Visual pathways of the secondary eyes in the brain of a jumping spider

Running title: **Jumping spider secondary eye visual pathways**

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27 Abstract

28 Some animals have evolved task differentiation of individual structures within the same sensory

29 modality (e.g. olfaction or vision). A particular example is spiders, where most species have eight

eyes, of which two (the principle eyes) are used for object discrimination, whereas the other three pairs (secondary eyes) detect movement. In the model spider species *Cupiennius salei* (Keyserling, 1877) these two eye types correspond to two distinct visual pathways in the brain. Each eye is associated with its own first and second order visual neuropil. The second order neuropils of the principle eyes are connected to the arcuate body, whereas the second order neuropils of the secondary eyes are linked to the mushroom body. However, the secondary eye size and visual fields of *C. salei* differs considerably from that of the likewise visually hunting jumping spiders. We explored the secondary eye visual pathway of the jumping spider *Marpissa muscosa*, and found that the connectivity of neuropils differs from that in *C. salei.* In *M. muscosa,* all secondary eyes are connected to their own first order visual neuropils. The first order visual neuropils of the anterior lateral and posterior lateral eyes are further connected with two second order visual neuropils, the array of microglomeruli and the 2nd order visual neuropil of the lateral eyes, whereas the posterior median eyes lack associated second order neuropils and axons project only to the arcuate body. These differences between *C. salei* and *M. muscosa* suggest substantial differences in information processing and function of their visual neuropils.

Keywords

Secondary eyes, visual pathway, jumping spider, visual neuropils, brain, microglomeruli

1 Introduction

In some animal species with multiple eyes, different eyes serve different specific tasks. Spiders vary strongly in their visual abilities, as well as in number, arrangement and size of their eyes (reviewed in Morehouse et al. 2017). Most species possess four pairs of eyes, of which one pair differs from the three other pairs in its anatomy and developmental origin (Land, 1985b; Morehouse et al., 2017). The principle eyes (or anterior median eyes) possess a movable retina and their spectral sensitivities allow for color vision (Barth et al. 1993; Land, 1985b; A Schmid, 1998; Yamashita & Tateda, 1976, 1978). The other three pairs of eyes are the so-called secondary eyes (posterior median, anterior lateral and posterior lateral eyes). Their morphology and anatomy differs considerably among spider families (Homann, 1950, 1952), but they generally do

not have a movable retina. In several groups of cursorial hunting spiders, the secondary eyes are

used for movement detection (Land, 1985b; Morehouse et al., 2017; Schmid, 1998). Most

secondary eyes possess a light-reflecting tapetum (but absent in e.g. jumping spiders), which led

to the assumption that they play a major role for night or dim light vision (Foelix, 1996).

Jumping spiders (Salticidae) are cursorial hunters with excellent vision. Their eyes have been

studied in much greater detail compared to any other spider group (Harland, Li, & Jackson, 2012;

Land, 1985b; Morehouse et al., 2017). The principle eyes of jumping spiders are large and face

forward; their field of view is small, but their spatial acuity is one of the highest among

invertebrate eyes (Harland et al., 2012; Land, 1985a, 1985b). The secondary eyes of salticids

possess only one photoreceptor type and thus cannot discriminate colors (Yamashita & Tateda,

1976). Among the secondary eyes, the anterior lateral eyes (ALE) and posterior lateral eyes (PLE)

are large, able to detect motion and elicit an orienting response of the principle eyes towards the

moving object (Duelli, 1978; Jakob et al., 2018; Spano, Long, & Jakob, 2012; Zurek & Nelson,

2012a, 2012b; Zurek, Taylor, Evans, & Nelson, 2010). The posterior median eyes (PME) of most

salticids (except for the non-salticoids) are very small and positioned between ALE and PLE (Land,

1985a; Maddison & Hedin, 2003). Since the fields of view of ALE and PLE overlap, the PME do not

have an exclusive field of view (Land, 1985a).

While the eyes of jumping spiders have been studied in detail, less is known about the associated

brain structures that process visual information (Duelli, 1980; but see Hanström, 1921; Hill, 1975;

Nagata, Arikawa, & Kinoshita, 2019; Steinhoff et al., 2017). Our knowledge on the visual

processing pathways in the brain of spiders is mostly based on investigations of the spider model

species *Cupiennius salei* (Keyserling, 1877) (Babu & Barth, 1984; Becherer & Schmid, 1999;

Schmid & Duncker, 1993; Strausfeld & Barth, 1993; Strausfeld, Weltzien, & Barth, 1993). *C. salei*

possesses two separate visual pathways, one for the principle eyes and one for all secondary eyes

(Strausfeld & Barth, 1993; Strausfeld et al., 1993). In *C. salei*, every eye is connected to its own

first and second order visual neuropil (Barth, 2002). While the second order visual neuropils of

the principle eyes are connected to the arcuate body (Strausfeld et al., 1993), the second order

visual neuropils of the secondary eyes are associated to the mushroom bodies (Strausfeld &

Barth, 1993). Furthermore, the first order visual neuropils of the secondary eyes are directly

connected to the arcuate body (Babu & Barth, 1984).

In *C. salei,* similar to salticids, the principle eyes are used for object recognition, while the

secondary eyes serve the purpose of movement detection (Fenk, Hoinkes, & Schmid, 2010;

Schmid, 1998). The secondary eyes of *C. salei* have a high spectral sensitivity, similar to the

principle eyes (Barth et al., 1993). However, they are unable to detect color in moving objects

(Orlando & Schmid, 2011) and similar to jumping spiders are capable of acute motion detection

(Fenk & Schmid, 2010; Zurek & Nelson, 2012b). Despite these similarities in functional role and

visual ability of the secondary eyes, the relative size of different eyes and thus fields of view differ

considerably (Land, 1985a; Land & Barth, 1992). Furthermore, Steinhoff et al. (2017) showed that

the structure and arrangement of the secondary eye visual neuropils in in the jumping spider

Marpissa muscosa (Clerck, 1757) differ from those in *C. salei.* We thus hypothesize, that the

secondary eye visual pathways of jumping spiders also differ from that in the model species *C.*

salei. Here, we describe the secondary eye visual pathways in the brain of the jumping spider *M.*

muscosa. We use paraffin histology, immunohistochemistry, and microCT analysis to visualize

neurite tracts in the visual system. We compare our findings in *M. muscosa* with results of earlier

studies and new immunohistochemical data on the secondary eye pathways in the brain of *C.*

salei. We discuss the differences in their secondary eye pathways in the light of different

functional roles of their eyes.

