Carbon monoxide, a retrograde messenger generated in post-synaptic mushroom

body neurons evokes local dopamine release.

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Dopaminergic neurons innervate extensive areas of the brain and release

dopamine (DA) onto a wide range of target neurons. However, DA release is also

precisely regulated, and in *Drosophila*, DA is released specifically onto mushroom

body (MB) neurons, which have been coincidentally activated by cholinergic and

glutamatergic inputs. The mechanism for this precise release has been unclear.

Here we found that coincidentally activated MB neurons generate carbon

monoxide (CO) which functions as a retrograde signal evoking local DA release

from presynaptic terminals. CO production depends on activity of heme oxygenase

in post-synaptic MB neurons, and CO-evoked DA release requires Ca^{2+} efflux

through ryanodine receptors in DA terminals. Removal of CO using scavengers

blocks DA release. We propose that DA neurons utilize two distinct modes of

transmission to produce global and local DA signaling.

INTRODUCTION

Dopamine (DA) regulates neural plasticity required for various brain functions (Huang and Kandel, 1995; Molina-Luna et al., 2009; Yagishita et al., 2014). Consistent with their roles in regulating global brain states including arousal and mood, individual DA neurons innervate extensive areas of the brain and release DA onto a wide range of target neurons through a processes known as volume transmission (Agnati et al., 1995; Matsuda et al., 2009; Rice and Cragg, 2008). However, this extensive innervation is not suitable for precise, localized release of DA. Therefore, it has been unclear whether and how DA-dependent plastic changes are directed to specific target neurons.

A recent *Drosophila* study identified synaptic vesicular (SV) exocytosis from DA terminals that is restricted to mushroom body (MB) neurons that have been activated by coincident inputs from two different cholinergic and glutamatergic sensory pathways (Ueno et al., 2017). *Drosophila* mushroom bodies (MBs) receive odor and somatosensory information, and form associations between these two inputs during olfactory associative learning. Information regarding odors is transmitted to the MB by projection neurons (PNs) from the antennal lobe (AL), while somatosensory information from the body is transmitted to the brain via ascending fibers of the ventral nerve cord (AFV). AL stimulation evokes Ca^{2+} responses in the MB by activating nicotinic acetylcholine receptors (nAChRs), and AFV stimulation evokes Ca^{2+} responses in the MBs by activating NMDA receptors (NRs) in the MBs (Ueno et al., 2013). Significantly, when the AL and AFV are stimulated simultaneously (AL + AFV) or the AL and NRs are stimulated simultaneously (AL + NMDA), plasticity occurs such that subsequent AL stimulations cause an increase in Ca^{2+} responses in the MB (Ueno et al., 2013; Wang et al., 2008). This plasticity is known as long-term enhancement (LTE)

of MB responses and requires activation of D1 type DA receptors (D1Rs) in the MBs.

Furthermore, while activation of D1Rs alone is sufficient to produce LTE, neither AL

nor AFV stimulation alone is able to cause SV exocytosis from presynaptic DA

terminals. Instead, exocytosis from DA terminals occurs only when postsynaptic MB

neurons are activated by coincident AL + AFV or AL + NMDA stimulation. Strikingly,

while MBs are bilateral structures and DA neurons project terminals onto both sides of

MBs (Mao and Davis, 2009), SV exocytosis occurs specifically in MB areas that have

been coincidently activated. Based on these results, we proposed that coincident inputs

specify the location where DA is released, while DA induces plastic changes needed to

encode associations. However, it has been unclear how coincidentally activated MB

neurons induce SV exocytosis from presynaptic DA terminals. Locally restricted SV

exocytosis upon coincident activation of MB neurons requires activity of the *rutabaga*

type of adenylyl cyclase, which is proposed to be a coincident detector in the MBs.

Thus it has been proposed that MB neurons sense coincident activation and send a

retrograde "demand" signal to presynaptic terminals to evoke local DA release (Ueno et

al., 2017).

In this study, we used a *Drosophila* dissected brain system to examine synaptic

plasticity and DA release, and found that coincidentally activated post-synaptic MB

neurons generate the retrograde messenger, carbon monoxide (CO). CO is generated by

heme oxygenase (HO) in post-synaptic MB neurons, and induces DA release from

pre-synaptic terminals by evoking Ca^{2+} release from internal stores via ryanodine

receptors (RyRs). Thus, while individual DA neurons extensively innervate the MBs,

on-demand SV exocytosis allows DA neurons to induce plasticity in specific target

neurons.

RESULTS

CO synthesis in the MB neurons is required for DA release upon coincident stimulation

Previously, we used an *ex vivo* dissected brain system to examine SV exocytosis from DA terminals projecting onto the tips of the vertical lobes of the MBs. We measured SV exocytosis from DA terminals using a vesicular exocytosis sensor, synapto-pHluorin (spH) (Miesenbock et al., 1998), expressed in dopaminergic neurons using a tyrosine hydroxylase (TH) driver, and found that release occurred only upon coincident activation of post-synaptic MB neurons by cholinergic inputs from the ALs and glutamatergic inputs from the AFV (Ueno et al., 2017). To verify this result, we currently utilized a fluorescent substrate of the vesicular monoamine transporter (VMAT), FFN511, which selectively accumulates in DA vesicles in DA neurons (Pereira et al., 2016). FFN511 is released along with DA upon SV exocytosis, reducing fluorescence. Using FFN511, we confirmed that SV exocytosis from TH-DA terminals on the tip of vertical lobes of the MB did not occur upon either 200 μM NMDA or AL stimulation alone, but did occur upon coincident AL and 200 μM NMDA stimulation (Figure **S1A**).

If postsynaptic MB activity evokes SV exocytosis from presynaptic DA terminals, vesicular output from MB neurons may be needed to activate DA neurons that loop back to the MBs, as suggested in previous studies (Cervantes-Sandoval et al., 2017; Ichinose et al., 2015; Takemura et al., 2017). Alternatively, a retrograde message may be released from MB neurons to regulate pre-synaptic release. To test these possibilities,

we first inhibited synaptic transmission from MB neurons by expressing

temperature-sensitive *shi^{ts}* from a pan-MB driver, *MB-LexA*. Recall of olfactory

memory is disrupted by inhibiting synaptic outputs from MBs during retrieval (Dubnau

et al., 2001; McGuire et al., 2001). Similarly, we found that recall of olfactory memory

was disrupted at restrictive temperature in *MB-LexA>LexAop-shi^{ts}* flies (Figure **S1B**),

confirming that MB synaptic output is blocked at restrictive temperature in these flies.

