

# Presynapses in Kenyon Cell Dendrites in the Mushroom Body Calyx of *Drosophila*

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Plastic changes at the presynaptic sites of the mushroom body (MB) principal neurons called Kenyon cells (KCs) are considered to represent a neuronal substrate underlying olfactory learning and memory. It is generally believed that presynaptic and postsynaptic sites of KCs are spatially segregated. In the MB calyx, KCs receive olfactory input from projection neurons (PNs) on their dendrites. Their presynaptic sites, however, are thought to be restricted to the axonal projections within the MB lobes. Here, we show that KCs also form presynapses along their calycal dendrites, by using novel transgenic tools for visualizing presynaptic active zones and postsynaptic densities. At these presynapses, vesicle release following stimulation could be observed. They reside at a distance from the PN input into the KC dendrites, suggesting that regions of presynaptic and postsynaptic differentiation are segregated along individual KC dendrites. KC presynapses are present in  $\gamma$ -type KCs that support short- and long-term memory in adult flies and larvae. They can also be observed in  $\alpha/\beta$ -type KCs, which are involved in memory retrieval, but not in  $\alpha'/\beta'$ -type KCs, which are implicated in memory acquisition and consolidation. We hypothesize that, as in mammals, recurrent activity loops might operate for memory retrieval in the fly olfactory system. The newly identified KC-derived presynapses in the calyx are, inter alia, candidate sites for the formation of memory traces during olfactory learning.

## Introduction

Animals detect odors through olfactory sensory neurons. The odor information is processed by a primary olfactory center, constituted by the antennal lobe in insects (Stocker et al., 1983) or the olfactory bulb in vertebrates (Mombaerts, 2001). Subsequently, olfactory information is conveyed to secondary centers via olfactory projection neurons (PNs) in insects or mitral/tufted cells in vertebrates. The olfactory nervous systems of insects and mammals are comparable in their anatomical organization, suggesting that fundamentals of olfaction and olfactory learning might be similar (Davis, 2004). In the relatively simple *Drosophila* brain, PNs target two separate neuropils, the lateral horn and the mushroom body (MB) (Strausfeld, 1976). In the MB calyx, PNs con-

nect to Kenyon cells (KCs) via large cholinergic boutons that contact claw-like endings of the KC dendrites (Schürmann, 1974; Yasuyama et al., 2002; Ramaekers et al., 2005). Several behavioral and genetic studies in different insect species have demonstrated that the MBs play an essential role in olfactory associative learning (for review, see Heisenberg, 1998, 2003; Roman and Davis, 2001; Waddell and Quinn, 2001a; Dubnau et al., 2003; Gerber et al., 2004; Davis, 2005; Keene and Waddell, 2007). Moreover, they are involved in other complex behavioral functions such as sleep/wake behavior, visual learning, courtship conditioning, and decision making (Liu et al., 1999; McBride et al., 1999; Joiner et al., 2006; Pitman et al., 2006; Yang et al., 2008; Miller et al., 2011). Not only KCs are involved in olfactory learning and memory, but also a number of MB-extrinsic neurons have been shown to play important roles (Hammer and Menzel, 1995, 1998; Waddell et al., 2000; Yu et al., 2004; Thum et al., 2007; Claridge-Chang et al., 2009; Krashes et al., 2009; Liu and Davis, 2009; Aso et al., 2010). The anatomical organization of the MB as well as its connectivity to input and output neurons are not completely understood. However, a precise description of the connectivity of the MB is a prerequisite for understanding the neuronal basis of MB-derived behaviors.

In this study, we investigated the organization of KC and PN synapses within the MB calyx. In contrast to previous assumptions, dendrites of certain subpopulations of KCs ( $\gamma$  and  $\alpha/\beta$  cells) formed presynaptic active zones (AZs). Presynaptic AZs are

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the regions of synaptic vesicle (SV) fusion. The distribution of these KC presynaptic sites in the calyx followed a defined pattern; they were spatially separated from the sites of cholinergic input onto KCs, provided by PNs. These KC-specific presynaptic sites could be stimulated to release SVs. Our study adds another degree of complexity to the olfactory circuit of *Drosophila*.

## Materials and Methods

**Animals.** The following fly stocks were used: *c305a-GAL4* (Krashes et al., 2007), *c739-GAL4* (O'Dell et al., 1995; Yang et al., 1995), *gh146-GAL4* (Stocker et al., 1997), *h24-GAL4* (Zars et al., 2000), *ok107-GAL4* (Connolly et al., 1996), *UAS-brp-RNAi* (Wagh et al., 2006, recombination of B3 and C8), *UAS-synapto-pHluorin* (Ng et al., 2002), *UAS-Da7<sup>GFP</sup>* (Leiss et al., 2009), *UAS-brp-short<sup>mCherry</sup>* (Schmid et al., 2008), *UAS-syt<sup>GFP</sup>* (Zhang et al., 2002), *mb247::brp-short<sup>GFP</sup>*, *w,hsFlp,UAS-mCD8-GFP;FRT82B,tubGAL80/TM3,Sb;ok107-GAL4* (L. Luo, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA), *w<sup>-</sup>;FRT82B* (Lee and Luo, 2001). All fly strains were reared under standard laboratory conditions (Sigrist et al., 2003) at 25°C.

**Molecular cloning.** We generated transgenic flies carrying the eGFP-tagged *brp-short* construct under direct control of the MB enhancer *mb247* (Schulz et al., 1996). *brp-short* corresponds to amino acids 473–1226 of the 1740 aa Bruchpilot (BRP) protein (Schmid et al., 2008). *brp-short<sup>GFP</sup>* was inserted in the pCaSpeR vector carrying the *mb247* enhancer in front of a minimal promoter from a heat shock gene (Schulz et al., 1996), using the StuI and the XbaI restriction sites of the vector and the SpeI and HpaI sites of the insert.

**Dissection and immunohistochemistry.** Adult and larval brains were dissected in ice-cold hemolymph-like saline (HL3) solution, fixed for 20 min in 4% paraformaldehyde in PBS, pH 7.2, and then blocked in 10% normal goat serum (NGS) in PBS with 0.3% Triton X-100 (PBT) for 20 min. Adult and larval brains were incubated with primary antibodies together with 5% NGS overnight at room temperature and then washed in PBT for 3 h, followed by overnight incubation with secondary antibodies at 4°C. The brains were then washed for 3 h with 0.3 PBT and mounted in VectaShield (Vector Laboratories) on slides. Adult brains stained with Nc82 (BRP<sup>Nc82</sup>) (Wagh et al., 2006) were incubated with 1% PBT for 30 min after fixation and were then incubated with the primary antibodies together with 5% NGS for 48 h at room temperature. Afterward, the brains were washed for 5 h with PBT.

**Antibody concentrations.** Antibody concentrations were as follows: mouse BRP<sup>Nc82</sup>, 1:100; rabbit anti-DSyd-1, 1:500 (Owald et al., 2010); rabbit anti-DsRed (BD Biosciences), 1:500; rabbit anti-GFP (Invitrogen), 1:500; goat anti-mouse Alexa 488 (Invitrogen; A11001), 1:500; goat anti-rabbit Cy3 (Dianova; 111-167-003), 1:500; goat anti-mouse Cy5 (Dianova; 111-177-003), 1:500.

**Image acquisition.** Conventional confocal images were acquired with a Leica TCS SP5 confocal microscope (Leica Microsystems) using a 63×, 1.4 NA oil objective for calyx scans and a 20×, 0.7 NA oil objective for whole-brain overview scans. Voxel size was 71 × 71 × 200 nm for calyx imaging and 120 × 120 × 500 nm for whole-brain imaging. Confocal stacks were processed using ImageJ software (<http://rsbweb.nih.gov/ij/>).

BRP-short can form agglomerations within the somata of the cells it is expressed in. As the KC somata are located very close to the calyx neuropil, we manually removed them in maximum-intensity projections (see Fig. 7M–O) for clarity.

**Analysis of the RNAi experiment.** Flies expressing *UAS-brp-RNAi* under the control of *ok107-GAL4* as well as *w1118* controls were raised in 68 ml standard vials with a constant 12 h light/dark regimen. Adult female flies (2–5 d after eclosion) as well as female third-instar larvae were dissected.

BRP<sup>Nc82</sup> and DSyd-1 signal intensities were quantified similarly as described by Kremer et al. (2010). Calyces were segmented using the Fiji (ImageJ, version 1.44) plug-in Segmentation Editor (<http://pacific.mpi-cbg.de/>). The images were then analyzed in Bitplane Imaris 64×, version 6.23. The masks created in Fiji were used as a template for isolating the calyces in Imaris. Subsequently, the overall surface of the BRP<sup>Nc82</sup> and DSyd-1 channels within the calyx was determined. In addition, number and surface areas of the individual BRP<sup>Nc82</sup> and DSyd-1 spots were identified, as well as the respective intensities within each spot. For this, the

Imaris surface tool was used, using seed detection and region growing algorithms. The data were further analyzed using Microsoft Office 2008 and StatSoft Statistica 9.1.

