

NIH Public Access

Author Manuscript

Dev Dyn. Author manuscript; available in PMC 2013 December 01

Published in final edited form as:

Dev Dyn. 2012 December ; 241(12): 1933–1943. doi:10.1002/dvdy.23879.

Interactions between *Drosophila* IgCAM Adhesion Receptors and Cindr, the Cd2ap/Cin85 ortholog

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Abstract

Background—Morphogenetic modeling of tissues requires coordinated regulation of adhesion. For its correct patterning, the *Drosophila* pupal eye requires several Immunoglobulin superfamily cell adhesion molecules (IgCAMs) and the adaptor protein Cindr. Orthologs of these proteins are essential components of specialized junctions of the vertebrate kidney; the Cindr ortholog Cd2ap is essential for the integrity of this structure.

Results—Reducing Cindr during fly eye development led to incorrect distribution of the IgCAMs Roughest (Rst) and Hibris (Hbs). Both bound Cindr. Disrupting endocytosis similarly led to Rst and Hbs mis-localization; our data suggests an additional early requirement for endocytosis in regulating Hbs localization or stability. Finally, Rst and Hbs localized correctly only when in stable membrane complexes and we propose that Cindr anchors these to the cytoskeleton. This regulation likely does not extend to IgCAMs Kin of irre (Kirre) and Sticks and stones (Sns) in the pupal eye; neither interacted with Cindr in in vitro assays. Nonetheless, Kirre and Sns partially mis-localized when Cindr was reduced, possibly due to interactions with Rst/Hbs.

Conclusions—Our data suggests Cindr recapitulates both proposed functions of its mammalian orthologs Cd2ap and Cin85: targeting the IgCAMs Rst and Hbs for endocytosis and stabilizing these heterophilic IgCAM complexes.

Keywords

Cindr; Cd2ap; Cin85; Nephrin; Neph1; slit diaphragm; Roughest; Hibris; Sticks and Stones; Kin of irre

INTRODUCTION

Many cells retain the ability to initiate programs that remodel an organ or tissue to maintain its function in the face of changing physiological demands or damage. Such morphogenetic remodeling requires vigilant regulation of basal and lateral adhesions to achieve a level of tissue plasticity that facilitates or instructs remodeling. Regulation may include modifying adhesion protein interactions as well as regulating junction protein localization and

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transcription. Employing several of these mechanisms simultaneously is an effective strategy to control morphogenesis. Here we describe how a single regulating adaptor protein, Cindr, functions in two seemingly opposing mechanisms to regulate the dynamic localization of transmembrane proteins.

The *Drosophila* eye progresses from a dynamic to highly ordered and stable epithelium during pupal development (Cagan and Ready, 1993). This morphogenesis requires the cytoplasmic adaptor protein Cindr (Johnson et al., 2008, 2011). When *cindr* expression is severely reduced retinal epithelial cells fail to achieve correct niches and order is disrupted; disruption is due in part to aberrant localization of several membrane-associated or integral membrane proteins (Johnson et al., 2008, 2011). These include transmembrane Immunoglobulin Superfamily Cell Adhesion Molecules (IgCAMs) Hibris (Hbs) and Roughest (Rst), which interact in *trans* to dominantly instruct patterning (Bao and Cagan, 2005). Also active are Sticks and Stones (Sns) and Kin-of-Irre (Kirre), which function analogously though in a less prominent and partially-redundant manner (Bao et al., 2010). In this work, we explore the mechanisms by which Cindr regulates Rst and Hbs localization.

The importance of understanding IgCAM localization extends beyond *Drosophila* eye morphogenesis. The IgCAMs mediate axon projection in the developing nervous system (Boschert et al., 1990; Ramos et al., 1993; Schneider et al., 1995; Bazigou et al., 2007; Sugie et al., 2010), control muscle precursor cell fusion (reviewed in (Haralalka and Abmayr, 2010; Rochlin et al., 2010), and are components of the nephrocyte diaphragm in *Drosophila* and the analogous mammalian slit-diaphragm (SD) that connects podocyte foot processes (Weavers et al., 2009; Zhuang et al., 2009). Regarding the latter, SDs help filter large volumes of plasma daily and are likely subject to wear as well as dynamic changes. IgCAMs and the associated Cindr ortholog Cd2ap are candidates to regulate these aspects.

In the absence of mammalian Cd2ap, the IgCAM Nephrin failed to correctly localize within kidney glomeruli, leading to disruption of the SD and kidney dysfunction (Shih et al., 1999). Here we demonstrate a similar role for Cindr. Reducing its expression led to incorrect distribution of the IgCAMs Hbs and Rst. In addition, we identify a role for Cindr in regulating their turnover. These results have important implications for understanding the relationship between Cd2ap and IgCAM proteins during dynamic tissue remodeling and stability.

