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Dynamics of learning-related cAMP signaling and stimulus integration in the *Drosophila* olfactory pathway

Seth M. Tomchik^{1,3} and Ronald L. Davis^{1,2}

Seth M. Tomchik: stomchik@scripps.edu; Ronald L. Davis: rdavis@scripps.edu

¹Molecular and Cellular Biology, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX 77030, USA

²Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX 77030, USA

³W.M. Keck Center for Interdisciplinary Bioscience Training, Houston, TX 77005, USA

SUMMARY

Functional imaging with genetically-encoded calcium and cAMP reporters was used to examine the signal integration underlying learning in *Drosophila*. Dopamine and octopamine modulated intracellular cAMP in spatially-distinct patterns in mushroom body neurons. Pairing of neuronal depolarization with subsequent dopamine application revealed a synergistic increase in cAMP in the mushroom body lobes, which was dependent on the *rutabaga* adenylyl cyclase. This synergy was restricted to the axons of mushroom body neurons, and occurred only following forward pairing with time intervals similar to those required for behavioral conditioning. In contrast, forward pairing of neuronal depolarization and octopamine produced a sub-additive effect on cAMP. Finally, elevating intracellular cAMP facilitated calcium transients in mushroom body neurons, suggesting that cAMP elevation is sufficient to induce presynaptic plasticity. These data suggest that *rutabaga* functions as a coincidence detector in an intact neuronal circuit, with dopamine and octopamine bidirectionally influencing the generation of cAMP.

INTRODUCTION

Olfactory classical conditioning is a well-studied form of associative learning in the fruit fly *Drosophila melanogaster*. In this paradigm, a fly is trained to associate an odor, the conditioned stimulus (CS), with a reward or punishment, the unconditioned stimulus (US). Genetic screens in *Drosophila* have uncovered many genes that are required for olfactory classical conditioning (Davis, 1996, 2005). Several of these function in the 3'-5'-cyclic adenosine monophosphate (cAMP) signaling pathway, including *rutabaga* (*rut*), which encodes an adenylyl cyclase (AC) related to the mammalian type-I cyclase.

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Correspondence to: Seth M. Tomchik, stomchik@scripps.edu; Ronald L. Davis, rdavis@scripps.edu.

Present address: Department of Neuroscience, Scripps Florida, 130 Scripps Way #C349, Jupiter, FL 33458, Tel: 561-228-3463, Fax: 561-228-3049

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Additional details can be found in the Supplemental Experimental Procedures.

A long-standing hypothesis is that cAMP elevation may “trigger” olfactory memory formation (e.g., Davis, 1993; Davis, 2005; Keene and Waddell, 2007). Neurons in the olfactory pathway are directly activated by odor, resulting in calcium influx through voltage-sensitive calcium channels. They also may receive information about punishment and reward via dopaminergic and octopaminergic interneurons, respectively (Han et al., 1996; Han et al., 1998; Schwaerzel et al., 2003; Schroll et al., 2006). These two input pathways could converge on the *rut* AC, which is sensitive to both calcium and G protein stimulation (Livingstone et al., 1984; Levin et al., 1992). In *Aplysia*, pairing calcium with activation of G protein signaling (via serotonin) generates synergistic increases in cAMP in membrane preparations (Abrams et al., 1991; Yovell and Abrams, 1992). A similar effect may occur in *Drosophila* when calcium is paired with dopamine and/or octopamine. However, there is little direct evidence to support this hypothesis for *Drosophila* memory formation, and likewise there is little experimental support for synergistic increases in cAMP in a preparation where neural circuitry remains intact.

Several anatomical regions of the *Drosophila* brain are involved in olfactory associative learning (Davis, 2005; Keene and Waddell, 2007; Liu and Davis, 2006). Functional imaging experiments have revealed memory traces in several areas: the antennal lobe, DPM neuron, APL neuron, and mushroom body α/β and α'/β' neurons (Yu et al., 2003, 2005, 2006; Ashraf et al., 2006; Wang et al., 2008; Liu and Davis, 2009). These memory traces were observed as alterations in synaptic transmission and/or calcium influx, and represent direct observations of plasticity that is associated with learning. Memory traces in the DPM neuron and mushroom body neurons are branch specific, occurring only in the vertical lobes (not the medial lobes) – i.e., they appear in one set of axon collaterals independent of the other. In addition, the plasticity associated with appetitive conditioning may be spread across both the antennal lobes and mushroom bodies (Thum et al., 2007).

The mushroom body may be a critical site of CS/US integration through cAMP signaling. Several different enzymes of the cAMP signaling pathway exhibit preferential expression in the mushroom body (Nighorn et al., 1991; Han et al., 1992; Skoulakis et al., 1993). The alpha-lobes-absent mutant, which lacks the vertical α and α' mushroom body lobes, is deficient in long-term aversive memory (Pascual and Pr at, 2001). Most compelling, prior transgenic rescue experiments revealed that wild-type *rut* function is required only in the adult mushroom body for complete phenotypic rescue in aversive conditioning tests (Zars et al., 2000; McGuire et al., 2003; Mao et al., 2004). Since cAMP signaling is critical for performance in both appetitive and aversive conditioning paradigms (Tempel et al., 1983), the intracellular signaling cascades are likely similar in both types of learning.

Many details about the cellular pathways, temporal steps, and CS/US integration underlying learning are poorly understood. For instance, (i) how do calcium and cAMP levels change upon arrival of the CS or US? (ii) What effect does CS/US coincidence have on cAMP levels? (iii) Is elevation of cAMP sufficient to induce plasticity? Here we have examined these questions using a novel preparation in which functional imaging of calcium and cAMP in intact *Drosophila* brains was paired with focal application of neurotransmitters, an approach akin to those used effectively to dissect cellular memory in *Aplysia* (e.g., Martin et al., 1997; Kandel, 2001). This hybrid approach, incorporating a complete intact neuronal

circuit with the specificity of focal neurotransmitter application, bridges the gap between *in vivo* methods and more reduced preparations.

RESULTS

Effects of dopamine and octopamine on calcium and cAMP in mushroom body neurons

To determine the intracellular signaling cascades activated by the neurotransmitters dopamine and octopamine, we first tested whether mushroom body neurons in dissected brains respond to these transmitters with a change in intracellular calcium. We used the GAL4-UAS system to express a genetically-encoded calcium indicator, G-CaMP 1.6 (Reiff et al., 2005), in the adult *Drosophila* mushroom bodies using the 238Y-GAL4 driver (Yang et al., 1995). This GAL4 driver expresses in all three class of mushroom body neurons – α/β , α'/β' , and γ . The tip of the mushroom body α lobe was imaged, which contains bundled axons of intrinsic mushroom body α/β neurons (Figure 1A). We verified in initial experiments that the isolated brains were viable by depolarizing the neurons with a bath-applied high- K^+ solution (saline containing 100 mM K^+). Upon depolarization, we observed robust calcium transients in the mushroom body α lobe (Figure 1B). Brains were viable *in vitro* for 4 hours, but we restricted recordings to within 1.5 hours of the dissection.

The effects of dopamine and octopamine on intracellular calcium were tested by bath-applying each in concentrations ranging from 1 μ M to 10 mM. We observed large calcium transients in the α lobe following application of 10 mM octopamine ($15.0 \pm 2.0\%$ F/F_0) (Figure 1 C,D,F). However, at lower concentrations we observed only small responses (Figure 1 D,F). Dopamine did not evoke consistent responses at any concentration that was tested (Figure 1 E,F). Octopamine produced significantly larger responses than dopamine at 10 mM (Fisher's LSD following ANOVA, $p < 0.001$). Since depolarization and subsequent firing of action potentials generate large influxes of calcium, it follows that dopamine and octopamine do not significantly depolarize mushroom body neurons at low to moderate concentrations. Similar results were obtained for the α' lobe (not shown).

Since dopamine and octopamine receptors are coupled to cAMP signaling in addition to calcium (Han et al., 1996, 1998), we turned to cAMP imaging using the genetically-encoded optical reporter epac1-camps (Nikolaev et al., 2004; Shafer et al., 2008). Epac1-camps is a fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET)-based reporter comprised of a cAMP binding domain with cyan and yellow fluorescent proteins (CFP and YFP). When the CFP is excited, the inverse FRET ratio (CFP:YFP emission) is proportional to the intracellular cAMP concentration. Epac1-camps has been previously used as a cAMP reporter in *Drosophila* (Shafer et al., 2008). In initial experiments, we confirmed the responses of the reporter by using forskolin to elevate cAMP via direct stimulation of adenylyl cyclases. Brains were dissected from flies expressing epac1-camps in the mushroom body neurons using the 238Y-GAL4 driver (Figure 2A). Upon stimulation with forskolin, we observed an increase in the inverse FRET ratio (plotted as R/R_0) (Figure 2 B,C). When the reporter was excited with a 514-nm laser line, which excites primarily the YFP, there was no decrease in YFP fluorescence. The increases in cAMP following forskolin application were concentration-dependent (Figure 2 B,D). Although epac1-camps been reported to respond to both cAMP and cGMP in the *Drosophila* neuromuscular junction (Shakiryanova and

Levitan, 2008), we found no evidence of cGMP responses in the mushroom body (Supplemental Figure 2). Having verified that we could reliably detect cAMP increases, we turned to measuring the changes in cAMP induced by application of dopamine and octopamine.