However, SV exocytosis from TH-DA terminals occurs normally in these flies upon

coincident AL + NMDA stimulation at restrictive temperature (Figure **1A**), suggesting

that vesicular output from MB is not necessary for DA release. SV exocytosis from

TH-DA terminals also occurred normally when *shi^{ts}* was expressed using a different MB

driver (*c747-GAL4>UAS-shi^{ts}*) (Figure **S1C**), even though memory recall is also

disrupted at restrictive temperature in this line (Dubnau et al., 2001). 1 mM 1-octanol, a

blocker of gap junctional communication (Goncharenko et al., 2014; Rorig et al., 1996),

also did not inhibit SV exocytosis in TH-DA terminals (Figure **1B**). These results

suggest that output from chemical and electrical synapses is not required for the MBs to

induce DA-release from DA neurons. We next examined whether the retrograde

messenger, nitric oxide (NO), may mediate SV exocytosis in TH-DA terminals.

However, 100 μM L-NAME (Nϖ-L-nitro arginine methyl ester), a NO synthetase

blocker (Boultadakis and Pitsikas, 2010) had no effect on AL + NMDA

stimulation-induced SV exocytosis from TH-DA terminals (Figure **1C**).

Since DA release is critical for forming associations between AL and AFV inputs,

mutations that affect a demand signal for DA release should be detrimental for olfactory

aversive learning. Olfactory memory is disrupted by mutations in *nemy*, a gene that

encodes a *Drosophila* homolog of cytochrome B561 (CytB561) (Iliadi et al., 2008).

CytB561 is involved in metabolism of carbon monoxide (CO) (Cypionka and Meyer,

1983; Jacobitz and Meyer, 1989; Sugimura et al., 1980), a diffusible gas similar to NO,

that has been proposed to act as a retrograde messenger during synaptic plasticity

(Alkadhi et al., 2001; Shibuki et al., 2001). Thus we next examined whether CO may be

required for DA release. CO is synthesized by heme oxygenase (HO), and we found that

SV exocytosis from TH-DA terminals to coincidentally activated MB neurons was

abolished upon application of chromium mesoporphyrin (CrMP), a HO blocker

(Vreman et al., 1993) (Figure **1D**). Consistent with the requirement of DA release for

plasticity, LTE was also significantly inhibited by CrMP (Figure **S2A**). When we

examined the *Drosophila* homologue of HO (dHO) (Cui et al., 2008) using anti-dHO

antibodies, we found that dHO was expressed strongly in the MBs and in insulin

producing cells (Figure **S2B**). To determine whether dHO in the MBs is required for

DA release, we used an RU486-inducible *MB247-switch* (*MBsw*) driver (Mao et al.,

2004) to express a *dHO-RNAi* construct (*MBsw>UAS-dHO-IR*), and found that SV

exocytosis from TH-DA terminals was impaired in flies fed RU486 (Figure **1E and**

Movie S1). Likewise, LTE was also significantly inhibited in brains from

MBsw>UAS-dHO-IR flies treated with RU486 (Figure **S2C**). Furthermore, acute knock

down of dHO in the MBs in *MBsw>UAS-dHO-IR* flies disrupted olfactory memory

(Figure **S2D**) without affecting task-related responses (Figure **S2E**). Altogether, these

results indicate that dHO is required for olfactory memory, MB plasticity, and DA

release onto MBs.

CO generated from coincidentally activated MB neurons evokes DA release

To examine whether CO can directly induce SV exocytosis from DA terminals, we

applied CO-saturated saline from micropipettes to the vertical lobes of the MBs, and

observed robust SV exocytosis from TH-DA terminals (Figure **2A**). Furthermore, we

found that application of CO-releasing molecule-3 (CORM-3), a water-soluble

CO-donor (Aki et al., 2018; Tinajero-Trejo et al., 2014), also evokes SV exocytosis

from TH-DA terminals (Figure **2B**). In contrast, application of other retrograde

messengers, including 200 μM arachidonic acid and 200 μM 2-arachidonylglycerol, an

endocanabinoid receptor agonist, had no effects on release (Figure **2C** and **2D**).

To next visualize the generation and release of CO from MB neurons we used a CO

selective fluorescent probe, CO Probe 1 (COP-1) (Michel et al., 2012). While COP-1

fluorescence increased immediately after coincident AL + NMDA stimulation,

fluorescence remained unchanged after AL stimulation or NMDA application alone

(Figure **3A**). Thus, changes in COP-1 fluorescence parallel changes in DA release.

Furthermore, the fluorescence increase in COP-1 occurred on the lobes of the MBs

ipsilateral, but not contralateral, to the stimulated AL (Figure **3B and Movie S2**). Since

each AL innervates its ipsilateral, but not contralateral MB, this result indicates that CO

production occurs only in areas of coincident AL and NMDA activation. Again this

result parallels results for DA release (Ueno et al., 2017). Significantly, increased

COP-1 fluorescence was attenuated by knocking down dHO in the MBs (Figure **3C**),

indicating that COP-1 detects CO, and CO production requires dHO.

HO generates CO by catalyzing the breakdown of heme into biliverdin, ferrous iron,

and CO (Tenhunen et al., 1969). Thus, biliverdin or its metabolite, bilirubin, may also

function in DA release. To test whether endogenously generated CO per se evokes

release, we used a CO selective scavenger, hemoCD (Kitagishi et al., 2010). In the

presence of hemoCD, exocytosis from TH-DA terminals upon AL + NMDA stimulation

was significantly inhibited (Figure **3D**), indicating that CO is required for release.

Collectively, these results suggest that coincident stimulation of MB neurons induces

dHO to generate the retrograde messenger, CO, which then evokes SV exocytosis from

presynaptic DA terminals.