RESULTS

Ig-CAMs Fail to Localize Correctly When Cindr Is Reduced

Interactions between *Drosophila* IgCAMs are required for correct pupal eye morphogenesis (Bao and Cagan, 2005; Bao et al., 2010). Their expression and localization are dynamic, resolving over several hours of pupal development. At approximately 24 hr after puparium formation (APF), both Rst and Hbs proteins were found in the central cone cells, primary pigment cells (1°s), and the surrounding pool of interommatidial precursor cells (IPC) (Figs. 1A,B, 2A) (Reiter et al., 1996). By 28 hr APF, (1) Hbs was lost in IPCs while (2) Rst was reduced in cone and 1°s. The result is complimentary localization of Rst and Hbs (Fig. 1C) (Bao and Cagan, 2005). A closer examination shows that Hbs and Rst proteins, which interact in *trans*, preferentially and then exclusively localize to adherens junctions of adjoining IPC and 1°s, respectively (Figs. 1D, 2B). This emergent, complementary expression pattern of Hbs and Rst is retained through 41 hr APF (Fig. 2C).

Localization of Hbs and Rst were markedly altered when RNAi transgenes targeting *cindr* were expressed (Fig. 2D–F). At 24 hr APF, Rst and Hbs were not preferentially localized to 1°:IPC interfaces (Fig. 2D, compare to 2A). At 28 hr APF, stronger accumulation of Hbs at

1°:IPC interfaces was observed, but (1) Hbs was still detected inappropriately at IPC:IPC junctions while (2) Rst remained equally distributed to most IPC:IPC and 1°:IPC interfaces (Fig. 2E) (Johnson et al., 2008). By 41 hr, APF Hbs was no longer detected at some IPC:IPC interfaces (Fig. 2F) and less was detected at 1°:IPC boundaries in comparison to wild type retinas. Rst remained at most IPC:IPC boundaries (Fig. 2E). Curiously both IgCAMs accumulated at somewhat higher levels around bristle groups (Fig. 2E). In summary, loss of Cindr led to a failure of Rst and Hbs to resolve properly into complementary patterns.

Cindr Is Unlikely to Directly Affect rst and hbs Transcription

To test whether Cindr regulated *rst* or *hbs* at the level of transcription, we assayed the expression of *rst* and *hbs lacZ* reporter lines in *cindr*^{RNAi} retina. In wild type ommatidia, *hbs-lacZ* expression was restricted to the four cone cells and two adjacent 1°s by 28 hr APF (Fig. 3A). A *rst-lacZ* reporter line was expressed at variable levels in the cytoplasm of all IPCs at 28 hr APF (Fig. 3B). *cindr* is expressed in all eye epithelial cells (Johnson et al., 2008). Reducing Cindr generated hyper-mobile cells that were commonly displaced from a 1° or IPC niche (Johnson et al., 2008, 2011). These displaced 1°s were readily distinguished from neighboring IPCs by their large block-like appearance, *hbs-lacZ* expression, and lack of *rst-lacZ* expression (Fig. 3C,D). Cells displaced from IPC into 1° niches were small and retained low levels of *rst-lacZ* or *rst-lacZ* expression in most retinal cells (Fig. 3C,D), suggesting that Cindr did not regulate gene expression per se. Instead our data may reflect a requirement for time- and position-sensitive signals to direct *rst* and *hbs* expression. Accordingly, displacement of cells in *cindr*^{RNAi} eyes was sufficient to disrupt IgCAM expression and the level of *lac-Z* expression may in fact reflect time since cell displacement.

These observations demonstrate that expression of *rst* and *hbs* is regulated by positiondependent signals and underscores an important role for Cindr, regulating a cell's positional stability, allowing it to establish appropriate niche-specific developmental programs. Altering cell positions contributes to erroneous Rst and Hbs localization, while correctly positioned *cindr*^{RNAi} retinal cells express *hbs-lacZ* and *rst-lacZ* correctly. We conclude that Cindr has no direct role in regulating transcription of these IgCAMs, leading us to explore physical interactions between these proteins.

