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Distinct functions of two olfactory marker protein genes derived from teleost-specific whole genome duplication

Hikoyu Suzuki¹, Masato Nikaido^{1*}, Kimiko Hagino-Yamagishi² and Norihiro Okada^{1,3,4*}

Abstract

Background: Whole genome duplications (WGDs) have been proposed to have made a significant impact on vertebrate evolution. Two rounds of WGD (1R and 2R) occurred in the common ancestor of Gnathostomata and Cyclostomata, followed by the third-round WGD (3R) in a common ancestor of all modern teleosts. The 3R-derived paralogs are good models for understanding the evolution of genes after WGD, which have the potential to facilitate phenotypic diversification. However, the recent studies of 3R-derived paralogs tend to be based on *in silico* analyses. Here we analyzed the paralogs encoding teleost olfactory marker protein (OMP), which was shown to be specifically expressed in mature olfactory sensory neurons and is expected to be involved in olfactory transduction.

Results: Our genome database search identified two *OMPs* (*OMP1* and *OMP2*) in teleosts, whereas only one was present in other vertebrates. Phylogenetic and synteny analyses suggested that *OMP1* and 2 were derived from 3R. Both *OMPs* showed distinct expression patterns in zebrafish; *OMP1* was expressed in the deep layer of the olfactory epithelium (OE), which is consistent with previous studies of mice and zebrafish, whereas *OMP2* was sporadically expressed in the superficial layer. Interestingly, *OMP2* was expressed in a very restricted region of the retina as well as in the OE. In addition, the analysis of transcriptome data of spotted gar, a non-teleost fish, revealed that single *OMP* gene was expressed in the eyes.

Conclusion: We found distinct expression patterns of zebrafish *OMP1* and 2 at the tissue and cellular level. These differences in expression patterns may be explained by subfunctionalization as the model of molecular evolution. Namely, single *OMP* gene was speculated to be originally expressed in the OE and the eyes in the common ancestor of all Osteichthyes (bony fish including tetrapods). Then, two *OMP* gene paralogs derived from 3R-WGD reduced and specialized the expression patterns. This study provides a good example for analyzing a functional subdivision of the teleost OE and eyes as revealed by 3R-derived paralogs of *OMPs*.

Keywords: Olfactory marker protein, Whole genome duplication, Subfunctionalization

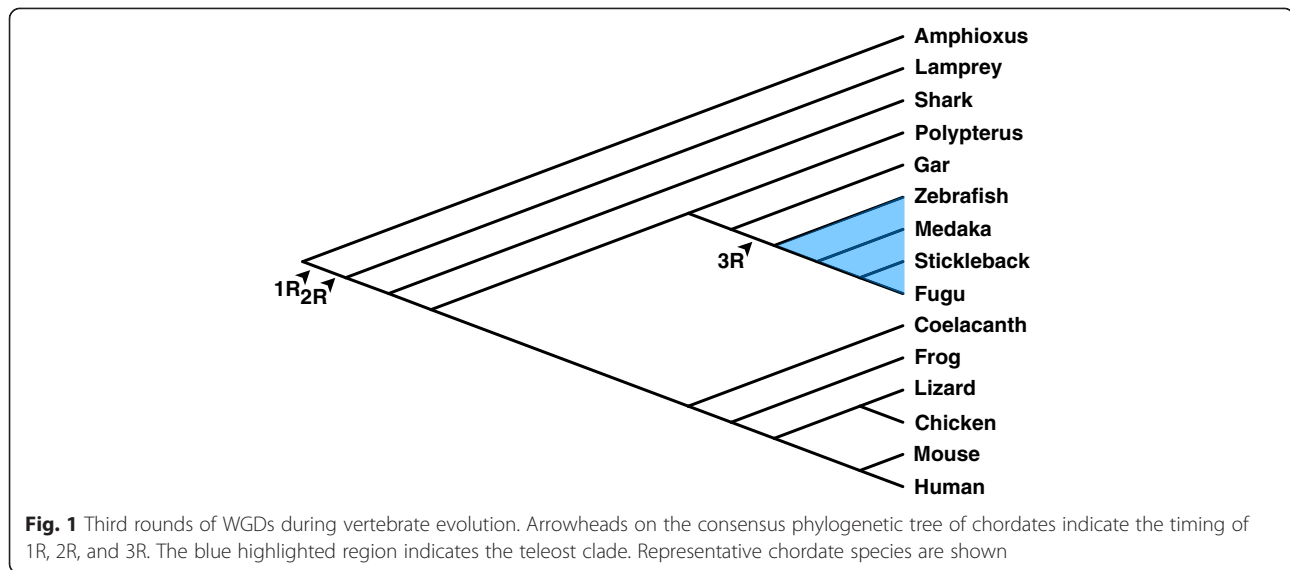
Background

Gene duplication is one of the major driving forces of evolution [1–3]. In particular, whole genome duplication (WGD) has been thought to be an important factor in the evolution of vertebrates [1]. It has been proposed that at least two rounds of WGDs occurred during the evolution of vertebrates [1, 4, 5] (Fig. 1). Recent genome studies of amphioxus [6] and lamprey [7], support this hypothesis. The first- and second-round WGD (1R and

