCT (CS only): green, and OCT +

Shock (CS + US): magenta. (**D**) The X-axis and Y-axis represent the $\Delta F/F0$ of calcium

obtained by averaging odd frames and even frames, respectively, from the same

calcium imaging data set used in (**C**). The individual points in the plot correspond to

each pixel within the γ1 or γ2 compartment, and linear regression lines are plotted.

OCT (CS only): green, and OCT + Shock (CS + US): magenta.

1193

Figure 4

Figure 4. The cAMP code of an odor is integrated with the cAMP code of an electric

shock during conditioning. (**A**) Schematic representation of conditioning procedure.

Sixteen seconds after the start of the recording, a 3 second odor stimulus was

presented to the fly. Following a delay of 1.5 seconds from the onset of the odor

presentation, an electric shock of 60 volts was administered to the fly for a duration of

10 milliseconds. In one series of experiments, OCT was paired with electric shock,

while MCH and ACV were not (**B and D**). In another set of experiments, MCH was

paired with electric shock, while OCT and ACV were not (**C**). (**B**, **C**, **D**) All the cAMP

images in the γ1-γ5 compartments of KCs were captured from flies expressing G-

Flamp1 and jRGECO1b under the control of the MB364B driver. An averaged raw

intensity image of cAMP derived from 80 frames acquired during air presentation for 40

s, onto which the ROIs for each compartment are mapped (upper left), and the ΔF/F0

image obtained by averaging the responses (5 s, 10 frames) to electric shock (upper

right) are shown. The images displayed below depict the ΔF/F0 images obtained by

averaging the responses (5 s, 10 frames) to OCT (as CS+) during the pre-conditioning,

first, second, and third pairings, as well as post-conditioning. Additionally, the images

illustrate the neural responses to MCH (as CS-) during the same experimental

procedure, but without electric shock (**B**). Similarly, the corresponding images obtained

when MCH was presented as the CS+ and OCT as the CS- are shown in (**C**). In (**D**),

TNT was expressed in PPL1 DANs by the TH-LexA driver to block neurotransmitter

release to innervating compartments. OCT was paired with electric shock, while MCH

and ACV were not, following the same procedure as in (**B**). (**E**, **F**, **G**) A series of line

plots depicting the temporal dynamics of cAMP over time in seconds (s) across

different stimulus conditions. Each subplot corresponds to a different combination of

odor or shock stimulus and time points. Each plot shows the $\Delta F/F_0$ of cAMP of the $\gamma1$-

$\gamma5$ compartments. The solid lines represent the mean values for each compartment,

calculated from the number of flies indicated in parentheses within the subplots. The

shaded areas around each solid line represent the SEM. Shaded rectangular areas

indicate when the odor valve was opened (15 to 18 seconds) to apply the olfactory

stimulus. A 60-volt shock was administered to the fly 17.5 seconds after the start of the

recording, lasting for a duration of 10 milliseconds. (**H**, **I**, **J**) The mean peak $\Delta F/F_0$ (10

frames for 5 s) values of each compartment were averaged and represented in bar

graphs, generating cAMP codes for the pre- and post-conditioning responses to each

odor. The plots of different compartments derived from the same sample are

connected with dashed lines. n = 9 (**H**), 8 (**I**), and 8 (**J**). (**K**, **L**, **M**) Dunn's multiple

comparisons test was conducted on the differences in cAMP levels in the $\gamma2$ and $\gamma4$

compartments, using their pre-odor responses as controls. The same datasets used in

(**H**), (**I**), and (**J**) were utilized for (**K**), (**L**), and (**M**), respectively. The shock values

shown in the (CS+) experimental group were not included in the statistical test. p-

values are shown for comparisons with significant differences. n = 9 (**K**), 8 (**L**), and 8

(**M**). (**N**, **O**, **P**) The ratio of cAMP levels in the γ2 compartment to those in the γ4

compartment for each odor response was calculated. Bar graphs represent mean

values. The ratios obtained before and after the conditioning phase are then compared

by Wilcoxon signed rank test. The same datasets used in (**H**), (**I**), and (**J**) were utilized

for (**N**), (**O**), and (**P**), respectively. p-values are shown for comparisons where a

significant difference was observed. ns, not significant, n = 9 (**N**), 8 (**O**), and 8 (**P**). (**Q**)

Comparison of the electric shock-evoked cAMP responses in the γ2 compartment

between control and TH-lexA>TNT mutant flies. The bar graph represents the mean

values with ± SEM. p-value is shown where a significant difference was observed.