Interactions Between Cindr and Ig-CAM Proteins

Mammalian Cd2ap and Cin85 interact with Nephrin, the single vertebrate ortholog of Hbs and Sns (Schwarz et al., 2001; Shih et al., 2001; Tossidou et al., 2010). We, therefore, used immunoprecipitation studies to determine whether Cindr associated with tagged versions of *Drosophila* IgCAM proteins. Ectopic Hbs:FLAG and Rst:V5 co-immunoprecipitated with endogenous Cindr from embryos (Fig. 4A,B). Embryos have low levels of endogenous Rst or Hbs, indicating that Cindr may bind them directly. In contrast, we failed to detectably isolate Sns:HA together with Cindr (Fig. 4C). Interactions between Cindr and Kirre:FLAG were not convincing despite chemical cross-linking to preserve complexes prior to embryo lysis (Fig. 4D). *cindr* is also highly expressed in the embryonic nervous system (data not shown) but Fasciclin 2 (Fas2), an Ig-like adhesion molecule richly expressed in neurons, did not co-immunoprecipitate with Cindr (Fig. 4E). Though interactions between mammalian Cd2ap and Cadherins have been reported (Lehtonen et al., 2004; Mustonen et al., 2005), DE-Cadherin did not consistently immunoprecipitate with Cindr (Fig. 4F).

To confirm these data, we tested whether Rst, Hbs, Sns, Kirre, Fas2, and DE-Cad isolated from embryo lysates interacted with Cindr:GST fusion proteins. Both Rst and Hbs bound Cindr:GST (Fig. 4G). As before Fas2, Sns:HA, and Kirre:FLAG did not interact with Cindr:GST and binding of DE-Cad to Cindr was inconsistent (Fig. 4G).

Our failure to observe convincing interactions between Cindr and Sns or Kirre confirms an earlier study (Weavers et al., 2009) and underscores differences between the functions of Sns/Kirre and Hbs/Rst complexes. However, Sns and Kirre localization was mildly disrupted in *cindr^{RNAi}* eye tissue (Fig. 5). In wild type tissue, Sns/Kirre complexes were observed exclusively at IPC:1° boundaries by 28 hr APF (Fig. 5A) (Bao et al., 2010) but when Cindr was reduced, Sns and Kirre remained at some IPC:IPC boundaries and more cytoplasmic Kirre was detected (Fig. 5C). By 40 hr APF, Sns mis-localization was resolved, though Kirre remained at many IPC:IPC borders suggesting that these complexes were disrupted (Fig. 5B and D). These defects were similar, though far milder, than disruptions to Hbs/Rst complex localization.

Are Rst and Hbs Localization Regulated by Endocytosis?

Cin85 binds Casitas B-lineage lymphoma (Cbl) to mediate endocytosis of a variety of cell surface proteins including growth factor receptors (Petrelli et al., 2002; Soubeyran et al., 2002; Kobayashi et al., 2004), immunoglobulin receptors (Molfetta et al., 2005; Marois et al., 2011), the dopamine receptor (Shimokawa et al., 2010), and Nephrin (Tossidou et al., 2010). To test whether the IgCAMs are conserved targets of Cbl:Cin85, we reduced *Drosophila cbl* expression. Rst, and to a milder extent Hbs, remained at most IPC:IPC boundaries (Fig. 6A,B). Reducing *cbl* also enhanced *cindr*^{RNAi} mis-patterning (Fig. 7A–C). We conclude that Cindr:Cbl complexes are likely functionally conserved and target IgCAMs for endocytosis.

To validate that endocytosis per se mediated redistribution of Rst-Hbs complexes away from IPC:IPC junctions, we temporally restricted endocytosis during pupal development by reducing activity of the *Drosophila* Dynamin ortholog Shibire. Shifting the temperature-sensitive allele *shibire^{ts2}* to the non-permissive temperature or expressing a dominant-negative *shibire* transgene at low levels (*lozenge>shi^{DN}*) delayed patterning (Fig. 6C–E); developmental delay may reflect suppressed endocytosis-mediated signal transduction. However, even in regions where development was least affected, Rst remained abnormally localized to IPC:IPC boundaries and was evenly distributed about IPC circumferences (Fig. 6D,E). These observations are consistent with the view that endocytosis normally removes Rst from IPC:IPC boundaries; we cannot rule out the possibility that *rst* transcription was also affected indirectly by other endocytosis-mediated processes. The number of large cytoplasmic Rst puncta was noticeably reduced in both *shibire^{ts2}* and *shi^{DN}* IPCs, suggesting that trafficking was indeed disrupted in these genotypes. Small cytoplasmic Rst puncta were still observed.

In contrast, Hbs remained largely absent from IPC:IPC junctions when *shibire* activity was reduced, suggesting that clearance from these membranes was not dependent on endocytosis (Fig. 6D,E). Interestingly, in *shibire^{ts2}* retinas Hbs localized to 1°:cone cell boundaries but was not detected at 1°:IPC borders, its normal place of accumulation by 28 hr APF (Fig. 6D). This effect was less marked in *lozenge>shi^{DN}* retinas (Fig. 6E). This intriguing phenotype may reflect a requirement for an initial step of recycling endocytosis to generate mature adhesive Hbs proteins that are stabilized when returned to the cell surface.

