

**Aberrant survival of hippocampal Cajal-Retzius cells leads to memory deficits, gamma rhythmopathies and susceptibility to seizures in adulthood in mice**

Martina Riva<sup>1,2</sup>, Stéphanie Moriceau<sup>3</sup>, Annunziato Morabito<sup>4#</sup>, Elena Dossi<sup>5#</sup>, Candela Sanchez-Bellot<sup>6#</sup>, Patrick Azzam<sup>1,2#</sup>, Andrea Navas-Olive<sup>6</sup>, Beatriz Gal<sup>6,7</sup>, Francesco Dori<sup>1,2</sup>, Elena Cid<sup>6</sup>, Fanny Ledonne<sup>2</sup>, Sabrina David<sup>8</sup>, Fabrice Trovero<sup>8</sup>, Magali Bartolomucci<sup>9</sup>, Eva Coppola<sup>2</sup>, Nelson Rebola<sup>4</sup>, Antoine Depaulis<sup>9</sup>, Nathalie Rouach<sup>5</sup>, Liset Menendez de la Prida<sup>6</sup>, Franck Oury<sup>3</sup> and Alessandra Pierani<sup>1,2,10\*</sup>

**Supplementary Tables**

Tested parameters		Males		Females	
		Control (N=17)	Mutant (N=8)	Control (N=9)	Mutant (N=9)
<b>Morphology</b>	Fur color	3.8 ± 0.2	4.0 ± 0.0	NA	NA
	Body weight after the test	20.5 ± 0.5	20.2 ± 0.6	18.8 ± 0.8	17.7 ± 0.6
	Body size	149.4 ± 1.4	149.1 ± 1.9	148.8 ± 2.7	148.1 ± 1.6
<b>Physical state</b>	Coat	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0
	Groomed fur	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0
	Marks of biting	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0
	Body	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0
	Whiskers	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0
	Body tone	1.0 ± 0.0	1.0 ± 0.0	1.0 ± 0.0	1.0 ± 0.0
<b>Autonomic nervous system</b>	Respiration rate at the beginning of testing	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0
	Respiration rate during testing	2.0 ± 0.0	1.8 ± 0.3	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0
	Rectal temperature before testing	36.7 ± 0.2	36.7 ± 0.2	37.3 ± 0.4	37.2 ± 0.3
	Rectal temperature at the end of testing	36.9 ± 0.1	37.0 ± 0.1	37.5 ± 0.1	37.5 ± 0.2
	Salivation	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0
	Pupil size	1.1 ± 0.0	1.1 ± 0.0	1.1 ± 0.1	1.0 ± 0.1
	Light-Pupil retraction	2.2 ± 0.1	2.5 ± 0.2	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0
<b>Pain sensitivity</b>	Tail pinch	1.8 ± 0.2	1.9 ± 0.3	1.9 ± 0.1	1.7 ± 0.2
	Toe pinch	1.4 ± 0.3	1.5 ± 0.4	1.3 ± 0.2	1.7 ± 0.2
<b>Touch</b>	Pinna touching	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	2.1 ± 0.1	2.0 ± 0.0
	Vibrissae touching	2.1 ± 0.1	2.4 ± 0.2	2.4 ± 0.2	2.3 ± 0.2
	Finger approach - Finger slowly approached and held at 1 cm in front of the animal for 5s	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	NA	NA
	Head touch - Finger slowly approached until touching the head	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0
	Touch escape (finger stroke from above)	1.5 ± 0.2	0.9 ± 0.2	1.6 ± 0.3	1.7 ± 0.2
<b>Vision</b>	Touch escape (finger stroke from above)	1.5 ± 0.2	0.9 ± 0.2	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0
	Visual placing: hindpaws extension	2.1 ± 0.1	2.1 ± 0.1	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0
<b>Audition</b>	Auditory response 'clit'	2.9 ± 0.1	3.1 ± 0.1	1.0 ± 0.0	1.0 ± 0.0
	Auditory response 'clap'	2.9 ± 0.1	2.6 ± 0.2	1.0 ± 0.0	1.0 ± 0.0
<b>Motricity Gait</b>	Gait	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0
	Pelvic elevation during forward motion	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0
	Tail elevation during forward motion	1.5 ± 0.1	1.4 ± 0.2	1.1 ± 0.1	1.2 ± 0.1
<b>Motricity Tonus Strength</b>	Grip strength	67.2 ± 3.9	64.2 ± 3.9	67.3 ± 3.6	75.3 ± 4.7
	Negative geotaxis	4.0 ± 0.0	4.0 ± 0.0	1.0 ± 0.0	1.0 ± 0.0
	Wire manoeuvre	0.5 ± 0.26	0.9 ± 0.4	0.6 ± 0.24	0.0 ± 0.0
	Hindlimb tone	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0

