

# Supporting Information

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## SI Methods

### Identification, Sequence Assembly, and Cloning of Erg Channel Orthologs.

*Trichoplax adhaerens*, *Daphnia pulex*, and *Caenorhabditis briggsae* Ether-a-go-go related gene (Erg) channels were identified using TBLASTN searches of genome drafts (1–4), and existing gene predictions were used in sequence and phylogenetic analyses. A combination of mammalian, *Drosophila*, and nematode Erg channel amino acid sequences were used for queries. Searches routinely identified Erg, Elk, Ether-a-go-go (Eag), HCN, and CNG channels. However, only true Erg family orthologs were reciprocal best matches to previously cloned Erg channels in BLASTP queries against REFSEQ.

Total *Nematostella* RNA was prepared from 1- to 2-mo-old polyps using the RNAeasy Miniprep Kit (Qiagen). Before lysis, whole polyps were cut into small cubes, preserved in RNAlater (Qiagen), frozen at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and ground with a mortar and pestle. cDNA was reverse transcribed from total RNA using oligo dT priming and SuperScript III reverse transcriptase (Life Technologies). *Nematostella vectensis* Erg1 (NvErg1) and NvErg4 were amplified in fragments, and full-length clones were assembled using overlap extension. Three independent clones of each gene were sequenced and compared with the genome sequence to generate a consensus coding sequence reported in [Dataset S1](#). Sequences have been submitted to GenBank (NvErg1, KF877721; NvErg4, KF877722). No splice variants or nonsynonymous mutations were identified. *Down and out* (DAO), *Drosophila* Erg (DmErg), *Caenorhabditis elegans* Erg ortholog (CeErg), and *Anopheles gambiae* Erg (AgErg) were cloned by RT-PCR from total RNA samples prepared from adult Canton-S flies, mixed stage worms, and adult mosquitos. The 3' end of AgErg coding was determined by RACE PCR, and there are several small splicing differences in the clone we amplified and informatics gene predictions. The experimentally determined sequence is included in [Dataset S1](#). Mouse Erg3 (MmErg3) was cloned by RT-PCR from total RNA isolated from mouse cortex. All clones were sequence verified.

**Electrophysiology: Recording and Data Analysis.** All chemicals described below were obtained from Sigma Aldrich. *Xenopus laevis* ovaries were obtained from eNASCO, and mature de-folliculated oocytes were prepared by digestion with Type II Collagenase diluted to 1–2 mg/mL in  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -free ND98 (98 mM NaCl, 2 mM KCl, 1 mM  $\text{MgCl}_2$ , 5 mM Hepes, pH 7.2). Following digestion, oocytes were rinsed extensively in ND98 culture solution (98 mM NaCl, 2 mM KCl, 1 mM  $\text{MgCl}_2$ , 2 mM  $\text{CaCl}_2$ , 2.5 mM Na-Pyruvate, 100 U/mL penicillin, 100  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  streptomycin, 5 mM Hepes, pH 7.2). Oocytes were maintained in this culture solution until recording.

Channel coding sequences were cloned into the pOX expression vector (5), and transcripts were prepared by runoff transcription using the T3 mMessage mMachine kit (Life Technologies). Transcripts were precipitated in 2.5 M LiCl, and pellets were extensively rinsed in cold 70% (vol/vol) ethanol and resuspended in nuclease-free water supplemented with RNase Inhibitor (Superasin, Life Technologies). RNA was diluted to empirically determine optimal concentrations (2–50 ng/ $\mu\text{L}$ ) and injected into oocytes in a 50 nL volume with a Nanoject II injection system (Drummond Scientific). Oocytes were incubated at  $18^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 1–3 d before recording.