Overall, our *shibire* results demonstrate distinct roles for endocytosis in regulating Rst and Hbs localization. However, reducing *cindr* had similar effects on the distribution of both IgCAMs. Our data suggest that Cindr targets both IgCAMs for endocytosis but employs additional strategies to regulate IgCAM localization. Previous work has implicated Cindr in border cell endocytosis (Quinones et al., 2010; see below). To better assess Cindr's role in endocytosis, we tested whether reducing the genetic complement of *shi* or *Rab5* modified *GMR>cindr^{RNAi}* patterning defects. Null alleles of both loci mildly modified *cindr* but enhancement did not rise to statistical significance (Fig. 7D and E; see Supp. Table S1,

which is available online). In contrast, *Cbl* demonstrated significant enhancement of *cindr* mis-patterning (Fig. 7C, Supp. Table S1). Heterozygous *shi, Rab5*, and *Cbl* retinas showed only occasional patterning errors (data not shown, Supp. Table S1). These data suggest that Cindr plays a minor role in regulating endocytic trafficking per se during pupal eye development.

On the other hand, our genetic interaction data underscore a significant relationship between Cindr and Cbl, most likely for targeting specific cargo for endocytosis during pupal eye patterning. Indeed, Cin85 and Cbl have been extensively implicated in RTK receptor endocytosis (Dikic, 2003) and more recent data describe a role for Cin85/Cbl in targeting Nephrin/Neph1 for endocytosis (Tossidou et al., 2010).

Are Rst and Hbs Localization Regulated by the Formation of Stable Junctions?

When endocytosis was disrupted, Rst protein failed to be cleared from IPC:IPC junctions even in the absence of Hbs (Fig. 6D). This suggests that stable Rst-Hbs complex formation is required for IgCAM re-localization to 1°:IPC borders. Indeed, depleting both Rst and Kirre (a Rst paralog also able to bind Hbs) (Bao et al., 2010) strongly disrupted localization of Hbs to 1°:IPC boundaries (Fig. 8A,B). In the converse experiment, reduction of both Hbs and Sns, Rst failed to localize to 1°:IPC boundaries but was still observed at IPC:IPC junctions (Fig. 8C). Interestingly, Rst remained at IPC:IPC boundaries, suggesting the protein is stabilized by the weaker homophilic interactions previously reported (Schneider et al., 1995). As both Rst and Hbs are detected at 1°:IPC borders in *cindr^{RNAi}* retina, we infer that formation of Rst-Hbs complexes is independent of Cindr.

Reducing *rst/kirre* or *hbs/sns* also severely disrupted correct IPC progression into single rows about each ommatidium (Fig. 8B and C). To confirm that these patterning defects did not contribute to IgCAM mis-localization, we generated a similar "multiple cell row" phenotype using an independent genetic manipulation. Inhibition of apoptosis left excess IPCs that occasionally failed to intercalate into one row of cells; Rst and Hbs nonetheless localized specifically to 1°:IPC junctions in these regions (Fig. 8D and E).

DISCUSSION

Our data emphasize that multiple mechanisms cooperate to generate discrete localization of the IgCAMs Rst and Hbs at 1°:IPC boundaries in wild type retina. These mechanisms include restriction of gene expression to different compartments (Bao and Cagan, 2005), removal of Rst-Hbs complexes from IPC:IPC boundaries (Fig. 6), and stabilization of Rst-Hbs complexes at 1°:IPC borders (Fig. 8). Here we identify two mechanisms that are regulated by Cindr.

With the exception of a small number of displaced cells, reducing *cindr* had little effect on IgCAM expression (Fig. 3). Impeding endocytosis, by reducing Cbl or Shibire, prevented removal of Rst from IPC:IPC borders (Fig. 6), phenocopying the effect of reducing *cindr* (Fig. 2D–F). Our suggestion that directed endocytosis of IgCAMs by Cindr has been conserved in *Drosophila* is further supported by a significant genetic interaction between *cindr* and the E3 ubiquitin ligase *Cbl* (Fig. 7, Supp. Table S1). *shi* and *Rab5* also modified *cindr*^{RNAi} though mildly (Fig. 7, Supp. Table S1), signifying a less likely role for Cindr in generally regulating endocytosis in the pupal eye. Surprisingly, disrupting endocytosis prevented accumulation of Hbs at 1°:cone cell adherens junctions (Fig. 6). This was not observed in *cindr*^{RNAi} tissue (Fig. 2D–F) and we speculate that Rst and Hbs are subject to different endocytic regulation. Finally, we showed that interactions between Rst and Hbs stabilize the overall complex at 1°:IPC junctions (Fig. 8), indicating that Cindr was unnecessary for this interaction.