<b>Motricity Equilibrium</b>	Fall from platform	0.1 ± 0.1	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0	0.1 ± 0.1	
	Righting reflex: time	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0	
	Negative geotaxis	6.5 ± 1.1	4.3 ± 1.1	7.9 ± 2.4	6.5 ± 2.8	
	Equilibrium	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0	
	Wire maneuver	0.5 ± 0.3	0.9 ± 0.4	NA	NA	
<b>SNC tremors</b>	Tremors	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0	
	Tremors	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0	
<b>Reflex</b>	Cornea	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	
	Hind limb reflex	NA	NA	1.0 ± 0.0	1.0 ± 0.0	
	Provoked biting	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	
	Hindlimb tone	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	
<b>Reactivity</b>	Pinna touching	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	2.1 ± 0.1	2.0 ± 0.0	
	Vibrissae touching	2.1 ± 0.1	2.4 ± 0.2	2.4 ± 0.2	2.3 ± 0.2	
	Finger approach - Finger slowly approached and held at 1 cm in front of the animal for 5s	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	
	Head touch - Finger slowly approached until touching head	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	
	Touch escape (finger stroke from above)	1.5 ± 0.2	0.9 ± 0.2	NA	NA	
	Touch escape	1.1 ± 0.1	0.9 ± 0.2	1.2 ± 0.1	1.0 ± 0.2	
	Resistance to manipulations	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0	
	Provoked biting	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	
<b>Activity in home cage</b>	Body position	3.0 ± 0.0	3.0 ± 0.0	3.0 ± 0.0	3.0 ± 0.0	
	Activity	1.9 ± 0.1	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	
	Awakening	3.8 ± 0.2	4.0 ± 0.0			
	Digging sawdust	0.2 ± 0.1	0.4 ± 0.2	0.4 ± 0.2	0.9 ± 0.2	
	Grooming	0.4 ± 0.2	0.1 ± 0.1	0.6 ± 0.2	0.3 ± 0.2	
<b>Activity after transfer</b>	Horiz A after transfer	63.3 ± 6.9	63.5 ± 7.0	80.7 ± 6.0	90.0 ± 8.8	
	Vertic A after transfer	13.5 ± 1.8	16.3 ± 1.4	18.6 ± 2.4	17.1 ± 1.9	
	Horizontal activity	From 0 to 30s	23.3 ± 1.5	25.8 ± 2.6	29.2 ± 2.1	31.6 ± 2.8
		From 30 to 120s	32.3 ± 3.5	40.1 ± 4.0	51.4 ± 4.1	58.4 ± 6.5
	Vertical activity	From 0 to 30s	3.5 ± 0.5	3.3 ± 0.9	4.2 ± 0.9	4.3 ± 0.8
		From 30 to 120s	7.9 ± 0.8	11.5 ± 1.8	14.3 ± 2.0	12.8 ± 1.4
	Palpebral closure	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	
Awakening	4.0 ± 0.0	4.0 ± 0.0	4.0 ± 0.0	4.0 ± 0.0		
<b>Activity after habituation</b>	Palpebral closure	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	NA	NA	
	Awakening	4.0 ± 0.0	4.0 ± 0.0	4.0 ± 0.0	4.0 ± 0.0	
	Transfer on platform	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	
	Descent latency	30.4 ± 0.6	31.0 ± 0.0	31.0 ± 0.0	28.9 ± 2.1	
<b>Freezing</b>	Freezing	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0	
	Freezing after transfer	NA	NA	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0	
	Negative geotaxis	4.0 ± 0.0	4.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0	
	Auditory response 'clit'	2.9 ± 0.1	3.1 ± 0.1	0.1 ± 0.1	0.0 ± 0.0	
	Auditory response 'clap'	2.9 ± 0.1	2.6 ± 0.2	0.1 ± 0.1	0.0 ± 0.0	
	Touch escape	1.1 ± 0.1	0.9 ± 0.2	0.2 ± 0.1	0.1 ± 0.1	
<b>Grooming</b>	Grooming	0.4 ± 0.2	0.1 ± 0.1	0.6 ± 0.2	0.3 ± 0.2	
	Groomings from 0 to 120s	0.5 ± 0.2	0.6 ± 0.2	0.2 ± 0.1	0.8 ± 0.2	
<b>Agressivity</b>	Attack to touch	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0	0.1 ± 0.1	
	Provoked biting	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	

<b>Vocalisation</b>	Abnormal vocalisation	NA	NA	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0
	Vocalisation to tail pinch	NA	NA	0.9 ± 0.1	0.7 ± 0.2
	Vocalisation to toe pinch	NA	NA	0.3 ± 0.2	0.7 ± 0.2
<b>Defecation</b>	Defecation	2.2 ± 0.1	2.0 ± 0.0	1.8 ± 0.1	1.9 ± 0.1
	Defecation	2.0 ± 0.1	2.0 ± 0.3	1.8 ± 0.1	1.8 ± 0.2
	Faeces consistency	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.0
<b>Urination</b>	Urination	1.0 ± 0.0	1.0 ± 0.0	0.4 ± 0.2	0.6 ± 0.2

**Table S1: No changes in pain sensitivity, motricity gait, tonus strength and equilibrium in juvenile *BaxCKO* mutant mice.** Primary screening of juvenile (28 to 35 days old) animals, males and females independently tested. The details of the tests and the scores used to evaluate mouse response are in Materials and Methods section. Comparisons between control and mutant animals were performed using the Mann-Whitney U test and no statistically significant differences were observed.