Mann-Whitney U test, control: n = 10; TH-lexA>TNT: n = 8. (**R**) Comparison of the

odor-evoked cAMP responses in the γ2 and γ4 compartments between control and TH-

lexA>TNT mutant flies. The bar graph represents the mean values with ± SEM. p-

values are shown where significant differences were observed. Mann-Whitney U test,

control: n = 10; TH-lexA>TNT: n = 8. (**S**) Comparison of the peak timing of odor-evoked

cAMP responses in the γ2 compartment among control and TH-lexA>TNT mutant flies.

The distributions of the data are represented by box plots, with the whiskers indicating

the minimum and maximum values. p-values are shown where significant differences

were observed. Mann-Whitney U test, control: n = 10; TH-lexA>TNT: n = 8.

1253

Figure 5

CREp-Gal4> Pink Flamindo, GRAB_DA2m

Figure 5. Associative conditioning triggers alterations in dopamine levels, leading to

subsequent modifications in the cAMP levels. (**A**, **A'**) The ΔF/F0 images, depicting the

averaged peak responses (15 frames for 5 s) of Dopamine (**A**) and cAMP (**A'**) in the

γ1-γ5 compartments of KCs, were captured from flies expressing Pink Flamindo and

GRAB_DA2m sensors under the control of the γCRE-p driver during the presentations

of OCT (CS+), MCH (CS-), ACV (CS-), and shock (US) through conditioning. The ROIs

for each compartment are mapped onto the top left panel. (**B**, **B'**) A series of line plots

depicting the temporal dynamics of Dopamine (**B**) and cAMP (**B'**) over time in seconds

(s) across different stimulus conditions. Each subplot corresponds to a different

combination of odor or shock stimulus and time points. The y-axis indicates ΔF/F0. The

solid lines represent the mean values for each compartment, calculated from the

number of flies indicated in parentheses within the subplots. The shaded areas around

each line represent the SEM. Shaded rectangular areas indicate when the odor valve

was opened (15 to 18 seconds) to apply the olfactory stimulus. A 60-volt shock was

administered to the fly 17.5 seconds after the start of the recording, lasting for a

duration of 10 milliseconds. (**C**, **C'**) Quantifications of the ΔF/F0 images of cAMP (left)

and ACh (right) obtained by averaging the pre- and post-conditioning responses to

odors and shock. The plots of different compartments derived from the same sample

are connected with dashed lines. The bar graph illustrates the mean values. (**D**, **D'**)

Dunn's multiple comparisons test was conducted on the differences in Dopamine (**D**)

and cAMP (**D'**) levels in the γ2 and γ4 compartments, using their pre-odor responses

as controls. The same datasets used in (**C**) and (**C'**) were utilized for (**D**) and (**D'**),

respectively. The shock values shown in the (CS+) experimental group were not

included in the statistical test. p-values are shown for comparisons with significant

differences. n = 9 for all stimulus sets in both γ2 and γ4. (**E**, **E'**) Comparisons of the

γ2/4 Dopamine ratio before and after the conditioning phase for each odor (**E**).

Similarly, the γ2/4 cAMP ratios before and after the conditioning phase are compared

(**E'**). The same datasets used in (**C**) and (**C'**) were utilized for (**E**) and (**E'**), respectively.

p-values are shown for comparisons where a significant difference was observed. ns,

not significant, n = 9, 9, 8 (**E**), and 9, 9, 9 (**E'**). Wilcoxon signed rank test.