Using two assays, we found that Cindr is contained within a complex that includes Rst and Hbs (Fig. 4). Though not detected in our assays (Fig. 4), Sns and Kirre may be weakly associated with the Cindr complex, and localization of these IgCAMs was mildly disrupted by loss of cindr (Fig. 5). Cindr and Cd2ap contain consensus Actin-binding sites and associate with several actin regulators including Capping Proteins, ArfGAPs, and Synaptopodin (Bruck et al., 2006; Johnson et al., 2008, 2011; Yaddanapudi et al., 2011). As such, we previously proposed that Cindr functions to tether adhesion complexes to the cytoskeleton and limit actin remodeling (Johnson et al., 2008, 2011). Here we show that disruption of Cindr leads to phenotypes that may reflect a disruption of cytoskeleton-IgCAM interactions. A speculative model illustrating the complex relationship between Cindr and IgCAMs is presented in Figure 9. We propose that Cindr mediates endocytosis at IPC:IPC boundaries whilst stabilizing IgCAM complexes at IPC:1° borders. Cindr's contradictory roles, stabilization plus endocytic dysregulation, presumably reflect recruitment of different sets of interacting proteins in a context- or position-dependent manner. Whether this complexity is observed in other tissues such as the mammalian slit diaphragm remains to be determined.

We have previously considered the role of Cindr in pupal eye patterning from the perspective of actin regulation (Johnson et al., 2008, 2011). However, Cindr has been implicated in regulating endocytosis during *Drosophila* border cell migration (Quinones et al., 2010) and here we describe a role for Cindr in endocytosis of receptors instrumental in eye patterning. An Endophilin/Cd2ap/Cortactin complex is believed to induce local actin polymerization required for scission of endocytic vesicles and, indeed, Quinones et al. also observed a reduction in endocytosis in *cortactin* mutant embryos (Quinones et al., 2010). However, our laboratory observed no phenotypic defects in null *cortactin*^{M7} clones generated in the eye (S. Warner, unpublished observations) and *cortactin* did not significantly modify *cindr*^{RNAi}-induced pupal eye mis-patterning (R.I.J., unpublished observations). Further verification will determine whether a functional Endophilin/Cindr/ Cortactin complex is less relevant in tissues such as the pupal eye than in border cells within the oocyte.

We have not observed defects in IgCAM localization when mildly perturbing core actin regulators, Arfs, or ArfGAPs that interact (directly or indirectly) with Cindr (our unpublished observations). Additionally, $GMR > cindr^{RNAi}$ mis-patterning was greatly enhanced by actin regulatory loci (Johnson et al., 2008, 2011) but comparatively mildly enhanced by *Cbl, shi*, and *Rab5* (Fig. 7). Finally, ectopic expression of the Arp2/3 complex component *Arp66B* partially rescued $GMR > cindr^{RNAi}$ mis-patterning without restoring Rst localization to only IPC:1°cell borders (Johnson et al., 2008). Together these data suggest that actin rather than endocytic regulation may be the dominant role of Cindr during eye patterning but a toolbox of *cindr* mutations perturbing select functions will be required to confirm this suggestion. Together, data on Cindr indicate that it recapitulates the function of both mammalian orthologs Cd2ap and Cin85.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

Drosophila Genetics and Dissection

Unless stated, all crosses were cultured at 25°C until dissection between 24 and 41 hr APF, as previously described (Bao and Cagan, 2005).

RNA interference—*cindr* was targeted by expression of *UAS-cindr*^{RNAi2.21+23, 3.63+76} (Johnson et al., 2008) in the pupal eye, driven by *GMR-GAL4* (Figs. 2E,F, 3C,D, 5C,D). and *UAS-lacZ* was expressed in control eye epithelia (Figs. 2A–C, 3A,B, 5A,B). To reduce *kirre* and *rst a UAS-kirre*^{RNAi D201A1}; *UAS-rst*^{RNAi E101B1} line was crossed to *GMR-GAL4*,

UAS-Dcr2 (Fig. 8B) (Bao and Cagan, 2005; Bao et al., 2010). To target *hbs* and *sns*, we crossed a *UAS-hbs^{RNAi B207A2}; UAS-sns^{RNAi B103A1}* line (Bao and Cagan, 2005; Bao et al., 2010) to *GMR-GAL4, UAS-Dcr2* (Fig. 8C). For control tissue, *UAS-lacZ* was crossed to *GMR-GAL4, UAS-Dcr2* (Fig. 8A). *UAS-Cb1^{RNAi 14.A}* was similarly used to disrupt *Cb1* (Fig. 6B, see below).