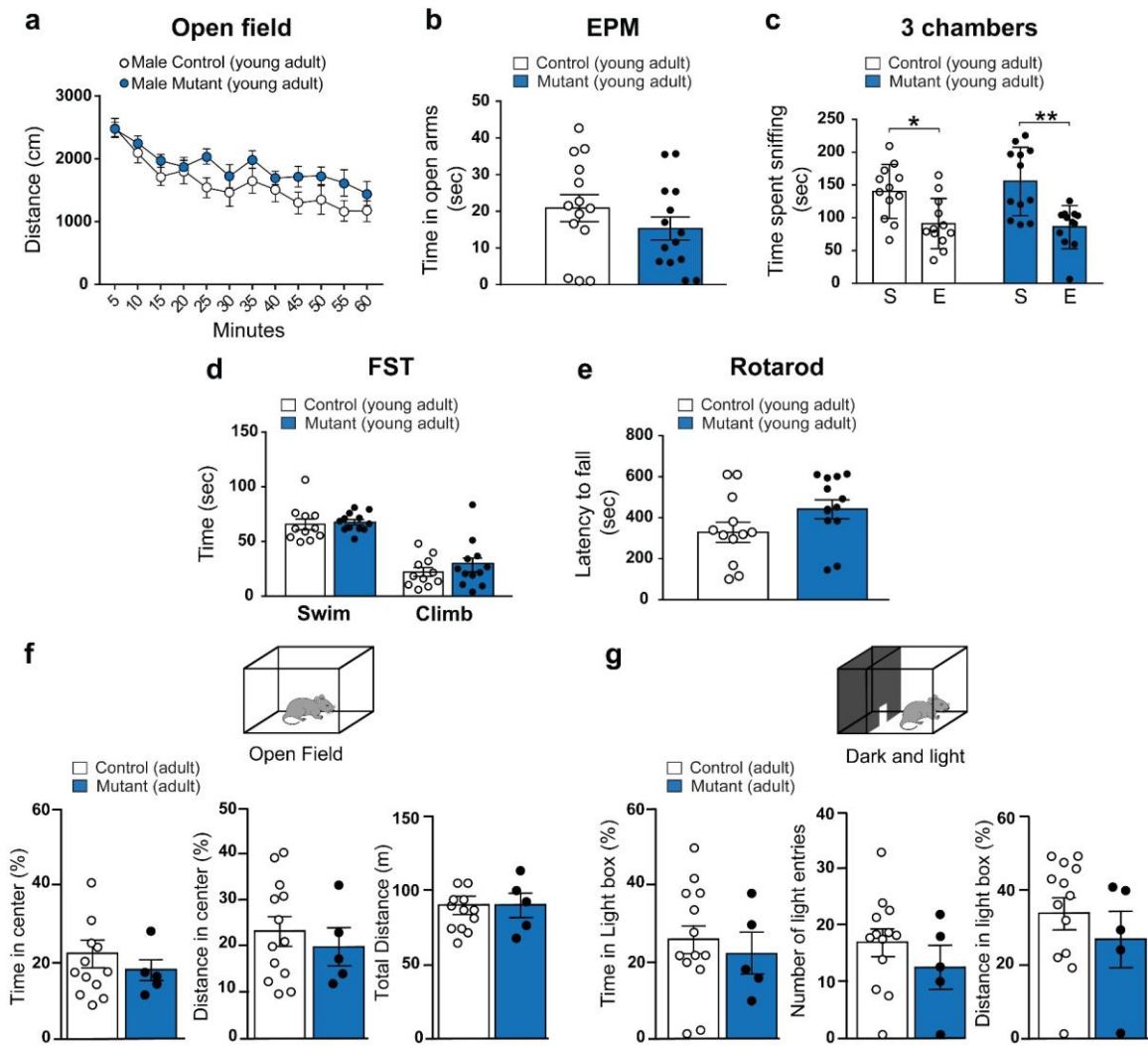




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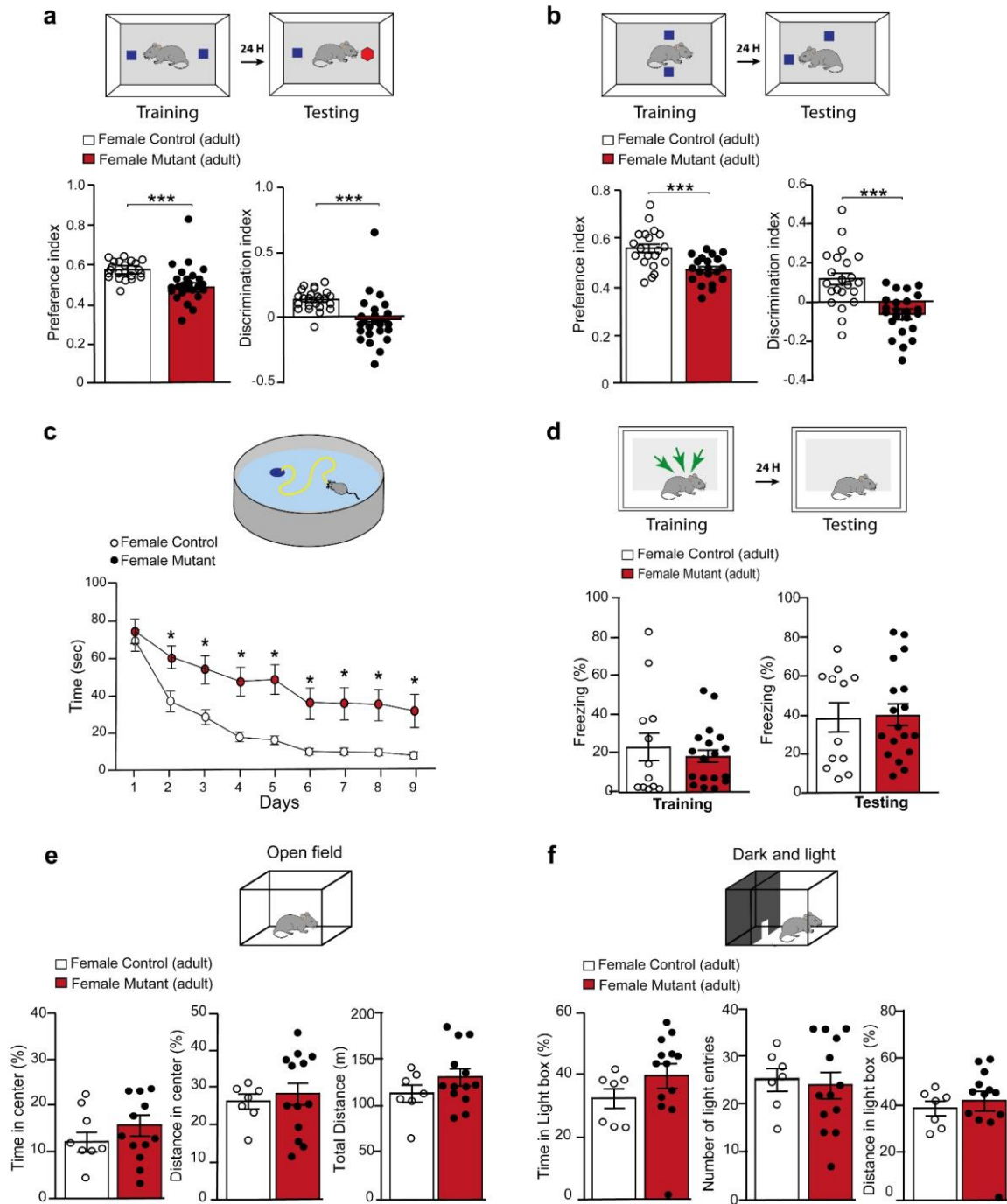
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**Supplementary Figures**