CO evokes non-canonical SV exocytosis

SV exocytosis requires an increase in Ca^{2+} concentration in presynaptic terminals

(Augustine et al., 1985; Katz and Miledi, 1967; Meinrenken et al., 2003; Sabatini and

Regehr, 1996). Consistent with this, we observed a robust Ca^{2+} increase in TH-DA

terminals that project onto the MB lobes receiving coincident AL + NMDA stimulation

(Figure **4A**), but not in TH-DA terminals that project onto the contralateral side (Figure

4B). Ca^{2+} increases in DA terminals were also observed upon application of CORM-3

(Figure **4C**), and this increase was abolished by addition of the membrane-permeable

Ca^{2+} chelator BAPTA-AM (Figure **4D**). In canonical SV exocytosis, neuronal activity

opens voltage-gated calcium channels, allowing influx of extracellular Ca^{2+} (Augustine

et al., 1985; Katz and Miledi, 1967). However, we found that CORM-3 is able to induce

SV exocytosis from TH-DA terminals even in Ca^{2+} free saline in the presence of the

Ca^{2+} chelator, EGTA, and the sodium channel blocker, TTX (Figure **4E**). This suggests

that CO-evoked DA release is action potential independent and does not require Ca^{2+}

influx from extracellular sources.

Since extracellular Ca^{2+} is not responsible for CO-dependent DA release, we next

examined whether Ca^{2+} efflux from internal stores may be required. Significantly,

CORM-3 failed to increase Ca^{2+} in TH-DA terminals in the presence of EGTA and

thapsigargin, an inhibitor of the sarcoplasmic/endoplasmic reticulum Ca^{2+} ATPase (SERCA), which depletes internal Ca^{2+} stores (Kijima et al., 1991; Sagara and Inesi, 1991) (Figure 4F). Thus, CO-evoked DA release occurs through a non-canonical mechanism that depends on Ca^{2+} efflux from internal stores rather than from extracellular sources.

Ryanodine receptors mediate Ca^{2+} efflux for CO-evoked DA release.

What mediates Ca^{2+} efflux from internal stores in DA terminals? Inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate receptors (IP$_3$Rs) and ryanodine receptors (RyRs) are the major channels mediating Ca^{2+} release from internal stores (Bardo et al., 2006). While SV exocytosis evoked by coincident MB stimulation was not suppressed by 2-Aminoethoxydiphenyl borate (2-APB), an IP$_3$R antagonist (Maruyama et al., 1997) (Figure 5A), exocytosis was significantly inhibited by dantrolene, a RyR antagonist (Zhao et al., 2001) (Figure 5B). Conversely, application of a RyR agonist, 4-chloro-3-methylphenol (4C3MP) (Zorzato et al., 1993) was sufficient to evoke exocytosis (Figure 5C). These data suggest that RyRs in DA neurons are required for SV exocytosis upon coincident activation of MB neurons.

To address whether RyRs are expressed in DA terminals, we examined expression of mCD8::GFP in *Mi{Trojan-GAL4.0}RyR^{MI08146-TG4.0}; P{UAS-mCD8::GFP}* flies. In *Mi{Trojan-GAL4.0}RyR^{MI08146-TG4.0}*, a Trojan GAL4 exon is inserted between exons 18 and 19 in the same orientation as the RyR gene (Diao et al., 2015). Thus GAL4, and mCD8::GFP, expression should reflect RyR expression. In these flies, mCD8::GFP signals overlapped with anti-TH antibody signals, indicating that RyRs are expressed in DA neurons (Figure S3A). To determine whether RyRs in the DA terminals are required

for DA release, we knocked down RyRs in TH-DA neurons and examined release upon

AL + NMDA stimulation. SV exocytosis from DA terminals was significantly

suppressed by knocking down RyRs (Figure **5D**). Furthermore, knocking down RyRs in

TH-DA neurons also suppressed SV exocytosis induced by direct CO application to

TH-DA terminals (Figure **5E**). Knocking down of RyRs in TH-DA neurons also

impaired short-term olfactory memory (Figure **S3B**) without affecting odor and shock

response (Figure **S3C**), and suppressed LTE upon coincident AL + NMDA stimulation

(Figure **S3D**). Thus, pre-synaptic RyRs are required for CO and coincident activation

dependent DA release, MB plasticity, and olfactory memory.

DISCUSSION

CO functions as a retrograde on-demand messenger for SV exocytosis in

presynaptic DA terminals

A central tenet of neurobiology is that action potentials, propagating from the cell

bodies, induce Ca^{2+} influx in presynaptic terminals to evoke SV exocytosis. However,

recent mammalian studies have shown that only a certain fraction of a large number of

pre-synaptic release sites is involved in canonical SV exocytosis (Liu et al., 2018;

Pereira et al., 2016). In this study we identify a novel mechanism of SV exocytosis in

which activity in post-synaptic neurons evokes pre-synaptic release to induce plastic

changes. This mechanism allows the timing and location of DA release to be strictly

defined by activity of postsynaptic neurons.

On-demand SV exocytosis utilizes CO as a retrograde signal from postsynaptic MB

neurons to presynaptic DA terminals. We demonstrate that CO fulfills the criteria that

have been proposed for a retrograde messenger (Regehr et al., 2009). First, we

demonstrate that HO, which catalyzes CO production, is highly expressed in

postsynaptic MB neurons, indicating that MB neurons have the capacity to synthesize

the messenger. Second, we show that pharmacological and genetic suppression of HO

activity in the MBs inhibits CO production, pre-synaptic DA release, and LTE. Third,

using a CO fluorescent probe, COP-1 (Michel et al., 2012), we demonstrate that CO is

generated in the MBs following coincident stimulation of the MBs, and CO generation

is restricted to lobes of MB neurons that receive coincident stimulation. We further

show that direct application of CO, or a CO donor, induces DA release from presynaptic

terminals, while addition of a CO scavenger, HemoCD, suppresses release. Fourth, we

demonstrate that CO activates RyRs in presynaptic terminals to induce SV exocytosis.