Transcriptional reporters—*hbs* expression was assayed in a P[w+]36.1 background (Artero et al., 2001) and *rst* expression was assessed using *rst^{F6}-lacZ* (gift of Karl Fischbach) (Fig. 3).

Endocytosis—To disrupt Dynamin temperature-sensitive *shi*², pupae were shifted to 31°C for 4 hr immediately prior to dissection (Fig. 6B) along with control *CantonS* pupae (Fig. 6A). To mildly disrupt Dynamin activity, dominant-negative *UAS-shi^{K44A}* (Moline et al., 1999) was expressed using *Iz-GAL4* (gift from G. Struhl) (Flores et al., 1998).

Genetic interactions—We tested whether *Rab5*² (Wucherpfennig et al., 2003), *shi*^{FL54} (Yan et al., 2009) (gifts from D. Bilder), and *CbI*^{F165} (Pai et al., 2000) modified *cindr* by generating heterozygous tissue in a *GMR-GAL4/+; UAS-cindr*^{R-NAi2.21/+} background (Fig. 7). Tissue dissected at 41 hr APF was analyzed to determine the mean number of patterning errors (ommatidial mis-patterning score, OMS) for each genotype as previously described (Johnson and Cagan, 2009). Statistical significance was determined using Student's *t*-tests.

Patterning disruption—Expression of *UAS-p35* (driven by *GMR-GAL4*) inhibited apoptosis of IPCs; ectopic cells occasionally failed to intercalate into singe rows (Fig. 8E).

Immunofluorescence and Microscopy

Primary antibodies were rat anti-DE-Cad2 (1:20, DSHB), mouse anti-Rst (Mab24A5.1; 1:40) (Schneider et al., 1995), rabbit anti-Hbs (AS14; 1:2,500) (Bao et al., 2010), rat anti-kirre (1:5,000) (Bao et al., 2010), rabbit anti-Sns (1:300) (Bour et al., 2000), and rabbit anti- β Gal (40-1-a, 1:20, DSHB). Images were gathered using Leica Microsystems (Exton, PA) TCS SP5 DM or DMI microscopes (Figs. 2 and 3), a Zeiss (Thornwood, NY) Axio-plan2 and Apotome (Figs. 5, 6, and 8), or Leica DM5500 (Fig. 7). Maximal projection images were minimally processed in Photoshop (Adobe, San Jose, CA).

Transgenic Fly Lines

To generate *pUAST-Rst:V5, a rst:V5* fragment was released with BglII/NotI cleavage from *hs-rst-V5* (Bao and Cagan, 2005) and inserted into *pUAST*.

To generate *pUASh-hbs:3×FLAG*, *hbs*, cDNA was first sub-cloned into *pGEM-S1* (Bao and Cagan, 2006) to yield *pGEM-S1-hbs*. A small 3' fragment of *hbs* and the *3×FLAG* sequence were joined and amplified using a linking PCR technique. 3'-*hbs:3×FLAG* was released with EcoNI/SpeI to replace the corresponding fragment of *hbs* (3'-*hbs*) in *pGEM-S1-hbs*. The entire *hbs:3×FLAG* was inserted into the XbaI site of *pUASh* (derived from *pUAST* by replacing the 3'-UTR of SV40 with that from *hbs* using XbaI/StuI), giving rise to *pUASh-hbs:3×FLAG*.

We generated *pUAST-Cbl^{RNAi}* to contain inverted 461-bp repeats (beginning 276 bp downstream from the Cbl translation start) as described previously (Bao and Cagan, 2006). The PCR template was clone LD46082 (Drosophila Genomics Resource Center). Quantitative PCR confirmed targeted reduction of *Cbl* transcripts to less than 30% when this transgene was expressed in embryos (data not shown, primer information available on request).

The completed vectors were used to generate transgenic *UAS-Rst:V5, UAS-hbs:FLAG* and *UAS-Cbl^{RNAi}* fly lines using standard techniques (BestGene, Chino Hills, CA).

Binding Assays

Three independent replicates of binding assays were performed.

Drosophila crosses—*UAS-Rst: V5, UAS-hbs:FLAG* (both described above), *UAS-sns:HA* (Zhuang et al., 2009), *UAS-kirre:FLAG* (Menon et al., 2005), *fas2*^{EP1462} (*UAS-fas2*, P.Rorth), or *UAS-DE-Cadherin:GFP* (Oda and Tsukita, 2001) were crossed to *da-GAL4*. Embryos were gathered 2–24 hr after egg laying.