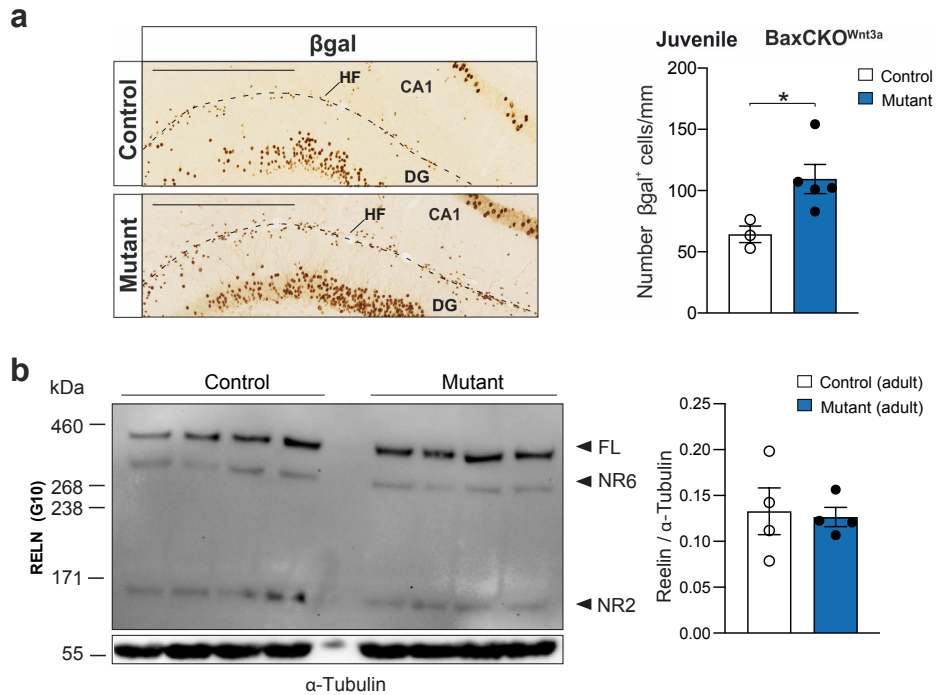
**Figure S1**

**Fig. S1: *BaxCKO* mutant mice show normal locomotion, anxiety and sociability.** **a** Open field test (OF) performed on young adults (6 weeks-old) male animals showing no differences in traveled distance between controls (n=12) and mutant (n=12) animals ( $F(1, 22) = 2.164$ ;  $p=0.1554$  RM Two-way ANOVA). **b** Elevated plus maze (EPM) performed on young adults (6 weeks-old) male animals showing no differences in time spent in the open arms (OA) between controls (n=14) and mutant (n=14) animals ( $p=0.2219$  Mann-Whitney test). **c** 3-chamber sociability test performed on young adults (8 weeks-old) male animals. Both controls (n=12) and mutant (n=12) spent significantly more time sniffing the cage with a stranger (S) than the empty cage (E) ( $p=0.0179$  for controls and  $p=0.0010$  for mutants, RM Two-way ANOVA, post hoc Sidak's multiple comparison test). **d** Forced swim test (FST) performed on young adults (7 weeks-old) male animals showing no differences in the time spent swimming or climbing between controls (n=12) and mutant (n=12) animals ( $p=0.347$  for swim,  $p=0.5254$  