2R, respectively) are suggested to have occurred in the common ancestor of Gnathostomata and Cyclostomata [7, 8]. Thus, almost all modern vertebrates are believed to have undergone WGDs at least twice [1]. The third-round WGD (3R), in contrast, occurred in the common ancestor of teleosts (ray-finned fish excluding basal groups belong to polypteriforms, acipenseriforms, lepisosteids, and *Amia*) [8–12]. This is represented by the copy number of genes, two in teleosts, one in mammals [12, 13]. The *Hox* cluster is the most well-known example in this regard [9–11]. There are seven *Hox* clusters in teleost genomes, whereas four clusters are present in mammalian, coelacanth, and shark genomes

* Correspondence: mnikaido@bio.titech.ac.jp; nokada@fais.or.jp

¹Department of Biological Sciences, Graduate School of Bioscience and Biotechnology, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Yokohama 226-8501, Japan
Full list of author information is available at the end of the article



[11]. In addition, slightly differentiated expression patterns are observed for teleost *Hox* paralogs derived from 3R [14–17]. Thus, teleost-specific duplicated genes seem to be on a path to functional differentiation, namely, 3R occurred neither too recently nor too early to differentiate the function of paralogs. 3R-derived paralogs could be good examples for evaluating the critical timing of functional differentiation.

In the case of gene duplication, it is traditionally expected that one of the duplicated genes becomes free from selective pressure and accumulates mutations in the protein coding and/or cis regulatory regions that led to the loss of its functions (pseudogenization) or gain of new functions (neofunctionalization) [2, 3]. Alternatively, subfunctionalization is observed especially as a result of WGD. In subfunctionalization, both paralogs are functional, but each paralog undergoes a complementary reduction and specialization in its expression pattern because of the mutation of its *cis* regulatory regions [3, 18, 19]. The subfunctionalized paralogs are also expected to gain new function over evolutionary time [20]. Most of the different expression patterns between teleost-specific paralogs that have been shown by previous studies [14–17, 21] could be explained by subfunctionalization. However, in these studies, the different expression patterns were usually discussed based only on *in silico* studies. In cases where analyses were carried out *in vivo*, many were performed only at the whole-mount tissue level. Very few comparative expression analyses have been carried out at the cellular level, which is indispensable for the investigation of subfunctionalization.

Olfactory marker protein (OMP) was first isolated from mouse olfactory bulb in the 1970s [22]. OMP is a small protein (~20 kDa) that consists of ~160 amino

acids and is specifically expressed in olfactory sensory neurons (OSNs), which are distributed in the main olfactory epithelium in various vertebrates [22–24]. Although OMP is used as a specific marker of mature OSNs in vertebrates [25–28], its function has not yet been fully elucidated. OMP-knockout (KO) mice have reduced physiological activity and behavioral responses with respect to sensing odorants as compared with wild-type mice [29, 30]. In addition, axons of OSNs from OMP-KO mice project abnormally [31]. Recent studies have suggested that OMP is a critical factor for the functional maturation of OSNs [32] and is likely to be involved in Ca^{2+} clearance in OSNs [33]. Namely, the phenotypes observed in OMP-KO mice mentioned above might be caused by a decline in the clearance of Ca^{2+} in these OSNs.

OMP had been believed to be a highly conserved single-copy intronless gene among all vertebrates [24, 27, 34, 35]. More recently, it was shown that African clawed frog (*Xenopus laevis*) and some teleosts have two OMPs [36–38]. In African clawed frog, the expression patterns of the two OMPs are notably, albeit not completely, distinct in the lateral diverticulum and medial diverticulum, in the nasal cavity [36]. These expression patterns are suggestive of subfunctionalization. Although the expression of each of the two OMPs was analyzed in medaka (*Oryzias latipes*) [37] and salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) [38], detailed expression patterns were not assessed. In this study, we found with a bioinformatic analysis that teleosts generally possess two OMPs in their genomes. Our phylogenetic analyses revealed that two OMPs are derived from 3R. Until now, expression pattern of OMP has been investigated in many vertebrates. Accordingly, we expected that detail verification of the expression patterns of OMPs could be a good example to understand the fate of 3R-derived paralogs. We here

shows the detailed expression patterns of two *OMP*s at the tissue and the cellular level in zebrafish (*Danio rerio*).