Responses of the mushroom body α lobe to bath-applied dopamine and octopamine were tested in brains isolated from 238Y-GAL4>UAS-epac1-camps flies. Both dopamine and octopamine produced concentration-dependent increases in cAMP in the lobe (Figure 2E). The octopamine responses were significantly larger at 10 μ M and 100 μ M (Fisher's LSD following ANOVA, respectively: $p = 0.0085$ and 0.0070). The magnitude of the cAMP changes evoked by 10 mM dopamine were not significantly different than those generated by 10 μ M forskolin (mean \pm S.E.M.: $11.9 \pm 1.3\%$ and $11.2 \pm 1.2\%$ R/R₀, respectively; t test, $p = 0.72$) (Figure 2 D,E).

Since approximately 50% of initial learning performance is dependent upon the *rutabaga* AC, it follows that *rut*-generated cAMP underlies this fraction of initial performance (Han et al., 1992). Therefore, we tested whether the cAMP responses to dopamine and octopamine in the mushroom body were dependent on *rut*. We focused on the mushroom body, as prior experiments showed that *rut* expression in mushroom body neurons is sufficient to support performance in aversive conditioning paradigms (Zars et al., 2000; McGuire et al., 2003; Mao et al., 2004). Dose-response curves were collected for dopamine and octopamine in *rut*¹ and control flies (heterozygous *rut*¹/*rut*⁺ flies, which perform at wild-type level in initial learning tests; Han et al., 1992; Supplemental Figure 3) (Figure 2 F,G). Expression of epac1-camps was driven in the mushroom bodies by 238Y-GAL4, and responses were recorded from the lobe. There was no significant difference between the responses of the control and mutant flies for either dopamine (repeated-measures ANOVA, $p = 0.59$, $n = 13$; Figure 2F) or octopamine ($p = 0.29$, $n = 13$; Figure 2G). This suggests that the increases in cAMP that are evoked by bath application of dopamine and octopamine are mediated by a different adenylyl cyclase.

Dopamine and octopamine elevate cAMP in different spatial patterns

We compared the cAMP responses in the dendrites (calyx) and axons (α lobe) of mushroom body α/β neurons using the α/β neuron-specific *c739*-GAL4 driver (Figure 3). The responses in the α lobe were similar to those recorded in the lobe with the 238Y-GAL4 driver – we observed consistent concentration-dependent increases in cAMP with both dopamine and octopamine (Figure 3 A,C,D). However, the responses to dopamine in the calyx were remarkably different than those recorded in the α lobe (Figure 3 A–C). We observed heterogeneity in both the sign and magnitude among calyx responses to dopamine. Dopamine increased cAMP in the calyx in some recordings, and decreased it in others (Figure 3B). This heterogeneity resulted in a non-sigmoid, relatively flat dose-response curve (Figure 3C). The dopamine responses in the lobe were significantly larger at 1 mM and 10 mM (Fisher's LSD following ANOVA, respectively: $p = 0.0065$ and <0.001). The calyx was highly sensitive to octopamine, with responses observed to concentrations as low as 1 μ M and saturation occurring at 10 μ M (Figure 3D). There were significantly larger responses to octopamine in the calyx at 100 nM, 1 μ M, and 10 μ M (Fisher's LSD following

ANOVA, respectively: $p = 0.043$, 0.0027 , and 0.020). Since the responses in the calyx differed significantly from those in the α lobe (especially to dopamine), cAMP diffusion must be spatially-restricted within mushroom body α/β neurons. The difference in dopamine effects between the calyx and lobes further suggests that dopamine may play a different role in these two areas.

The mushroom body α'/β' and γ neurons were also tested for cAMP responsiveness to dopamine and octopamine by driving *epac1-camps* with *c305a-GAL4* (Krashes et al., 2007) and *1471-GAL4* (Isabel et al., 2004), respectively. We observed concentration-dependent increases in cAMP in these sets of mushroom body neurons (Figure 4 A,B). However, these neurons were less sensitive. Their thresholds were 10–100 μM , and we did not observe an asymptote within the range of concentrations tested. There was no significant difference between the responses to dopamine and octopamine in either the α' lobe (repeated-measures ANOVA, $p = 0.38$, $n = 5$) or the γ lobe ($p = 0.95$, $n = 5$).

The DPM neuron, a mushroom body extrinsic neuron that innervates the mushroom body lobes, was tested by imaging its processes innervating the α lobe using the *c316-GAL4* driver (Waddell et al., 2000). The responses to octopamine were significantly larger than the dopamine responses at 1 mM ($p = 0.034$ following ANOVA). We observed responses in the DPM neuron only at the two highest concentrations tested (1 mM and 10 mM) (Figure 4C).

Finally, we tested the projection neurons of the antennal lobe, which relay olfactory information from the antennal lobes to the mushroom body. The *GH146-GAL4* driver (Stocker et al., 1997) was used to express *epac1-camps* in the antennal lobe projection neurons. First we imaged the dendrites of the projection neurons in the antennal lobes. All visible glomeruli were collectively recorded in one region of interest drawn around the antennal lobe. The projection neuron dendrites exhibited concentration-dependent increases in cAMP to dopamine and octopamine (Figure 4D). The responses to octopamine were significantly larger than to dopamine at 100 nM, 1 μM , 10 μM , 100 μM , and 10 mM (Fisher's LSD following ANOVA, respectively: $p = 0.0081$, 0.034 , 0.0046 , <0.001 , and <0.001). Similar, though somewhat smaller, responses were observed in the axons of the projection neurons, imaged at the location of the axon terminals in the mushroom body calyx (Figure 4E). The responses to octopamine were significantly larger than to dopamine at 1 μM , 10 μM , 100 μM , and 1 mM (Fisher's LSD following ANOVA, respectively: $p = 0.017$, 0.0084 , 0.011 , and <0.001). The projection neurons exhibited the largest responses of any area imaged in this study (Figure 4).

The *rutabaga* adenylyl cyclase generates synergistic cAMP elevations

To test whether the *rut* cyclase functions as a molecular coincidence detector within an intact neural circuit, we studied the dynamics of cAMP changes while focally applying neurotransmitters sequentially to the mushroom body lobes and calyx with micropipettes (Figure 5). *Drosophila* brains expressing the cAMP reporter in the mushroom bodies (*238Y-GAL4>UAS-epac1-camps*) were imaged. Acetylcholine (30 mM) was applied to the mushroom body calyx with a glass micropipette (Figure 5A). Mushroom body neurons receive synaptic input from cholinergic synapses of the projection neurons (Gu and O'Dowd, 2006), and acetylcholine thus simulates synaptic input to mushroom body neurons,

which encodes the CS during olfactory learning. Dopamine (1 mM) or octopamine (100 μ M) was applied to the vertical mushroom body lobes to simulate the US (Figure 5), as previous work has shown that the majority of dopaminergic projections in the mushroom body innervate the lobes (Friggi-Grelin et al., 2003; Mao and Davis, 2009). At the beginning of each experiment, the stimuli were adjusted so that both acetylcholine and dopamine generated a response above threshold but below saturation, as measured in the mushroom body α lobe (Figure 5 C,D) (saturation occurs at 11.9% on average; Figure 2E). A series of pilot experiments revealed that multiple, sequential neurotransmitter stimulations did not produce any priming effect at an interstimulus interval of 3 m (Supplemental Figure 5).

To test for synergy, responses were recorded for each brain to dopamine and acetylcholine in separate trials (Figure 5 B–D), and the sum of the two individual trials was calculated (Figure 5E). Following washout, we paired the stimuli, applying acetylcholine to depolarize the mushroom body neurons, followed 1 s later by dopamine applied to the lobes (Figure 5B). This paired response was compared to the sum of the individual trials. If there was an additive effect, the sum of responses in the individual trials would equal that of the paired trial. However, if there was a synergistic effect, the response in the paired trial would be greater than the sum of those in the individual trials.