for climb, Mann-Whitney test). **e** Rotarod test performed on young adults (8 weeks-old) male animals indicating no differences in latency to fall between controls (n=12) and mutant (n=12) animals ( $p=0.0848$  Mann-Whitney test). **f** OF test performed in adult male (n=5 mutants and n=13 controls, Mann-Whitney test) animals. % of the time spent in the center versus the periphery ( $p=0.7028$ ), % of the distance traveled in the center versus the periphery ( $p=0.7028$ ) and the Total distance (m) ( $p=0.8490$ ) were measured. No differences were detected between controls and mutants. **g** Light/Dark transition Test (L/D) performed in adult males (n=5 mutants and n=13 controls, Mann-Whitney test). % time spent in the light compartment ( $p=0.1936$ ), the number of entries in the light compartment ( $p=0.2274$ ) and % of the distance traveled ( $p=0.1936$ ) were measured. No differences were detected between controls and mutants. Asterisks indicate statistical significance (\*\*,  $p<0.01$ ). All data are presented as Mean  $\pm$  SEM.



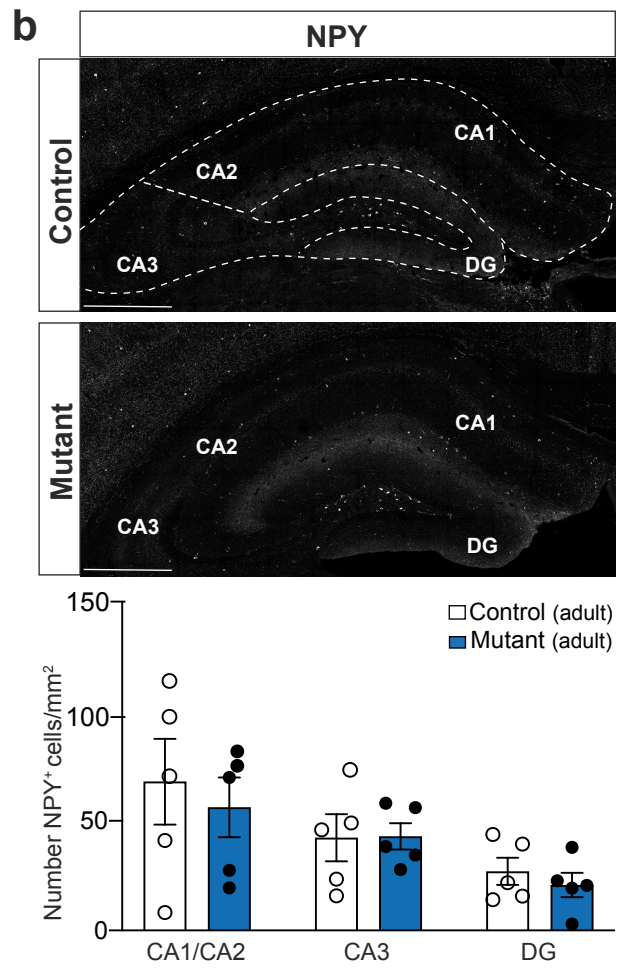
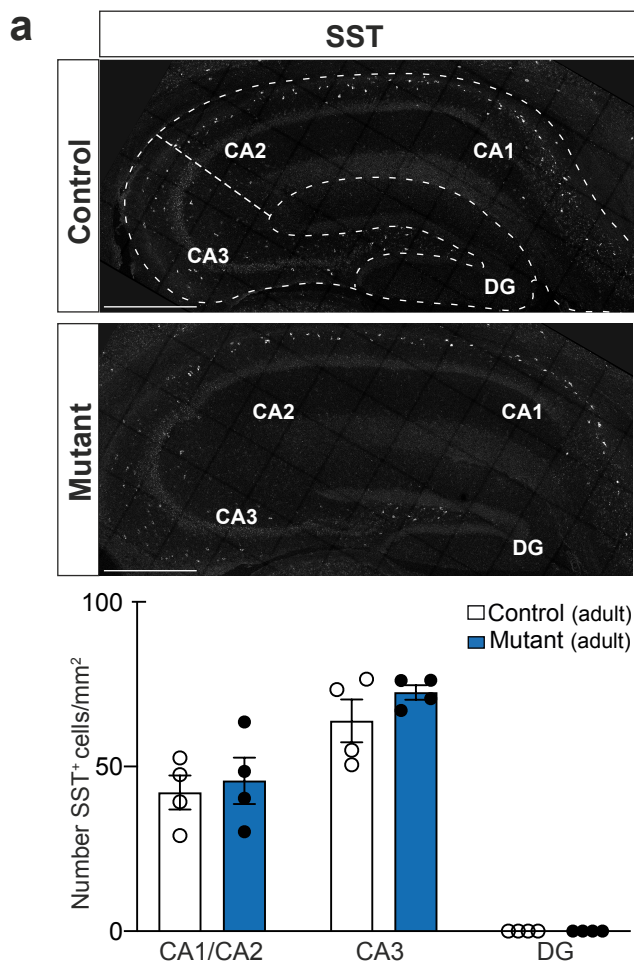
**Figure S2**