Strikingly, CO-dependent SV exocytosis does not depend on influx of extracellular Ca^{2+},

but instead requires efflux of Ca^{2+} from internal stores via RyRs. Finally, we show that

pharmacological inhibition and genetic suppression of RyRs in DA neurons impairs DA

release after coincident stimulation and CO application.

While other retrograde signals, such as NO and endo cannabinoids enhance or

suppress canonical SV exocytosis, we find that CO-dependent DA release occurs even

in conditions which block neuronal activity and Ca^{2+} influx in presynaptic DA terminals.

This suggests that CO does not function to modulate canonical SV exocytosis, but may

instead evoke exocytosis through a novel mechanism. Several previous studies have

indicated that CO and RyR-dependent DA release also occurs in mammals. A

microdialysis study has shown that CO increases the extracellular DA concentration in

the rat striatum and hippocampus (Hiramatsu et al., 1994), either through increased DA

release, or inhibition of DA reuptake (Taskiran et al., 2003). Also, pharmacological

stimulation of RyRs has been reported to induce DA release in the mice striatum

(Oyamada et al., 1998; Wan et al., 1999). This release is attenuated in RyR3 deficient

mice, while KCl-induced DA release, which requires influx of extracellular Ca^{2+}, is

unaffected, suggesting that RyR-dependent release is distinct from canonical DA release.

However, it has been unknown whether and how CO is generated endogenously. Also

physiological conditions that activate RyRs to evoke DA release have also been unclear.

Signaling pathway for CO-dependent on-demand release of DA

While most neurotransmitters are stored in synaptic vesicles and released upon neuronal

depolarization, the release of gaseous retrograde messengers such as NO and CO is

likely coupled to activation of their biosynthetic enzymes, NOS and HO. Previously, we

demonstrated that activity-dependent DA release onto the MBs requires *rutabaga*

adenylyl cyclase (*rut*-AC) in the MBs (Ueno et al., 2017). *rut*-AC is proposed to

function as a neuronal coincidence detector that senses coincident sensory inputs and

activates the PKA pathway by increasing production of cAMP. In mammals, activation

of the cAMP/PKA pathway increases expression of an HO isoform, HO-1, through

transcriptional activation of the transcription factor CREB (Astort et al., 2016; Durante

et al., 1997; Park et al., 2013). However, gene expression changes are not fast enough to

explain CO-dependent DA release. A second mammalian HO isoform, HO-2 is

selectively enriched in neurons, and HO-2-derived CO is reported to function in

plasticity. HO-2 is activated by Ca^{2+}/calmodulin (CaM) binding (Boehning et al., 2004),

and by casein kinase II (CKII) phosphorylation (Boehning et al., 2003), two

mechanisms that can generate CO with sufficient speed to account for LTE. Currently, it

is unclear whether *rut*-AC and the cAMP/PKA pathway functions in parallel with

Ca^{2+}/CaM and CKII, or in concert with these pathways (ie functions as a priming kinase

for CKII (Huang et al., 2007)) to activate HO. Supporting the concept that PKA

regulates HO, in the golden hamster retina, PKA has been shown to increase HO

activity without affecting HO gene expression (Sacca et al., 2003).

While *Drosophila* has a single isoform of RyR, mammals have three isoforms, RyR1

to RyR3. Skeletal muscle and cardiac muscle primarily express RyR1 and RyR2, and

the brain, including the striatum, hippocampus and cortex, expresses all three isoforms

(Giannini et al., 1995). RyRs are known to be activated by Ca^{2+} to mediate Ca^{2+} induced

Ca^{2+} release (CICR) (Endo, 2009). However, CO-evoked DA release occurs even in the

presence of Ca^{2+}-free extracellular solutions containing TTX and EGTA, suggesting that

CO activates RyRs through a different mechanism. Besides Ca^{2+}, RyRs can be activated

by calmodulin, ATP, PKA, PKG, cADP-ribose, and NO (Kakizawa, 2013; Lanner et al.,

2010; Takasago et al., 1991; Verkhratsky, 2005; Xu et al., 1998; Zalk et al., 2007). NO

can directly stimulate RyR1 non-enzymatically by S-nitrosylating a histidine residue to

induce Ca^{2+} efflux (Kakizawa, 2013; Xu et al., 1998). Similarly, CO has been reported

to activate Ca^{2+}-activated potassium channels (K_{Ca}) through a non-enzymatic reaction in

rat artery smooth muscle (Wang and Wu, 2003). Alternatively, both NO and CO can

bind to the heme moiety of soluble guanlylate cyclase (sGC) leading to its activation

(Stone and Marletta, 1994). Activated sGC produces cGMP, and cGMP-dependent

protein kinase (PKG) rapidly phosphorylates and activates RyRs (Takasago et al., 1991).

Interestingly, NO increases DA in the mammalian striatum in a neural activity

independent manner (Hanbauer et al., 1992; Lonart et al., 1993; Zhu and Luo, 1992).

Since activation of RyRs also increases extracellular DA in the striatum, hippocampus

and cortex (Oyamada et al., 1998; Wan et al., 1999), NO may play a pivotal role in RyR

activation and DA release in mammals. However, NOS expression has not been

detected in the MBs (Muller, 1994; Regulski and Tully, 1995), suggesting that in

Drosophila, CO rather than NO may function in this process.

Biological significance of on-demand DA release

DA plays a critical role in associative learning and synaptic plasticity (Huang and

Kandel, 1995; Jay, 2003; Lee et al., 2016; Puig et al., 2014; Yamasaki and Takeuchi,

2017). In flies, neutral odors induce MB responses by activating sparse subsets of MB

neurons. After being paired with electrical shocks during aversive olfactory

conditioning, odors induce larger MB responses in certain areas of the MBs (Akalal et

al., 2011; Davis, 2011; Wang et al., 2008; Yu et al., 2006). We modeled this plastic

change in *ex vivo* brains as LTE, and showed that DA application alone is sufficient to

induce this larger response (Ueno et al., 2017). However, in the *Drosophila* brain, only a

small number of DA neurons (~12 for aversive and ~100 for appetitive) regulate

plasticity in ~2000 MB Kenyon cells (Mao and Davis, 2009). Thus to form

odor-specific associations, there should be a mechanism regulating release at individual

synapses. CO-dependent on-demand DA release provides this type of control. If

on-demand release is involved in plasticity and associative learning, knockdown of

genes associated with release should affect learning. Indeed, we show that knocking

down either dHO in the MBs or RyRs in DA neurons impairs olfactory conditioning.