107   2 Material and Methods

109   2.1 Animals

110 Adult female *Marpissa muscosa* were collected in and near Greifswald (Germany). Spiders were

111 fed on *Drosophila sp.* weekly and kept individually in plastic boxes of 145 x 110 x 68 mm size that

112 were enriched with paper tissue.

114   2.2 Paraffin-histology

The prosomata of two females of *M. muscosa* were fixed in Dubosq–Brazil solution (1 g saturated

alcoholic picric acid, 150 ml 80% ethanol, 15 ml pure acetic acid, and 60 ml 37% formaldehyde).

After four days in fixative, the prosomata were dehydrated through a graded ethanol series (80%,

90%, and 3x 96% ethanol for 20 minutes each) and were then transferred for two hours into a

1:1 solution of 96% ethanol:tetrahydrofuran (Carl Roth, CP82.1) at room temperature. Samples

were kept for 24 hours in pure tetrahydrofuran followed by 24 hours in a solution of 1:1

tetrahydrofuran and paraffin (Carl Roth, 6643.1) at 60°C. Afterwards, samples were transferred

to 100% paraffin at 60°C for 48 hours and then embedded in fresh paraffin. Sagittal and

transversal sections (5 µm) were cut with a motorized rotary microtome (Microm HM 360).

Sections were stained with Azan according to Geidies (Schulze & Graupner, 1960), and mounted

in Roti-Histokitt II (Carl Roth, T160.1).

2.3 MicroCT analysis

Prosomata of two individuals of *M. muscosa* and one individual of *C. salei* were fixed in Dubosq–

Brazil solution. Prior to fixation, legs and opisthosomata were cut off and cuticle and musculature

were removed from the dorsocaudal part of the prosomata to allow faster penetration of the

fixative. After four days in fixative, samples were washed six times for 20 minutes in 0.1 M

phosphate buffered saline (PBS, pH 7.4) followed by dehydration in a graded ethanol series (80%,

90%, 96% and 3x 99,8% ethanol for 20 minutes each). Samples were then transferred to an 1%

iodine solution (iodine, resublimated [Carl Roth, X864.1] in 99.8% ethanol) over 48 h to enhance

tissue contrast (Sombke, Lipke, Michalik, Uhl, & Harzsch, 2015) and subsequently critical point

dried with an automated dryer (Leica EM CPD300). The protocol applied was: slow CO_2

admittance with a delay of 120 seconds, 30 exchange cycles, followed by a slow heating process

and slow gas discharge. Dried prosomata were mounted using a conventional glue gun onto

aluminum rods, so that the anterior median eyes were oriented upwards.

MicroCT scans were performed using a Zeiss XradiaXCT-200 (Sombke et al., 2015). Scans were

performed with a macro-, a 4x- and a 20x objective lens unit and the following settings: 40 kV

and 8 W or 30 kV and 6 W, 200 µA, exposure times between 2 and 4 s. Tomographic projections

were reconstructed with the XMReconstructor software (Zeiss), resulting in image stacks (TIFF

format). Scans were performed using Binning 2 for noise reduction and were reconstructed with

full resolution (using Binning 1).

2.4 Immunohistochemistry

Four different combinations of markers were used to visualize neuropils and connecting neurites

in the visual system (see Table 1 for a list of marker combinations used, and Table 2 for

specifications of labeling reagents).

After anaesthetization with CO_2, brains of 25 females of *M. muscosa* (details Tab. 2) and one

female of *C. salei* were dissected in PBS and fixed in 4% PFA over night at room temperature.

Brains were washed six times for 15 minutes each in PBS and subsequently immersed in Poly-L-

Lysin (Sigma-Aldrich, P4707) for one minute. Samples were then embedded in 4% agarose

(Sigma-Aldrich, A9414) and sectioned (80μm) with a Microm HM 650 V vibratome. After

permeabilization in PBS-TX (PBS, 0.3% Triton X-100 [Sigma-Aldrich, X100], 1 % bovine serum

albumin [Sigma-Aldrich, A2153], 0.05% Na-acide; occasionally adding 1% DMSO) for 1 h at room

temperature, incubation in primary antibodies took place over night at 4°C or room temperature.

Sections were washed in several changes of PBS-TX after the incubation. Incubation in secondary

antibodies or counterstains took place overnight at 4°C or room temperature. After washing in

several changes of PBS, sections were mounted in Mowiol (Merck 475904).

The brains of five additional females were processed as whole-mounts, using an adjusted

protocol after Ott (2008) (see also Steinhoff et al., 2017). Brains were dissected in TRIS buffer (0.1

M, pH 7.4 [Carl Roth, 4855]), and fixed in zinc-formaldehyde at room temperature under soft

agitation for several days. Afterwards, brains were washed in TRIS buffer three times for 15

minutes each and incubated in a 4:1 mixture of methanol and DMSO (Dimethylsulfoxide [Carl

Roth, 4720]) for 2 h. After incubation in 100% methanol for 1 h, brains were rehydrated in a

graded series of methanol (90%, 70%, 50%, 30%) for 10 minutes each and washed in TRIS buffer.

This was followed by permeabilization in PBS-DMSO (PBS, 5% bovine serum albumin, 1% DMSO,

0.05% Na-acide) for 2 h at room temperature and incubation in primary antibody for 4 days at

4°C. Brains were then washed several times for 2 h in PBS-DMSO and incubated in secondary

antibody for 4 days at 4°C, and transferred to a graded series of glycerol, with 1%, 2%, 4% (for

two hours each) and 8%, 15%, 30%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80% (for one hour each) glycerol in TRIS

buffer and 1% DMSO. After five changes in pure ethanol for 30 minutes each, brains were

mounted in fresh methyl salicylate (Sigma, 76631). In control experiments, in which we replaced

the primary antibodies with PBS-TX, no neuronal labeling was detected.

2.5 Western Blot

In western blots of *Drosophila melanogaster* Meigen, 1830 head homogenates (Klagges et al.,

1996), the monoclonal antibody mouse anti-*Drosophila* synapsin ''Synorf 1'' (provided by E.