**Mosaic analysis with a repressible cell marker.** Genotype of flies with mCD8-GFP and Da7<sup>mCherry</sup> coexpressing clones was as follows: *w,hs-Flp/w<sup>-</sup>; UAS-mcd8-GFP/UAS-Da7<sup>mCherry</sup>; FRT82B, tubGAL80/neoFRT82B; ok107-GAL4/+*. Genotype of flies with mCD8-GFP and BRP-short<sup>mCherry</sup> coexpressing clones was as follows: *w,hsFlp/w<sup>-</sup>; UAS-mcd8-GFP/UAS-brp-short<sup>mCherry</sup>; FRT82B, tubGAL80/neoFRT82B; ok107-Gal4/+*.

Vials containing female and male eggs, first-, second-, or third-instar larvae or pupae were transferred into a 37°C water bath for 30 min. Together, we scanned 89 calyces. The clones depicted belong to the  $\alpha/\beta$  KC subpopulation. For the clone expressing Da7 shown in Figure 6, I and J, the heat shock was applied 5 d before pupal eclosion. For the clone expressing BRP-short shown in Figure 6, K and L, the heat shock was applied 3 d before pupal eclosion.

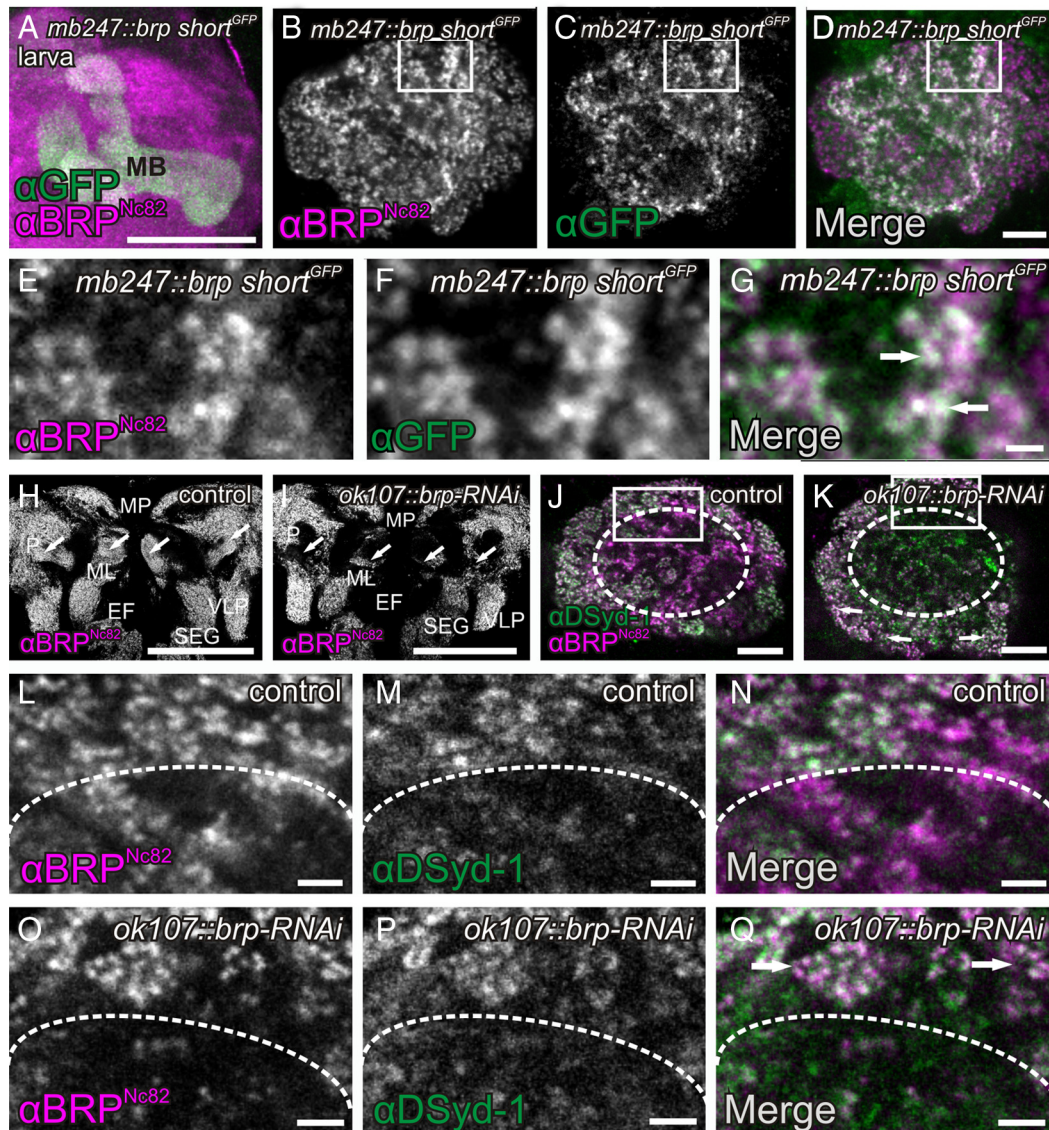
**Functional imaging.** Flies were cooled on ice for several minutes and immobilized in a truncated 1 ml pipette tip. This preparation was glued to a plastic coverslip (Plano) with dental glue (Protemp II; 3M ESPE). Subsequently, a window was cut into the head of the fly using a splint of a razor blade and a blade holder. Trachea and fat bodies were carefully removed to expose the brain. The brain was covered with Ringer's solution (5 mM HEPES, 130 mM NaCl, 5 mM KCl, 2 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 2 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>) as a physiological medium. For eliciting neuronal depolarization, KCl (final concentration of 100 mM) was injected into the drop of Ringer's solution covering the brain. The imaging setup consisted of a fluorescence microscope (Axio Examiner D1; Zeiss), equipped with a xenon lamp (Lambda DG-4; Sutter Instrument), a 14 bit camera (Coolsnap HQ2; Photometrics), and a GFP filter set. Data acquisition was controlled by the software Metafluor (Visitron Systems). Images were acquired using a 40× water-immersion objective at a frame rate of 5 Hz and an excitation wavelength of 488 nm. Image sequences were analyzed by choosing a region of interest (ROI) covering the calycal region. Average emission intensities from Synapto-pHluorin were quantified for each image. Average intensities of a ROI outside the labeled structure was subtracted as background. The emission intensity ( $F$ ) at the frame immediately before KCl application was determined as  $F_0$ , and  $\Delta F/F_0$  was calculated for each image. The software Origin, version 8.1 (OriginLab), was used for data evaluation. For illustrating the entire MB (see Fig. 5B), images were acquired at 1  $\mu$ m steps in the Z direction. A maximum-intensity Z projection was generated from the entire stack.

## Results

### KC-derived presynapses within the MB calyx of *Drosophila* adults and larvae

We aimed at characterizing KC presynapses in the MB using a detailed molecular-anatomical approach. Presynapses are characterized by AZs containing discrete electron-dense specializations of roughly uniform size, called T-bars in *Drosophila* (Prokop and Meinertzhagen, 2006; Wichmann and Sigrist, 2010). The large scaffolding protein BRP is an essential component of T-bars (Kittel et al., 2006; Wagh et al., 2006). To label AZs of KCs, we expressed a fragment of BRP (BRP-short) fused to GFP (BRP-short<sup>GFP</sup>) specifically in KCs. BRP-short<sup>GFP</sup> colocalizes clearly with endogenous BRP (Schmid et al., 2008) but is not detected by the monoclonal  $\alpha$ BRP antibody Nc82 (BRP<sup>Nc82</sup>), which binds to an epitope close to the BRP C terminus (Wagh et al., 2006). Notably, BRP-short<sup>GFP</sup> depends on endogenous BRP for AZ localization (S. J. Sigrist, unpublished observations). Therefore, BRP-short labels only preexisting AZs, characterized by the presence of endogenous full-length BRP, which is recognized by BRP<sup>Nc82</sup>. In addition, a previous study showed that the number of BRP<sup>Nc82</sup>-positive puncta is not modified upon expression of BRP-short (Kremer et al., 2010).

To specifically label KC-derived AZs, the KC-specific enhancer *mb247* (Schulz et al., 1996) was fused to the BRP-short<sup>GFP</sup> open reading frame. As expected, MB lobes of both larvae (Fig.