**Fig. S2: Adult *BaxCKO* mutant female mice exhibit deficits in hippocampal associated memory.** **a** NOR test performed on three independent groups of adult female mutant animals and their control littermates (n=34) and controls (n=27). Preference and Discrimination index were measured 24 h after the training phase to assess memory performance. Mutant animals showed impairments in discriminating the new object ( $p < 0.0001$  and  $p < 0.0001$  for preference and discrimination index respectively, Mann-Whitney test). **b** NOL test performed on two independent groups of adult female mutant animals (n=22) and their controls littermates (n=23). Preference and Discrimination index were measured 24 h after the training phase. Mutant animals showed impairments in discriminating the new located object ( $p < 0.0001$  and  $p < 0.0001$  for preference and discrimination index respectively, Mann-Whitney test). **c** MWM test performed in adult female (n=23 mutants and n=21 controls) mice for 9 days. Mutant animals required more time to find the hidden platform ( $F(1, 42) = 13.52$ ,  $p = 0.0007$  for Genotype, RM Two-way ANOVA). **d** Contextual Fear Conditioning (CFC) performed on females (mutant, n=18; control, n=12) from two independent groups. Percent freezing time was recorded during the training (as control for basal level,  $p = 0.8265$ , Mann-Whitney test) and testing phases (to assess memory performance,  $p = 0.2106$ , Mann-Whitney test). No differences were detected between control and mutant animals. **e** OF test performed in adult female mutant (n=13) and control (n=7) animals (Mann-Whitney test). % of the time spent in the center versus the periphery ( $p = 0.2749$ ), % of the distance traveled in the center versus the periphery ( $p = 0.7573$ ) and the Total distance (m) ( $p = 0.3929$ ) were measured. No differences were detected between controls and mutants. **f** Light/Dark transition Test (L/DT) performed in adult females (n=13 mutants and n=7 controls, Mann-Whitney test). % time spent in the light compartment ( $p = 0.1255$ ), number of entries in the light compartment ( $p = 0.3857$ ) and % of the distance traveled ( $p = 0.1207$ ) were measured. No differences were detected between controls and mutants. All tests were performed on 3 months-old female mice. Asterisks indicate statistical significance (\*,  $p < 0.05$ ; \*\*\*,  $p < 0.001$ ). All data are presented as Mean  $\pm$  SEM.



**Figure S3**

**Fig. S3: Enhanced survival of CRs in the hippocampus of juvenile *BaxCKO<sup>Wnt3aCre</sup>* mutants.** **a** Coronal sections of control and *BaxCKO<sup>Wnt3aCre</sup>* (all the samples are carrying the *Tau<sup>nlsLacZ</sup>* reporter) hippocampal region at P24 immunostained for  $\beta\text{gal}$  (left panels). Quantification of  $\beta\text{gal}^+$  cells in HF of control and mutant animals (right panels) showing increased number of CRs in mutants (controls:  $64.25 \pm 6.76$  cells/mm; mutants:  $109.5 \pm 11.92$  cells/mm,  $p=0.0357$ ; Mann-Whitney test,  $n=3$  controls and  $n=5$  mutants). **b** Western blotting using an anti-Reelin (G10) and anti- $\alpha$ tubulin (as internal control) showing no differences in the total amount of RELN protein in the hippocampus of adult controls and *BaxCKO* mice ( $p>0.9999$ ; Mann-Whitney test,  $n=4$  controls and  $n=4$  mutants). All data are presented as Mean  $\pm$  SEM.



**Figure S4**



**Fig. S4: Unaffected number of interneurons in the adult hippocampus. a** Immunofluorescence of coronal sections from adult control and *BaxCKO* brains stained for SST (top panels). Quantification of SST<sup>+</sup> cells in the different hippocampal regions of control and mutant animals showing no differences (p=0.9291 for CA1/CA2; p=0.4788 for CA3; p>0.9999 for DG, two-way ANOVA, Sidak's multiple comparison test, n=4 controls and n=4 mutants).