1285

Figure 6

1286

Figure 6. The protein kinase A (PKA) activities coincide with the presence of cAMP.

(**A**) The top two panels display the averaged representations of raw intensity values

extracted from 120 frames, spanning a duration of 60 seconds, including both stimulus

and non-stimulus periods, in flies expressing Pink Flamindo for cAMP detection and

ExRai-AKAR2 for PKA activity detection under the control of the MB364B-GAL4 driver.

The ROIs for each compartment are mapped onto the top left panel. The following

eight panels show the mean peak ΔF/F0 images obtained by averaging each response

(5 s, 10 frames) in the γ1-γ5 compartments during OCT, MCH, ACV, and shock

presentation. (**B**) A series of line plots depicting the temporal dynamics of cAMP (upper

panels) and PKA (lower panels) over time in seconds (s) across different stimulus

conditions. Each subplot corresponds to a different combination of odor or shock

stimulus and time points. The y-axis indicates ΔF/F0. The solid lines represent the

mean values for each compartment, calculated from the number of flies indicated in

parentheses within the subplots. The shaded areas around each line represent the

SEM. Shaded rectangular areas indicate when the odor valve was opened (15 to 18

seconds) to apply the olfactory stimulus. A 60-volt shock was administered to the fly

17.5 seconds after the start of the recording, lasting for a duration of 10 milliseconds.

(**C**) Quantification of the averaged peak ΔF/F0 images (10 frames for 5 s) of cAMP

(upper panels) and PKA activity (lower panels). The plots of different compartments

derived from the same sample are connected by dashed lines. The bar graph

represents the mean values. Dunn's multiple comparisons test was conducted for all

pairwise combinations among γ2-γ5. p-values are shown for comparisons with

significant differences, n = 12 for all data sets.

1310

Figure 7

Figure 7. Distinct cAMP codes between control and rut[1/1] mutant flies.

(**A, B**) The ΔF/F0 images, showing the averaged peak responses (10 frames over 5 s)

of cAMP in the γ1-γ5 compartments of KCs, were captured during the presentations of

OCT (CS+), MCH (CS-), ACV (CS-), and shock (US) in the genetic control fly (**A**) and

rut[1/1] mutant fly (**B**) through the conditioning. The ROIs for each compartment are

mapped onto the top left panel. (**C**, **D**) The figure represents a series of line plots

depicting the temporal dynamics of cAMP over time in seconds (s) across different

stimulus conditions. Each subplot corresponds to a different combination of odor or

shock stimulus and time points. Each plot shows the ΔF/F0 of cAMP of the γ1-γ5

compartments. The solid lines represent the mean values for each compartment,

calculated from the number of flies indicated in parentheses within the subplots. The

shaded areas around each solid line represent the SEM. Shaded rectangular areas

indicate when the odor valve was opened (15 to 18 seconds) to apply the olfactory

stimulus. During the conditioning, the cAMP increase in the γ2 compartment or the

decrease in the γ4 and 5 compartments in the *rut[1]* mutant (**D**, OCT CS+ lanes) was

much less pronounced than in the control group (**C**, OCT CS+ lane). (**E**, **F**)

Quantification of the averaged ΔF/F0 images of control (**E**) and rut[1/1] (**F**) flies. The plots

of different compartments derived from the same sample are connected with dashed

lines. The bar graph represents the mean values. γ1: n = 9, γ2-γ5: n = 10 (**E**), and γ1: n

= 9, γ2-γ5: n = 10 (**F**). (**G**, **H**) Dunn's multiple comparisons test was conducted on the

differences in cAMP levels in the γ2 and γ4 compartments on control (**G**) and rut$^{1/1}$ (**H**)

flies, using their pre-odor responses as controls. The same datasets used in (**E**) and

(**F**) were utilized for (**G**) and (**H**), respectively. The shock values shown in the (CS+)

experimental group were not included in the statistical test. p-values are shown for

comparisons with significant differences. n = 10 for all stimulus sets in both γ2 and γ4.