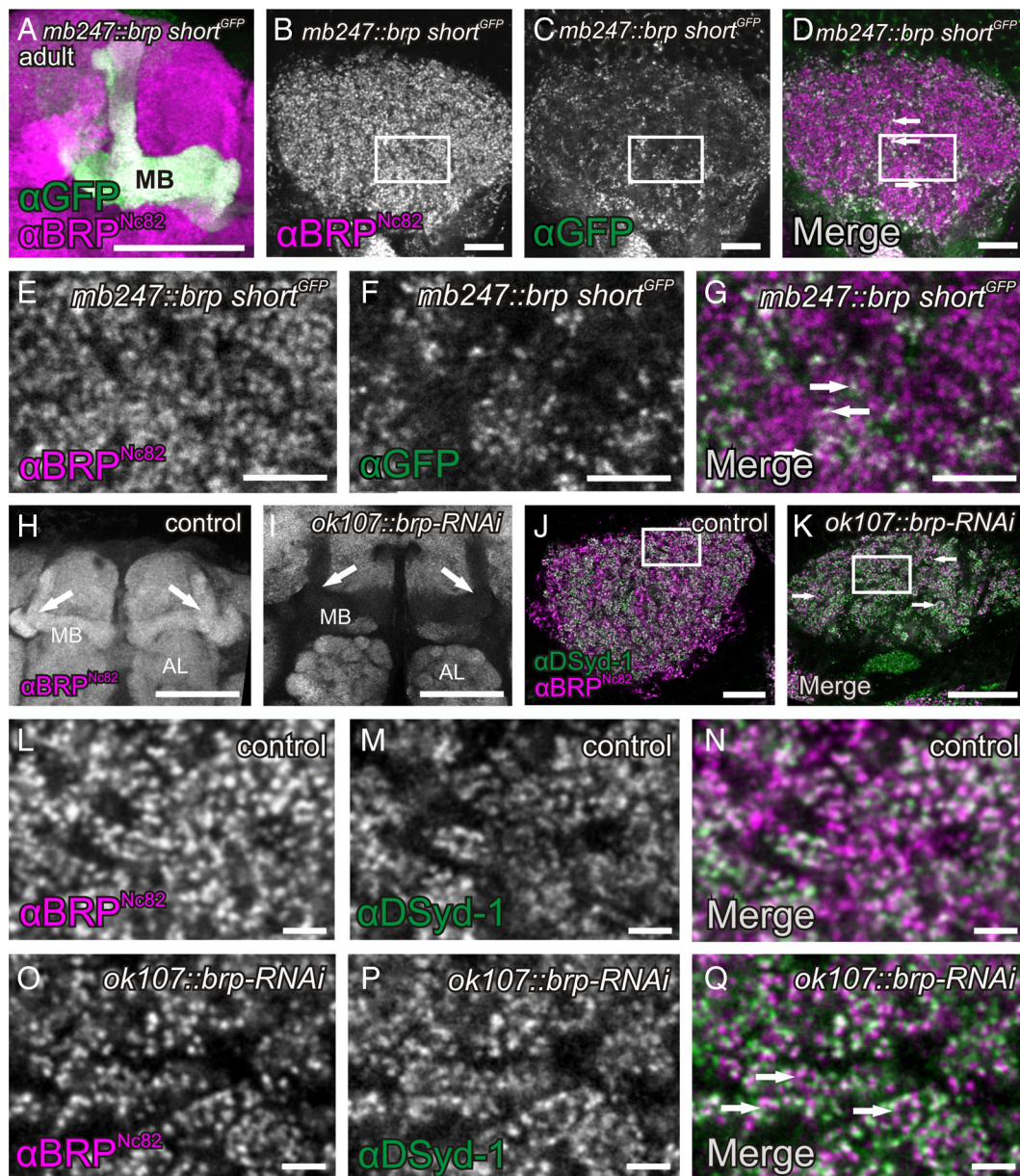
**Figure 1.** Evidence for KC-derived presynapses within the MB calyx of *Drosophila* larvae. **A–G**, Expression of the BRP fragment BRP-short<sup>GFP</sup> under control of the KC enhancer *mb247* reveals a strong signal in the MB lobes (**A**, maximum-intensity projection) and the calyx of the larva (**C, F**). Costaining with BRP<sup>Nc82</sup>, an antibody against the presynaptic AZ protein BRP (**A**, mushroom body; **B, E**, calyx), showed a clear overlap with the KC-derived BRP-short<sup>GFP</sup> signal in the calyx (**D, G**, arrows), suggesting the existence of a KC-derived population of AZs. **E–G**, Cutout of the calyx shown in **B–D** in a higher magnification. **H–Q**, *UAS-brp-RNAi* expressed in KCs (*ok107-GAL4*) provoked a strong reduction of the BRP<sup>Nc82</sup> label in both MB lobes and calyx. **H, I**, Larval brain overview. In the control brain stained with  $\alpha$ BRP<sup>Nc82</sup>, major neuropils are clearly visible, including the mushroom body lobes (**H**, arrows). *UAS-brp-RNAi* expressed in KCs resulted in a strong reduction of the MB lobe label (**I**, arrows). **J, K**, Colabeling of  $\alpha$ BRP<sup>Nc82</sup> together with an antibody against the AZ protein DSyd1 showed a specific effect of the expression of *UAS-brp-RNAi* in KCs on the BRP label in the calyx. Reduction of BRP was confined to the regions in the center of the calyx (**K**, dotted circle) but did not occur in areas where KCs are postsynaptic to PN presynaptic terminals, the macroglomeruli (**K**, arrows). **L–Q**, Higher magnification views of calyx regions shown in **J** and **K**, marked in **J** and **K** by white rectangles. While the BRP label is clearly reduced (**O, Q**, below the dotted line) compared with the control (**L, N**), the DSyd1 label remains unaffected (**M, P**). The macroglomeruli also show no reduction in BRP label (**Q**, arrows). ML, Medial lobe; P, peduncle; MP, medial protocerebrum; EF, esophageal foramen; VLP, ventrolateral protocerebrum; SEG, subesophageal ganglion; MB, mushroom body. All images show single optical slices, except when stated differently. Slice thickness, 200 nm. Scale bars: **A, H, I**, 50  $\mu$ m; **B–D, J, K**, 10  $\mu$ m; **E–G**, 5  $\mu$ m; **L–Q**, 2  $\mu$ m.

1A) and flies (Fig. 2A) were clearly labeled. Consistent with the expression previously reported for the *mb247* enhancer (Riemensperger et al., 2005; Krashes et al., 2007),  $\gamma$ ,  $\alpha/\beta$ , and  $\alpha'/\beta'$  neurons were labeled by this construct (data not shown). In *mb247::brp-short<sup>GFP</sup>* animals, BRP-short<sup>GFP</sup> was arranged in distinct puncta, which were also labeled by BRP<sup>Nc82</sup> (Figs. 1A, 2A). This indicates that endogenous BRP is present at these AZs. In our study, we used *mb247::brp-short<sup>GFP</sup>* for the identification of KC-derived AZs.

To a minor degree, *mb247::brp-short<sup>GFP</sup>* drives expression in MB-extrinsic neurons. It is therefore possible that the synapses we are looking at belong to MB-extrinsic neurons. To exclude this

possibility, we confirmed our results by checking *UAS-brp-short<sup>mCherry</sup>* expression in several different MB GAL4-lines [*ok107-GAL4*, *h24-GAL4*, *c739-GAL4*, *c305a-GAL4* (see Fig. 7A–O) and *mb247-GAL4*, *201y-GAL4*, *d52 h-GAL4*, *1471y-GAL4* (data not shown)].

Surprisingly, a clear BRP-short<sup>GFP</sup> label was also present in the calyces of both larvae (Fig. 2C, D, F, G) and adult flies (Fig. 1C, D, F, G). This label consisted of discrete puncta, typical for individual AZs, which were also labeled by BRP<sup>Nc82</sup> (Figs. 1G, arrows; 2D, G, arrows). We observed these puncta within calyces of both female and male animals, in second- and third-instar larvae, and throughout the life span from newly eclosed to 14-d-