Results

Two *OMP*s derived from the third-round whole genome duplication in teleosts

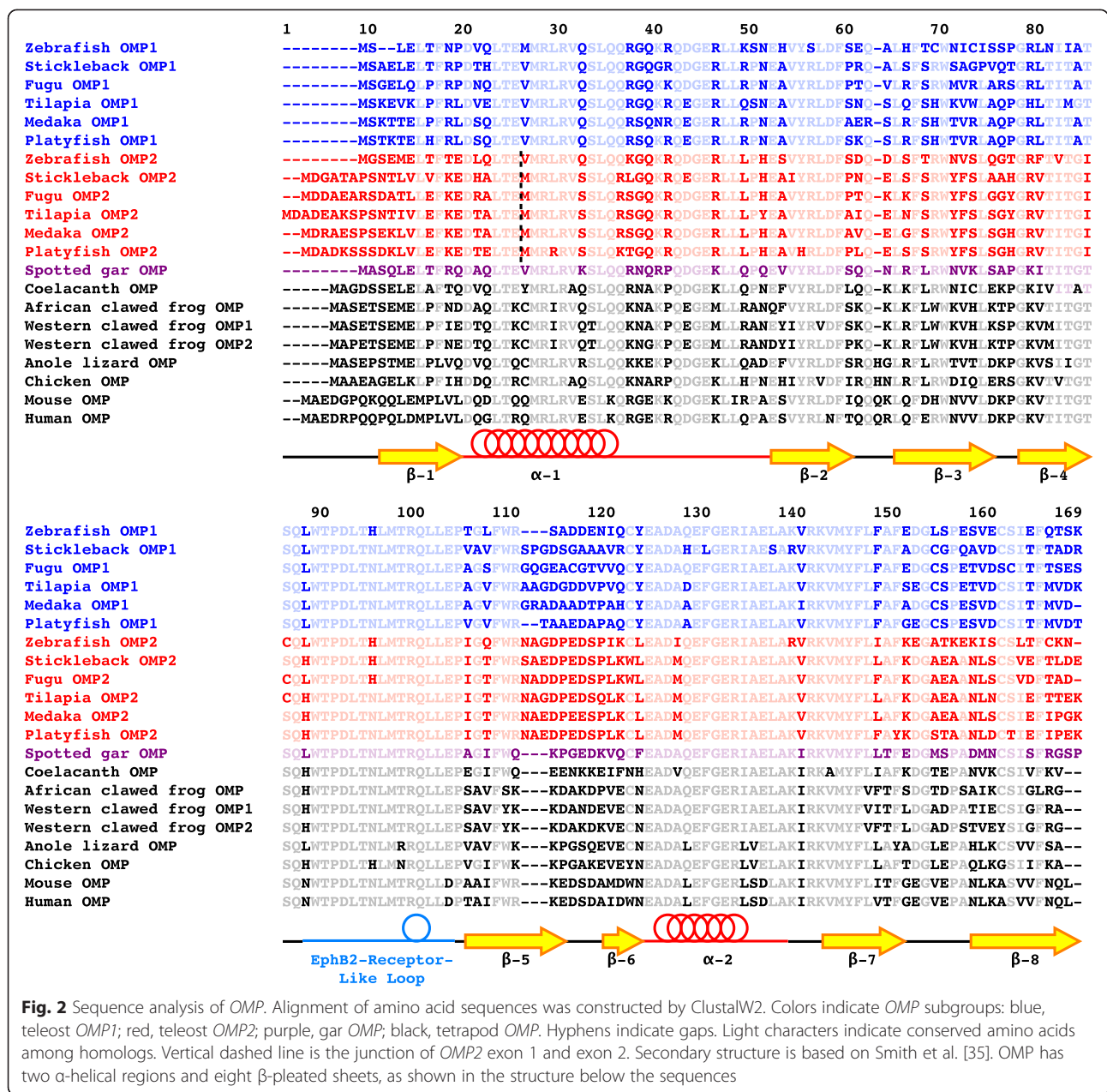
To identify *OMP*s in teleost genomes, we searched genome databases of zebrafish, stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*), fugu (*Takifugu rubripes*), medaka, platyfish (*Xiphophorus maculatus*), and tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) by using known *OMP* sequences as queries, and obtained two significant hits from each species (see Methods for Data mining). Although zebrafish was believed to have a single copy of *OMP* [27], we isolated two *OMP*s from the genomes of all teleost, including zebrafish. We named the already-known zebrafish *OMP* as *OMP1* and its paralog as *OMP2*. Furthermore, Ensembl gene prediction suggested that *OMP2* consists of two exons, although *OMP* is known as an intronless gene [24, 36]. We searched *OMP2* sequences from the EST database and confirmed that the predictions are consistent with the mRNA sequences in zebrafish, stickleback, and medaka. In other teleost species, we estimated the *OMP2* gene structure with GeneWise. We also searched other vertebrate genome databases and isolated *OMP* orthologs. Then, we aligned the amino acid sequences of these *OMP* homologs (Fig. 2). Amino acid sequences are conserved among teleost *OMP1* and *OMP2* and tetrapod *OMP*. In particular, the Eph2B-receptor-like loop domain, a potentially key region for *OMP* function as a molecular switch [35], is highly conserved. Thus, the fundamental structure and physiological function of *OMP2* are expected to be similar to those of *OMP1* or tetrapod *OMP*.