Buchner, Universität Würzburg, Germany; raised against a *Drosophila* Glutathione S-

Transferase(GST)-synapsin fusion protein) recognizes at least 4 synapsin isoforms (ca. 70, 74, 80,

and 143 kDa). In western blot analyses in Crustacea (Harzsch & Hansson, 2008; Sullivan, Benton,

Sandeman, & Beltz, 2007) and Chilopoda (Sombke, Harzsch, & Hansson, 2011), isoforms in the

same range were recognized. Furthermore, the Synorf 1 antibody labels synaptic neuropil in taxa

as diverse as Araneae (Nagata et al., 2019; Steinhoff et al., 2017), Chaetognatha (Harzsch &

Müller, 2007) and Plathelminthes (Cebrià, 2008), suggesting that the epitope that this antiserum

recognizes is highly conserved. To test this, we conducted a western blot analysis as well, in which

we compared brain tissue of *D. melanogaster* and *M. muscosa*. The antibody provided similar

results for both species, staining 1 strong band at ca. 70 kDa, and in *M. muscosa* another weak

band around 60 kDa. This result suggests that the epitope that Synorf 1 recognizes is conserved

between *D. melanogaster* and *M. muscosa*.

2.6 Microscopy, image processing and nomenclature

Immunohistochemically labelled sections and whole-mounts were examined and photographed

with a Leica SP5 II confocal microscope (cLSM). Paraffin sections were examined and

photographed with a Nikon eclipse 90i microscope. 3D-visualization of microCT image stacks was

prepared in AMIRA 6.0.0 (ThermoFisher). An interactive 3D-visualization of the microCT

reconstructions was created using ImageJ 1.51n and Adobe Acrobat Pro 9.0 (see supporting

information; Figure S1). Images were processed in Corel PaintShop Pro using global contrast and

brightness adjustment features as well as black and white inversion. Schematic drawings were generated using Corel Draw 20.1 and figure plates were assembled in Corel PaintShop Pro 21.0. A color code for all depicted structures, as used in Loesel et al. (2013) and Steinhoff et al. (2017), was used for 3D visualizations and the schematic drawings. The terminology used for brain structures follows Richter et al. (2010). For structures specific to spiders, we use terms according to Lehmann et al. (2016). Positional information is given with respect to the body axis.

Abbreviations

AB	Arcuate body
ALE	Anterior lateral eyes
AL1	First order visual neuropils of ALE
AL1x	Neuropilar subunit of the AL1
AME	Anterior median eyes
AM1	First order visual neuropils of AME
AM2	Second order visual neuropils of AME
L2	Second order visual neuropils of anterior and posterior lateral eyes
MB	Mushroom bodies
MBbr	Mushroom body bridge
MBn	Neurites between pedunculus and microglomeruli
MG	Array of microglomeruli (second order visual neuropils of ALE and PLE in *M. muscosa*)
MBh	Mushroom body haft
MBp	Pedunculus of the mushroom body
MBs	Mushroom body shaft
PLE	Posterior lateral eyes
PL1	First order visual neuropils of the PLE
PL1x	Neuropilar subunit of the PL1
PME	Posterior median eyes
PM1	First order visual neuropils of the PME
PM2	Second order visual neuropils of the PME
SC1-3	Protocerebral soma cluster 1-3

3 Results

3.1 General organization of the protocerebrum

In *Marpissa muscosa,* the protocerebrum comprises bilaterally paired neuropils of the visual system and the mushroom body as well as the unpaired arcuate body (Fig. 1; for details see Steinhoff et al., 2017). All neuropils of the visual system are recognizable in paraffin sections (Figs. 2, 3) and microCT analysis (Fig. 4; supporting information, Fig. S1), and are characterized by a

strong synapsin-immunoreactivity (Figs. 5A-D; 6A, B). Tracts and individual neurites exhibit

prominent tubulin-immunoreactivity (Figs. 1, 5, 6). Furthermore, the optic nerves (between

retinae and first order visual neuropils) and the corresponding first order visual neuropils are

recognizable by anti-histamine labeling that also distinctly visualizes termination sites of retinula

cell axons (Fig. 7). A soma cortex including three discernable protocerebral clusters (Figs. 1; 2B-

D; 3; 5A-B, D; 6A–D) surrounds most of the synganglion. Soma cluster 1 (SC1) is located between

the first order visual neuropils of the lateral eyes and the array of microglomeruli (MG), cluster 2

(SC2) medially to the MG, and cluster 3 (SC3) anteromedially to the mushroom body bridge

(MBbr) (Fig. 1).

3.2 Connectivity of the first order visual neuropils of the anterior and posterior lateral eyes

The retinae of the anterior lateral eyes (ALE) and posterior lateral eyes (PLE) are connected with

their respective first order visual neuropils (AL1 and PL1) *via* short, thick optic nerves (Figs. 3, 5A,

C). A subpopulation of histaminergic retinula cell axons terminates in distinct distal layers of these

neuropils (AL1x and PL1x; Fig. 7A–C). Both the AL1 and PL1 are connected to the second order

visual neuropil of the lateral eyes (L2) and the MG via prominent tracts of parallel ordered

neurites that exhibit strong tubulin-immunoreactivity (Figs. 1; 5A-B, D; 6A-B). This connectivity is

also evident in both histological sections (Fig. 2) and microCT analysis (Fig. 4). The tracts are

predominantly formed by neurites that originate in the SC1, which surrounds this region of the

anterior protocerebrum laterally, dorsally and medially (Figs. 1; 2B-D; 5A-B; 6B, D). The L2 and

the MG are bi-lobed, which corresponds to the separate inputs from AL1 and PL1 (Figs. 4B, D; 5A;

6A, C; 8A, B). In histological sections, a thin but conspicuous tract is detectable that passes

between L2 and MG and likely terminates in the arcuate body (AB) (Figs. 3A, C; 6B). The neurites

forming this tract might originate in the SC1 and further innervate the AL1 and PL1, as well as the

PM1 (see below; Figs. 3; 5D).

3.3 Connectivity of the first order visual neuropils of the posterior median eyes

The posterior median eyes (PME) are much smaller than all three other pairs of secondary eyes,

and so is their retina (Fig. 4C, E). Because of the small retina, only a thin but long nerve, which

enters the protocerebrum between the AL1 and PL1, connects the PME to its first order visual

neuropil (PM1) (Figs. 2A; 4E; 5C, C'; 10A). The PM1 is situated between AL1 and PL1 (Figs. 2A-B;

3A-B, 4E, F; 5C-D; 6B; 7A). A prominent tract projects from the PM1 to the dorsoventral part of

the protocerebrum and seems to terminate in the anterolateral apices of the AB (Fig. 3A-B).