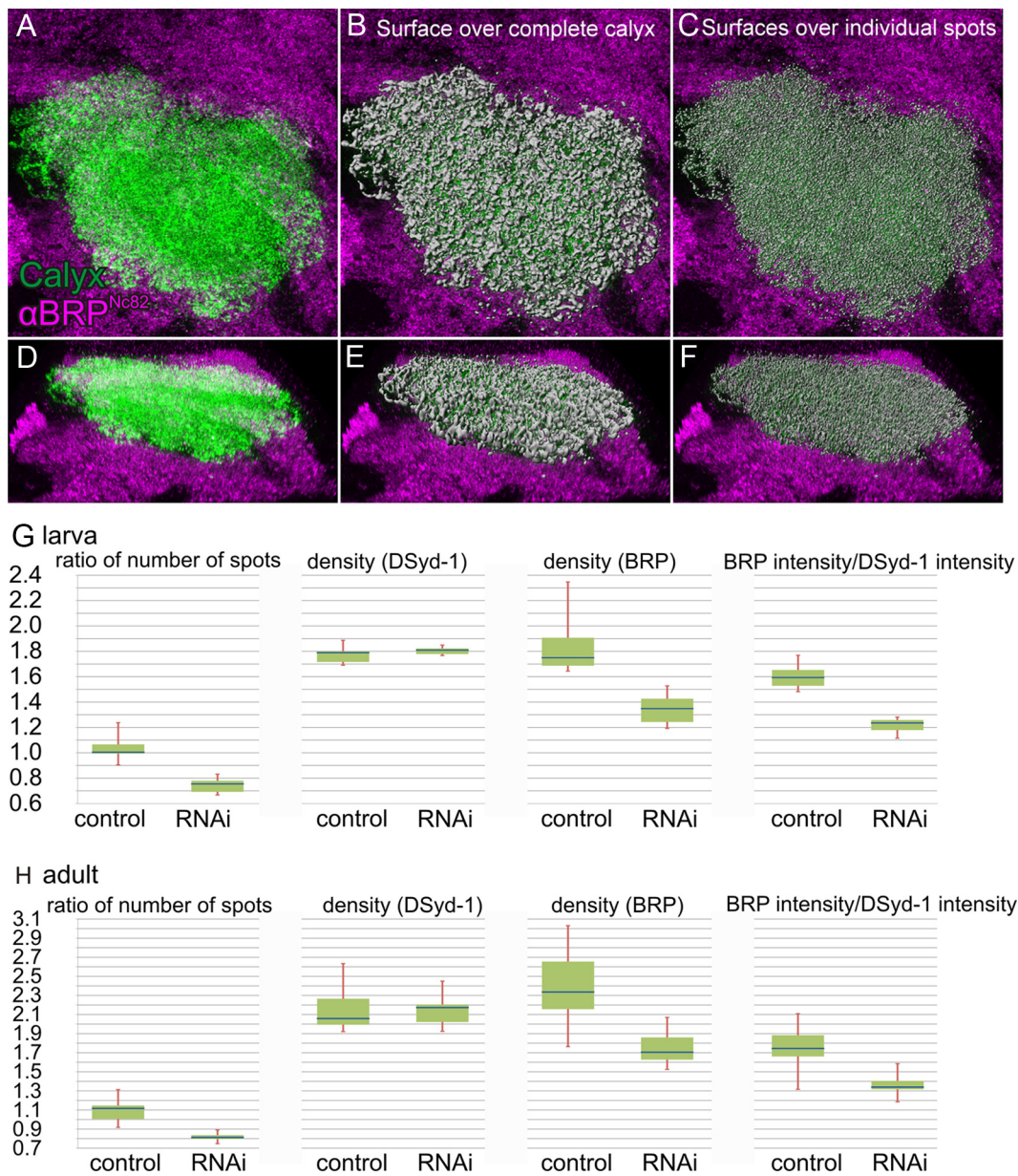


**Figure 2.** Evidence for KC-derived presynapses within the MB calyx of *Drosophila* adults. **A–G**, Expression of the BRP fragment BRP-short<sup>GFP</sup> under control of the KC enhancer *mb247* reveals a strong signal in MB lobes (**A**, maximum-intensity projection) and calyces of adult flies (**C**; higher magnification in **F**). The costaining of the presynaptic AZ protein BRP (**B**; high magnification in **E**) showed a clear overlap with the KC-derived BRP-short<sup>GFP</sup> signal (**D**; higher magnification in **G**; arrows), suggesting the existence of a KC-derived population of AZs. **H–Q**, *UAS-brp-RNAi* expressed in KCs (*ok107-GAL4*) provoked a strong reduction of the BRP<sup>Nc82</sup> label in both MB lobes (**H**, **I**, arrows) and calyces (**J**, **K**, arrows; higher magnification in **L** and **O**). In the calyx, the reduction of BRP was confined to the regions outside of microglomeruli (**K**, arrows). For a higher magnification, compare **L–Q**. Since  $\alpha$ DSyd-1 localization at AZs was shown to be independent of BRP (Owald et al., 2010), we used this marker as an independent reference. DSyd-1 labeling remained unaffected from the *brp-RNAi* expression in KCs (**M**, **P**). MB, Mushroom body; AL, antennal lobe. All images show single optical slices, except when stated differently. Slice thickness, 200 nm. Scale bars: **A**, **H**, **I**, 50  $\mu$ m; **B–D**, **K**, 10  $\mu$ m; **E–G**, 5  $\mu$ m; **L–Q**, 2  $\mu$ m.

old adult flies (data not shown). Furthermore, we confirmed these observations by expressing BRP-short<sup>GFP</sup> and BRP-short<sup>mCherry</sup> with several independent GAL4-KC drivers (see Fig. 7A–O) (data not shown). This result is surprising as KC dendrites were so far considered to be exclusively postsynaptic (Yasuyama et al., 2002).

It might be argued that the ectopic expression of BRP-short<sup>GFP</sup> could artificially cluster endogenous BRP and thereby mimic natural presynaptic AZs. To add further proof to the hypothesis that KCs express presynapses in the calyx and that BRP-short<sup>GFP</sup> highlights only already existing AZs, we attempted to reduce BRP levels by expressing *brp*-directed RNA interference constructs (*UAS-brp-RNAi*) specifically within KCs. We have

demonstrated that this construct could be used to strongly reduce BRP levels in the eyes of adult flies as well as in larval motoneurons in a previous experiment (Wagh et al., 2006). For this RNAi experiment, we used an antibody against the presynaptic AZ protein DSyd-1 as an AZ marker independent of BRP. We characterized DSyd-1 in a previous study (Owald et al., 2010). DSyd-1 incorporation precedes BRP incorporation during AZ formation and also persists in *brp* mutants. *UAS-brp-RNAi* was expressed under control of the broad KC driver line *ok107-GAL4*. Expression of the RNAi clearly reduced BRP<sup>Nc82</sup> label in MB lobes and calyces of both adults (Fig. 1H–Q) and larvae (Fig. 2H–Q). We confirmed this observation by quantification (Fig. 3, Table 1). For this quantification, we used the 3D software Imaris to calcu-



**Figure 3.** Segmentation and quantification of BRP<sup>Nc82</sup> signal within the calyx, with and without expression of *UAS-brp-RNAi* in KCs. **A–F**, Visualization of the segmentation and 3D reconstruction of the calyx used for quantification. **A–C**, Top view. **D–F**, Side view. **A, D**, Segmented calyx (green) within the BRP<sup>Nc82</sup> staining labeling all neuropils (magenta). **B, E**, Computed 3D surface covering the complete BRP<sup>Nc82</sup>-positive signal in the calyx (gray), superimposed on the staining shown in **A** and **D**. **C, F**, Three-dimensional surfaces of individual BRP<sup>Nc82</sup>-positive spots (gray), superimposed on the staining shown in **A** and **D**. The surfaces used for the detection of the number of AZs. For additional detailed images of such a 3D reconstruction of the BRP<sup>Nc82</sup> signal, also see Kremer et al. (2010). **G, H**, Results of the quantification. Blue bar, Median; green box, interquartile range; red whiskers, min/max values. The Mann–Whitney *U* test was used to determine two-sided exact *p* values. **G**, Larval calyces, *n* = 6 animals for both genotypes. Ratio of number of spots is the ratio of BRP<sup>Nc82</sup>-positive spots versus DSyd-1-positive spots, *p* = 0.002. Density is the number of spots per calyx area. DSyd-1 density, *p* = 0.485; BRP<sup>Nc82</sup> density, *p* = 0.002. BRP intensity/DSyd-1 intensity is the ratio of the BRP<sup>Nc82</sup> signal intensity versus the DSyd-1 signal intensity within a surface covering the complete calyx, *p* = 0.002. **H**, Adult calyces, *n* = 10 animals for *brp-RNAi* and *n* = 9 for controls. Ratio of number of spots, *p* < 0.001. DSyd-1 density, *p* = 0.968; BRP<sup>Nc82</sup> density, *p* = 0.001. Ratio of signal intensity, *p* = 0.002.

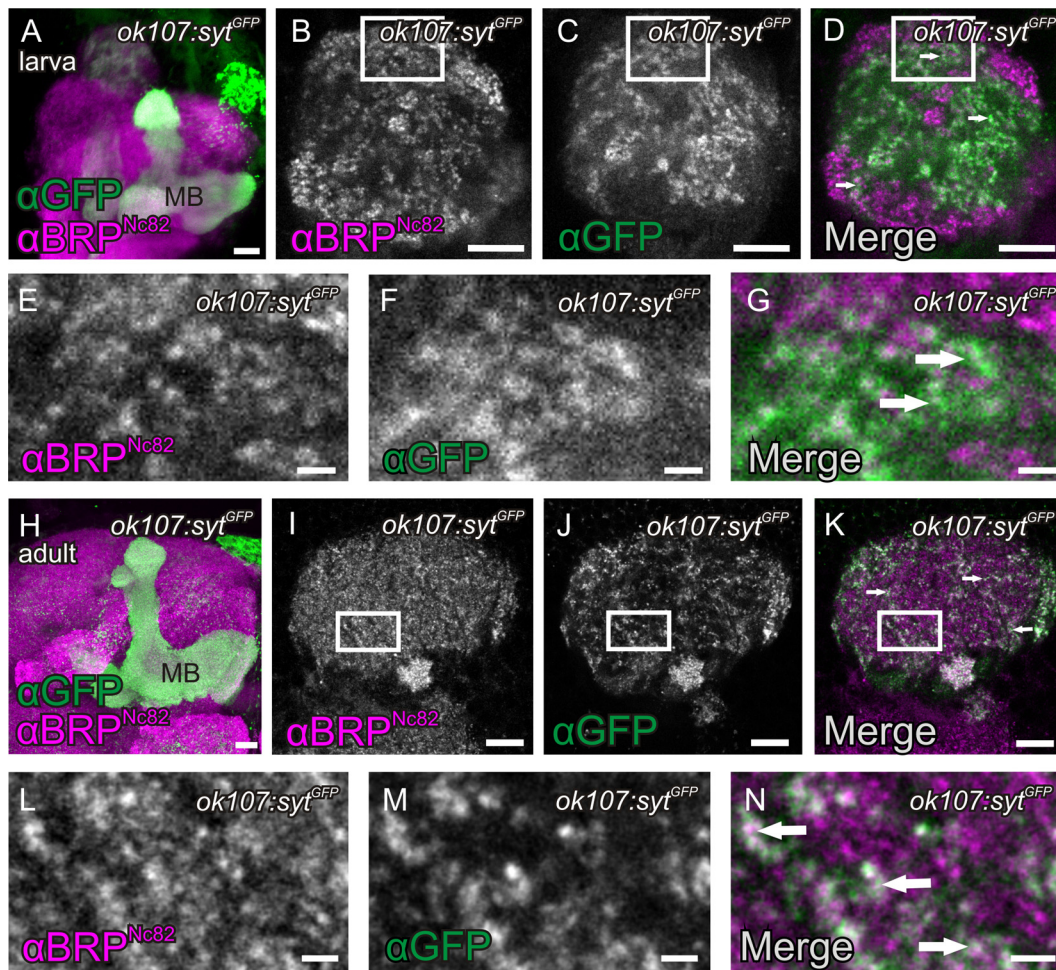
**Table 1. Change in percentage of the indicated parameters between *brp-RNAi* and control animals**