**b** Immunofluorescence of coronal sections from adult control and *BaxCKO* brains stained for NPY (top panels). Quantification of NPY<sup>+</sup> cells in the different hippocampal regions of control and mutant animals showing no differences (p=0.9527 for CA1/CA2; p>0.9999 for CA3; p=0.8519 for DG, two-way ANOVA, Sidak's multiple comparison test, n=5 controls and n=5 mutants). Dotted lines represent the subdivisions in different regions: CA1/CA2, CA3 and DG. Scale bar: 500  $\mu$ m. All data are presented as Mean  $\pm$  SEM.

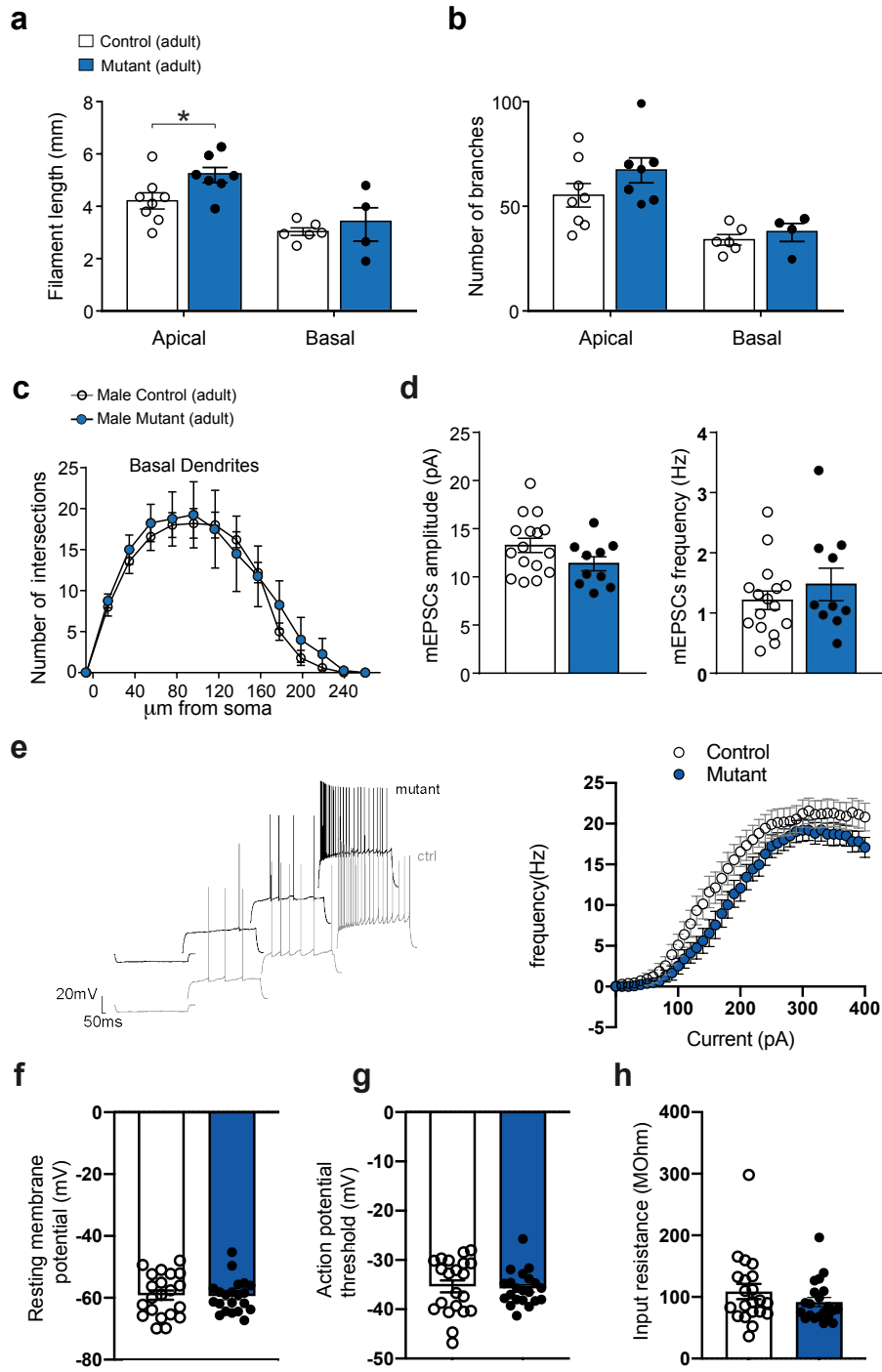
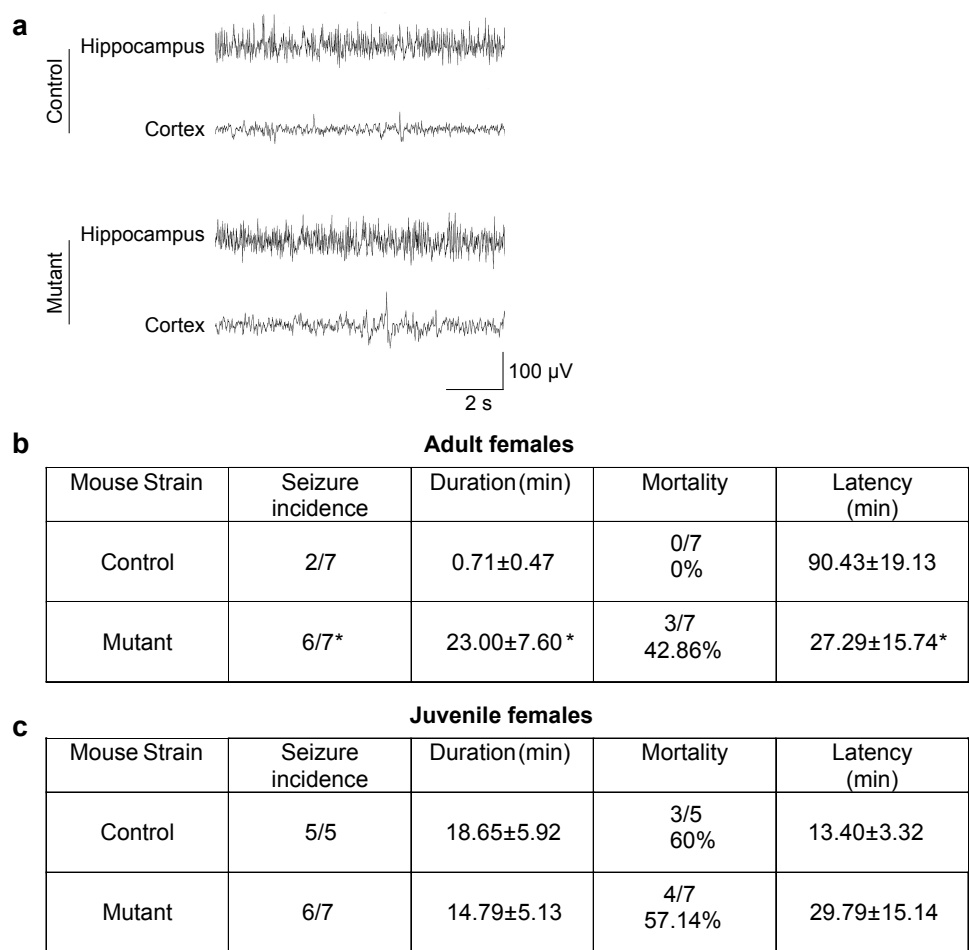