3.4 The array of microglomeruli and the mushroom body

The array of microglomeruli (MG) is divided into two lobes that tightly adjoin dorsally and are

fused in the ventral part (Figs. 2C-D; 6A, C, D; 8A-B). Thus, only a uniform array is visible in most

sections (e.g. Figs. 3B; 4E; 5B-C, D). Each microglomerulus is composed of a high number of

synaptic complexes (Fig. 8C–E). These synaptic complexes can be visualized by anti-synapsin

labeling and phalloidin-labeling (Fig. 8D, E). Individual microglomeruli are innervated by neurites

originating in the AL1 and PL1 (Figs. 5A, B, D; 6D). Anti-tubulin labeling reveals that neurites

interweave the microglomeruli mostly in parallel from proximal to distal (Fig. 5A). Within the

core-region of the array, tubulin-immunoreactive neurites are more abundant (Fig. 5B). Two

neurite bundles (MBn) connect the MG and the mushroom body pedunculus (MBp) and form a

distinct chiasm close to the array (Figs. 6A, C-D; 8A-B). Neurites from the medial SC2 contribute

to these bundles by projecting into the MG and into the MBp (Figs. 1; 5A-C; 6A, D). Other neurites

from SC2 pass between MG and MBp towards the L2 (Fig. 5B, D). Thus, a large number of

interweaving neurites characterizes the region of the MBn, which makes tracing of individual

trajectories difficult (Fig. 6A–D).

Some long neurites that appear to originate in SC2 project along the periphery of the MBp and

join with neurites arising from the mushroom body haft (MBh). Together they form the

mushroom body bridge (MBbr) (Figs. 1; 5C; 6A, C-D). Other peripheral neurites from SC2 enter

the MBh, where they seem to terminate (Figs. 1; 4B, D, F; 6D)

4 Discussion

The few comparative neuroanatomical studies on different species show that general brain

anatomy varies considerably in spiders (Hanström, 1921; Hill, 1975; Long, 2016; Steinhoff et al.,

2017; Weltzien & Barth, 1991). A previous investigation on the general brain anatomy of

Marpissa muscosa (Steinhoff et al., 2017) suggested that the brains of jumping spiders and the

model spider species *Cupiennius salei* differ in more than structure and arrangement of neuropils.

Indeed, we have shown here that the connectivity of neuropils in the secondary eye pathways

differs greatly between these two species, which suggests principle differences in the information

processing and function of visual neuropils.

The relative size and position of the secondary eyes differs between *M. muscosa* and *C. salei.*

While in *M. muscosa* the PME is very small and oriented sideways, it is the largest eye in *C. salei*

and oriented forward (Fig. 10). The PLE are similar in relative size and position, but the ALE are

considerably smaller in *C. salei,* albeit also oriented forward (Fig. 10). The relative size of the

retinae as well as the brain is smaller in *C. salei*, which is why the optic nerves associated with

the PME are much longer in *C. salei* (Fig. 10).

4.1 Connectivity of the first order visual neuropils of the anterior and posterior lateral eyes

In *M. muscosa*, all retinula cell axons seem to terminate in the first order visual neuropils (Fig. 7).

This is similar to what has been found in other Araneae (Becherer & Schmid, 1999; Duelli, 1980;

Schmid & Duncker, 1993; Strausfeld & Barth, 1993; Strausfeld et al., 1993). However, this pattern

is different in all other investigated taxa of Chelicerata (e.g. Scorpiones, Xiphosura, or

Pycnogonida), where a subset of retinula cell axons also projects into the second order visual

neuropils (Battelle, Sombke, & Harzsch, 2016; Lehmann & Melzer, 2013, 2018). In *M. mu*scosa,

both AL1 and PL1 each possess a ventrally located neuropilar substructure (AL1x and PL1x), which

is innervated by retinula cell axons (Fig. 7). This can be clearly detected by anti-histamine labeling

(Fig. 7), which is known to consistently label retinula cell axons and their terminals in the visual

systems of arthropods (Battelle et al., 1991; Harzsch et al., 2006; Harzsch, Wildt, Battelle, &

Waloszek, 2005; Nässel, 1999; Schmid & Duncker, 1993; Sombke & Harzsch, 2015). In our

histological sections, it appears as if the neurites that form the tract between AL1, PL1 and the

AB, arise in AL1x and PL1x respectively (Fig. 3A, C). Indeed, Hill (1975) described that neurites

from the AL1x domain contribute to a tract projecting towards the posterior protocerebrum. Hill

(1975) did not mention terminations of retinula cell axons in the AL1x and PL1x, but detected

neurites connecting the AL1 with the AL1x. Thus it is possible that Hill (1975) either

misinterpreted retinula cell axons as interneurons, or that we missed the connecting neurites

between AL1 and AL1x.

The convoluted first order visual neuropils of the ALE and the PLE are both connected with the

MG and the L2, as well as with the AB (Figs. 1; 2; 3A, C; 4A–D; 5A–B; 10A). These findings are

consistent with Hill's (1975) study on the nervous system in *Phidippus* spp., although he only

found that axons of the AL1, and not the PL1, join the tract that projects towards the AB. Duelli

(1980) however, did not detect connections between PL1 and L2 in the salticids *Evarcha arcuta*

(Clerck, 1757) and *Pseudamycus validus* (Thorell, 1877). He described "large field horizontal

neurons," closely bypassing the MG and L2 and connecting the PL1 with the posterior

protocerebrum (Duelli, 1980). Judging from their structure and position, these neurons might be

identical with the neurites described in our study and contribute to the tract that connects the

first order visual neuropils of the secondary eyes with the arcuate body (Fig. 3). This discrepancy

might be due to incomplete staining in the earlier studies where reduced-silver staining was

employed. Our approach combines both specific and broader markers with specific staining

techniques. It should also be noted that studies on the secondary eye pathways in jumping

spiders were conducted on different species. However, is seems unlikely that the secondary eye

pathways differ considerably within salticoid jumping spiders (Maddison & Hedin, 2003).