Using 238Y-GAL4>UAS-epac1-camps flies, we found that pairing of neuronal depolarization with dopamine application resulted in a larger increase in cAMP in the α lobe than the sum of both stimuli applied independently; i.e., the response was synergistic (Figure 5 E,F). Both the overall response profiles (repeated-measures ANOVA, $p = 0.0082$, $n = 11$) and the response magnitudes (t test, $p = 0.041$) differed significantly between the sum and paired responses (Figure 5 G,I). This effect was also observed in the α' lobe (t test; $p = 0.0025$, $n = 11$; Figure 5I). To ensure that the synergistic activation was not an artifact induced by either the 238Y-GAL4 or UAS-epac1-camps insertions, we repeated the experiments using the *c739*-GAL4 driver and a different epac1-camps insertion on the 3rd chromosome. Synergistic activation in the lobe was observed using the *c739* driver as well (t test, $p = 0.035$, $n = 12$; Figure 5I). The synergistic effect was absent in *rut*¹ mutant flies – neither the overall response profiles (repeated-measures ANOVA, $p = 0.15$, $n = 9$) nor the response magnitudes (t test, $p = 0.53$) differed significantly between the sum and paired responses in *rut*¹ flies (Figure 5 H,I). Heterozygous control flies exhibited the synergistic response, demonstrating that the loss of synergy in the *rut*¹ mutants is specifically due to the absence of the cyclase (t test, $p = 0.027$, $n = 9$; Figure 5I). Finally, we tested whether application of dopamine to the calyx would have the same effect. Focal application of both acetylcholine and dopamine to the calyx did not yield any synergy in the cAMP responses of the calyx (t test, $p = 0.36$, $n = 12$; Figure 5I). These data collectively demonstrate that neuronal depolarization followed by application of dopamine to the mushroom body lobes generates a *rut*-dependent, synergistic increase in cAMP in the mushroom body lobes.

To determine whether the synergistic effect exhibits similar temporal requirements as behavioral conditioning, we varied the delay between the acetylcholine and dopamine application in a series of experiments, and compared these results to behavioral trace conditioning (Figure 6). If the US is delayed 0 – 45 s following the CS, behavioral memory decays with greater time intervals, and backward pairing produces no memory (Tully and

Quinn, 1985; Figure 6 A,B). There was a significant difference in performance between the backward conditioned flies and the groups in which the CS and US were applied simultaneously (Fisher's LSD following ANOVA, $p < 0.001$, $n = 6$), as well as between the backward conditioned group and groups trace conditioned with 0 s ($p < 0.001$) or 15 s ($p = 0.0122$) CS-US delays. In imaging experiments, we tested the effect of varying the delay between application of acetylcholine and dopamine (Figure 6 C,D). Backward pairing (dopamine followed 15s later by acetylcholine) produced no significant synergy (t test, $p = 0.14$, $n = 13$). Forward pairing with a 1 s delay produced significant synergy ($p = 0.022$, $n = 7$). Forward pairing with a 15 s delay also produced a significant synergy ($p = 0.011$, $n = 11$), but with a 30 s delay the synergy was insignificant ($p = 0.24$, $n = 9$). Therefore, the temporal pairing requirements for synergy on cAMP levels are similar to the CS-US pairing window for performance in behavioral conditioning.

We additionally tested whether pairing neuronal depolarization with octopamine would produce the same synergistic effect. In contrast to our findings with dopamine, there was no synergistic increase in cAMP in the mushroom body or α' lobes when acetylcholine was paired with octopamine (Figure 5J). In fact, this pairing resulted in significantly less cAMP than the sum of each stimulus individually in both α and α' lobes (t tests, respectively: $p = 0.0026$ and 0.03 , $n = 12$). The sub-additive effect of pairing acetylcholine and octopamine was present in *rut¹* mutant flies ($p = 0.03$, $n = 9$; Figure 5J), suggesting that it is not mediated by the *rutabaga* adenylyl cyclase. There was no significant difference in the sum vs. paired responses when octopamine and acetylcholine were applied to the calyx ($p = 0.29$, $n = 12$). Anatomical studies have detected projections of putative octopaminergic neurons to the mushroom body γ lobe (Sinakevitch and Strausfeld, 2006; Busch et al., 2009). Therefore, we tested whether octopamine could function synergistically with neuronal depolarization in the γ lobe. However, we found no effect of pairing acetylcholine and octopamine in this lobe region ($p = 0.17$, $n = 8$; Figure 5J). Therefore, pairing acetylcholine and octopamine produces a sub-additive effect in the α and α' lobes, and a purely additive effect in the calyx or γ lobe.

Cyclic-AMP facilitates mushroom body calcium influx

Normal cAMP signaling is necessary specifically in the mushroom bodies for aversive olfactory learning (Zars et al., 2000; McGuire et al., 2003; Mao et al., 2004). However, it is unknown whether elevating cAMP alone is sufficient for neuronal plasticity that may underlie learning, or whether control of cAMP level is simply necessary for plasticity to occur.

A series of experiments were conducted to test whether elevating cAMP is sufficient to induce changes in the responsiveness of mushroom body neurons using calcium imaging. We searched for any change in the responsivity (either depression or facilitation) of mushroom body neurons to the acetylcholine stimulus. Brains were isolated from 238Y-GAL4>UAS-G-CaMP flies, and the calyx and α/α' lobes were imaged simultaneously while acetylcholine was focally applied to the calyx. The calcium transients in the calyx likely represent calcium influx through nicotinic acetylcholine receptors in the calyx (Gu and O'Dowd, 2006) with some possible contribution from back-propagating action potentials

from the lobes. Calcium transients in the lobes represent calcium influx through voltage-sensitive calcium channels in the axons and presynaptic terminals. Thus, this preparation allowed us to image both the activation of receptors in the calyx and a correlate of the action potential frequency in the lobes. After a second acetylcholine stimulus, forskolin was bath-applied for 2 minutes (during which a third recording was made) and then washed out (Figure 7A). Forskolin at 10 μ M was found to produce an equivalent increase in cAMP to that of a saturating concentration of dopamine (Figure 7A, Figure 2 D,E). Thus, the amount of cAMP generated by 10 μ M forskolin is within the range of cAMP generated by dopamine receptor activation in the mushroom body neurons.

In the presence of forskolin, the amplitude of the calcium transients in the mushroom body increased significantly in the α lobe, α' lobe, and calyx (t tests, respectively: $p = 0.002$, <0.001 , <0.001 , $n = 13$; Figure 7 A–C,F). This was not due to the effect of forskolin on voltage-gated potassium channels (Hoshi et al., 1988), since 1,9-dideoxyforskolin (dd-fsk) failed to produce the increase in calcium transients in the α lobe, α' lobe, or calyx (respectively: $p = 0.57$, 0.21 , 0.40 , $n = 11$; Figure 7 D,F). Dd-fsk has the same nonspecific effects of forskolin but does not elevate cAMP (Hoshi et al., 1988). Likewise, a vehicle control (0.01% DMSO) had no effect (α lobe; $p = 0.84$, $n = 7$; Figure 7F). These data collectively demonstrate that elevating cAMP facilitates the calcium responses of mushroom body neurons to stimulation by acetylcholine.

Calcium transients were facilitated across the mushroom body dendrites and axons following cAMP elevation. However, the source of this facilitation is unclear. It could be a neuron-wide change affecting the excitability of both the dendrites and axons. Alternatively, it could be due solely to an increase in excitability of the dendrites, as any widespread increase in dendritic excitability would likely propagate into the axons as a facilitation of action potential frequency and consequently an increase in calcium influx in both the dendrites and axons. These two possibilities can be distinguished. If the plasticity occurred solely in mushroom body dendrites, then it would be impossible to observe facilitation in the mushroom body axons in absence of facilitation in the calyx. Therefore, we examined the data for all of the brains individually, looking for cases in which there was no change in the calyx but facilitation in the axons. In all of the brains, the calcium transients recorded in the α lobe were facilitated. However, in three brains there was a clear increase in calcium responses in the lobes with no change in the calyx (Supplemental Figure 8). Thus, plasticity can occur independently in the mushroom body α lobe, although in most brains elevating cAMP generates facilitation in both the lobe and calyx.

Since dopamine elevates cAMP and acts synergistically with acetylcholine-evoked neuronal depolarization, does it also facilitate responses of mushroom body neurons? We found that a 1-minute application of dopamine significantly facilitated the responses of the α and α' lobe, while there was no effect in the calyx (t tests, respectively: $p = 0.047$, 0.0028 , 0.57 , $n = 13$; Figure 7 E-F). Therefore, in addition to directly elevating cAMP with forskolin, application of dopamine can facilitate the responses of mushroom body neurons – at least in the axons. This pattern is reminiscent of the distribution of dopaminergic innervation in the mushroom body (Friggi-Grelin et al., 2003; Mao and Davis, 2009), the distribution of dopaminergic receptors (Han et al., 1996; Kim et al., 2007), the pattern of cAMP elevation in mushroom

body neurons stimulated by bath-applied dopamine (dopamine consistently elevates cAMP only in the mushroom body lobes), and the requirement of dopamine application to the lobes for synergistic increases in cAMP. Thus, this effect may be due to activation of dopamine receptors on mushroom body axons and subsequent elevation of cAMP specifically in the axons.