(**I**, **J**) The ratio of cAMP levels in the γ2 compartment to those in the γ4 compartment

for each odor response was calculated. Bar graphs represent mean values. The ratios

obtained before and after the conditioning phase are compared by the Wilcoxon signed

rank test. The same datasets used in (**E**) and (**F**) were utilized for (**I**) and (**J**),

respectively. Unlike the control, the γ2/4 ratio of the OCT (CS+) response of rut$^{1/1}$

remained unchanged between pre- and post-response. p-values are shown for

comparisons where a significant difference was observed. ns, not significant, n = 9 (**I**)

and 10 (**J**). (**K**) Comparison of the odor-evoked cAMP responses in the γ2 and γ4

compartments between control and rut$^{1/1}$ mutant flies. The bar graph represents the

mean values with ± SEM. p-values are shown where significant differences were

observed. Mann-Whitney U test, control: n = 30; rut$^{1/1}$: n = 30. (**L**) Comparison of the

electric shock-evoked cAMP responses in the γ2 and γ4 compartments between

control and $rut^{1/1}$ mutant flies. The bar graph represents the mean values with ± SEM.

p-value is shown where a significant difference was observed. ns, not significant,

Mann-Whitney U test, control: n = 10; $rut^{1/1}$: n = 10.

1352

Figure 8

Figure 8. Acetylcholine release is inversely correlated with cAMP levels following

conditioning. All the cAMP and ACh images in the γ1-γ5 compartments of KCs were

simultaneously captured from flies expressing Pink Flamindo and GRAB_ACh3.0

under the control of the MB364B-GAL4 driver and subjected to aversive conditioning,

following the procedure outlined in Figure 4. (**A**, **A'**, **B**, **B'**, **C**, **C'**) The ΔF/F0 images,

depicting the averaged peak responses (10 frames for 5 s) of cAMP (**A, B, C**) and ACh

(**A'**, **B'**, **C'**) in the γ1-γ5 compartments of KCs, were captured during the presentations

of OCT (CS+), MCH (CS-), ACV (CS-) and shock (US) through the conditioning in

control, rut$^{1/1}$ mutant, and Dop1R1$^{KO/KO}$ mutant flies, respectively. The ROIs for each

compartment are mapped onto the top left panel. (**D**, **D'**, **E**, **E'**, **F**, **F'**) A series of line

plots depicting the temporal dynamics of simultaneously recorded AMP and ACh over

time in seconds (s) across different stimulus conditions. Each subplot corresponds to a

different combination of odor or shock stimulus and time points. Each plot shows the

ΔF/F0 of cAMP (**D**, **E**, **F**) and ACh (**D'**, **E'**, **F'**) of the γ1-γ5 compartments. The solid

lines represent the mean values for each compartment, calculated from the number of

flies indicated in parentheses within the subplots. The shaded areas around each solid

line represent the SEM. Shaded rectangular areas indicate when the odor valve was

opened (15 to 18 seconds) to apply the olfactory stimulus. A 60-volt shock was

administered to the fly 17.5 seconds after the start of the recording, lasting for a

duration of 10 milliseconds. (**G**, **G'**, **H**, **H'**, **I**, **I'**) The averaged peak ΔF/F0 images of the

pre- and post-conditioning responses to odors were quantified. (**G**, **H**, **I**) represent

cAMP, while (**G'**, **H'**, **I'**) represent ACh. The plots of different compartments derived

from the same sample are connected with dashed lines. The bar graph illustrates the

mean values. p-values are shown for comparisons with significant differences. Dunn's

multiple comparisons test for all pairwise combinations among γ2-γ5. n = 9 (**G**,**G'**), n =