Based on the genome search, we found that only one *OMP* exists in gar (*Lepisosteus oculatus*), which diverged from the teleosts before the occurrence of 3R [12]. These data suggest that the two *OMP*s in teleosts were derived from 3R. To investigate this possibility, we performed phylogenetic analysis that included gar and tetrapods. We constructed a maximum likelihood phylogenetic tree using amino acid sequences from exon 2 of *OMP2* and the homologous regions of *OMP1* and tetrapod *OMP* (Fig. 3). Teleost *OMP* homologs formed a monophyletic group with a bootstrap value of 99 % that consisted of the *OMP1* clade (a bootstrap value of 66 %) and *OMP2* clade (a bootstrap value of 99 %). These data strongly suggest that *OMP* was duplicated in a common ancestor of teleosts, after the divergence of gar. Thus, we suggest that teleost-specific *OMP* duplication was derived from 3R. It should be noted that each of the salmon *OMP*s and xenopus *OMP*s formed a monophyletic group, suggesting that duplication of salmon *OMP*s and xenopus *OMP*s was caused by lineage-specific WGDs that occurred independently in those two lineages.

We next analyzed the synteny of *OMP* loci (Fig. 4) and found that *OMP* is located within the intron of another gene, *Calpain5* (*CAPN5*). Interestingly, teleost *CAPN5*, together with *OMP*, was also duplicated. According to the ZFIN [39], *CAPN5a* are encoded on chromosome 18 and *CAPN5b* are encoded on chromosome 21. Consequently, *OMP1* is linked to *CAPN5b* and *OMP2* is linked to *CAPN5a*. Given that both *OMP1* and 2 are located within intron2 of *CAPN5b* and *a*, respectively, it is highly unlikely that *OMP* duplication was caused by retrotransposition. The genomic structures around *OMP*s (~40 kb) are well conserved between paralogs and also among species except for the coding direction of *OMP*. The results of the synteny analysis support our expectation that the two *OMP*s are derived from 3R.

OMP2 expression in the retina

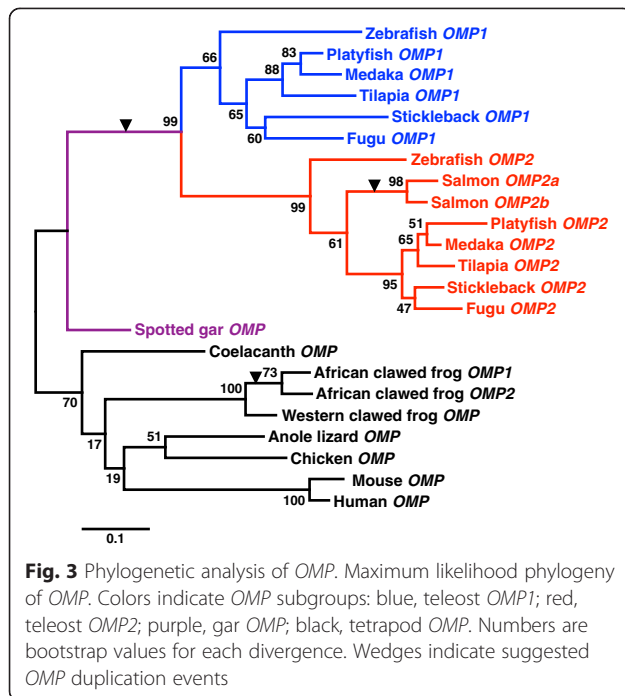
Three typical fates of duplicated genes are known: pseudogenization, neofunctionalization, and subfunctionalization [3, 18, 19]. There is another fate of duplicated genes, in which gene duplication simply increases the amount of products as represented by the ribosomal DNA genes [40]. However, this is an extreme case in that more than hundred copies exist in the genome. Accordingly, we focus on the possibilities of neofunctionalization and subfunctionalization, which are generally accompanied by differentiated expression patterns that can be assessed by *in situ* hybridization. We thus examined the expression patterns of *OMP1* and *OMP2* (Fig. 5). At first, we investigated the expression of zebrafish *OMP1* and *OMP2* by RT-PCR with total RNA extracted from each organ as template (Fig. 5a). *OMP1* was specifically expressed in the OE, whereas *OMP2* was expressed in the eyes as well as the OE. The expression of *OMP2* in the retina is quite interesting because *OMP* was believed to be specifically expressed in the olfactory organ [24, 27, 36]. To examine whether the expression of *OMP2* in the retina is a common phenomenon among other teleost species, we searched the teleost EST database and found that the expression of *OMP2* is detected in the eyes or the retina of stickleback and tilapia (Table 1), showing that *OMP2* is expressed not only in zebrafish eyes but also in the eyes of some other teleosts. We also examined the expression of *OMP* in spotted gar, of which transcriptome data from the eyes is available. Interestingly, *OMP* was shown to be apparently expressed in the eyes (Fig. 5b). Next, we performed fluorescence *in situ* hybridization with antisense riboprobe (Fig. 5c) or sense riboprobe (Fig. 5d) to *OMP2* to examine expression patterns in detail using cryosectioned eye tissues. Surprisingly, *OMP2*-positive signals were detected specifically in the outermost part (Fig. 5c, arrow) of the inner nuclear layer, where retinal horizontal cells are distributed [41].