While these knockdowns did not completely abolish olfactory conditioning, this may be

due to inefficiency of our knockdown lines. Alternatively, on-demand release may not

be the only mechanism responsible for memory formation, but may instead be required

for a specific phase of olfactory memory.

In mammals, the role of CO in synaptic plasticity is unclear. Application of CO paired with low frequency stimulation induces LTP, while inhibiting HO blocks LTP in the CA1 region of the hippocampus (Zhuo et al., 1993). However, HO-2 deficient mice have been reported to have normal hippocampal CA1 LTP (Poss et al., 1995). In contrast to CO, a role for NO in synaptic plasticity and learning has been previously reported (Balaban et al., 2014; Korshunova and Balaban, 2014; Muller, 1996). Thus, at this point it is an open question whether CO or NO evokes DA release in mammals. Downstream from CO or NO, RyRs have been shown to be required for hippocampal and cerebellum synaptic plasticity (Balschun et al., 1999; Kakizawa et al., 2012; Lu and Hawkins, 2002; Wang et al., 1996).

Our current results suggest that DA neurons release DA via two distinct mechanisms: canonical exocytosis and on-demand release. Canonical exocytosis is evoked by electrical activity of presynaptic DA neurons, requires Ca^{2+} influx, and may be involved in volume transmission. This mode of release can activate widespread targets over time, and is suited for regulating global brain functions. In contrast, on-demand release is evoked by activity of postsynaptic neurons, requires Ca^{2+} efflux via RyRs, and can regulate function of specific targets at precise times. DA neurons may differentially utilize these two modes of SV exocytosis in a context dependent manner. Understanding how DA neurons differentially utilize these modes of transmission will provide new insights into how a relatively small number of DA neurons can control numerous different brain functions.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

Fly Stock maintenance

All fly stocks were raised on standard cornmeal medium at $25 \pm 2°C$ and $60 \pm 10\%$ humidity under a 12/12 h light–dark cycle. Flies were used for experiments 1-3 d after eclosion.

Transgenic and mutant lines

All transgenic and mutant lines used in this study are listed in supplemental Table S1. *UAS-G-CaMP3* (BDSC_32234, Bloomington Stock Center, Indiana), *LexAop-G-CaMP2* (Ueno et al., 2013) and *LexAop-R-GECO1* lines were used for measuring Ca^{2+} responses as described previously (Ueno et al., 2013). *UAS-synapto-pHluorin* (*UAS-spH*) (Ng et al., 2002) and *LexAop-synapto-pHluorin* (*LexAop-spH*) lines were used for measuring vesicle release (Ueno et al., 2013). *MB-LexA::GAD* (Ueno et al., 2013) was used for the *LexA* MB driver, *c747* (Aso et al., 2009) was used as the *GAL4* MB driver, and *TH-GAL4* (Friggi-Grelin et al., 2003) and *TH-LexAp65* (Ueno et al., 2013) were used for *TH-DA* drivers. *UAS-shi^{ts}* (Kitamoto, 2001) and *pJFRC104-13XLexAop2-IVS-Syn21-Shibire-ts1-p10* (*LexAop-shi^{ts}*) (Pfeiffer et al., 2012) lines were used for inhibition of synaptic transmission. *MB247-Switch* (*MBsw*) was used to express a *UAS* transgene in the MBs upon RU486 (RU+) feeding for 3-5 days (Mao et al., 2004). *UAS-dHO IR* was used to knockdown of *dHO* expression (Cui et al., 2008). *dHO^{Δ}* is a deficiency line *Df(3R)Exel7309* (BDSC 7960), lacking 65 Kbp including *dHO* (Flybase; http://flybase.org) in the third chromosome. *P{KK101716}VIE-260B* (VDRC ID 109631, Vienna Drosophila Resource Center, Vienna, Austria) (*UAS-RyR RNAi*) was used to knock down *RyR*. *Mi{Trojan-GAL4.0}RyR[MI08146-TG4.0]* (BDSC 67480) carries a *GAL4* sequence

between 18 and 19 exon of *RyR* and was used to monitor *RyR* gene expression.

Isolated whole brain preparation

Brains were prepared for imaging as previously described (Ueno et al., 2013). Briefly,

brains were dissected in ice cold 0 mM Ca^{2+} HL3 medium (in mM, NaCl, 70; sucrose,

115; KCl, 5; $MgCl_2$, 20; $NaHCO_3$, 10; trehalose, 5; Hepes, 5; pH 7.3) (Stewart et al.,

1994), and placed in a recording chamber filled with normal, room temperature HL3

medium (the same recipe as above, containing 1.8 mM $CaCl_2$). To deliver hemoCD

through the blood brain barrier, brains were treated with papain (10 U/ml) for 15 min at

room temperature, and washed several times with 0 mM Ca^{2+} HL3 medium prior to use

(Gu and O'Dowd, 2007; Ueno et al., 2017).

Imaging analysis

Imaging analysis was performed as described previously (Ueno et al., 2013; Ueno et al.,

2017). Briefly, fluorescent images were captured at 15 Hz using a confocal microscope

system (A1R, Nikon Corp., Tokyo, Japan) with a 20x water-immersion lens (numerical

aperture 0.5; Nikon Corp). We obtained F_0 by averaging the 5 sequential frames before

stimulus onset and calculated $\Delta F/F_0$. To evaluate stimulation-induced fluorescent

changes of spH, $\Delta F/F_0$ calculated in the absence of stimulation or pharmacological

agents was subtracted from stimulus or drug induced $\Delta F/F_0$. To quantitatively evaluate

the spH fluorescent changes, the average values of fluorescent changes at indicated time

points during and after stimulation were statistically compared.