Co-immunoprecipitation—Embryos were dechorionated, washed in distilled H_2O , and resuspended in 20 mM HEPES (pH 7.5) with 5% glycerol and 0.2% BSA. Dimethyl 3,3[']-dithiobis-proppionimidate-2HCl) (DTBP) was added to a final concentration of 3 mM and the embryos incubated at room temperature for 30 min with gentle rocking. The cross-linking reaction was terminated by addition of 30 mM Tris and a further 15-min incubation. Embryos were washed three times, lysed in a modified Tris buffer (Veraksa et al., 2005) with 1% Triton-X, and incubated on ice for 20 min. The lysate was centrifuged (5 min at 5,500 rpm), the supernatant first pre-cleared with 20- μ L beads (Protein A/G UltraLink® Resin, Thermo Scientific, Waltham, MA), and then incubated with 60 μ L of rabbit anti-Cindr (Johnson et al., 2008) and 40- μ L beads overnight at 4°C.

GST pull-down—Embryo lysate was prepared as described above though the cross-linking incubation in DTBP was omitted. After centrifugation, the lysate was divided into equal parts and incubated overnight at 4°C with 100 μ L glutathione-agarose beads (Sigma, St. Louis, MO) and GST:Cindr, (Johnson et al., 2011), GST, or beads only.

Western analysis—Following multiple washes, coimmunoprecipitation or GST-pulldown samples were separated by SDS-PAGE. Blots were probed with mouse anti-FLAG (1:6,000, M2, Sigma), mouse anti-V5 (1:3,000, V8012, Sigma), mouse anti-HA (1:2,000, 3F10, Roche, Indianapolis, IN), mouse anti-Fas2 (1:500, 1DE, DSHB, Iowa City, IA), or rat anti-ECad1 (1:500; Oda et al., 1994).

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

Acknowledgments

This work was funded by RO1 EY11495 awarded to R.L.C. and a grant from the KMD Foundation awarded to S.B. R.I.J. was supported by a Robin Chemers Neustein Post-doctoral Fellowship award. Imaging was performed in the laboratory of RLC or at the MSSM Shared Resource Facility (supported by NIH-NCI shared resources grant 5R24 CA095823-04, NSF Major Research Instrumentation grant DBI-9724504, and NIH shared instrumentation grant 1 S10 RR0 9145-01).

Grant sponsor: NIH; Grant number: RO1EY11495; Grant sponsor: The KMD Foundation.

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Key Findings

- In the *Drosophila* eye, distribution of the IgCAMs Rst and Hbs is regulated by the adaptor protein Cindr.
- Cindr functions in two converse processes, targeting Rst and Hbs for endocytic regulation and stabilizing Rst-Hbs complexes at cell junctions.
- Hence, Cindr recapitulates both proposed functions of its mammalian orthologs Cd2ap and Cin85.
- Regulation of Cindr is a key step for facilitating tissue plasticity during morphogenesis and maintaining functional structures in mature tissues.



Fig. 1.

Illustrations of *rst* and hbs expression and protein localization. **A**: Illustration of a single ommatidium at 24 hr APF. The accessory cells include four central cone (blue) and two 1° cells (orange). A hexagonal lattice of interweaving IPCs (pink) separates neighboring ommatidia. Bristle groups (brown) occupy alternative vertices about each ommatidium. **B**,**C**: Illustrations of single ommatidia in pupal retinas at 24 and 41 hr APF, respectively. Cells expressing *rst* and *hbs* are colored pink or green, respectively, and expression level is reflected by color intensity. **D**: Illustration of Rst and Hbs protein localization, exclusively at 1°:IPC membranes at 41 hr APF. Asterisks in C and D mark a corresponding corner IPC.



Fig. 2

. Correct localization of Drosophila Rst and Hbs depends on Cindr. **A–C**: Detection of DE-Cad, Rst, and Hbs in *GMR-GAL4>lacZ* retina (wild type protein localization) and (**D–F**) retina expressing *cindr^{RNAi}* transgenes. Arrowheads in A and D–F indicate Rst and Hbs localized to IPC:IPC borders. Eyes were dissected at 24, 28, and 41 hr APF as indicated. Scale bars = 10 μ m.



Fig. 3.

rst and *hbs* expression is not directly dependent on Cindr. **A**: Wild-type expression of a *hbs*-*lacZ* transcriptional reporter (green) in cone (asterisk) and 1° cell nuclei (°), detected with an antibody to β -galactosidase. **B**: Expression of a *rst-lacZ* transcriptional reporter (green) is detected in the cytoplasm of IPCs in a wild type retina. **C**: In retinas expressing a *cindr*^{RNAi} transgene, *hbs-lacZ* expression is detected in cells likely to have been displaced from former 1° cell niches (examples highlighted with arrowheads). Note that in this confocal image, the adherens junction (DE-Cadherin) and nuclear planes do not lie immediately perpendicular. **D**: *rst-lacZ* expression is absent or reduced in large cells likely displaced from former 1° cell niches (examples indicated with arrowheads). Scale bars = 10 µm.