Divergence of expression patterns between *OMP1* and *OMP2* in the OE

RT-PCR analysis (Fig. 5a) showed that both *OMP1* and 2 are expressed in the OE. To investigate these expression patterns at the cellular level, we performed two-color fluorescence *in situ* hybridization using separately labeled antisense riboprobes (Fig. 6a-c). Zebrafish *OMP* (synonym, *OMP1*) was known as a molecular marker for the ciliated OSNs, and was broadly expressed in the deep layer of the olfactory placode (Fig. 6a) as Sato et al. reported previously [28]. In contrast, *OMP2* was sparsely expressed in the superficial layer (Fig. 6b). Merged images show highly exclusive expression of *OMP1* and 2

(Fig. 6c). There were fewer *OMP2*-expressing cells than *OMP1*-expressing cells. These results showed that *OMP1* and 2 are mainly expressed in the deep and superficial layer, respectively, and have distinct expression patterns at the cellular level in the OE. In addition, we noticed that a few cells in the superficial layer expressed both *OMP1* and 2 (Fig. 6a-c, arrowheads). Thus, *OMP1* was also expressed infrequently in the superficial layer and the *OMP1*-expressing cells in the superficial layer coexpressed *OMP2*. Previously, Sato et al. [28] also reported that zebrafish *TRPC2* is a marker for the microvillous OSNs, and was expressed in the superficial layer of the OE. We therefore examined the expression of *OMP1* and *TRPC2* (Additional file 1: Figure



S1). As expected, *OMP1* was expressed in the deep layer (Additional file 1: Figure S1A), whereas *TRPC2* was in the superficial layer (Additional file 1: Figure S1B). Merged images showed that these genes were not coexpressed (Additional file 1: Figure S1C). We also confirmed that *OMP1* was sparsely expressed in the superficial layer (Additional file 1: Figures S1A-C, arrows). Next, we analyzed the expression of *TRPC2* and *OMP2* (Fig. 6d-f). Merged images showed that expression of these did not overlap (Fig. 6f), indicating that *OMP2* was not coexpressed with *TRPC2*, although both genes were expressed in the superficial layer. The distinctive expression of *OMP2* might suggest that *OMP2*-expressing cells are not OSNs. Thus, we examined the expression of *NCAM*, a neural marker, and *OMP2* (Fig. 6g-i). Merged images showed that *OMP2* was coexpressed with *NCAM* (Fig. 6g-i, arrowheads). The results strongly suggest that *OMP2*-expressing cells are actually OSNs.

G-protein coexpressed with OMP1 and OMP2

OMP2 is expected to be expressed in unidentified OSNs. We are interested in which olfactory receptor genes are coexpressed. Now, four types of olfactory receptor genes are known: odorant receptors (*ORs*) [42], trace amine-associated receptors (*TAARs*) [43], vomeronasal type 1 receptors (*V1Rs*) and vomeronasal type 2 receptors (*V2Rs*) [44–46]. However, it is technically hard to examine the coexpression of *OMP2* with receptor genes, because the copy number of them are very large. We thus focused on G-protein α -subunits (*G α*) genes. It was simply believed that *G α olf* is coupled with both *ORs* [42]

and *TAARs* [43], *G α o* is coupled with *V2Rs* [45, 46], and *G α i2* is coupled with *V1Rs* [45, 46]. Oka et al. [47] have shown that some *G α* families are also duplicated in teleosts and are expressed in the OE, namely *G α olf2*, *G α o1*, *G α o2*, and *G α i1b* (synonym, *gnal*, *gnao1a*, *gnao1b*, and *gnaia*, respectively) are expressed in the sensory area of the zebrafish OE. We performed the confirmatory analyses for the expression of the above genes by fluorescent *in situ* hybridization. We also exploratory chose four additional *G α* genes, *G α i1a*, *G α i2a*, *G α i2b*, and *G α q* (synonym, *gnai1*, *gnai2b*, *gnai2a*, and *gnaq*, respectively), which seem to be well expressed in OE in RT-PCR [47] for the *in situ* hybridization analyses. We were able to detect clear signals for only *G α olf2*, *G α o2*, and *G α i1b*; for the five other genes were not detected (data not shown), probably because the expressions levels of these genes were too low and/or the number of cells expressing these genes were too small. First, we examined the expression of *G α olf2* and *G α o2* (Additional file 2: Figure S2). *G α olf2* was mainly expressed in the deep layer (Additional file 2: Figure S2A), whereas *G α o2* was expressed in the superficial layer (Additional file 2: Figure S2B). Merged images showed that *G α olf2* and *G α o2* were not coexpressed (Additional file 2: Figure S2C). It should be noted that a few *G α olf2*-expressing cells were in the superficial layer (Additional file 2: Figures S2A-C arrows). The expression patterns of *G α olf2* and *G α o2* are similar to those of *OMP1* and *TRPC2* (Additional file 1: Figure S1), respectively. We also confirmed that *OMP1*-positive signals frequently overlapped with *G α olf2*-positive signals (Additional file 3: Figure S3). Second, we examined the expression of *OMP2* and three *G α* genes (Fig. 7). Interestingly, *OMP2*-positive signals overlapped with the *G α olf2*-positive signals in the superficial layer (Fig. 7a-c, arrowheads), indicating that *OMP2* was expressed in the *G α olf2*-expressing cells whose cell bodies were situated in the superficial layer. In contrast, *OMP2* was not expressed in *G α o2*-expressing cells, although both genes were expressed in the superficial layer (Fig. 7d-f). *OMP2* was not expressed in the *G α i1b*-expressing cells, which were spottily and sparsely situated in the OE (Fig. 7g-i). These results strongly suggest that *OMP2*-expressing cells coexpress *G α olf2*. In addition, we examined the coexpression of *OMP2* with *Ora* genes, which are similar to *V1Rs* and retained only 6 copies in teleosts [48, 49], but none of them was coexpressed with *OMP2* (Additional file 4: Figure S4).