The AL was stimulated (30 pulses, 100 Hz, 1.0 ms pulse duration) using glass

micro-electrodes. For NMDA stimulation, 200 μM NMDA, diluted in HL3 containing 4

mM Mg^{2+} (Miyashita et al., 2012), was applied by micro pipette.

For application of CO-saturated HL3, CO or control N_2 gas was dissolved in HL3

saline by bubbling. CO or N_2 saturated solutions were immediately placed in glass

pipettes and puffed onto the MB lobes for 1 min (pressure = 6 psi) using a Picospritzer

III system (Parker Hannifin Corp., USA). While we first used thin tip micropipettes,

approximately 5 micro m diameter (Figure. 2A), we also used larger tip micropipettes,

approximately 15 micro m (Figure 5E), to avoid clogging.

To measure SV exocytosis using FFN511, *MB-LexA:GAD, LexAop-R-GECO1* brains

were incubated in 10 μM FFN511/HL3 for 30 min. To remove non-specific binding of

the dye, FFN511 loaded brains were washed in 200 μM ADVASEP-7/HL3 for 15 min

two times (Gubernator et al., 2009; Kay et al., 1999). To evaluate stimulation-induced

release of FFN511, *ΔF/F₀* in the absence of stimulation was subtracted from *ΔF/F₀*

Behaviors

Olfactory aversive memory: The procedure for measuring olfactory memory has been

previously described (Tamura et al., 2003; Tully and Quinn, 1985). Briefly, two mildly

aversive odors (3-octanol [OCT]) or 4-methylcyclohexanol [MCH]) were sequentially

delivered to approximately 100 flies for 1 min with a 45 sec interval between each odor

presentation. When flies were exposed to the first, CS^+ odor (either OCT or MCH), they

were also subjected to 1.5 sec pulses of 60 V DC electric shocks every five sec. To test

olfactory memory, flies were placed at the choice point of a T-maze where they were

allowed to choose either the CS+ or CS- odor for 1.5 min. Memory was calculated as a

performance index (PI), such that a 50:50 distribution (no memory) yielded a

performance index of zero and a 0:100 distribution away from the CS^+ yielded a

performance index of 100.

Odor and Shock avoidance. Peripheral control experiments including odor and shock

reactivity assays were performed as previously described (Tully and Quinn, 1985) to

measure sensitivity to odors and electrical shocks. Approximately 100 flies were placed

at the choice point of a T maze where they had to choose between an odor (OCT or

MCH) and mineral oil or between electrical shocks and non-shocked conditions. A

preformance index was calculated as described above.

Identification of dHO localization

To detect of dHO protein in fly brains, wild-type, w(CS) (Dura et al., 1993), and *dHO[4]*

flies were dissected and fixed in 4 % paraformaldehyde for 20 min at 4°C. Brains were

incubated in PBS with 5 % FBS and 0.1 % Triton-X for 30 min at 4°C, and then in

primary antibodies, 1:50 anti-HO (Cui et al., 2008) and 1:20 anti-Fas2 (1D4,

Developmental Studies Hybridoma Bank, Iowa, USA) for 3 days at 4°C. After washing,

brains were incubated with secondary antibodies, Alexa488-conjugated donkey anti-rat

antibody (1:200) (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, USA) and Alexa555-conjugated donkey

anti-mouse antibody (1:200) (Invitrogen) for 2 days at 4°C. Images were captured using

an A1R confocal microscope (Nikon, Tokyo, Japan).

Identification of RyR positive neurons (Trojan)

For *Mi{Trojan-GAL4.0}RyR[MI08146-TG4.0]/UAS-mCD8::GFP* imaging, heads were

dissected in 4 % paraformaldehyde for 30 min at 4°C. Brains were incubated with

primary antibodies, anti-GFP (1:400) (ab13970, Abcam, Cambridge, UK) and

anti-tyrosine hydroxylase (#22941, Immunostar, Hudson, USA) in PBS with 10 %

ImmunoBlock (DS Pharma Biomedical Co., Osaka, Japan) and 0.1 % Triton-X

overnight at 4°C. After washing, brains were incubated with secondary antibodies,

Alexa488-conjugated donkey anti-chick antibody (1:400) (Jackson ImmunoResearch,

West Grove, USA) and Alexa555-conjugated donkey anti-mouse antibody (1:400)

(Invitrogen) overnight at 4°C. Images were captured using an A1R confocal microscope

(Nikon, Tokyo, Japan).

Chemicals and treatments

RU486 (mifepristone), NMDA (N-methyl-D-aspartate), L-NAME (Nϖ-L-nitro arginine

methyl ester), 1-octanol, 2-arachidonil glycerol, arachidonic acid and CrMP (chromium

mesoporphyrin) and ADVASEP-7 were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (Missouri,

USA). Thapsigargin and tetrodotoxin (TTX) were purchased from Wako Pure Chemical

Industries (Osaka, Japan). Dantrolen was purchased from Alomone labs (Jerusalem,

Israel). BAPTA-AM and O,O'-Bis(2-aminoethyl)ethyleneglycol-N,N,N',N'-tetraacetic

acid (EGTA) were purchased from Dojindo lab (Kumamoto, Japan). FFN511 was

purchased from Abcam (Cambridge, England). Papain was purchased from Worthington

Biochemical Corporation (New Jersey, USA). RU486 was dissolved in ethanol,

butaclamol was dissolved in DMSO, L-NAME and SCH23390 were dissolved in water,

CrMP was dissolved in 0.5% 2-aminoethanol and 2 mM HCl. Oxy-hemoCD was

reduced in sodium dithionite and purified using a HiTrap Desalting column (GE

Healthcare Japan, Tokyo, Japan) and eluted in PBS. The concentration of purified

oxy-hemoCD is estimated by absorbance at 422 nm (Kitagishi et al., 2010). COP-1 and

CORM-3 were prepared according to previous publications (Clark et al., 2003; Michel

et al., 2012). Both reagents were stored at -20 °C and dissolved in DMSO before use.

For RU486 treatment, dissolved RU486 was mixed in fly food. Flies were fed RU486

for 5 days prior to brain preparation. Other chemicals were treated as described in the

main text and figure legends.