DISCUSSION

We have presented data suggesting that *rut* mediates a synergistic increase in cAMP when dopamine and neuronal depolarization (via acetylcholine stimulation) are paired, an effect that exhibits similar temporal pairing requirements as behavioral conditioning. This provides strong evidence that the *rut*-encoded AC is a molecular coincidence detector, a long-hypothesized yet never adequately tested idea. The *Drosophila rut* AC is similar to the mammalian type-I AC (AC1) in that it is sensitive to stimulation by both $G_{\alpha s}$ and Ca^{2+}/CaM (Livingstone et al., 1984; Levin et al., 1992). When expressed in HEK cells, mammalian AC1 is only stimulated by G_s -coupled receptors if this stimulation is paired with calcium elevation, in which case a synergistic elevation of cAMP is observed (Wayman et al., 1994). Similarly, the only *rut*-dependent effect we observed was the synergistic increase in cAMP following pairing of dopamine and neuronal depolarization.

We observed cAMP responses to either acetylcholine or dopamine applied in isolation in both wild type and *rut*¹ flies. This suggests that there are additional adenylyl cyclases in the mushroom bodies that respond to unpaired dopamine and acetylcholine but do not generate synergistic increases in cAMP upon coincident depolarization. Several identified and putative ACs could underlie these responses in *rut*¹ mutants (DAC39E, DAC78C, DAC76E, CG32158, CG32301, CG32305). It is unlikely that the responses to acetylcholine-induced depolarization in *rut*¹ mutants are due to calcium-induced adenylyl cyclase activation, as previous studies did not detect any calcium sensitive cyclase activity in *rut*¹ mutants (Livingstone et al., 1984; Livingstone, 1985). There are several possible explanations for why we observed such increases in cAMP in *rut*¹ mutants. Remaining adenylyl cyclases could be directly activated by depolarization (Cooper et al., 1998) or via muscarinic acetylcholine receptors that positively couple cAMP (Dittman et al., 1994). Alternatively, the DPM neurons could be downstream of the mushroom body neurons and provide feedback on the mushroom bodies. The DPM neurons are believed to release a peptide that stimulates cAMP (Waddell et al., 2000). This alternative model emphasizes the need to evaluate responses within the context of a neural circuit, as allowed by the preparation used for our studies.

Synergistic increases in cAMP were observed when acetylcholine was paired with dopamine, but the opposite effect occurred when acetylcholine was paired with octopamine. Various *Drosophila* tyramine/octopamine receptors can simulate or inhibit the production of cAMP (Evans and Maqueira, 2005), which may explain the inhibition of cAMP generation when octopamine was paired with acetylcholine. This inhibitory effect does not require *rut*, and is therefore likely mediated by other cyclases. There are several implications of this finding in terms of the role of octopamine in conditioning. Previous data have suggested that dopamine and octopamine may relay the aversive and appetitive US, respectively

(Schwaerzel et al., 2003). If this model is correct, then our data suggest that an appetitive stimulus could suppress the responses of mushroom body neurons to a subsequent conditioned stimulus. However, dopamine plays a role in both appetitive and aversive learning (Kim et al., 2007). This opens the alternate possibility that dopamine could relay both appetitive and aversive unconditioned stimuli, with octopamine playing a different role in MB physiology.

Data from our preparation suggest that elevating cAMP is sufficient to induce plasticity in the mushroom bodies, facilitating the calcium responses of mushroom body neurons to stimulation by acetylcholine. Therefore, cAMP appears to be both necessary and sufficient for neuronal plasticity in the mushroom body. There are several mechanisms by which cAMP could facilitate responses of mushroom body neurons. Cyclic-AMP could elevate membrane potential by activating cyclic nucleotide-gated channels, which are expressed in the *Drosophila* antennal lobes and mushroom body neurons (among other areas) (Miyazu et al., 2000). Cyclic-AMP has been shown to have direct effects on a K⁺-selective ion channel (e.g., Delgado et al., 1991). In addition, cAMP could affect neuronal excitability via activation of protein kinase A (PKA). Likely targets of PKA phosphorylation include Na⁺ and K⁺ channels (Gordon et al., 1990; Brüggemann et al., 1993; Zhou et al., 2002), modulation of which can influence neuronal excitability. In cricket mushroom body neurons, Na⁺-activated K⁺ channels are modulated by dopamine and octopamine, as well as cAMP/PKA and cGMP/PKG pathways (Aoki et al., 2008). Notably, presynaptic facilitation in *Aplysia* sensory neurons relies on modulation of potassium channels by cAMP/PKA (Siegelbaum et al., 1982).

Plasticity in the *Drosophila* mushroom body shares some features with the plasticity that underlies the siphon withdrawal reflex in *Aplysia*. In addition to having a large presynaptic component, with cAMP increases being both necessary and sufficient, this type of plasticity involves increased influx of calcium into the presynaptic terminal (Klein and Kandel, 1978). In both *Drosophila* and *Aplysia*, the plasticity appears to be heterosynaptic, requiring input from neurons releasing serotonin in *Aplysia* and dopamine (and/or octopamine) in *Drosophila*. In *Aplysia*, facilitation of sensory neuron-motor neuron synapses exhibits similar temporal requirements as behavioral conditioning (Carew et al., 1983; Hawkins et al., 1983). Likewise, we found that the synergistic generation of cAMP has similar temporal requirements as differential behavioral conditioning in flies. Thus, the synergistic increases in cAMP could underlie the plasticity that drives some of the behavioral modification following learning in *Drosophila*. However, there must be at least one other pathway for plasticity in *Drosophila*, as performance is reduced, but not eliminated, in *rut* mutants.

Different sets of mushroom body neurons appear to have different temporal roles in learning and memory, with synaptic transmission from α/β neurons being required during memory retrieval (Dubnau et al., 2001; McGuire et al., 2001) and synaptic transmission from α'/β' neurons and DPM neurons being required during learning and early memory consolidation (Keene et al., 2006; Krashes et al., 2007). That begs the question: which neurons are responsible for registering CS/US coincidence and initially triggering memory formation? One possibility is that CS/US coincidence is initially registered in the α'/β' neurons and then the memory is sequentially transferred to the α/β neurons during consolidation.

Alternatively, CS/US coincidence could be registered in parallel across both sets of neurons. Our data suggest that initial learning could be triggered in parallel across both the α/β and α'/β' neurons. We observed synergistic increases in cAMP in both the α and α' lobes, and increases in cAMP facilitated the responses of axons in both areas as well. This makes sense given that *rut* is expressed at high levels in both the α/β and α'/β' lobes (Han et al., 1992), suggesting that the molecular machinery for coincidence detection is present in both. It seems likely that the initial coincidence will occur in different sets of α/β and α'/β' neurons, depending on how any specific learned odor is represented by subsets of these neurons from the intrinsic wiring with the antennal lobe (Akalal et al., 2006).

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

Functional imaging

Flies were cultured according to standard methods. Calcium and cAMP were monitored via functional imaging using the genetically encoded reporters G-CaMP1.6 (Reiff et al., 2005) or epac1-camps (Nikolaev et al., 2004; Shafer et al., 2008), respectively. The reporters were expressed in specific neuronal populations with the GAL4-UAS system. Mushroom body α/β neurons were visualized with *c739-* and *238Y-*GAL4 drivers, which were chosen for their robust expression in neurons that are critical for olfactory memory (e.g., Zars et al., 2000; Dubnau et al., 2001; McGuire et al., 2001, 2003; Yu et al., 2006). For functional imaging, brains were dissected, maintained in a saline solution (1 ml/min continuous bath perfusion), and imaged with confocal microscopy. G-CaMP and epac1-camps were imaged with appropriate laser lines and emission filters. Responses were plotted as the baseline-normalized change in G-CaMP fluorescence (F/F_0) or change in epac1-camps inverse FRET ratio (R/R_0) within a circumscribed region of interest.

Bath application experiments

Dopamine and octopamine (dissolved in saline) were applied and washed out by switching the source of the bath perfusion solution for 30 s. A high- K^+ solution (100 mM K^+ in saline) was used to depolarize neurons in preliminary experiments.

Focal application experiments

Neurotransmitters (dopamine, octopamine, or acetylcholine) were dissolved in saline with 1 μ M Texas Red dextran (to allow optical monitoring of the stimulus duration and relative concentration). The solutions were applied focally to the mushroom body lobes or calyx via pressure ejection from a glass micropipette (5–10 μ M tip diameter). Dopamine and octopamine were applied to the lobes or calyx, while acetylcholine was applied exclusively to the calyx. The concentration of stimulus solutions reaching each target structure was adjusted by changing the pressure that was applied to the pipettes and/or the position of the pipette tip.

Behavioral Assays

Olfactory learning was tested using a classical conditioning paradigm in which flies were trained and tested in a T-maze (Tully and Quinn, 1985). The CS (odor) and US (electric shock) were applied either simultaneously or with varying time intervals (trace

conditioning). The odors 3-octanol and benzaldehyde were used as the CS+/CS- pair. Memory was tested behaviorally three minutes after training, and a performance index (P.I.) was calculated. A P.I. of 0 indicates performance at chance level (50:50 distribution in the T-maze), while a P.I. of 1 indicates that all flies made the correct choice in the T-maze).