Discussion

Novel insight into the function of OMP in the visual system

Here we report that the two *OMPs* in teleosts are derived from 3R and have functionally diverged over the

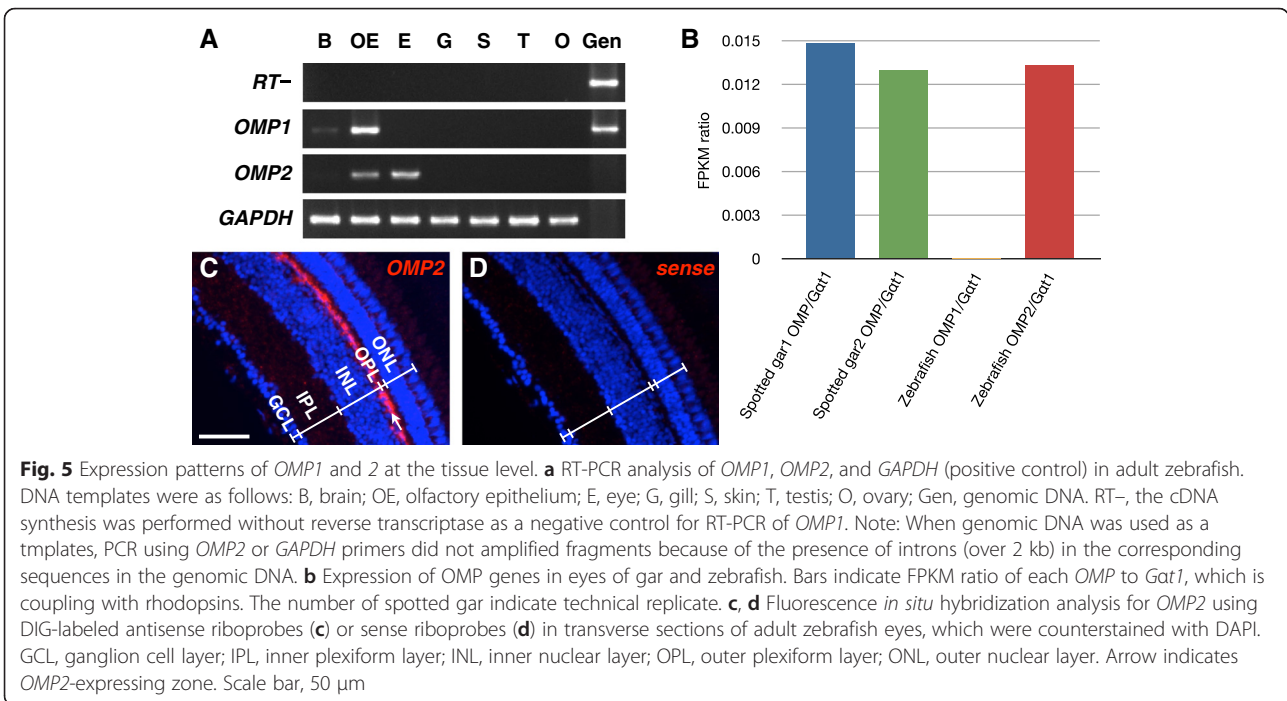
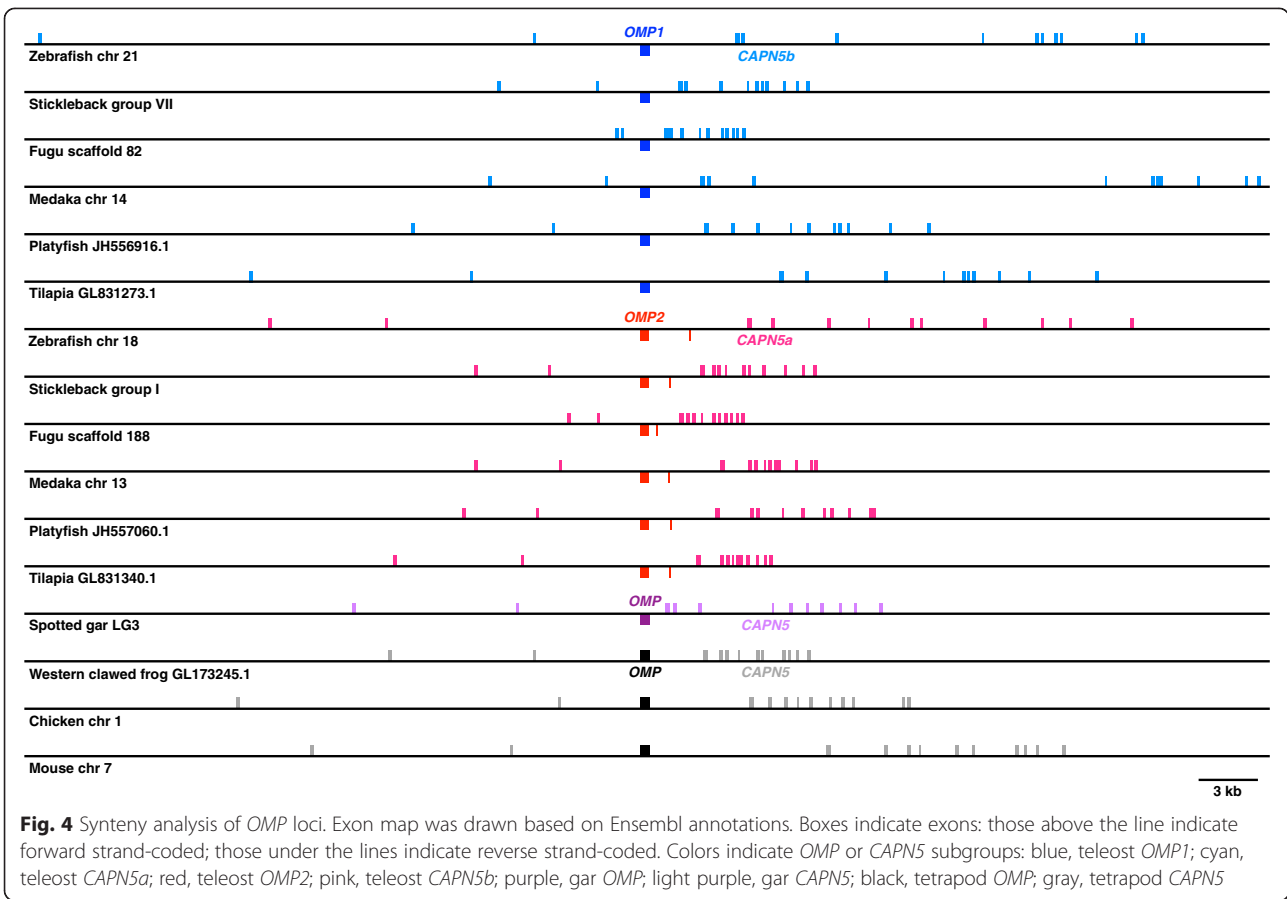