	Ratio of number of spots (BRP <sup>Nc82</sup> /DSyd-1)	Spot density (BRP <sup>Nc82</sup> )	Spot density (DSyd-1)	Ratio of intensity (BRP <sup>Nc82</sup> /DSyd-1)
Adults	–27.2	–26.9	+5.6	–23.1
Larvae	–24.8	–22.9	+1.1	–22.4

For additional details, see Figure 3, *G* and *H*, and Results.

late 3D surfaces of calyces, based on BRP<sup>Nc82</sup> and DSyd-1 signals (Fig. 3*A–F*). In this manner, we determined the number of spots positive for BRP<sup>Nc82</sup> as well as for the independent marker DSyd-1. Here, individual spots correspond to individual presynaptic AZs

(Kremer et al., 2010). In addition, we calculated the average intensities of the staining of the two markers within the calyx as well as the overall surface areas of BRP<sup>Nc82</sup>- and DSyd-1-positive signals in the calyx. From these data, we determined four parameters, summarized in Table 1 and Figure 3, *G* and *H*. The results show that the DSyd-1 signal remained unaffected upon expression of the *RNAi*, while BRP levels were reduced, in the number of spots as well as in the staining intensity. The finding that the DSyd-1 signal was not reduced is consistent with the observation that the localization of DSyd-1 at AZs is independent of BRP. In view of these data, we conclude that KCs form presynaptic AZs within the calyx. In the following, we name these KC-derived AZs in the calyx, short KCACs.



**Figure 4.** Presence of SVs in KCACs. **A–H**, Expression of a GFP-fusion of the SV marker Synaptotagmin ( $\text{syt}^{\text{GFP}}$ ) with the KC driver *ok107-GAL4* in MB lobes and calyces of larvae (**A**, MB lobes, maximum-intensity projection; **B–G**, calyx) and adult flies (**H**, MB lobes, maximum-intensity projection; **I–N**, calyx). Costaining with BRP<sup>Nc82</sup> revealed that  $\text{syt}^{\text{GFP}}$  expressed in KCs locates between microglomerular and macroglomerular complexes (**B–D**, arrows; **I–K**, arrows). For a higher magnification in larvae, compare **E–G** (arrows), and for adults, **L–N** (arrows). All images show single optical slices, except when stated differently. Slice thickness, 200 nm. MB, Mushroom body. Scale bars: **A, B–D, H–K**, 10  $\mu\text{m}$ ; **E–G, L–N**, 1  $\mu\text{m}$ .

PNs contact KCs in structures called macroglomeruli (in larvae) (Ramaekers et al., 2005) or microglomeruli (in flies) (Schürmann, 1974; Yasuyama et al., 2002). Interestingly, only the BRP<sup>Nc82</sup> label outside microglomeruli or macroglomeruli was strongly reduced (Figs. 1K, O, Q, below dotted line; 2K, O, Q). The BRP<sup>Nc82</sup> immunoreactivity within microglomeruli or macroglomeruli, however, appeared unaffected (Figs. 1K, O, Q, arrows; 2K, O, Q, arrows). Notably, the quantification indicates a reduction of BRP levels in the calyx by >20% in both adult flies and larvae (Table 1). Therefore, we estimate that KC-derived AZs make up >20% of all AZs within the calyx.

#### Activity-mediated vesicle cycling at KC-derived AZs in the calyx

So far, we assayed proteins specific and indicative for the AZ cytomatrix (BRP, DSyd-1) to demonstrate the existence of KC-derived presynaptic AZs. Next, we tested whether markers for SVs were associated with KCACs as well. To this end, we expressed a GFP-fusion to the presynaptic vesicle protein Synaptotagmin (*UAS-syt<sup>GFP</sup>*) (Zhang et al., 2002) under control of the KC driver *ok107-GAL4*. Strong signals in both MB lobes (Fig. 4A, H) and calyx (Fig. 4C, D, F, G, J, K, M, N) were observed. While the Synaptotagmin label was less spatially confined than the AZ cytomatrix label (BRP<sup>Nc82</sup>) (Fig. 4B–G, I–N),  $\text{syt}^{\text{GFP}}$  ex-

pressed from KCs also clearly located in between macroglomeruli (data not shown) and microglomeruli (Fig. 4K, N, arrows).

To test whether the KCACs are capable of SV release, we made use of functional optical imaging of an *in vivo* preparation (Fig. 5A) to visualize Synapto-pHluorin (Ng et al., 2002) expressed in KCs by *ok107-GAL4* (Fig. 5B). Synapto-pHluorin consists of the SV protein Synaptobrevin, fused at its luminal C terminus to ecliptic pHluorin, a pH-sensitive mutant of GFP, which is non-fluorescent at a pH <6 upon excitation at 470 nm. After vesicle fusion with the AZ membrane, pHluorin is exposed to the higher pH value of the extracellular space, which enhances the fluorescence emission and yields a visible signal (Miesenböck et al., 1998). The calyx is spatially separated from the MB lobes region; therefore, Synapto-pHluorin expression can be selectively monitored in this neuropil. Fluorescence of Synapto-pHluorin could be observed in the calyx, again indicating the presence of KC-derived SVs within the calyx (Fig. 5B). Stimulation with KCl causes a general depolarization of the brain, which leads to SV release. While imaging this release, the measurable signal is superimposed on a general decrease of visible label due to photobleaching. Nonetheless, upon depolarization, a strong increase in fluorescence in the calyx was observed (Fig. 5C, D). Thus, the presynaptic AZs derived from KCs in the calyx can release SVs.

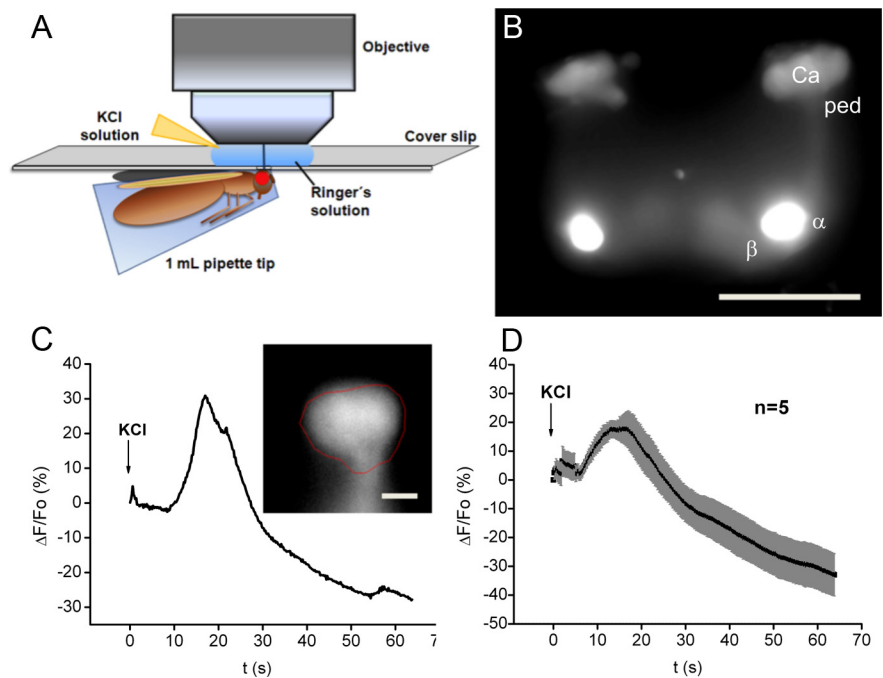
### KCACs cluster distant from PN::KC synapses

Endogenously present BRP<sup>Nc82</sup>-positive spots in the MB lobes were, to a large extent, also targeted by BRP-short expressed in KCs. In the calyx, however, only a fraction of the BRP<sup>Nc82</sup>-positive spots could be labeled by KC-expressed BRP-short (Figs. 1B–D, 2B–D). This is expected, since a dominant input to the calyx is delivered by PNs (Yasuyama et al., 2002), and according to our quantification, only ~20% of the calycal AZs are expected to correspond to KC-derived AZs (KCACs) (Table 1, Fig. 3). KCACs located in between macroglomeruli and microglomeruli. This suggests that KCACs remain segregated from the cholinergic PN::KC synapses. To explicitly examine this, we introduced additional molecular markers. First, we sought to label the postsynaptic densities (PSDs) of KCs at their cholinergic input synapses. To this end, we fused the KC-specific enhancer *mb247* to the gene encoding for the  $\text{D}\alpha 7$  acetylcholine (ACh) receptor subunit (Grauso et al., 2002; Fayyazuddin et al., 2006) (*mb247::d\alpha 7<sup>GFP</sup>*), flanked by the *gfp* gene. We have already previously used  $\text{D}\alpha 7<sup>GFP</sup>$  to label PSDs of cholinergic synapses (Leiss et al., 2009; Raghu et al., 2009; Kremer et al., 2010). The GFP signal of *mb247::d\alpha 7<sup>GFP</sup>* was absent from the MB lobes of larvae and adults (data not shown), indicating that, as expected, ACh receptors of KCs are restricted to the calyx region. Within the MB calyx, *mb247::d\alpha 7<sup>GFP</sup>* produced a strong staining in macroglomeruli (in larvae) (data not shown) and microglomeruli (in adults) (Fig. 6A). The GFP label was arranged in little patches corresponding to postsynaptic sites, which were juxtaposed to individual PN AZs (Kremer et al., 2010). To visualize PN-derived AZs, we expressed *UAS-brp-short<sup>mCherry</sup>* under the control of a broad PN driver (*gh146-GAL4*) (Fig. 6B,F) together with *mb247::d\alpha 7<sup>GFP</sup>* (Fig. 6A). As expected, we observed presynaptic AZs of PNs juxtaposed to the cholinergic PSDs of the KCs in the adult calyx (Fig. 6C,D, arrows). In contrast, when we expressed BRP-short in KCs (*mb247::brp-short<sup>GFP</sup>*) (Fig. 6E) together with *UAS-brp-short<sup>mCherry</sup>* under control of the PN driver (*gh146-GAL4*) (Fig. 6F), the KC-derived BRP-short signals grouped away from the PN AZ populations (Fig. 6G,H, arrows).