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

Acknowledgments

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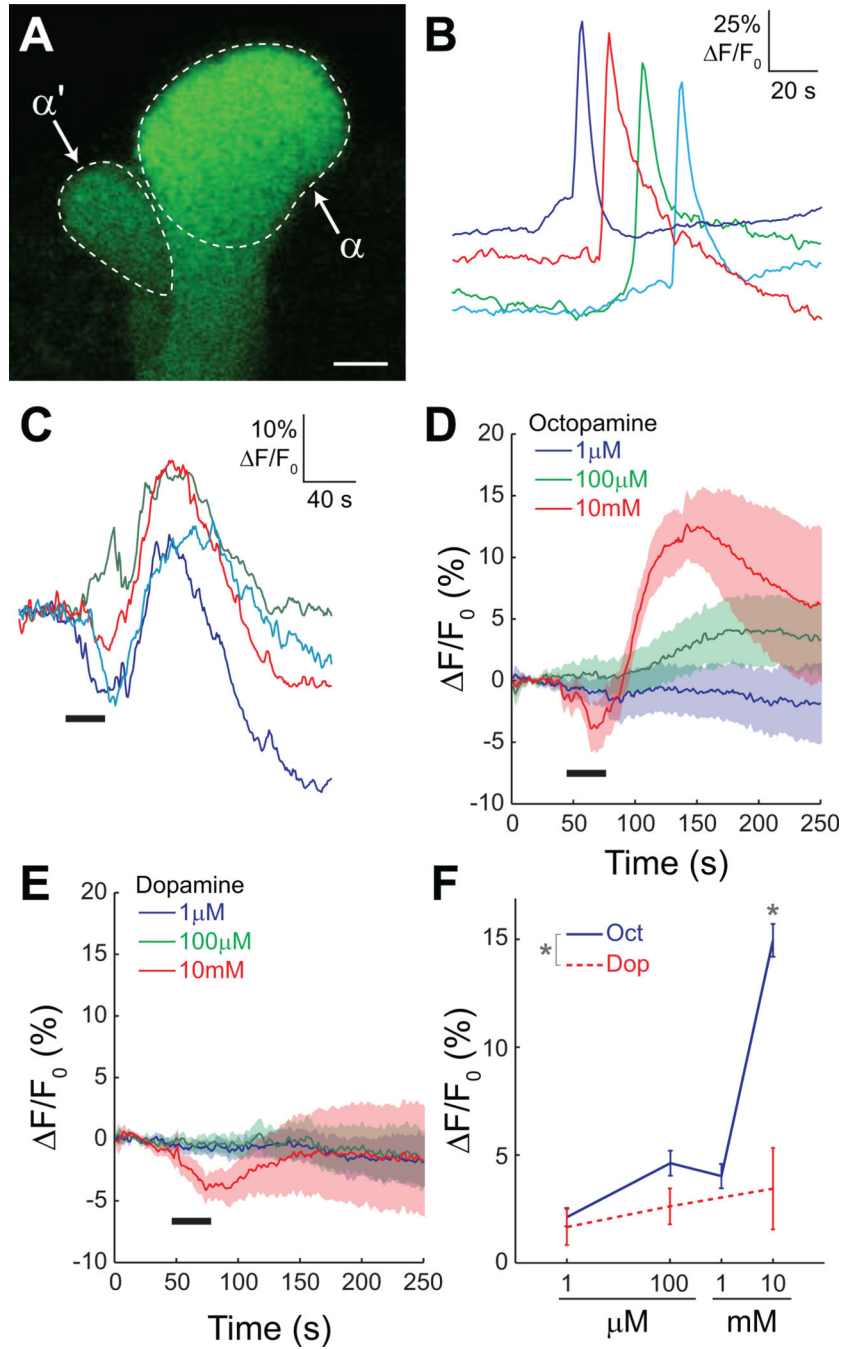


Figure 1.

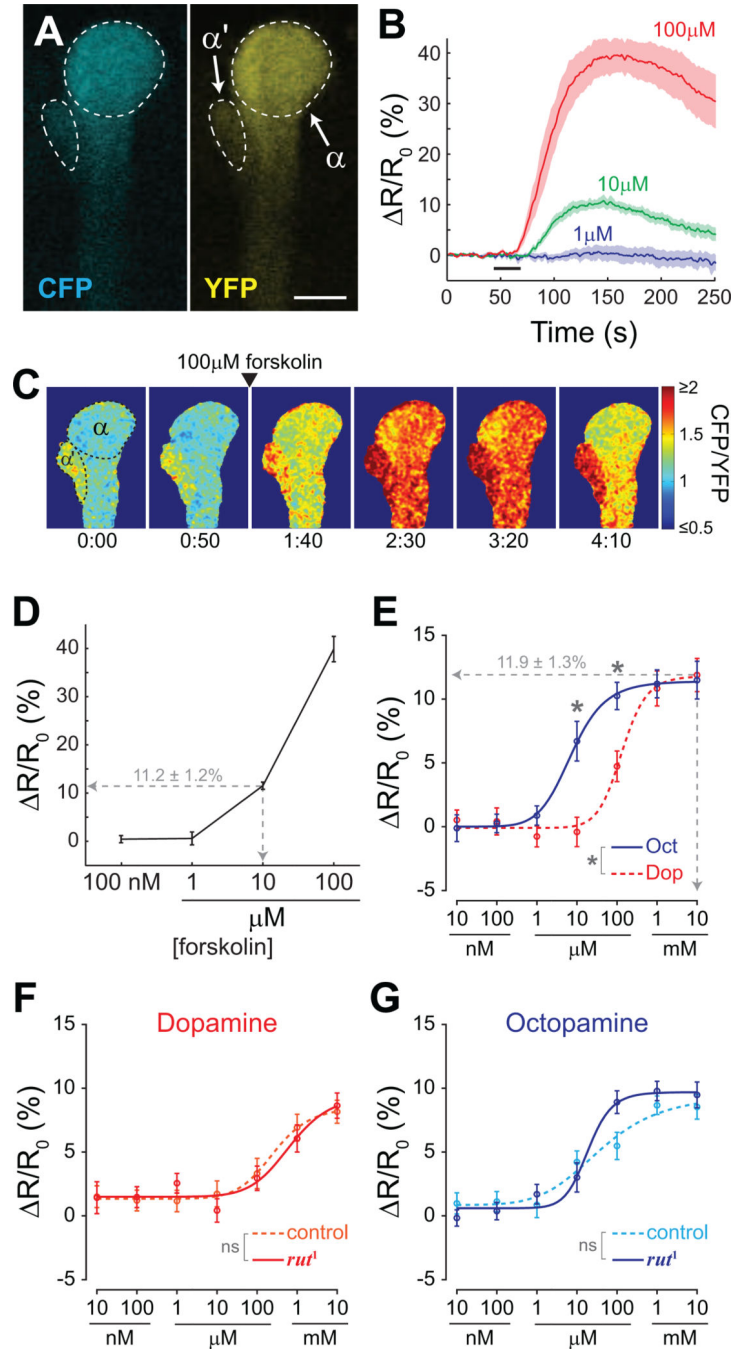
Dopamine and octopamine have little detectable effect on calcium at low concentrations. (A) Confocal image showing the tips of the α and α' lobes in the brain of a 238Y-GAL4>UAS-G-CaMP fly. The image was collected across 256x256 pixels, the same as used for time series imaging. Scale bar = 5 μ m. (B) Examples of calcium responses in the α lobe of four different brains to depolarization with 100 mM K^+ . The traces are diagonally offset for visibility.

(C) Examples of α lobe responses to 10 mM octopamine. There was a robust increase in calcium in the α lobe following stimulation. Horizontal black bar = stimulus application.

(D) Mean responses of the lobe to three concentrations of octopamine. The shaded area bracketing the mean response (solid line) indicates the S.E.M. Horizontal black bar = stimulus application.

(E) Mean responses of the α lobe to three concentrations of dopamine. There were no consistent or robust responses to dopamine at any of the concentrations tested. Horizontal black bar = stimulus application.

(F) Dose-response curves for α lobe calcium responses to dopamine and octopamine (n = 10). Error bars indicate S.E.M.

**Figure 2.**

Forskolin, dopamine, and octopamine increase cAMP in mushroom body neurons in a *rutabaga*-independent manner. Error bars in all panels indicate S.E.M.

(A) Confocal image showing CFP and YFP emission from the mushroom body α and α' lobes in the brain of a 238Y-GAL4>UAS-epac1-camps fly. The image was collected across 256 \times 256 pixels, the same as used for time series imaging. Scale bar = 10 μm .

(B) Responses of the α lobe to three concentrations of forskolin. The data are plotted in terms of the change in inverse FRET ratio ($\Delta R/R_0$).