Table 1 Accession number of *OMP2* sequences categorized by tissues from EST database

Species	Olfactory epithelium	Eye or retina	Others or unidentified
Zebrafish	CO801427, CO812065, CO812860, CO958601, DV588230, DV590164, DV594271, DV597000	BF938258, CK352652, CK352729, CK355105, DT863878, DT865346, EB956090	CN317897, CO959420, EH438228, EH442981, EH449085, EH464176, EH468865, EH474918
Stickleback	not found	DW606257	DW626232, DW626233, DW631572
Tilapia	GR669612	GR597376, GR602994	not found

ensuing years. We showed the obviously non-canonical expression patterns of *OMP2* in the eyes of broad teleost species (Fig. 5, Table 1). *OMP2* appeared to be expressed in retinal horizontal cells in zebrafish (Fig. 5c). The expression of *OMP2* in the eyes is very interesting because *OMP* has been believed to be an olfactory organ-specific protein [24, 27, 36]. Unexpected finding of *OMP2* expression in the retina prompted us to investigate the *OMP* of non-teleost fish to understand the ancestral state. We showed that relative expression level of gar *OMP* was as high as that of zebrafish *OMP2* in the eye (Fig. 5b). This data underlies that the *OMP* has been already expressed in the eyes of the common ancestor of bony fish. A recent study reported that *OMP* is expressed in mouse cornea and proposed that *OMP* might be involved in the developmental process of corneal epithelial cells [50]. We searched EST database of mouse and

xenopus, only to find no *OMP* sequence from the eye or the retina (data not shown). We also analyzed *OMP2* expression in zebrafish cornea by *in situ* hybridization and detected no *OMP2*-positive signals in the cornea (data not shown). We thus believe that *OMP2* is not expressed in cornea but expressed in retina of zebrafish. Although there is slight discrepancy between mice and zebrafish in that the *OMP* expression is detected in cornea of mice whereas *OMP2* in retina of zebrafish, the expression of *OMP* gene in the visual system is expected to be an ancestral state (Fig. 8, Additional file 5: Figure S5). Based on the above lines of evidence, we propose that the expression of *OMP2* in visual system of teleosts could be explained by subfunctionalization (Fig. 8).