In summary, covisualization of KCACs together with presynaptic AZs of PNs in larvae (data not shown) and adult flies underlined that the PN-derived AZs are primarily restricted to the microglomerular domains, while the KCACs reside within the intermicroglomerular regions.

### Segregation of presynaptic and postsynaptic domains within KC dendrites

KCACs appeared clearly segregated from the cholinergic PN::KC synapses. Our analysis already suggested that both presynaptic and postsynaptic elements are formed by KC dendrites but are spatially segregated. For an analysis on the level of single neurons, we produced single KC clones using mosaic analysis with a repressible cell marker (MARCM) (Lee et al., 1999; Luo,



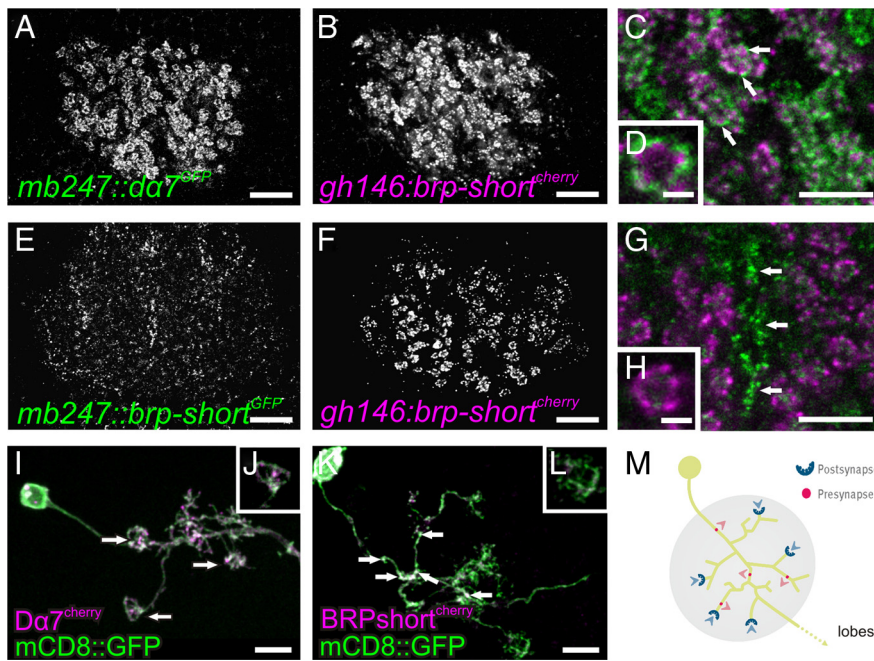
**Figure 5.** Evidence that KCACs are part of active synapses. Optical imaging of SV release at KCs analyzed using Synapto-pHluorin. **A**, Experimental setup during functional imaging. **B**, Expression of Synapto-pHluorin in KCs. Note that the calyx region can easily be distinguished from the lobe regions in the *in vivo* preparation. **C**, Relative change in fluorescence emission after stimulation with KCl in the calycal region, indicated by the red line shown in the inserted image of the calyx. **D**, Average of change in fluorescence in five flies. The trace indicates mean values; the gray shadows represent SEMs. The increase in fluorescence emission after stimulation with 100 mM KCl solution (superimposed on the decrease in emission caused by photobleaching) demonstrates that the KC dendrites in the calyx are capable of releasing SVs. Scale bars: **B**, 100  $\mu\text{m}$ ; **C**, 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

2007). While expression of *mCD8::GFP* allowed for visualizing the cell morphology, coexpression of *BRP-short<sup>mCherry</sup>* served as a label for presynapses and coexpression of *D\alpha 7<sup>mCherry</sup>* served as a label for postsynapses. As expected (Yasuyama et al., 2002), *D\alpha 7<sup>mCherry</sup>* signal mainly clustered at the terminal claw-like regions of KC dendrites (Fig. 6I,J, arrows). Also, *BRP-short<sup>mCherry</sup>* signal was observed in KC dendrites. However, we rarely found *BRP-short<sup>mCherry</sup>* clusters directly at claws but rather at more proximal parts of the dendrites (Fig. 6K,L).

It might be argued that axons running back from the lobe region into the calyx might be responsible for the KC-derived AZ label observed within the calyx. Yet in our single-cell analysis such axons were never observed. Instead, the physical segregation of presynaptic and postsynaptic specializations along KC dendrites could be further corroborated when we coexpressed *BRP-short<sup>mCherry</sup>* and *D\alpha 7<sup>GFP</sup>* using the broad KC driver *ok107-GAL4* (Fig. 7A–C). We found that the *BRP-short<sup>mCherry</sup>* signal was restricted to areas between the microglomeruli, visualized by *D\alpha 7<sup>GFP</sup>* (Fig. 7C, arrows). Thus, markers for presynaptic and postsynaptic specializations arrange separately when coexpressed within KCs dendrites. It thus appears likely that KC dendrites are of mixed identity and form presynaptic and postsynaptic stretches in consecutive, but hardly overlapping segments. For a schematic interpretation of these results, see Figure 6M.

### The KC subtypes $\gamma$ and $\alpha/\beta$ , but not $\alpha'/\beta'$ , form KCACs

Depending on their axonal elaboration within the MB lobes, KCs are subgrouped into several classes ( $\alpha/\beta$ ,  $\alpha'/\beta'$ ,  $\gamma$ ) (Crittenden et al., 1998). To examine the contribution of specific KC subtypes to the calycal microcircuitry, KC subtype-specific *GAL4* lines for  $\gamma$  neurons [*h24-GAL4* (Zars et al., 2000; Akalal et al., 2006)],  $\alpha/\beta$



**Figure 6.** Presynaptic and postsynaptic domains segregate within KC calyx dendrites. **A–D**, Analysis of synaptic elements in the calyx of adult flies. KCACs cluster distant from PN::KC synapses. **A–D**, Visualization of cholinergic PSDs of KCs (*mb247-dα7<sup>GFP</sup>*) (**A**) together with PN-derived AZs (*gh146-GAL4* driving *UAS-brp-short<sup>mCherry</sup>*) (**B**). A higher magnification of both merged labels shows that PN AZs locate at the inner edge of the microglomeruli, juxtaposed to KC PSDs (**C**, arrows; single microglomerulus in **D**). **E–H**, In contrast, KC-expressed BRP-short (*mb247::brp-short<sup>GFP</sup>*) (**E**) clustered distant from PN AZ populations (marked by *gh146::brp-short<sup>mCherry</sup>*) (**F**), as the merge of both labels at a higher magnification demonstrates (**G**, arrows; **H**, single microglomerulus). **I–L**, Visualization of single KCs in the calyx using the MARCM technique. **I, J**, Single KC (maximum-intensity projection) expressing *Da7<sup>mCherry</sup>* together with *mCD8::GFP*. A preferential localization of ACh receptors at the KC claw-like endings is visible (**I**, arrows; **J**, single claw). **K, L**, Single KC (maximum-intensity projection) expressing *BRP-short<sup>mCherry</sup>* together with *mCD8::GFP*. BRP signal is distributed along the KC dendrites (**K**, arrows), mostly separated from the KC claw-like endings (**K**, arrows; **L**, single claw). **M**, Schematic drawing of synaptic input and output regions on a single KC within the calyx. All images show single optical slices, except when stated differently. Slice thickness, 200 nm. Scale bars: **A, B, E, F**, 10 μm; **C, G, I, K**, 5 μm; **D, H, L**, 1 μm.

neurons [*c739-GAL4* (O’Dell et al., 1995; Yang et al., 1995; Aso et al., 2009)], and  $\alpha'/\beta'$  neurons [*c305a-GAL4* (Krashes et al., 2007)] were used for coexpression of *UAS-dα7<sup>GFP</sup>* and *UAS-brp-short<sup>mCherry</sup>* (Fig. 7D–L).

While expression in  $\alpha'/\beta'$ -type KCs produced a clear *Da7<sup>GFP</sup>* signal within the calyx, no BRP-short signals could be observed in the calyx (Fig. 7D–F) but in only  $\alpha'/\beta'$  lobes (data not shown). The *Da7<sup>GFP</sup>* expression was strongest in four lateral units, whereas only a weak expression was observed in the center of the calyx (data not shown).