10 (**H**, **H'**), and n = 7 (**I**, **I'**). (**J**, **K**, **L**) For calculating the γ2/γ4 ratio, the same datasets

used in (**G-G'**, **H-H'**, **I-I'**) were utilized for (**J**), (**K**), (**L**), respectively. The ratios obtained

before and after the conditioning phase were compared by the Wilcoxon signed rank

test. The γ2/4 ratios of cAMP before and after the conditioning phase for each odor are

represented in the upper panels. We did not calculate the cAMP ratio for the

Dop1R1$^{KO/KO}$ mutant because the putative averaged peak ΔF/F0 was often negative in

the γ2 or γ4 compartment in several trials (see **I**). The γ2/4 ratios of ACh before and

after the conditioning phase for each odor (lower panels in **J**, **K**, **L**) were also

compared. p-values are shown for comparisons where a significant difference was

observed. Unlike the control, no statistically significant differences in the γ2/γ4 cAMP

ratios between pre- and post-conditioning specific to CS+ were detected in the rut[1/1]

mutant: n = 9, 9, 7 in (**J**) and n =8, 10, 9 in (**K**). Similarly, no statistically significant

differences in the γ2/γ4 ACh ratios between pre and post specific to CS+ were

detected in both the rut$^{1/1}$ mutant and the Dop1R1 mutant: n = 9, 9, 9 in (**J**), n = 10, 10,

10 in (**K**), and n = 7, 7, 7 in (**L**). ns, not significant. (**M**, **N**, **O**) The relationship between

the changes in cAMP and ACh under different conditions and the time points. Each

subplot illustrates the trajectories of cAMP and ACh ΔF/F0 values over time for the γ1-

γ5 compartments. The values at each point along the trajectories were derived by

averaging the individual data from the same dataset used for (**D-F'**). The trajectories in

(**M**) used the dataset from (**D**, **D'**), (**N**) used the dataset from (**E**, **E'**), and (**O**) used the

dataset from (**F**, **F'**). (**P**) Comparison of the odor-evoked cAMP responses in the γ2 and

γ4 compartments between control and rut$^{1/1}$ mutant flies. The bar graph represents the

mean values with ± SEM. p-values are shown where significant differences were

observed. Mann-Whitney U test, control: n = 36 (MCH: 12, OCT: 12, ACV: 12) and

rut$^{1/1}$: n = 30 (MCH: 10, OCT: 10, ACV: 10). (**Q**) Comparison of the odor-evoked cAMP

responses in the γ2 and γ4 compartments between control and Dop1R1$^{KO/KO}$ mutant

flies. The bar graph represents the mean values with ± SEM. p-values are shown

where significant differences were observed. Mann-Whitney U test, control: n = 42

(MCH: 12, OCT: 12, ACV: 12) and rut$^{1/1}$: n = 45 (MCH: 15, OCT: 15, ACV: 15).

Figure 9

1410

Figure 9. cAMP depresses ACh release from KCs. The release of ACh by activating

adenylyl cyclase through the bath application of Forskolin was monitored in flies

expressing Pink Flamindo and GRAB_ACh3.0 under the control of the MB364B-GAL4

driver. (**A**) The ΔF/F0 images of cAMP and ACh were obtained by averaging the

responses (10 frames for 5 s) immediately after pre FSK (left panels) and 2 minutes

after + FSK (right panels) switching from standard saline to saline containing 100 μM

Forskolin. The ROIs for each compartment are mapped onto the top left panel. (**B**) The

time series traces of cAMP (magenta) and ACh (green) illustrate the changes in their

levels after switching to the vehicle (left) and to saline containing 100 μM Forskolin

(right). The line and shading represent the mean ± SEM. n = 8. (**C**) ΔF/F0 images of

averaged peak responses (10 frames for 5 s) of ACh during the presentation of OCT,

MCH, or ACV, each in standard saline (Pre FSK), four minutes after transitioning to

saline containing 100 µM Forskolin (+ FSK), and following the reintroduction of

standard saline (Washout). The ROIs for each compartment are mapped onto the top

left panel. (**D**) The averaged peak ΔF/F0 responses of ACh to OCT in pre-Forskolin,

+Forskolin, and Washout conditions, as depicted in (**C**), were quantified for each

compartment. The plots of different conditions derived from the same sample are

connected with dashed lines. The bar graph illustrates the mean values. The Dunn's

multiple comparisons test was conducted using the Pre FSK OCT response as the

control group to examine differences between the other stimulus groups. p-values are

shown where significant differences were observed. γ1-γ5; n = 8.