Fig. 4.

Cindr interacts with specific adhesion receptors. Tagged (A) *hbs*, (B) *rst*, (C) *sns*, or (D) *kirre* were expressed in embryos using the da-GAL4 driver and precipitated with (+) or without (-) the anti-Cindr antibody. Western blot analyses were performed with antibodies to the protein tags. (E) *fas2* or (F) *DE-Cad* were expressed in embryos and similarly precipitated with anti-Cindr; blots were probed with antibodies to Fas2 and DE-Cad, respectively. For C and D, 80% of the eluant of each co-immunoprecipitation reaction was analysed; 50% of each reaction was loaded in all other Western analyses shown.



Fig. 5.

 $cindr^{RNAi}$ expression mildly disrupts Kirre and Sns. **A,B**: Detection of Kirre and Sns in GMR-GAL4>lacZ retina (wild type protein localization) and (**C**) and (**D**) retina expressing $cindr^{RNAi}$ transgenes. Arrowheads in C and D indicate Kirre and Sns mis-localized to IPC:IPC borders. Eyes were dissected at 28 and 41 hr APF as indicated. Scale bars = 10 µm.



Fig. 6.

Localization of Rst and Hbs is endocytically regulated. DE-Cad, Rst, and Hbs are distributed normally in a retina expressing (**A**) *Dicer2* and *lacZ* but when (**B**) an RNAi transgene targeting *Cbl* is expressed Rst and Hbs remain at most IPC:IPC boundaries (arrowheads point to examples). Similarly IgCAM localization was wild type in (**C**) a Canton S retina despite a 4-hr temperature shift to 31°C, but abberant in (**D**) a *shi²* retina following 4 hr at 31°C to inhibit endocytosis and (**E**) in a retina expressing moderate levels of dominant-negative *shibire* (using a lozenge-GAL4 driver line). Red arrowheads highlight Rst detected at IPC:IPC membranes; green arrow in D marks Hbs localized around the cone cell group. Tissue was dissected at times indicated. Scale bars = 10 μ m.



Fig. 7.

 $cindr^{RNAi}$ mis-patterning is modified by endocytic loci. A: The correct position and shape of IPCs, 1°, and cone cells is disrupted when (**B**) *cindr* is mildly targeted by RNAi. **C**: This mis-patterning is enhanced when tissue is also heterozygous for *Cbl* and mildly but not significantly enhanced in (**D**) *shi* and (**E**) *Rab5* heterozygotes. Tissue was dissected at 41 hr APF. Images on left were modified (right) and pseudo-colored to highlight IPCs (pink) and central cone and 1° cells (not colored). The mean number of patterning errors observed (OMS) in each genotype is indicated. See Supp. Table S1 for further information and statistical test values. Scale bars = 10 µm.



Fig. 8.

Disrupting complex formation affects Rst and Hbs localization. Detection of DE-Cad, Rst, and Hbs in (**A**) *GMR*, *Dcr2>lacZ*, (**B**) *GMR*, *Dcr2>rst^{RNAi}*, *kirre^{RNAi}*, (**C**) *GMR*, *Dcr2>hbs^{RNAi}*, *snshbsRNAi*, *snsRNAI*, (**D**) *GMR>lacZ*, and (**E**) *GMR>p35* retinas, all dissected at 31 hr APF. In E, green box highlights one region where IPCs remain in multiple rows, yet Rst and Hbs localize to only 1:IPC borders (right-hand panels). Scale bars = 10 μ m.



Fig. 9.

A model of the processes that regulate correct localization of Rst and Hbs in mature Drosophila eye epithelia. **A**: At early stages, Hbs (green rectangles) and Rst (pink rectangles) are localized to adherens junctions of all epithelial cells where they form homoand heterophilic complexes (left; IPCs are colored light pink, I°s are colored light orange). The proteins have a greater affinity to form heterophilic complexes. As the eye matures (A) *hbs* and *rst* expression is differentially restricted, (B) complexes are internalized and degraded, and (C) Hbs-Rst complexes are anchored to the cytoskeleton. Localization is consequently restricted to I°:IPC boundaries. **B**: Cindr plays a role in the latter two processes. Hence in *cindr^{RNAi}* retina, internalization is disrupted or delayed and Hbs-Rst complexes are not securely tethered to the cytoskeleton. Hbs and Rst complexes, therefore, remain at all IPC membranes.