In  $\gamma$  KCs, *Da7* but also BRP signals were observed in the calyx, with AZ and PSD signals being mainly segregated to distinct domains (Fig. 7G–I). The *Da7* receptor construct labeled microglomeruli all over the calyx (Fig. 7G) but showed its strongest expression in the center as well as weaker levels in lateral regions of the calyx (data not shown). BRP-short preferentially localized around the *Da7*-positive regions (Fig. 7I, arrows).

Also when expressed in  $\alpha/\beta$  KCs, strong *Da7* and BRP-short signals were observed (Fig. 7J–L). As in the case of  $\gamma$  KCs, AZs and PSDs derived from  $\alpha/\beta$  KCs appeared segregated to mutually exclusive domains. The *Da7* signal reproducibly labeled four units, residing laterally in the calyx (Fig. 7M–O). Closer analysis of image stacks identified four fascicles running along the cortex of the calyx (Fig. 7O, asterisks). These fascicles contained BRP when entering into the calyx, but contained *Da7* toward the center of the neuropil, with a border visible between both regions. It thus appears likely that individual  $\alpha/\beta$  KC dendrites consecu-

tively first form a proximal presynaptic specialization (BRP-positive AZs) followed by a more distal postsynaptic zone (*Da7*-positive PSDs).

Thus, only  $\gamma$  and  $\alpha/\beta$ , but not  $\alpha'/\beta'$  KCs seem to form KCACs. In an attempt to put these KC subtype-specific staining patterns in the context of the complete calyx, horizontal image stacks of adult calyces were examined. Here, BRP-short<sup>mCherry</sup> was expressed under control of the PN driver *gh146-GAL4* in addition to *mb247::dα7<sup>GFP</sup>* (to visualize the PN::KC synapses) and a BRP<sup>Nc82</sup> staining. We observed that the calyx appears subdivided into five subunits (Fig. 7P). Four of them were arranged in a pattern resembling a semicircle posterior to the inner antennocerebral tract (iACT), with the two lateral units terminating at the iACT. A fifth unit resided in between the semicycle. All five units harbored PN::KC synapses in their centers, which were surrounded by BRP<sup>Nc82</sup>-stained presynapses. We also analyzed the structure of the calyx with the previously mentioned KC-subset drivers (data not shown). The four laterally positioned subunits are mainly composed of  $\alpha/\beta$  and  $\alpha'/\beta'$  postsynapses, with  $\alpha/\beta$  KCACs clustered at their outer edges. These four units, arranged in a closed semicircle, are responsible for the quadripartite appearance of the calyx, which has been described previously (Ito et al., 1997). The center of the fifth unit predominantly harbors the  $\gamma$  neurons; their presynapses surround this unit and advance as far as in between the other four units. We summarized these findings in a tentative model (Fig. 7Q).

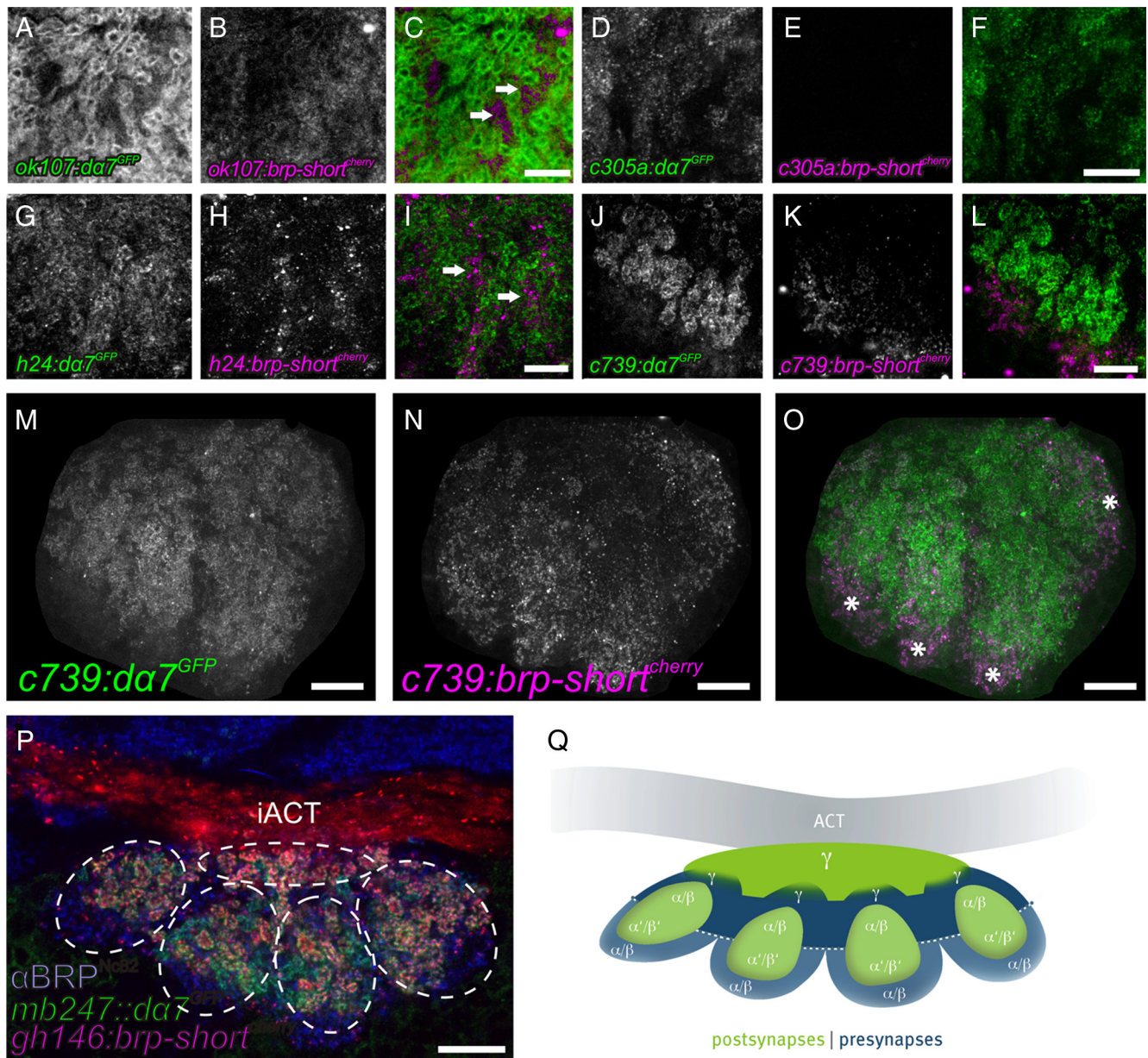
## Discussion

In this study, we used several approaches to provide evidence that the KC dendrites within the calyx of larval and adult *Drosophila* are not exclusively postsynaptic. They also form presynaptic AZs, which we named KCACs. Our findings are supported by data from two previous studies (Rolls et al., 2007; Pauls et al., 2010), which reported the presence of a presynaptic vesicle protein, Synaptobrevin, in KCs within the calyx. Here, we show that KCACs are able to release SVs by a functional imaging approach. Furthermore, we examined which different KC subtypes form KCACs and provide a detailed description of the KCAC location within the calyx. The presence of these previously undescribed KC-intrinsic presynaptic elements adds a new layer of complexity to the MB microcircuitry.

### KCACs and calycal microcircuitry

Within KC dendrites, AZs and PSDs are clearly organized into discrete subdomains (Fig. 6I–M). Here, the question emerges whether a given KC dendrite is either exclusively presynaptic or postsynaptic, or whether both presynaptic and postsynaptic domains can be present within the same KC dendrite in a consecutive fashion. MARCM identified single KCs, which showed BRP puncta spatially segregated from claw-like regions that are





**Figure 7.** Coexpression of presynaptic (BRP-short) and postsynaptic ( $D\alpha 7$ ) markers identifies distinct regions within KC dendrites of adult calyces. **A–L** show cutouts of maximum-intensity projections of calyces. **A–C**, *ok107-GAL4* driving expression of both *UAS-dα7<sup>GFP</sup>* (**A**) and *UAS-brp-short<sup>mCherry</sup>* (**B**) within KC dendrites. The merged image shows that presynaptic and postsynaptic regions appeared largely segregated (**C**, arrows). **D–F**,  $\alpha' \beta'$  KCs (*c305a-GAL4*) expressing both *UAS-dα7<sup>GFP</sup>* (**D**) and *UAS-brp-short<sup>mCherry</sup>* (**E**). While a strong *Dα7* signal was present (**D**), no BRP-short signal could be detected within the calyx (**E**, **F**). **G–I**,  $\gamma$  KC (*h24-GAL4*) expressing both *UAS-dα7<sup>GFP</sup>* (**G**) and *UAS-brp-short<sup>mCherry</sup>* (**H**). Both signals were present and clearly separated from each other (**I**). *Dα7* was distributed in microglomerular structures, while the BRP-short signal localized in between (**I**, arrows). **J–O**,  $\alpha \beta$  KCs (*c739-GAL4*) expressing both *UAS-dα7<sup>GFP</sup>* (**J**, **M**) and *UAS-brp-short<sup>mCherry</sup>* (**K**, **N**). **M–O** show the whole calyx (maximum-intensity projection). The dendrites showed a similar segregation of presynaptic and postsynaptic regions (**L**, **O**). Both signals were arranged into four distinct patches clearly separated from each other (**O**, asterisks). Here, BRP-short was located at the more peripheral part of the calyx (**K**, **N**), whereas *Dα7* showed a stronger signal toward the center of the neuropil (**J**, **M**). **P**, Horizontal section through the calyx of an adult fly. Visualization of calycal microglomeruli by *UAS-brp-short<sup>mCherry</sup>* expressed in PNs (*gh146-GAL4*) and *Dα7* expressed in KCs (*mb247::dα7<sup>GFP</sup>*). A  $\alpha$ BRP<sup>Nc82</sup> label of all presynapses is shown in blue. The calyx is divided into five subunits, each harboring microglomeruli in the center, that are surrounded by other synapses. Four subunits protrude to the posterior part and one further subunit is located between them and the iACT. **Q**, Schematic drawing of the distribution of presynaptic and postsynaptic regions of the different KC subtypes within the MB calyx. Postsynapses are shown in green, and presynapses are shown in blue. All images show single optical slices, except when stated differently. Slice thickness, 200 nm. iACT, Inner antennocerebral tract. Scale bars: **C**, **F**, **I**, **L**, 5  $\mu$ m; **M–P**, 10  $\mu$ m. BRP-short can form agglomerations within the somata of the cells it is expressed in. As the KC somata are located very close to the calyx neuropil, we manually removed the somata from images **M–O** for clarity.