1432

Figure 10

A Is the synthesis of cAMP synergistically activated by Ca²⁺ and dopamine?

γ lobe consisting of ~700 KCs

γKCs   γ1 γ2 γ3 γ4 γ5 compartment

Odor presentation   Electric shock

γKCs   Ca²⁺ influx   Dopamine release from DANs

Ca²⁺   Dopamine

                             cAMP

Conditioning

If the synthesis of cAMP is...

specifically elevated in odor-responsive axons,   Not specifically elevated in odor-responsive axons,

cAMP levels serve as indicators of coincidence detection   **cAMP** levels act as mediators of dopamine signaling and thus encode valence

B DAN-KC-MBON recurrent feedback loop updates cAMP code

Odor stimuli   Physiological stimuli

                      DAN network

KC γ lobe

γ1 γ2 γ3 γ4 γ5

DA release

cAMP code   DAN-KC-MBON recurrent feedback loop

PKA activity

ACh release

MBONs

C CS and US are integrated at dopaminergic levels

DA release   cAMP code

γ1 γ2 γ3 γ4 γ5   γ1 γ2 γ3 γ4 γ5

CS (Odor stimulus)

US (Shock stimulus)

Integrated   Integrated

CS + US (Odor + Shock)

CS+ (Odor stimulus)

1433

Figure 10. (**A**) Does cAMP serve as a marker for coincidence detection? The γ lobe

comprises approximately 700 Kenyon cells (KCs) and is partitioned into five

compartments, and each receives its own distinct dopaminergic innervation. Each

olfactory stimulus elicits calcium transients in a unique subset of approximately 5% of

KCs and activates a specific subset of the dopaminergic neurons. Consequently, KCs

receive compartment-specific dopamine signals along the entire length of the lobe,

exhibiting distinct characteristics for each odor. The release of dopamine occurs

through volume transmission, leading to its detection in a population of axons that

spans nearly the entire breadth of the lobe. For simplicity, only the dopamine signal

within the γ2 compartment is depicted. This detection roughly coincides with the

presence of cAMP. If the synthesis of cAMP is significantly enhanced by calcium, then

the axons of odor-responsive KCs with high calcium signals exhibit elevated cAMP

synthesis. Conversely, if calcium does not predominantly regulate cAMP synthesis,

then the axons activated by olfactory stimuli are not distinguished by their cAMP levels.

Our findings corroborate the latter hypothesis and indicate that cAMP serves as a

mediator of the dopamine signal. (**B**) DAN-KC-MBON recurrent feedback loop updates

cAMP code. cAMP levels in each compartment depend on receiving dopamine

conveying negative valence to the γ1-3 compartments and positive valence to the γ4-5

compartments. The global equilibrium of cAMP levels throughout the γ lobe could yield

a comprehensive depiction of the integrated valence, which can be portrayed as a two-

dimensional image of cAMP levels and designated as the cAMP code. KCs exert

regulatory control over the functions of their downstream targets; namely, the

mushroom body output neurons (MBONs), through the release of acetylcholine (ACh).

cAMP serves as a negative regulator of ACh release through the activity of PKA. In

turn, the MBONs reciprocally modulate dopaminergic activities, thereby establishing a

complex DAN-KC-MBON recurrent feedback loop. The responses to octanol

presentations are derived from Figures 5 (dopamine), 6 (cAMP and PKA) and 8 (Ach),

and subsequently normalized. **(C)** CS and US are integrated at dopaminergic levels.

When the odor is associated with electric shock, the dopaminergic levels in the γ2

compartment increase while those in the γ4 compartment decrease, a pattern that is

subsequently reflected in the cAMP code. This indicates that conditioned stimulus

(odor) and unconditioned stimulus (electric shock) are integrated at the dopaminergic

levels. The responses to octanol and shock presentations are derived from Figure 5.

1467