Based on our results, MG and L2 are shared second order visual neuropils of both AL1 and PL1 in

M. muscosa. The situation in *C. salei* is, however, different. Here, the first order visual neuropils

of all three secondary eyes are connected to individual second order visual neuropils (Strausfeld

& Barth, 1993). Each of these second order visual neuropils is composed of small neuropilar

glomeruli, similar to the microglomeruli that form the MG in *M. muscosa* (Fig. 9; see below). An

unstructured second order visual neuropil (without microglomeruli), such as the L2, is absent in

C. salei (Strausfeld & Barth, 1993; Fig. 9A)*.* Similar to the "giant interneurons" described for

jumping spiders by Duelli (1980), Strausfeld & Barth (1993) detected "lamina wide-field neurons"

that connect all first order visual neuropils with a region close to the AB. It is very likely that these

neurons correspond to the axons forming the tract between first order visual neuropils and the

AB that we described in *M. muscosa*.

4.2 First order visual neuropils of the posterior median eyes

The PM1 is by far the smallest first order visual neuropil of all secondary eyes in *M. muscosa*. This

correlates with the much smaller overall size of the PME (compared to ALE and PLE). The PME

have previously been considered vestigial (Land, 1972, 1985b), but since there is an optic nerve

and a corresponding first order visual neuropil, we conclude that these eyes are functional (Figs.

2A; 3A-B; 4E-F; 5C-C'; 7A-B; 10A). Previously, Steinhoff et al. (2017) considered the PM1 to be a

second order visual neuropil ("PM2"), based on its close spatial relationship with the AL1x

(previously considered as PM1 by Steinhoff et al. (2017)). However, we now demonstrate that

the PM1 is innervated only by retinula cell axons originating in the PME, and connections

between PM1 and AL1x seem to be absent. This coincides with Hill's (1975) description for

Phidippus spp., although he described additional neurites connecting PL1 and PM1. It is likely that

these neurites contribute to the tract that connects the first order visual neuropils with the AB

(compare Fig. 3), instead of actually forming synapses in the PM1. The PM1 differs from all other

eyes by being connected to the AB only. Consequently, the pathway of the PME lacks a second

order visual neuropil. Information from this eye is not processed within the mushroom bodies,

but exclusively in the arcuate body.

4.3 Microglomeruli

Visual neuropils with a microglomerular structure have been found in the protocerebrum of

several spider species (e.g. Long, 2016). They have been termed "lame glomerulee" by Saint-

Remy (1887) and Hill (1975), "glomeruli" by Hanström (1921) and Babu & Barth (1984),

"spherules" by Strausfeld & Barth (1993) and "microglomeruli" by Steinhoff et al. (2017). The

presence and arrangement of these microglomerular neuropils differs between spider species

(Hanström, 1921; Long, 2016) and some authors have considered them as a substructure of the

MB (Babu & Barth, 1984; Hill, 1975), whereas others have considered them to be separate second

order visual neuropils (Long, 2016; discussed in Steinhoff et al., 2017; Strausfeld & Barth, 1993).

In *M. muscosa,* the MG consist of two partially fused arrays, which are connected with the AL1

and PL1, respectively (Figs. 1; 2; 4A-D; 5A-B; 10). They are formed by neurites originating from

SC2 that synapse with neurites originating from AL1 and PL1 (Figs. 5A-B; 6A, D). Thus, the MG

represent two closely adjoining second order visual neuropils of the ALE and PLE, respectively. In

M. muscosa, the MG was also found to react less plastically to different environmental conditions

than the MBp (Steinhoff et al., 2018), which was interpreted as further evidence for their function

as discrete visual neuropils. Each microglomerulus consists of numerous synaptic complexes (Fig.

8). Duelli (1980) estimated roughly 400 synapses per microglomerulus in the jumping spider

Evarcha arcuta. In neopteran insects, synaptic complexes (consisting of one presynaptic bouton,

surrounded by many postsynaptic boutons) are often referred to as microglomeruli (definition in

Rössler, Spaethe, & Groh, 2017). Previous studies in these insects used anti-synapsin labeling to

detect presynaptic sites, and phalloidin (which labels f-actin) to highlight postsynaptic sites (Groh

& Rössler, 2011). The arrangement of synaptic complexes as conspicuous microglomerular

structures is, however, highly variable among neopteran insects (Groh & Rössler, 2011). To

investigate the MG of *M. muscosa*, we have employed the same double-labeling approach (Fig.

8D-E) but the anti-synapsin and phalloidin labeled areas in each synaptic complex were not

clearly differentiated, as is the case in social hymenopterans (Groh & Rössler, 2011), despite co-

localization being minimal. Instead, every microglomerulus is composed of numerous boutons

that are either synapsin-immunoreactive or labelled by phalloidin (Fig. 8D-E). This might indicate

that phalloidin does not consistently label postsynaptic sites in *M. muscosa*, or that the

organization of the pre- and postsynaptic sites within the MG of *M. muscosa* differ compared to

the mushroom body calyces of investigated insect species. To clarify synaptic connectivity within

the MG in *M. muscosa* and spiders in general, a detailed transmission electron microscopic study

is needed.

4.4 Mushroom body pedunculus, haft and bridge

The neurites that connect the second order visual neuropils to the MBp have their somata in SC2

(Figs. 5A; 6A, C). These somata have been referred to as "globuli cells" (Hanström, 1921; Steinhoff

et al., 2017) or "T-cells" before (Strausfeld & Barth, 1993). In *C. salei*, globuli cells have a smaller

diameter of the soma and nucleus than other cell bodies in the protocerebrum (Babu & Barth,

1984). We could not find such size differences in *M. muscosa*. In fact, all three nuclear markers

revealed that somata of the three identified clusters as well the somata of the surrounding cortex

exhibit a similar size (Figs. 1; 2; 3; 5; 6). Thus, it is not certain whether somata of SC2 represent

globuli cells. The long neurites that connect the SC2 with the MG and the L2 are probably "stem

neurites" (Hesse & Schreiber, 2015), from which dendrites branch into the MG and L2

respectively, and axons project into the MBp, MBh and MBbr. A similar arrangement has been

described by Babu and Barth (1984) for *C. salei* and by Hill (1975) for two *Phidippus* species.