- (C) Pseudocolor images showing the time course of a representative response to forskolin (100 μ M).
- (D) Dose-response curve for mushroom body α lobe cAMP responses to forskolin in 238Y-GAL4>UAS-epac1-camps flies (n = 7).
- (E) Dose-response curves for mushroom body α lobe cAMP responses to bathapplied dopamine and octopamine in 238Y-GAL4>UAS-epac1-camps flies (n = 5). Responses were fit with a four parameter logistic curve. Cyclic AMP responses were observed at lower concentrations of dopamine and octopamine than that required to evoke detectable changes in intracellular calcium (Figure 1). The average maximal responses to dopamine and octopamine ($11.9 \pm 1.3\%$ and $11.5 \pm 1.9\%$ R/R_0 , respectively) were similar to the response to 10 μ M forskolin ($11.2 \pm 1.2\%$ R/R_0).
- (F) Dose-response curves for dopamine from *rut*¹ mutants and heterozygous control flies (n = 13). Responses were recorded in the α lobe of brains from 238Y-GAL4>UAS-epac1-camps *rut*¹ or control flies (*rut*¹ heterozygotes).
- (G) Dose-response curves for octopamine from *rut*¹ mutants and heterozygous control flies (n = 13). Data are from the same set of flies in panel F.

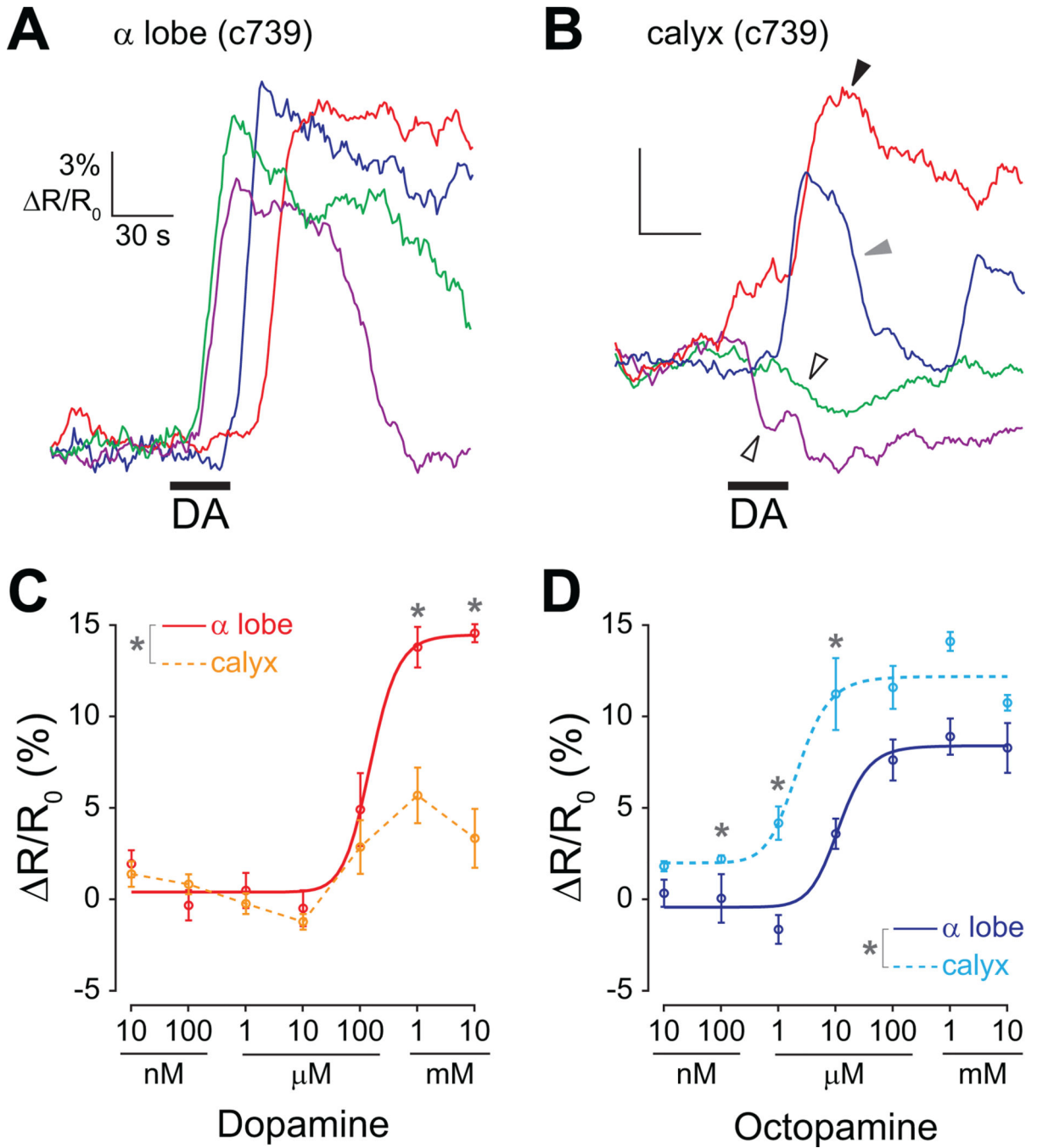


Figure 3.

Dopamine has different effects on cAMP in the dendrites (calyx) and axons (α lobe) of mushroom body α/β neurons.

(A) Examples of cAMP responses to 1 mM dopamine in the lobe of brains isolated from c739-GAL4>UAS-epac1-camps flies. Dopamine reliably increased cAMP in recordings. Horizontal black bar = stimulus application.

(B) Examples of cAMP responses to 100 μ M dopamine in the calyx of brains isolated from c739-GAL4>UAS-epac1-camps flies. Since the epac1-camps reporter was expressed in

mushroom body neurons and not projection neurons, these recordings represent the changes in cAMP in the dendrites of mushroom body α/β neurons. The calyx responses were heterogeneous; in some cases, dopamine elevated cAMP (black arrowhead), and in others dopamine decreased cAMP (unfilled arrowheads). In some brains there was an increase, followed by an abrupt decrease and then another increase (gray arrowhead).

(C) Dose-response curves for dopamine recorded in the α lobe and calyx ($n = 5$). In the lobe only increases in cAMP were observed, resulting in a sigmoid dose-response curve. However, in the calyx, the heterogeneity of the responses resulted in a non-sigmoid dose-response relationship (data from the calyx are consequently not fitted with a curve).

(D) Dose-response curves for octopamine recorded in the α lobe and calyx ($n = 5$). In both the α lobe and calyx, consistent increases in cAMP were observed, resulting in a sigmoid dose-response curve. The calyx and α lobe recordings were taken from the same two sets of brains as the calyx and α lobe recordings in panel C (respectively).

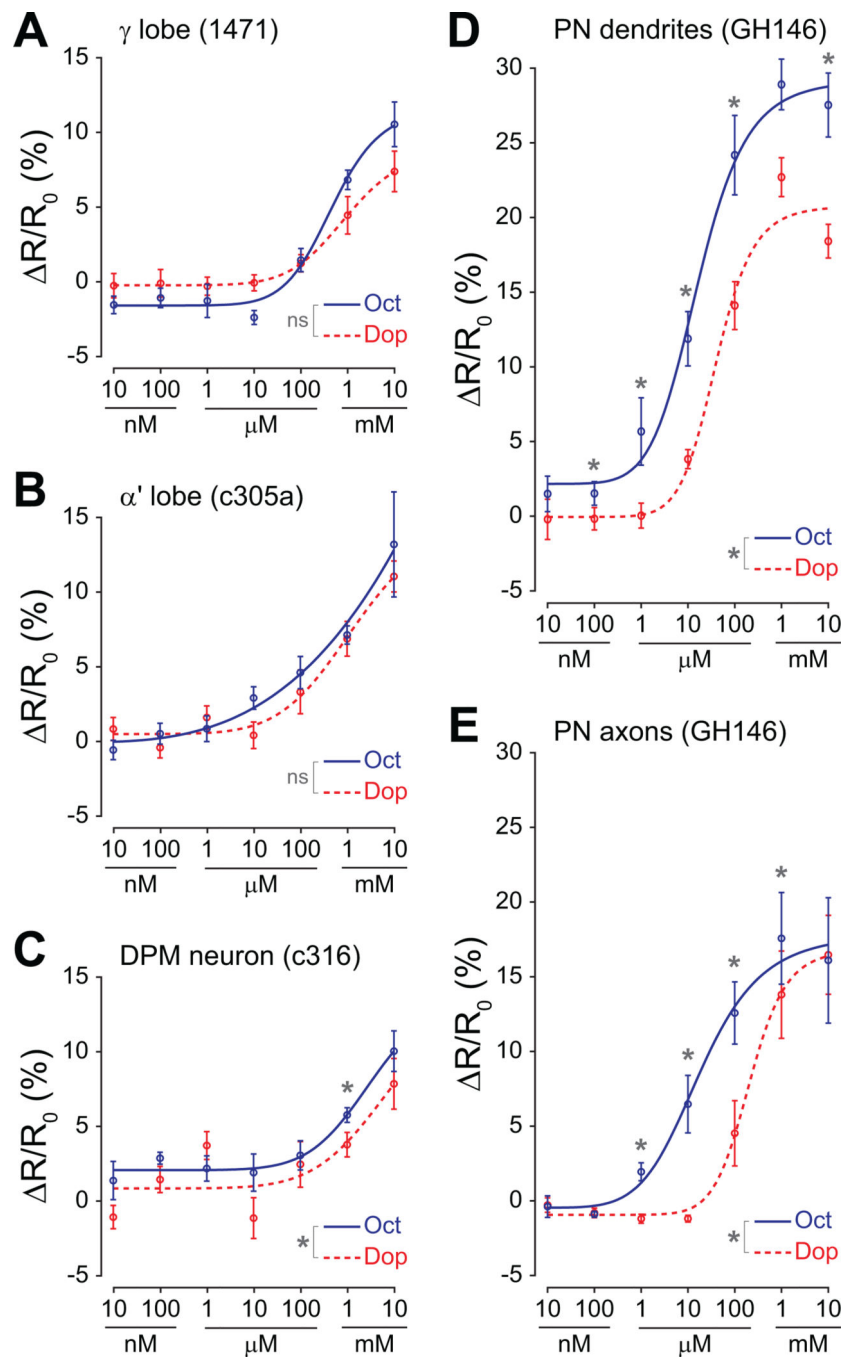


Figure 4.