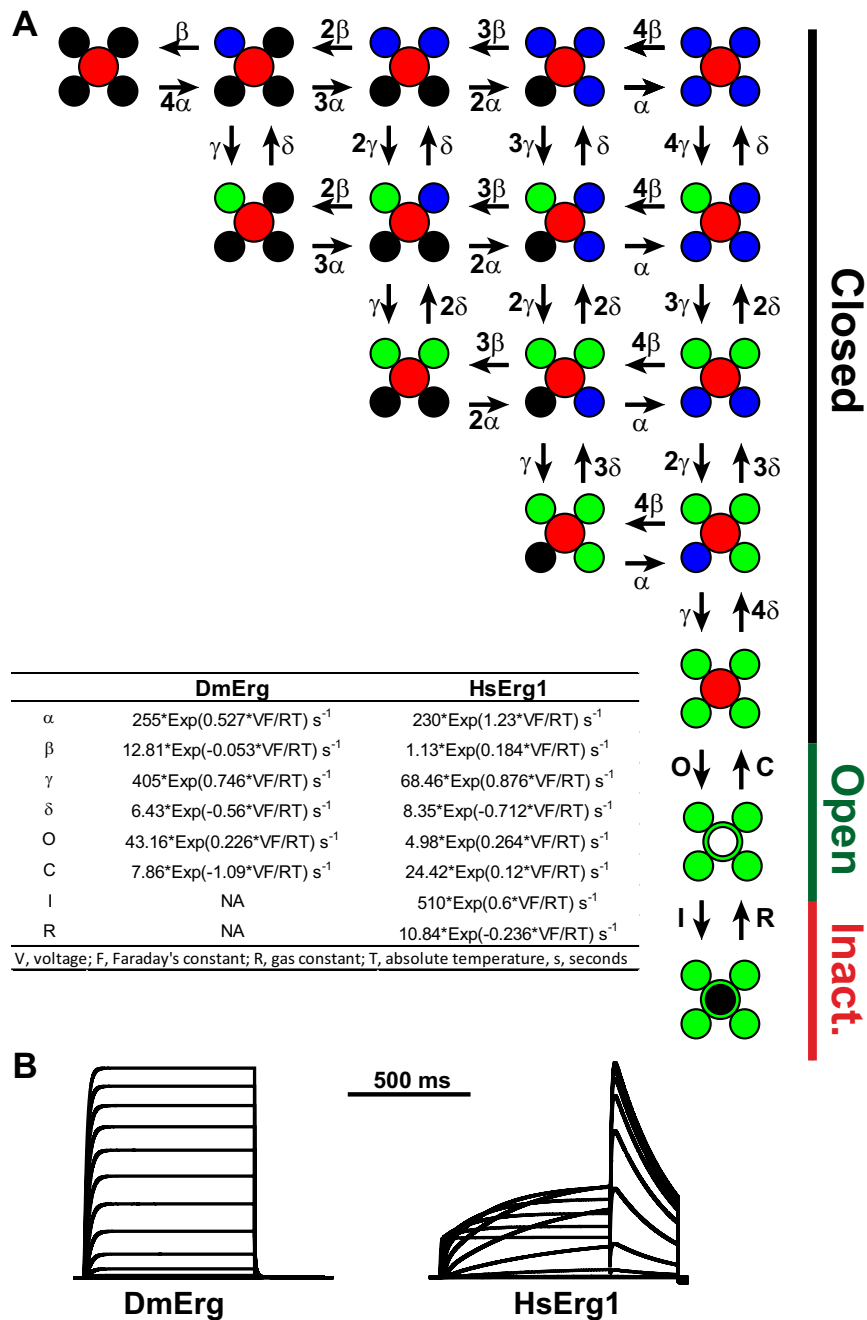
Recordings were carried out under constant perfusion of a low Cl<sup>-</sup> recording solution (see *Methods*). Glass capillary electrodes were filled with 3 M KCl and had tip resistances or 0.4–1 M $\Omega$ .

Bath electrodes were placed in 1 M NaCl and isolated with an agar bridge. A Dagan CA-1B was used in two electrode voltage clamp mode for recordings, and data were collected with the pClamp 10 Acquisition Suite (Molecular Devices). Currents were sampled at 10 KHz and filtered at 2 KHz. Currents were not subtracted for leak, but capacitive transients were partially compensated. Voltage activation data and exponential fits of inactivation and deactivation time courses were generated in Clampfit (Molecular Devices). Single exponentials were used to fit inactivation and some tail currents (deactivation) using the equation  $I_t = I_i + Ae^{-t/\tau}$ , where ( $I_t$ ) is current at time  $t$ ,  $I_i$  is initial current level,  $A$  is amplitude, and  $\tau$  is the time constant. A subset of tail currents fit more accurately with a double exponential function ( $I_t = I_i + A_1e^{-t/\tau_1} + A_2e^{-t/\tau_2}$ ). In these cases, the fastest exponential accounted for greater than 65% of the current amplitude and is reported here. Boltzmann fits of activation data were performed in Origin (Originlab). Data from individual cells were fit with a single Boltzmann distribution,  $f(V) = (A_1 - A_2)/(1 + e^{(V - V_{50})/s}) + A_2$ , where  $V$  is the voltage,  $V_{50}$  is the midpoint voltage,  $s$  is the slope factor, and  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  are the minimum and maximum asymptotes, respectively. Data were normalized before averaging, and normalized Boltzmann fits shown in figures were generated with the arithmetic means of individual  $V_{50}$  and  $s$  measurements.