The structure and organization of the MB differs between *M. muscosa* and *C. salei*, as already

reported by Steinhoff et al. (2017). The MBh is a separate structure of the mushroom body in *M.*

muscosa, connected to the MBp by neurites (Steinhoff et al., 2017; Figs. 1; 4B, D, F; 6D). In *C.*

salei, it is fused with the MBp, where it forms one continuous synapsin-immunoreactive domain

(Strausfeld & Barth, 1993; Fig. 9B). Furthermore, the mushroom body shaft, which in *C. salei* gives

rise to the MBbr (Strausfeld & Barth, 1993; Fig. 9B) is absent or fused with the MBp in *M.*

muscosa. Here, the MBbr is entirely composed of few long neurites, probably originating in SC2

(Fig. 1).

4.5 Functional considerations

Differences in the secondary eye visual pathways of *M. muscosa* and *C. salei* might reflect the

differences in the visual fields and corresponding functions of their secondary eyes. Possibly the

most conspicuous difference between the visual systems in the brains of *M. muscosa* and *C. salei*

is the pathway of the PME. While the two larger secondary eyes (ALE and PLE) are connected to

the mushroom bodies in *M. muscosa,* the PME are not (Fig. 10). This suggests that the PME do

not play a role in motion detection (Duelli, 1978; Land, 1971; Zurek et al., 2010). In *C. salei,*

however, the PME are important movement detectors (Schmid, 1998) connected to the

mushroom bodies (Fig. 9; Strausfeld & Barth, 1993).

Another interesting difference between the two species is the presence of the L2 in *M. muscosa*

(Steinhoff et al., 2017). The structure of this neuropil differs from the MG and all second order

visual neuropils in *C. salei,* since the L2 in *M. muscosa* lacks microglomeruli (compare Figs. 2; 3;

5; 9; 10). Microglomeruli might ensure a retinotopic organization of neurites within the second

order visual neuropils. This has been hypothesized for both *C. salei* (Strausfeld & Barth, 1993)

and for the PLE pathway of jumping spiders (Duelli, 1980), where no lateral connections between

individual MG were found. We suggest that while the retinotopic organization is kept in the MG,

it is lost in the L2. Information from movement-detecting ALE and PLE in *M. muscosa* might be

integrated not only in the MB, but also in the L2, to enable faster movement decisions.

Alternatively, a microglomerular organization might be the most space-saving structure for

processing of variable input (Eisthen, 2002; Hildebrand & Shepherd, 1997), and although the L2

is not composed of microglomeruli, information might still be processed in parallel without

lateral connections. This would also indicate that a higher number of neurites synapse in the MG

than in the L2 in *M. muscosa*.

For future studies, it would be interesting to analyze the brain architecture of early-branched off

salticid species, in which the PME is large and has its own field of view (e.g. *Portia*; Land, 1985a;

Maddison & Hedin, 2003). Land (1985a) suggested that in jumping spiders with a small PME, such

as *M. muscosa*, the fields of view of ALE and PLE have expanded to fill the space not covered by

the PME. The evolutionary transformation to a smaller PME and larger ALE and PLE might have

led to visual pathways that also incorporated the L2. In early-branched off jumping spiders with

large PME, it could be hypothesized that the L2 might serve as a second order visual neuropil of

the PME.

4.6 Conclusion

The visual pathways of the secondary eyes in the jumping spider *Marpissa muscosa* differ from

those in the wandering spider *Cupiennius salei.* Our results show that differences in size and

functional roles of their eyes, are associated with fundamental differences not only in structure

and arrangement (Steinhoff et al., 2017), but also in connectivity of visual neuropils and thus

information flow in the visual system of their brains. *C. salei* and *M. muscosa* are both cursorial

hunters that attack prey based on visual cues alone (Fenk et al., 2010). We hypothesize from the

data presented here that other spider groups with stronger differences in lifestyle and sensory

equipment, such as stationary hunting species, will show even more pronounced differences in

the structure, arrangement and connectivity of neuropils within their brains.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

The authors have no conflicts of interests.

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

All authors had full access to all the data in the study and take responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of data analysis. Study concept and design: POMS, AS, GU. Acquisition of data: POMS. Analysis and interpretation of data: POMS, AS. Wrote the manuscript: POMS, AS. Contributed to the writing of the manuscript: GU, SH. Obtained funding: GU, SH, POMS.

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677 **Tables**

678 **Table 1** Primary and secondary antibodies

Labeling reagent	Dilution and specifications
Primary	
Monoclonal anti-synapsin antibody produced in mouse (AB_528479)	1:1000, DSHB 3C11 Steinhoff et al. (2017), this study
Polyclonal anti-acetylated α-tubulin antibody produced in rabbit (AB_2637882)	1:1000, ThermoFisher PA5-58711
Monoclonal anti-acetylated α-tubulin antibody produced in mouse (AB_477585)	1:1000, Sigma Aldrich T6793
Monoclonal anti-histamine antibody produced in rabbit (AB_1541510)	1:1000, Progen 16043 Harzsch et al. (2005), Sombke and Harzsch 2015
Secondary	
Polyclonal Cy3 anti-mouse IgG secondary anti- body produced in goat (AB_2338680)	1:500, Jackson Immuno Research, 115–165-003
Polyclonal Alexa 488 anti-rabbit IgG secondary antibody produced in goat (AB_2534074)	1:500, Invitrogen, A11006
Alexa Fluor 488 phalloidin (AB_2315147)	1:50, Molecular Probes A-12379
Hoechst 33258	1:1000, Sigma 14530
YOYO 1 491	Molecular Probes Y-3601

680 **Table 2** Methods and antisera combinations

Methods	Antisera combinations/ staining	Coupled with	Specimens
Wholemount	anti-synapsin	Cy3 anti-mouse (goat)	5
Vibratome sections (80 µm)	anti-synapsin (mouse) anti-acetylated-α-tubulin (rabbit)	Cy3 anti-mouse (goat) Alexa Fluor 488 anti-rabbit (goat) Nuclear labeling: Hoechst 33258	10
	anti-acetylated-α-tubulin (mouse)	Nuclear labeling: YOYO	6
	anti-histamine (rabbit)	Alexa Fluor 488 anti-rabbit (goat)	4
	anti-synapsin (mouse)	Cy3 anti-mouse (goat) Phalloidin	5
Paraffin sections (5 µm)	Azan-novum	/	2
microCT scans	1% iodine (in 99% ethanol)	/	4