Dopamine and octopamine elevate cAMP in multiple anatomical loci across the olfactory system. Four parameter logistic curves were fitted to the responses. Error bars in all panels indicate S.E.M., n = 5 each.

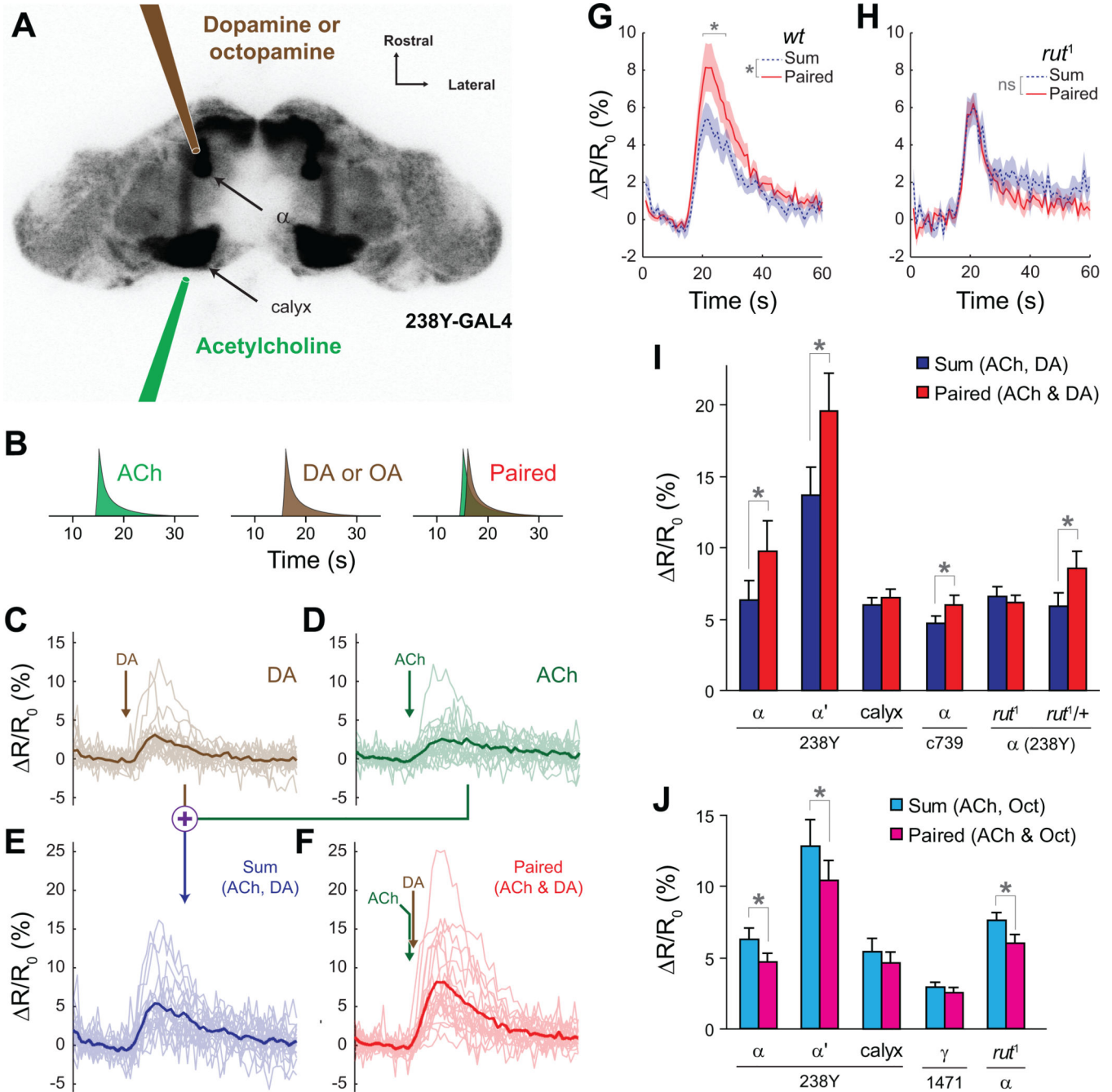
(A) Axons of γ lobe neurons, recorded in the mushroom body γ lobe of brains from 1471-GAL4>UAS-epac1-camps flies.

(B) Axons of α'/β' neurons, recorded in the mushroom body α' lobe of brains from c305a-GAL4>UAS-epac1-camps flies.

(C) Neurites of the DPM neuron, recorded in the mushroom body α lobe of brains from c316-GAL4>UAS-epac1-camps flies.

(D) Dendrites of projection neurons (PN), recorded in the antennal lobes of brains from GH146-GAL4>UAS-epac1-camps flies.

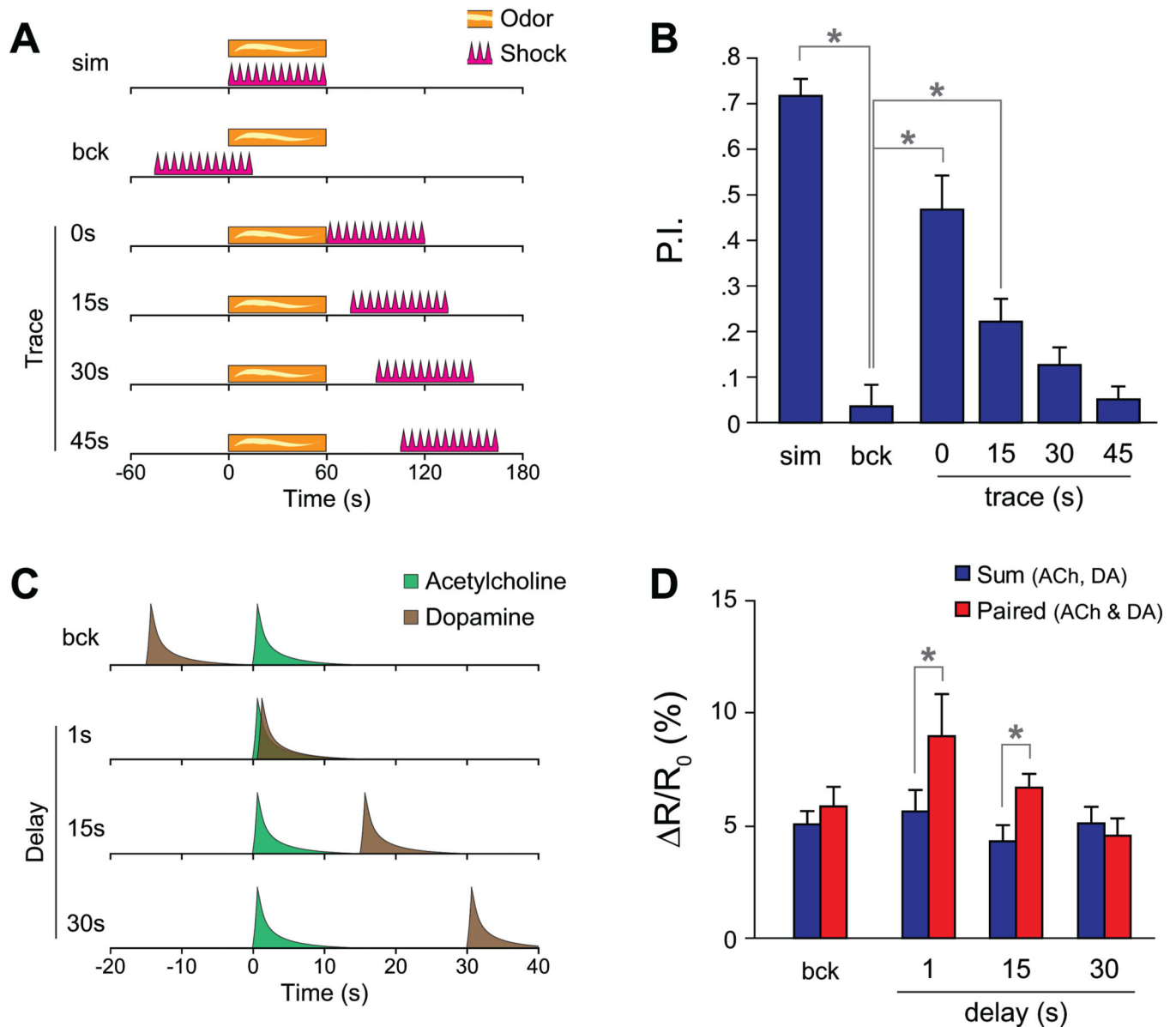
(E) Axons of projection neurons, recorded in the mushroom body calyx in brains from GH146-GAL4>UAS-epac1-camps flies.