thought to harbor the postsynaptic specializations of cholinergic PN::KC synapses. In parallel experiments, we showed that these claws in fact clustered the acetylcholine receptor  $D\alpha 7$ , as was expected from our previous work (Kremer et al., 2010). Thus, it appears likely that presynaptic and postsynaptic domains can be present within the same KC dendrite.

Based on the BRP-RNAi analysis, we estimate that  $\sim 20$ – $30\%$  of all presynapses in the calyx are KCACs, in both adults and larvae. These synapses are apparently part of the general calyx microcircuitry. They might synapse onto PNs, KCs themselves, the anterior paired lateral (APL) neuron, modulatory neurons, or so-far-undescribed cells. From our analysis, it appears unlikely

that PN boutons are direct postsynaptic partners of the KCACs, as the KCACs appear to be clearly physically segregated from the PN boutons. KCACs might, however, project onto PN axons.

It appears well possible that KCACs project onto the GABAergic APL neuron (Liu and Davis, 2009), which arborizes in the whole calyx. Within the insect antennal lobe, reciprocal dendrodendritic connections between the PNs and the partially GABAergic local interneurons (LNs) have been described (Sun et al., 1997; Didier et al., 2001; Ng et al., 2002). The PN neurites and the LNs are both transmissive and receptive in the antennal lobe, suggesting a computation between them. KCACs might be involved into similar computations in the calyx. This would be in accordance with EM studies in crickets that suggest presynapses in KCs that connect to GABAergic fibers in the MB calyx (Schürmann et al., 2008).

KCACs might also mediate KC::KC communication. In fact, dendritic segments of KCs that harbor presynapses appear to run in a parallel fashion (data not shown). This arrangement could promote the communication between dendritic segments of KCs via dendrodendritic synapses. Such KC::KC synapses could therefore modulate signals originating from the distal segments of the arborizations, which carry odor-evoked signals. By these means, an effective computation between KCs could be accomplished before they transmit their input signals downstream.

Unfortunately, at the moment no general PSD markers are available in *Drosophila*. Moreover, the neurotransmitter used by KCs remains unknown. With a general postsynaptic marker or knowledge about the KC transmitter, we could have generated tools to identify the postsynaptic partners of KCACs. Yet currently, despite efforts, we can only speculate about the postsynaptic partners of KCs in the calyx.

### Potential roles of KCACs in learning and memory processes

Memory traces are typically thought to be manifested as plastic changes in neuronal anatomy and physiology that occur in specific brain regions. Several lines of evidence indicate that MBs are causally involved in associative learning of olfactory stimuli (for review, see Heisenberg, 1998, 2003; Roman and Davis, 2001; Waddell and Quinn, 2001b; Dubnau et al., 2003; Gerber et al., 2004; Davis, 2005; Keene and Waddell, 2007). Flies with chemically ablated KCs or mutants lacking the MBs are deficient in olfactory learning (Heisenberg et al., 1985; de Belle and Heisenberg, 1994). Learning was investigated in flies mutant for the adenylyl cyclase rutabaga (*rut*) (Livingstone et al., 1984), which is suggested to act as a coincidence detector between conditioned stimulus (odor) and unconditioned stimulus (e.g., electric shock) (Tomchik and Davis, 2009). Reexpression of a *rut* cDNA in a *rut*<sup>-</sup> background within a subpopulation of KCs sufficed to restore odor learning (Zars et al., 2000; McGuire et al., 2003). For appetitive learning, reexpression of *rut* in either PNs or KCs is sufficient to restore the mutant defect, whereas aversive learning is rescued only by *rut* reexpression in KCs (Thum et al., 2007). Reversible disruption of transmitter release in *Drosophila* KCs, using a temperature-sensitive dynamin transgene, *UAS-shibire<sup>ts1</sup>* (Kitamoto, 2001), was shown to block memory retrieval in  $\alpha/\beta$  neurons (McGuire et al., 2001; Isabel et al., 2004; Keene and Waddell, 2007; Krashes et al., 2007) and acquisition and stabilization of memory in  $\alpha'/\beta'$  neurons (Keene and Waddell, 2007; Krashes et al., 2007). Together, these data imply that MBs play a major role in learning and memory. To form, stabilize, and retrieve memory (for review, see Keene and Waddell, 2007), KCs use their presynapses (for review, see Heisenberg, 2003; Davis,

2005; Keene and Waddell, 2007). The KC presynapses are so far believed to reside in the lobes.

The biogenic amines octopamine and dopamine are thought to mediate the unconditioned stimulus signal for learning olfactory associations, with octopamine representing appetitive stimuli and dopamine representing aversive stimuli (Schwaerzel et al., 2003; Schroll et al., 2006). Hammer and Menzel (1998) could show that, in honeybees, sugar can be replaced by octopamine application to the calyx to trigger the conditioned proboscis-extension reflex. In the fruit fly, the amines octopamine and dopamine are released onto MB lobes and calyx (Sinakevitch and Strausfeld, 2006; Busch et al., 2009; Mao and Davis, 2009). This holds also true for the larva [octopamine (A. Thum, personal communication); dopamine (Selcho et al., 2009)]. Therefore, the KCACs might be involved in appetitive learning as well as in aversive learning in fly and larva.

Notably, we found that the KC subpopulations  $\gamma$  and  $\alpha/\beta$ , but not  $\alpha'/\beta'$ , form KCACs (Fig. 7). This dichotomy correlates with functional differences in learning and memory that have been assigned to these KC classes in previous studies. For example,  $\alpha'/\beta'$  KCs were reported to be required during and after training to acquire and stabilize olfactory memory (Keene and Waddell, 2007; Krashes et al., 2007), whereas output from  $\alpha/\beta$  neurons was postulated to be required to retrieve memory (McGuire et al., 2001; Keene and Waddell, 2007; Krashes et al., 2007). It has been proposed that, during acquisition, olfactory information received from PNs is first processed in parallel by the  $\alpha/\beta$  and  $\alpha'/\beta'$  KCs (Keene and Waddell, 2007; Krashes et al., 2007). Notably, activity in  $\alpha'/\beta'$  KCs (which do not form KCACs) is supposed to trigger a recurrent loop between  $\alpha'/\beta'$  KCs and dorsal paired medial neurons, which project to the MB lobes (Yu et al., 2005; Keene et al., 2006; Keene and Waddell, 2007; Krashes et al., 2007). This loop, in turn, might be necessary for memory consolidation in  $\alpha/\beta$  neurons. Subsequently, memories could be stored in  $\alpha/\beta$  neurons, whose activity is required during recall (Keene and Waddell, 2007; Krashes et al., 2007). As  $\alpha'/\beta'$  neurons are devoid of KCACs, KCACs cannot be involved in the circuit described above. Instead, it is likely that additional, similar recurrent loops exist, which are mediated via KCACs. However, it remains unresolved how exactly KC::KC communication is organized anatomically and functionally. Our study now proposes a newly discovered synapse population as candidate sites for KC::KC communication.

In the mammalian olfactory system, major feedback pathways exist, which project onto neurons one level lower in hierarchy (Haberly, 1998). A recent publication (Hu et al., 2010) showed that likewise in *Drosophila* activation of KCs induced a depolarization in cell bodies of PNs and LNs within the antennal lobes. The authors thus suggested that MB lobes provide feedback to the ALs. Moreover, an additional memory trace appears to exist in the antennal lobe (Hammer and Menzel, 1995, 1998; Faber et al., 1999; Yu et al., 2004)/in the PNs (Thum et al., 2007). It may therefore well be the case that KCs project onto PNs or onto feedback neurons via their KCACs.

An urgent question of the field concerns the identification of the postsynaptic partner cells of KC presynapses, which harbor memory traces during olfactory conditioning. It is generally assumed that MB-extrinsic downstream neurons involved in behavioral execution of learned behavior serve as postsynaptic partners here. Our findings raise the possibility that microcircuits inside the MB could be places for further modulation and computation of olfactory processing and/or memory formation and modulation. As a consequence, not only the communication to

downstream neurons but also the representation of sensory information within the MB circuitry might be changed by experience. Future analysis using optophysiological tools at the KCACs, together with further anatomical work, should provide answers to these questions.

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