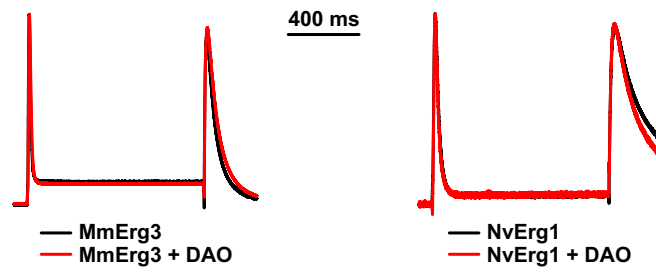
**HsErg1 and DmErg Gating Models.** Gating models for human Erg1 (HsErg1) and DmErg were based on a gating scheme developed to describe Shaker channel activation (6). In the model, each of the four voltage sensors undergoes two independent activation steps before a final concerted channel opening. We added an inactivated state accessible only from the open state for the HsErg1 model. Rate constant parameters were estimated by fitting the gating models to families of outward currents in IchMascot (7). Currents were recorded in response to 1 s depolarizations ranging in 10 mV steps from  $-110$  to  $+50$  mV, with 400 ms tail currents recorded at  $-70$  mV. Once fitting had captured the salient features of each gating phenotype, fitting was stopped and rate constant parameters were recorded. The purpose of this exercise was solely to develop gating models that could demonstrate the disparate responses of  $I_{K^+}$ -like (HsErg1) and delayed rectifier-like (DmErg) channels to plateau depolarization. No further attempts were made to optimize fit, and we did not attempt to constrain individual gating parameters with additional electrophysiological measurement. Current responses of the HsErg1 and DmErg gating models to a simplified plateau action potential were then calculated in IonChannelLab (7).

**Sequence Analysis.** Multiple sequence alignments of the eag domain (22 taxa from Eag, Elk, and Erg subfamilies) and cyclic nucleotide-binding homology domain (CNBHD) (26 taxa from Eag, Elk, and Erg subfamilies) were generated in Jalview v2.8 (8) by T-Coffee (9) and Muscle (10), respectively, under default settings and manually edited. Pairwise estimates of evolutionary divergence between sequences were calculated in MEGA5 (11) using the number of amino acid differences per site. Ambiguous positions were removed for each sequence pair. A distance matrix was constructed for the entire eag domain using 192 positions. Separate distance matrices were constructed for 27 predicted eag-interacting CNBHD residues (labeled in Fig. S4) and noninteracting CNBHD residues (118 positions), as defined in a co-crystal structure of the Eag1 eag and CNBHD domains (12). Based on these sequence distance matrices, we quantified the mean  $\pm$  SEM for multiple pairwise comparisons between or within various





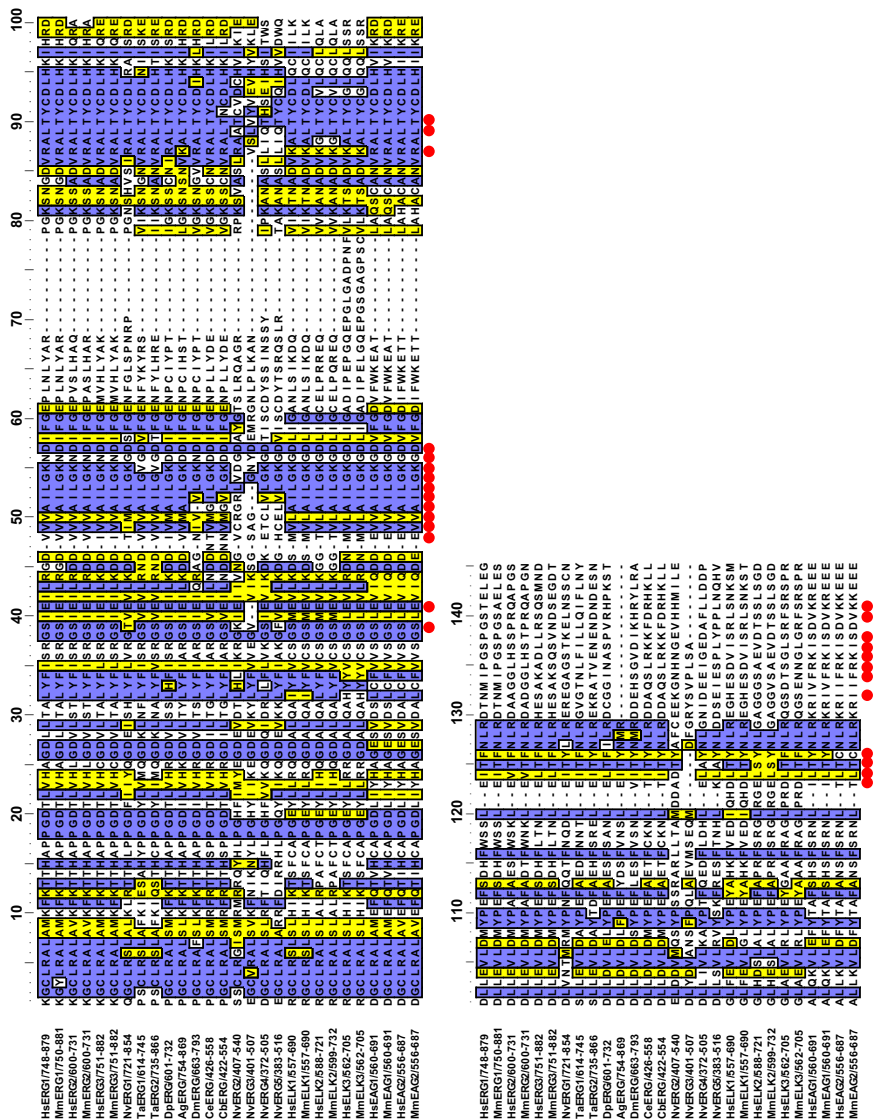
**Fig. S1.** DmErg and HsErg1 gating models. (A) Gating model showing transitions from a resting closed channel (upper left) to open and inactivated channels (lower right). The center circle represents the pore domain in closed (solid red), open (green outline), and inactivated (solid black with green outline) conformations. Four independently moving voltage sensors (one from each subunit) are depicted as circles surrounding the pore in resting (black), intermediate (blue), and activated (green) conformations. Following independent activation of all four voltage sensors, the pore opens. An inactivated state, accessible only from the open state, was included for HsErg1, but not DmErg. Labels at the right margin highlight closed, open, and inactivated channel conformations. Rates for transitions are labeled and rate constants for the DmErg and HsErg1 models are listed in the table inset. Forward rate constants are given for the following transitions: resting to intermediate state of the voltage sensor ( $\alpha$ ), intermediate to activated state of the voltage sensor ( $\gamma$ ), channel opening (O), and channel inactivation (I). The reverse conformational transitions are recovery from inactivation (R), channel closing (C), activated to intermediate state of the voltage sensor ( $\delta$ ), and return from intermediate to resting voltage sensor ( $\beta$ ). (B) Simulated  $\text{K}^+$  currents elicited in response to 1 s voltage steps ranging from  $-100$  mV to  $+40$  mV in 10 mV increments for the DmErg and HsErg1 models. The holding potential was  $-100$  mV, and 400 ms tails were elicited at  $-70$  mV. The models capture the key gating features of both channels: subthreshold activation and rapid deactivation for DmErg and  $\text{I}_{\text{K}}$ -like rectification and current rebound for HsErg1.