**Figure 5.**

Pairing of neuronal depolarization with dopamine induced a *rutabaga*-dependent synergistic elevation of cAMP in mushroom body neurons, while pairing of neuronal depolarization with octopamine resulted in sub-additive increases in cAMP. Panels C–H show cAMP imaging traces recorded from the α lobe of 238Y-GAL4>UAS-epac1-camps brains.

(A) Schematic showing placement of the focal application pipettes. The underlying image is an inverted grayscale confocal image of the brain of a 238Y-GAL4>UAS-epac1-camps fly. The pipettes were placed directly anterior to the α lobe and posterior to the calyx.

- (B) Schematic of the stimulus paradigm. Each stimulus was presented three minutes apart.
- (C) Recordings from the α lobe of individual brains (thin lines) and the mean response (thick line) during application of dopamine (DA) to the mushroom body vertical lobes. Arrow indicates the stimulus time.
- (D) Recordings from the α lobe during application of acetylcholine (ACh) to the calyx.
- (E) The sum of the responses to application of DA and ACh were calculated for each brain.
- (F) Recordings in which the application of DA and ACh were paired. ACh was applied 1 s before DA. The data from panels C–F are from the same set of brains.
- (G) Comparison of the responses from the sum (panel E) and paired (panel F) conditions. The cAMP response to paired application of ACh and DA was synergistic. The shaded area bracketing the mean response (solid line) represents the S.E.M. The horizontal gray bracket denotes an 8 s window in which pairwise tests revealed significantly larger ($p < 0.01$) paired responses (Fisher's LSD following significant difference with ANOVA).
- (H) Comparison of the responses from the sum and paired conditions in *rut*¹ mutant flies. The response to paired application of ACh and DA was not synergistic in *rut*¹ mutants.
- (I) Sum and paired response magnitudes from dopamine/acetylcholine experiments for different driver lines and regions imaged. Error bars indicate S.E.M.; * $p < 0.05$.
- (J) Sum and paired response magnitudes from octopamine/acetylcholine experiments for different driver lines and regions imaged. Error bars indicate S.E.M.; * $p < 0.05$.

**Figure 6.**

Synergistic increases in cAMP following dopamine/acetylcholine application exhibit similar temporal pairing requirements as behavioral trace conditioning.

(A) Schematic of the behavioral trace conditioning stimulus paradigm. The CS (odor) and US (shock) were presented for 1 m simultaneously (sim), in a backwards order (bck), or with a forward delay (trace conditioning).

(B) Performance of flies in a trace conditioning experiment ($n = 6$) with varying delays between the CS (odor) and US (shock). P.I. = performance index; $*p < 0.05$ (Fisher's LSD following significant differences with ANOVA).

(C) Schematic of the acetylcholine/dopamine stimulus paradigm in the imaging experiments.

(D) Sum and paired response magnitudes when applying different time delays between the acetylcholine and dopamine applications. $*p < 0.05$ (t test)

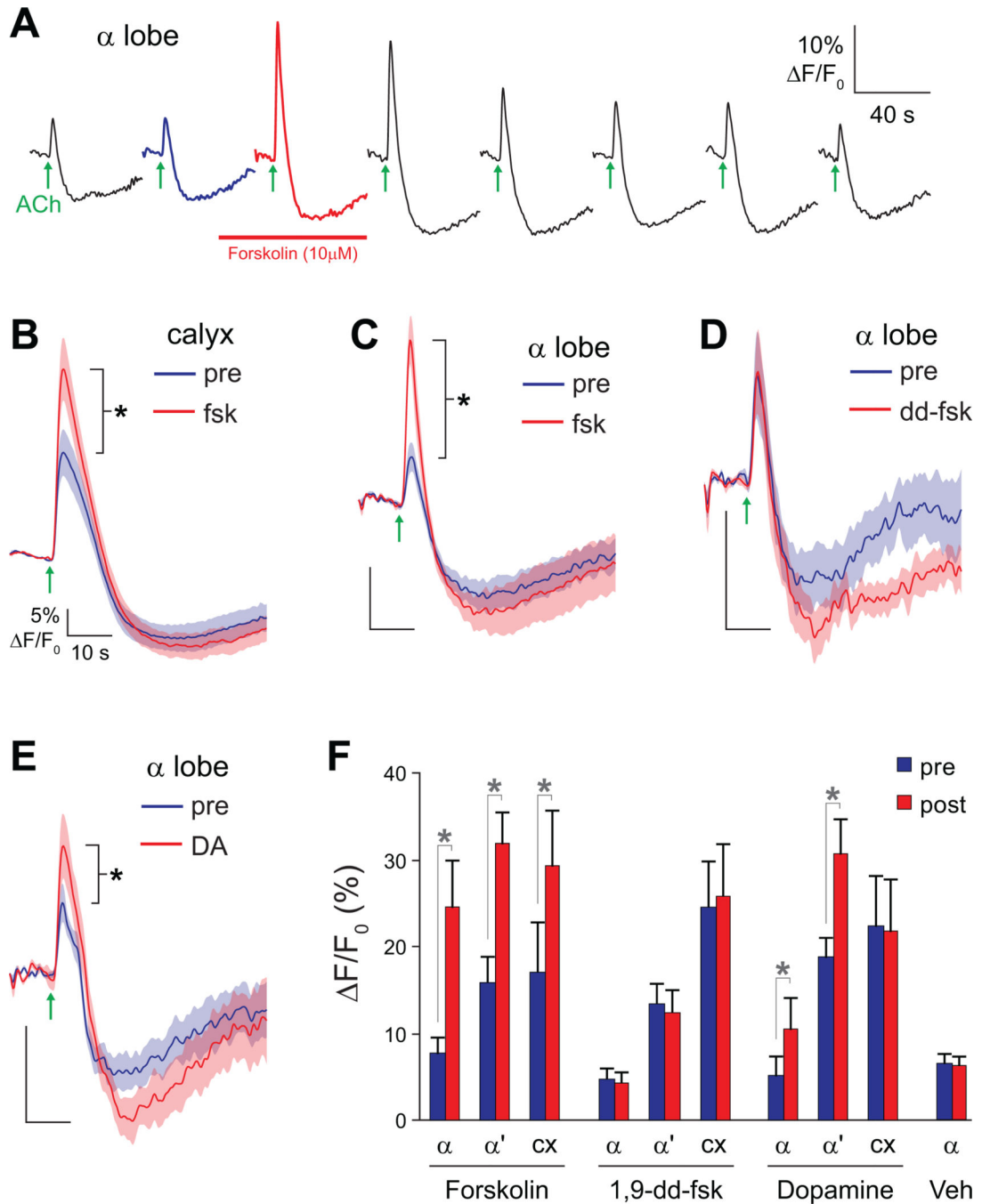


Figure 7.

Elevation of cAMP facilitates responses in mushroom body neurons. Data are from 238Y-GAL4>UAS-G-CaMP flies. Scale bars in panels B–E indicate 5% $\Delta F/F_0$ and 10 s. Error bars indicate S.E.M., * $p < 0.05$.

(A) The experimental protocol. Acetylcholine was focally applied to the mushroom body calyx and calcium responses recorded in the mushroom body α and α' lobes. Recordings were taken every 3 m. Following the second recording, 10 μM forskolin was applied for 2

m. The third recording was taken in the presence of forskolin, which was subsequently washed out.

(B) Acetylcholine-evoked calcium responses in the mushroom body calyx before and after application of 10 μ M forskolin.

(C) Acetylcholine-evoked calcium responses in the mushroom body α lobe before and after application of 10 μ M forskolin.

(D) Acetylcholine-evoked calcium responses in the mushroom body α lobe before and after application of 10 μ M 1,9-dideoxyforskolin (dd-fsk).

(E) Acetylcholine-evoked calcium responses in the mushroom body α lobe before and after application of 10 mM dopamine.

(F) Magnitude of acetylcholine-evoked calcium responses in the α lobe, α' lobe, and calyx (cx) (recorded simultaneously in each brain), before (pre) and after (post) application of forskolin (10 μ M in 0.01% DMSO; $n = 13$), 1,9-dideoxyforskolin (10 μ M in 0.01% DMSO; $n = 11$), vehicle control (0.01% DMSO; α lobe; $n = 7$), and dopamine (10 mM in saline; $n = 13$). * $p < 0.05$ (t tests).