Statistics

Statistical analyses were performed using Prism software (GraphPad Software, Inc., La

Jolla, CA, USA) or XLtoolbox (Free Software Foundation, Inc. MA, USA). All data in

bar and line graphs are expressed as means ± SEMs. Student's t-test was used to

evaluate the statistical significance between two data sets. For multiple comparisons,

one-way or two-way ANOVA followed by Bonferroni post hoc analyses were employed.

Statistical significances are shown as $*P < 0.05$, $**P < 0.01$. P values greater than 0.05

were considered not statistically significant, $NS > 0.05$.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Supplemental Information includes Supplemental Experimental Procedures, three

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Author contribution

K.U. and M.S. designed the experiments. K.U. performed most imaging experiments

with K.O., S.N., and E.S. CO scavenger was synthesized by A.M., and H.K. CO probe

was synthesized by J.M., and C.C. The manuscript was written by M.S. and J.H. with

K.U.

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 Figures and legends

Figure 1. Inhibiting heme oxygenase (HO) activity in the MBs blocks SV exocytosis from pre-synaptic DA terminals

(A) Blocking SV exocytosis from the MBs does not affect DA release. spH fluorescence was measured at TH-DA terminals innervating the tip of the MB vertical lobes of *MB-LexA>LexAop-shi^{ts}* brain. (Left) typical pseudo color images 5 s before and 30 s after coincident AL + NMDA activation. (Middle) time course of fluorescent changes, and (right) summary graphs. One-way ANOVA and post hoc tests indicate significant changes in fluorescence at both restrictive ($F_{3,32}$ = 6.137, P = 0.002) and permissive ($F_{3,32}$ = 4.003, P = 0.016) temperatures. N = 9 for all data. Scale bars = 20 μm.

(B) The gap junction inhibitor, 1-octanol, does not affect DA release. One-way ANOVA and post hoc tests indicate significant fluorescence changes in both 1 mM octanol treated ($F_{3,28}$ = 10.323, P < 0.001, N = 8) and in mock treated ($F_{3,32}$ = 9.723, P < 0.001, N = 9) groups.

(C) The NOS inhibitor, L-NAME, does not affect SV exocytosis from TH-DA terminals. One-way ANOVA and post hoc tests indicate significant changes in both 100 μM L-NAME treated ($F_{3,24}$ = 8.432, P = 0.001, N = 7) and mock treated ($F_{3,28}$ = 10.552, P < 0.001, N = 8) groups.

(D) The HO inhibitor, CrMP, prevents DA release. One-way ANOVA and post hoc tests indicate significant DA release after mock treatment ($F_{3,32}$ = 5.858, P = 0.003, N = 9), but not after treatment with 10 μM CrMP ($F_{3,36}$ = 0.300, P = 0.825, N = 10).

(E) *dHO* knockdown in the MBs prevents DA release. One-way ANOVA and post hoc tests identify significant DA release upon coincident stimulation when *dHO-IR* is not expressed (RU-) ($F_{3,36}$= 4.685, P = 0.007). This release is abolished in the RNAi-induced (RU+) group ($F_{3,36}$= 0.141, P = 0.935). N = 10 for all data.

Figure 2. CO evokes SV exocytosis from DA terminals

(A) CO induces DA release. CO-saturated saline was puffed onto the vertical lobes of the MB during the indicated time period (gray-shaded area in the middle panel). CO-induced spH responses were obtained by subtracting spH fluorescent changes induced by control N_2-satulated saline from fluorescence changes induced by

CO-saturated saline. One-way ANOVA and post hoc tests indicate significant changes

in spH fluorescence upon CO application ($F_{3,44}$= 14.994, $P < 0.001$). N = 12 for all data.

(B) CORM-3 induces DA release. 20 µM CORM-3 (dissolved in 0.2% DMSO) was

bath applied and spH fluorescence was measured at DA terminals at the tip of the MB

vertical lobes. CORM-3 induced spH responses were obtained by subtracting

fluorescent changes induced by control 0.2% DMSO saline from fluorescence changes

induced by CORM-3. ** $P < 0.01$ determined by Student's t-test, comparing spH

responses before (0-30s) and after application of CO (270-300s). N = 8 for all data.

(C) Arachidonic acid (AA) does not induce DA release. 200 µM AA (dissolved in 0.4 %

ethanol) was bath applied. AA-induced spH responses were obtained by subtracting

fluorescence changes induced by 0.4% ethanol saline from fluorescence changes

induced by AA. NS $P > 0.05$ by Student's t-test and N = 16 for all data.

(D) Effects of 2-arachidonylglycerol (2-AG) on DA release. Bath application of 200

µM AG (dissolved in 0.2 % DMSO) did not induce SV exocytosis in TH-DA terminals.

AG-induced spH responses were obtained by subtracting fluorescence changes induced

by 0.2% DMSO saline from fluorescence changes induced by AG. NS $P > 0.05$

determined by Student's t-test. N = 12 for all data.

Figure 3. Endogenous CO released from MBs induces DA release

(A) Top panels, typical images of COP-1 fluorescence observed at the tips of the MB

vertical lobes. Pre refers to images taken prior to stimulation, while Post refers to

images taken 30 secs after onset of indicated stimuli. Lower left, time course of COP-1

fluorescence upon indicated stimulation protocols, and lower right, summary of COP-1

fluorescence at different time intervals upon indicated stimulation. Isolated brains were

soaked in 4 μM COP-1, and COP-1 responses were calculated by subtracting

non-stimulated fluorescence changes from stimulated fluorescence changes. One-way

ANOVA and post hoc tests indicate significant changes in fluorescence after AL +

NMDA stimulation ($F_{3,24}$= 3.787, P = 0.023, N = 7), but not after NMDA ($F_{3,28}$= 0.743,

P = 0.534, N = 8) or AL stimulation alone ($F_{3,28}$= 0.518, P = 0.674, N = 8). Scale bars =

20 μm

(B) CO is released from the MB lobe ipsilateral to AL stimulation. One-way ANOVA

and post hoc tests indicate significant changes in COP-1 fluorescence in MB lobes

ipsilateral ($F_{3,32}$= 23.816, P < 0.001) to the AL lobe stimulated during AL + NMDA

stimulation, but not in the contralateral lobe ($F_{3,32}$= 0.779, P = 0.514). N = 9.