    Figures and supporting information

Figure 1. Maximum projection of an image stack (clsm), showing tubulin-immunoreactivity (grey) and somata (blue) in the protocerebrum of *Marpissa muscosa*. The AL1 and PL1 are connected to both, the MG and the L2. The neurites forming these connections originate in SC1. The MG and the L2 are connected to the MBp via neurites, which originate in the SC2. The two MBp are connected with each other via the mushroom body bridge, which is formed by long neurites that project along the periphery of the MBp and seem to originate in the SC2. Some of these long neurites also connect the MBp with the MBh. Other neurites originate in SC3 and enter the

697 protocerebrum medially. **Abbreviations: a** anterior, **AL1** first order visual neuropil of the anterior

698 lateral eyes, **d** dorsal, **l** lateral, **L2** shared second order visual neuropil of the anterior lateral and

699 posterior lateral eyes, **MBh** mushroom body haft, **MBp** mushroom body pedunculus, **MG** array

700 of microglomeruli, **SC1-3** soma cluster 1-3.

Figure 2. Paraffin sections through the anterior protocerebrum of *Marpissa muscosa.* **A** Sagittal section showing the convoluted surface and columnar structure of the AL1 and PL1. The optic nerve of the PME passes through between AL1 and PL1 and terminates in the PM1. The connection between AL1 and L2 is visible. **B** Sagittal section showing how the PL1 connects to the posterior lobe of the L2. **C** Sagittal section showing several neurites that connect the PL1 with the MG (highlighted by arrow), as well as some of the neurites connecting the PL1 with the L2. **D** Horizontal section, showing the connection of the AL1 with both, the MG and the L2. **Abbreviations: a** anterior, **AL1** first order visual neuropil of the anterior lateral eyes, **d** dorsal, **l**

735   lateral, **L2** shared second order visual neuropil of the anterior lateral and posterior lateral eyes,

736   **MBp** mushroom body pedunculus, **MG** array of microglomeruli, **PL1** first order visual neuropil of

737   the posterior lateral eyes, **PM1** first order visual neuropil of the posterior median eyes, **SC** soma

738   cluster.

Figure 3. Horizontal paraffin sections through the protocerebrum of *Marpissa muscosa*. **A**

Neurites that connect the AL1 with the AB probably synapse in the AL1x. Long neurites

connecting the PL1 with the AB are visible curving around L2. Other long neurites contributing to

the tract to the AB synapse in PM1. Arrows point to neurites contributing to the tract between

first order visual neuropils of the secondary eyes and the arcuate body. **B** In a more ventral

section, more parallel-arranged neurites can be differentiated that connect the PM1 with the AB.

C Neurites that connect the PL1 with the AB probably synapse in the PL1x. **Abbreviations: a**

anterior, **AB** arcuate body, **AL1** first order visual neuropil of the anterior lateral eyes, **AL1x**

neuropilar subunit of the AL1, **AM2** second order visual neuropil of the anterior median eyes,

AMEr retina of the anterior median eyes, **d** dorsal, **l** lateral, **L2** shared second order visual

neuropil of the anterior lateral and posterior lateral eyes, **MBp** mushroom body pedunculus, **MG**

array of microglomeruli, **PL1** first order visual neuropil of the posterior lateral eyes, **PL1x**

neuropilar subunit of the PL1, **PM1** first order visual neuropil of the posterior median eyes.

Figure 4. Protocerebral neuropils depicted in different virtual horizontal sections obtained by

microCT analysis (**A, C, E**) and three-dimensional reconstructions based on microCT image stacks

(**B, D, F**). **A** + **B** The retina of the ALE is located very closely to its first order visual neuropil, the

AL1. The AL1 has a convoluted surface and is connected to the MG and the L2. **C** + **D** The retina of the PLE almost comes in contact with its first order visual neuropil, the PL1. The PL1 has a convoluted surface and is connected to the MB and the L2. **E** + **F** A comparatively long optic nerve connects the retina of the PME with its first order visual neuropil, the PM1. See supporting information for an interactive 3D-visualization of the microCT reconstruction. **Abbreviations: a** anterior, **AL1** first order visual neuropil of the anterior lateral eyes, **ALEr** retina of the anterior lateral eyes, **AMEr** retina of the anterior median eyes, **d** dorsal, **l** lateral, **L2** shared second order visual neuropil of the anterior lateral and posterior lateral eyes, **MBbr** mushroom body bridge, **MBh** mushroom body haft, **MBp** mushroom body pedunculus, **MG** array of microglomeruli, **PL1** first order visual neuropil of the posterior lateral eyes, **PLEr** retina of the posterior lateral eyes, **PM1** first order visual neuropil of the posterior median eyes, **PMEr** retina of the posterior median eyes.

Figure 5. Maximum projections of image stacks (clsm) showing tubulin-immunoreactivity (grey), synapsin-immunoreactivity (magenta) and somata (blue) in the secondary eye visual pathway of *Marpissa muscosa*. **A** The AL1 is connected to the MG and the L2 via two prominent neurite tracts. Some of the neurites contributing to these tracts originate in SC1. Neurites connecting the MG with the MBp originate in SC2. **B** The PL1 is connected to the MG and the L2 via two

prominent neurite tracts. Some neurites that arise in SC2 pass between MG and MBp towards the L2. **C** The optic nerve of the PME (highlighted by arrow) terminates in the PM1. **C'** Higher magnification of C, showing the termination site of the PME optic nerve in the PM1. **D** Neurites from the PM1 pass between MG and L2. **Abbreviations: a** anterior, **AL1** first order visual neuropil of the anterior lateral eyes, **d** dorsal, **l** lateral, **L2** shared second order visual neuropil of the anterior lateral and posterior lateral eyes, **MBp** mushroom body pedunculus, **MG** array of microglomeruli, **PL1** first order visual neuropil of the posterior lateral eyes, **PL1x** neuropilar subunit of the PL1, **PM1** first order visual neuropil of the posterior median eyes, **SC1-2** soma cluster 1-2.

Figure 6. Maximum projections of image stacks (clsm) showing tubulin-immunoreactivity (grey),

synapsin-immunoreactivity (magenta) and somata (blue) in the secondary eye visual pathway of

Marpissa muscosa. **A** Horizontal section through AL1, MBp and MG. The AL1 connects to one of

the two tightly adjoining clusters of MG. Arrows point to 'stem neurites' connecting SC2 and MG.