**Fig. S2.** MmErg3 (*Left*) and NvErg1 (*Right*) currents are not altered by coexpression with DAO. Control currents are shown in black, and +DAO currents are shown in red. Currents were recorded in response to a 1 s +50 mV step followed by a 400 ms step to -70 mV and are normalized in amplitude for comparison. The holding voltage was -100 mV, and we used the same amount of DAO RNA that facilitated functional expression of DmErg and CeErg. DAO did not affect the  $I_{Kr}$  phenotype and did not significantly alter the current amplitude ( $n = 4$  for each).







**Fig. 55.** Sequence alignment of the CNBHD of 18 Erg family, six Elk family, and four Eag family K<sup>+</sup> channels. Channel names and amino acid ranges are given at the left margin, and a ruler is included above the alignment blocks. Species prefix abbreviations are as follows: Ag, *A. gambiae*; Cb, *C. briggsae*; Ce, *C. elegans*; Dm, *D. melanogaster*; Hs, *H. sapiens*; Mm, *M. musculus*; Nv, *N. vectensis*; Ta, *T. adhaerens*. Residue shading indicates >65% identity (blue) or similarity (yellow) (BLOSUM62). Dashes indicate gaps. Red dots below the alignment indicate residues that interface with the eag domain in a crystal structure of Eag1 (1).

1. Haitin Y, Carlson AE, Zagotta WN (2013) The structural mechanism of KCNH-channel regulation by the eag domain. *Nature* 501(7467):444-448.







**Movie S1.** A 46-s video of wave contractions in a several-wk-old *Nematostella* polyp. Frames were taken every 0.45 s, and the video is set to run at 10× speed. The video frame is 3.24 × 3.8 mm.

[Movie S1](#)

**Dataset S1.** The Excel table provides the amino acid sequence of each EAG superfamily channel examined in this study. Channels are grouped by species, and columns (in order) provide the name used in this manuscript, gene ID, protein ID, and the actual amino acid sequence used. In some cases, the sequence used here differs slightly from the protein ID due to empirical evidence or refined prediction

[Dataset S1](#)

**Dataset S2.** Verified DNA coding sequences are given for NvErg1, NvErg4, and AgErg. GenBank accession numbers are KF877721, KF877722, and KJ493818, respectively

[Dataset S2](#)

**Dataset S3.** FASTA format file of sequences used in the phylogeny presented in Fig. 6. The phylogeny was built on the core K<sup>+</sup> channel motif, which includes the voltage sensor and pore. Names of sequences are the same as given in Fig. 6

[Dataset S3](#)