Figure S5

**Fig. S5: Analysis of CA1 pyramidal neurons morphology.** **a** Increased filament length of apical ( $p=0.0289$ ), but not basal ( $p=0.9143$ ) dendrites in adult mutant animals (Mann-Whitney test,  $n=8$  controls and 7 mutants for apical,  $n=6$  controls and 4 mutants for basal dendrites). **b** No changes detected in the total number of branches ( $p=0.2440$  for apical and  $0.5333$  for basal dendrites, Mann-Whitney test). **c** No changes detected in complexity (number of intersections) of basal dendrites ( $n=6$  controls and 4 mutants,  $F(1, 7)=0.1609$ ;  $p=0.7003$  for genotype, RM Two-way ANOVA). **d** Summary plot of mEPSC amplitude and frequency estimated from individual CA1 pyramidal neurons from control and mutant mice. No statistically significant difference was observed between the two groups ( $p=0.1246$  and  $0.5955$ , respectively;  $n = 16$  and  $10$  in controls and mutants, Mann-Whitey test). **e** *Left*: Representative current-clamp traces showing changes in the membrane potential of CA1 pyramidal neurons in response to somatic current injection steps of increasing amplitude ( $-90$  pA,  $160$  pA,  $170$  pA and  $290$  pA) in both control and mutant mice. *Right*: Firing frequency as function of injected current showing no differences between control and mutant mice ( $F(1, 20)=2.418$ ;  $p=0.1356$  for genotype, RM two-way ANOVA). **f** Summary plot of resting membrane potential showing no differences between control and mutant mice ( $p=0.9405$ , Mann-Whitney test). **g** Same as F but for action potential threshold. Values were not statistically different between the two groups ( $p=0.6585$ , Mann-Whitney test). **h** Same as F but for input resistance ( $p=0.2202$ , Mann-Whitney test). Asterisks indicate statistical significance (\*,  $p<0.05$ ). All data are presented as Mean  $\pm$  SEM.



**Figure S6**

**Fig. S6: Survival of CRs increases susceptibility to develop tonic-clonic seizures upon kainate injection in adult female mice.** **a** Example of electroencephalographic recording in hippocampus and parietal cortex (Cortex) in control and mutant juvenile mice. **b** Results of kainate injection in adult female mice. Seizure incidence, duration, latency but not mortality, were increased in mutant females compared to littermate controls ( $p=0.0306$ ,  $0.0064$ ,  $0.0361$  and  $0.055$  respectively; Mann Whitney test). **c** No change in any analyzed parameter was detected for juvenile females ( $p=0.4241$  for seizure incidence;  $p=0.7866$  for duration;  $p>0.9999$  for mortality and  $p=0.4571$  for latency, Mann Whitney test). Asterisks indicate statistical significance (\*,  $p<0.05$ ). Values are expressed as Mean  $\pm$  SEM.