Arrowheads point to neurites connecting the MG with the MBp. **B** Horizontal section through

visual neuropils. The PM1 is situated between AL1 and PL1, MG appear as a uniform array. The

arrowhead points to neurites connecting PL1 with AB, neurites probably synapse in the PL1x. **C** A

sagittal section through MG and MBp reveals two distinct clusters of MG and the chiasm formed

by neurites that connect MG with MBp. **D** Tubulin-immunoreactivity shows long peripheral

neurites contributing to the MBbr and connecting the MBp with the MBh. Arrows point to 'stem

neurites' connecting SC2 with the MG. **Abbreviations: a** anterior, **AL1** first order visual neuropil

of the anterior lateral eyes, **AL1x** neuropilar subunit of the AL1, **d** dorsal, **l** lateral, **L2** shared

second order visual neuropil of the anterior lateral and posterior lateral eyes, **MBbr** mushroom

body bridge, **MBh** mushroom body haft, **MBp** mushroom body pedunculus, **MG** array of

microglomeruli, **PL1** first order visual neuropil of the posterior lateral eyes, **PL1x** neuropilar

subunit of the PL1, **PM1** first order visual neuropil of the posterior median eyes, **SC1-3** soma

cluster 1-3.

Figure 7. Maximum projections of image stacks (clsm), showing histamine-immunoreactivity in

horizontal sections through the anteriormost protocerebrum of *Marpissa muscosa*. **A** Overview,

shows strong histamine-immunoreactivity of retinula cell axon terminals in the AL1 and its

substructure the AL1x, as well as in the PL1 and its substructure the PL1x. Retinula cell axons of

the PME and their terminals in the PM1 exhibit strong histamine-immunoreactivity. **B**

Magnification showing histamine-immunoreactive retinula cell axons and their terminals in the

AL1x and PM1. Note the close spatial association of AL1x and PM1; AL1x is somewhat distorted

due to sectioning. Arrows point to histamine-immunoreactive retinula cell axons and their

terminals. **C** Magnification showing histamine-immunoreactive retinula cell axons and their

terminals in the PL1 and PL1x. Arrows point to a retinula cell axon and a large terminal in the

PL1x. **Abbreviations: a** anterior, **AL1** first order visual neuropil of the anterior lateral eyes, **AL1x**

neuropilar subunit of the AL1, **d** dorsal, **l** lateral, **PL1** first order visual neuropil of the posterior

lateral eyes, **PL1x** neuropilar subunit of the PL1, **PM1** first order visual neuropil of the posterior

median eyes.

Figure 8. The array of microglomeruli in the secondary eye visual pathway of *Marpissa muscosa.*
A Three-dimensional volume rendering of an anti-synapsin labeled whole-mount, view from posterodorsal. Note the two distinct clusters of microglomeruli that adjoin closely and coat the MBp anteriorly. **B** Single optical section of the MG within an anti-synapsin labeled whole-mount shows two distinct clusters of MG and a chiasm of neurites connecting them to the MBp. **C** Stack

908 of optical sections through the MG (maximum intensity projection), showing synapsin-

909 immunoreactivity. The glomerular subunits within each individual MG may represent synaptic

910 boutons. **D** Anti-synapsin (magenta) and phalloidin (green) double–labeling reveals glomerular

911 substructures (boutons) of the MG. **E** Three individual MG with glomerular substructures

912 (boutons) labeled by anti-synapsin and phalloidin.

Figure 9. Maximum projection of an image stack (clsm) showing synapsin-immunoreactivity

(magenta) and somata (cyan) in the secondary eye visual system of *Cupiennius salei*. **A** Every eye

is associated with its own second order visual neuropil; AL2, PM2, and PL2. All three second order

visual neuropils are sub-structured into microglomeruli similar to those found in the MG in

Marpissa muscosa. **B** The MB of *C. salei* consists of a MBp, MBh and MBs. All three substructures

form a continuous synapsin-rich neuropil. **Abbreviations: a** anterior, **AL2** second order visual

neuropil of the anterior lateral eyes, **AM1** first order visual neuropil of the anterior median eyes,

d dorsal, **l** lateral, **MBh** mushroom body haft, **MBp** mushroom body pedunculus, **MBs** mushroom

body shaft, **PL2** second order visual neuropil of the posterior lateral eyes, **PM1** first order visual

neuropil of the posterior median eyes, **PM2** second order visual neuropil of the posterior median

eyes.

Figure 10. Schematic representations of the secondary eye visual pathways in the brains of **A**
Marpissa muscosa and **B** *Cupiennius salei.* Insets top left: 3D volume rendering of the prosomata
of **A** *M. muscosa* and **B** *C. salei*, based on microCT analysis. **B** Anterior median eyes concealed by
posterior median eyes. **Abbreviations: AB** arcuate body, **AL1** first order visual neuropil of the
anterior lateral eyes, **AL2** second order visual neuropil of the anterior lateral eyes, **ALE** anterior
lateral eye, **AME** anterior median eye, **L2** shared second order visual neuropil of the anterior
lateral and posterior lateral eyes, **MBbr** mushroom body bridge, **MBh** mushroom body haft, **MBp**
mushroom body pedunculus, **MG** array of microglomeruli, **PL1** first order visual neuropil of the
posterior lateral eyes, **PL2** second order visual neuropil of the posterior lateral eyes, **PLE** posterior
lateral eye, **PME** posterior median eye, **PM1** first order visual neuropil of the posterior median
eyes, **PM2** second order visual neuropil of the posterior median eyes.

Figure S1: Interactive 3D visualization of protocerebral neuropils based on reconstruction of microCT image stacks. The AL1 and the PL1 both are connected to the MG and the L2. A comparatively long optic nerve connects the retina of the PME with its first order visual neuropil, the PM1. **Abbreviations: AL1** first order visual neuropil of the anterior lateral eyes, **L2** shared second order visual neuropil of the anterior lateral and posterior lateral eyes, **MBbr** mushroom body bridge, **MBh** mushroom body haft, **MBp** mushroom body pedunculus, **MG** array of microglomeruli, **PL1** first order visual neuropil of the posterior lateral eyes, **PM1** first order visual neuropil of the posterior median eyes.