(C) Knocking down *dHO* expression in the MBs impairs CO production. Two-way

ANOVA and post hoc tests indicate significant differences in COP-1 fluorescence due to

time, treatment (RU+ induced *dHO-IR* versus RU- uninduced), and interaction between

time and treatment ($F_{3,88}$= 4.137, P = 0.0086). N = 12 for all data.

(D) The CO scavenger, hemoCD, prevents SV exocytosis from DA terminals. AL +

NMDA-dependent changes in spH fluorescence were measured in the presence and

absence of 50 μM hemoCD. One-way ANOVA and post hoc tests indicate significant

changes in fluorescence upon stimulation in mock ($F_{3,28}$= 3.877, P = 0.019) but not in

hemoCD treated brains ($F_{3,28}$= 0.749, P = 0.532). N = 8 for all data.

Figure 4. CO induced DA release requires Ca^{2+} efflux from internal Ca^{2+} stores.

(A) Left panel, typical pseudo color images of G-CaMP3 fluorescence in TH-DA

terminals innervating the tips of the vertical lobes of the MB ipsilateral to AL

stimulation. Stimulation type is shown on the side, and responses before (pre) and after

(post) stimulation are shown. Middle panel, time course of Ca^{2+} responses in TH-DA

terminals innervating the ipsilateral MB upon indicated stimulation. Right panel,

summary of responses to indicated stimuli. One-way ANOVA and post hoc tests

indicate significant changes in Ca^{2+} signals after AL + NMDA stimulation ($F_{3,32}$= 3.759,

P = 0.020) but not after NMDA ($F_{3,32}$= 1.554, P = 0.220) or AL stimulation alone

($F_{3,32}$= 1.426, P = 0.253). N = 9 for all experiments.

(B) G-CaMP3 fluorescence changes in TH-DA terminals innervating the MB

contralateral to AL stimulation. Panels are similar to those shown in (A). One-way

ANOVA did not identify any significant changes after stimulation of the AL + NMDA

($F_{3,32}$= 1.626, P = 0.203), NMDA alone ($F_{3,32}$= 1.929, P = 0.145) or AL alone ($F_{3,32}$=

0.709, P = 0.465). N = 9 for all data.

(C) CORM-3 induces Ca^{2+} increases in TH-DA terminals. CORM-3 induced Ca^{2+}

changes were calculated by subtracting Mock induced fluorescence changes from

CORM-3 induced fluorescence changes. 20 μM CORM-3 (dissolved in 0.2% DMSO

saline) was puffed onto the tips of the vertical MB lobes during the indicated time

period (shown in pink in the middle panel). P = 0.013 assayed by Student's t-test,

comparing Ca^{2+} changes before (0-30 s) and after (270-300 s) CORM-3 application. N

= 16 for all data.

(D) CORM-3-induced DA release depends on increases in intracellular Ca^{2+}. Brains

were incubated in the Ca^{2+}-free external solution containing 2 mM EGTA and 10 μM

BAPTA-AM for 10 min prior to CORM-3 application. P = 0.166 determined by

Student's t-test. N = 12.

(E) CORM-3-induced DA release does not require influx of external Ca^{2+} or activity of

voltage-gated Na^+ channels. Brains were placed in the Ca^{2+}-free external solution

containing 5 mM EGTA and 10 μM TTX 10 min prior to CORM-3 application. **$P =$

0.0094 as determined by Student's t-test. N = 13.

(F) CORM-3-induced DA release requires efflux from internal Ca^{2+} stores. Brains were

incubated in Ca^{2+}-free external solution containing 10 μM thapsigargin for 10 min prior

to CORM-3 application. $P = 0.364$ determined by Student's t-test. N = 14.

Figure 5. CO induced DA release is mediated by ryanodine receptors.

(A) An IP$_3$R inhibitor does not affect DA release. 100 μM 2-aminoethoxydiphenylborane (2-APB) was dissolved in 0.1 % DMSO saline. One-way

ANOVA and post hoc tests indicate significant increases in spH fluorescence upon AL +

NMDA stimulation in both the 2-APB treated group ($F_{3,36}$ = 7.043, P < 0.001, N = 10)

as well as the mock treated group ($F_{3,32}$ = 7.978, P < 0.001, N = 9).

(B) The RyR inhibitor, dantrolen, inhibits DA release. 10 μM dantrolen was dissolved in

0.1% DMSO saline. Significant increases in spH fluorescence upon AL + NMDA

stimulation were observed in mock treated brains ($F_{3,28}$ = 8.805, P < 0.001), while

dantrolen treatment suppressed this effect ($F_{3,36}$ = 0.760, P = 0.526). N = 8 for all data.

(C) Application of a RyR agonist induces DA release. 1 mM 4-chloro-3-methylphenol

(4C3MP) was dissolved in 0.2% ethanol saline containing 1 μM TTX and applied for

the indicated period of time (shown in yellow). ** P < 0.001 as assayed by Student's

t-test comparing before (0-30 s) and after (280-300 s) 4C3MP treatment. N = 8 for all

data.

(D) *RyR* knockdown in TH-DA neurons (RyR KD) prevents DA release evoked by AL +

NMDA stimulation. One-way ANOVA and post hoc tests indicate suppression of SV

exocytosis in the RyR KD group ($F_{3,28}$= 0.043, P = 0.988) in contrast to the control

group ($F_{3,28}$= 5.091, P = 0.006). N = 8 for all data.

(E) Knocking down *RyR* expression in TH-DA neurons (RyR-KD) prevents DA release

evoked by CO application. CO saturated saline was applied during the indicated time

period (shown in pink) from a micro pipet. One-way ANOVA and post hoc tests indicate

suppression of SV exocytosis in the RyR-KD group ($F_{2,21}$= 0.538, P = 0.592) but not in

the control group ($F_{2,21}$= 3.998, P = 0.034). N = 8 for all data.