OMP is colocalized with $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$ exchanger 1 (*NCX1*) and is involved in the mechanism of Ca^{2+} clearance in mouse OSNs [33]. The *NCX1* ortholog is

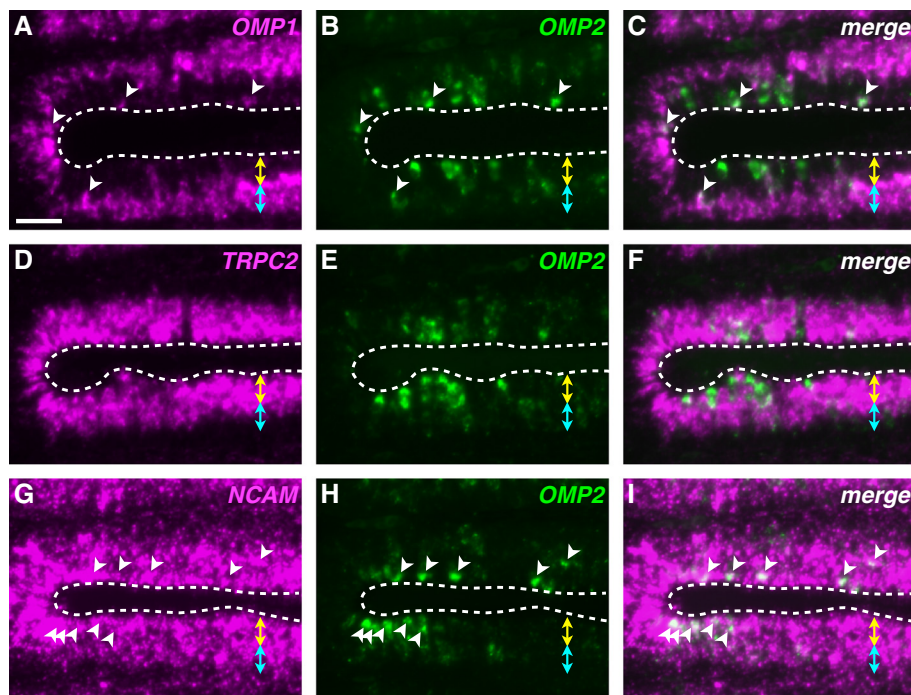


Fig. 6 Expression patterns of *OMP1* and *2* at the cellular level in the OE. Two-color fluorescence *in situ* hybridization analysis using DIG- or fluorescein-labeled antisense riboprobes in horizontal sections of the adult zebrafish OE. **a, d, g** Fluorescent images of Alexa 594 derived from DIG-labeled riboprobes. **b, e, h** Fluorescent images of Alexa 488 derived from fluorescein-labeled riboprobes. **c, f, i** Merged images of **(a)** and **(b)**, **(d)** and **(e)**, and **(g)** and **(h)**, respectively. Yellow two-headed arrows and cyan two-headed arrows indicate the superficial layer and the deep layer, respectively. Dashed lines indicate the outlines of the epithelium. White arrowheads indicate cells that coexpress *OMP2* and another gene. Scale bar, 20 μm

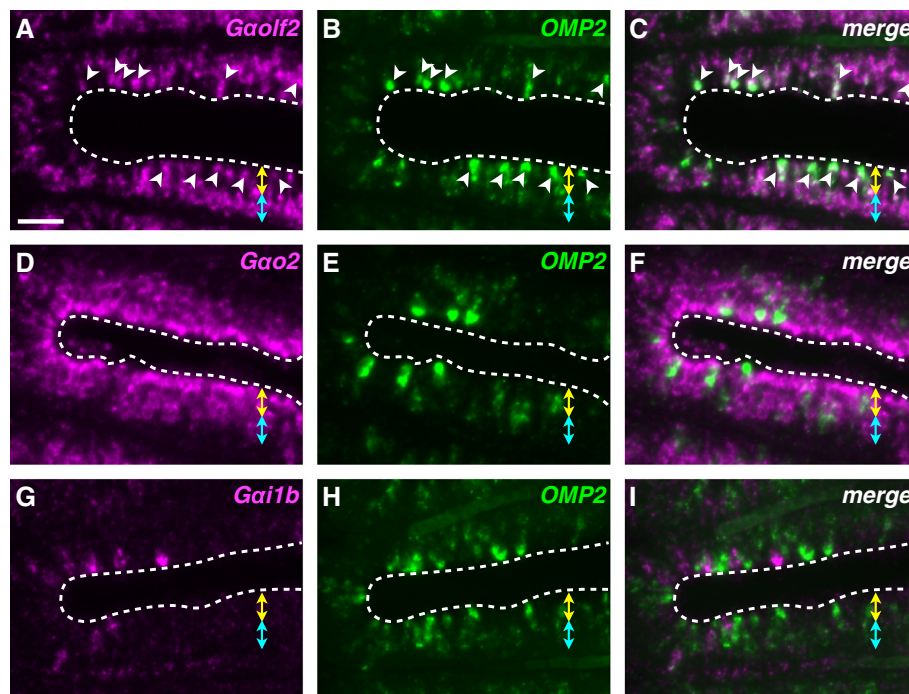


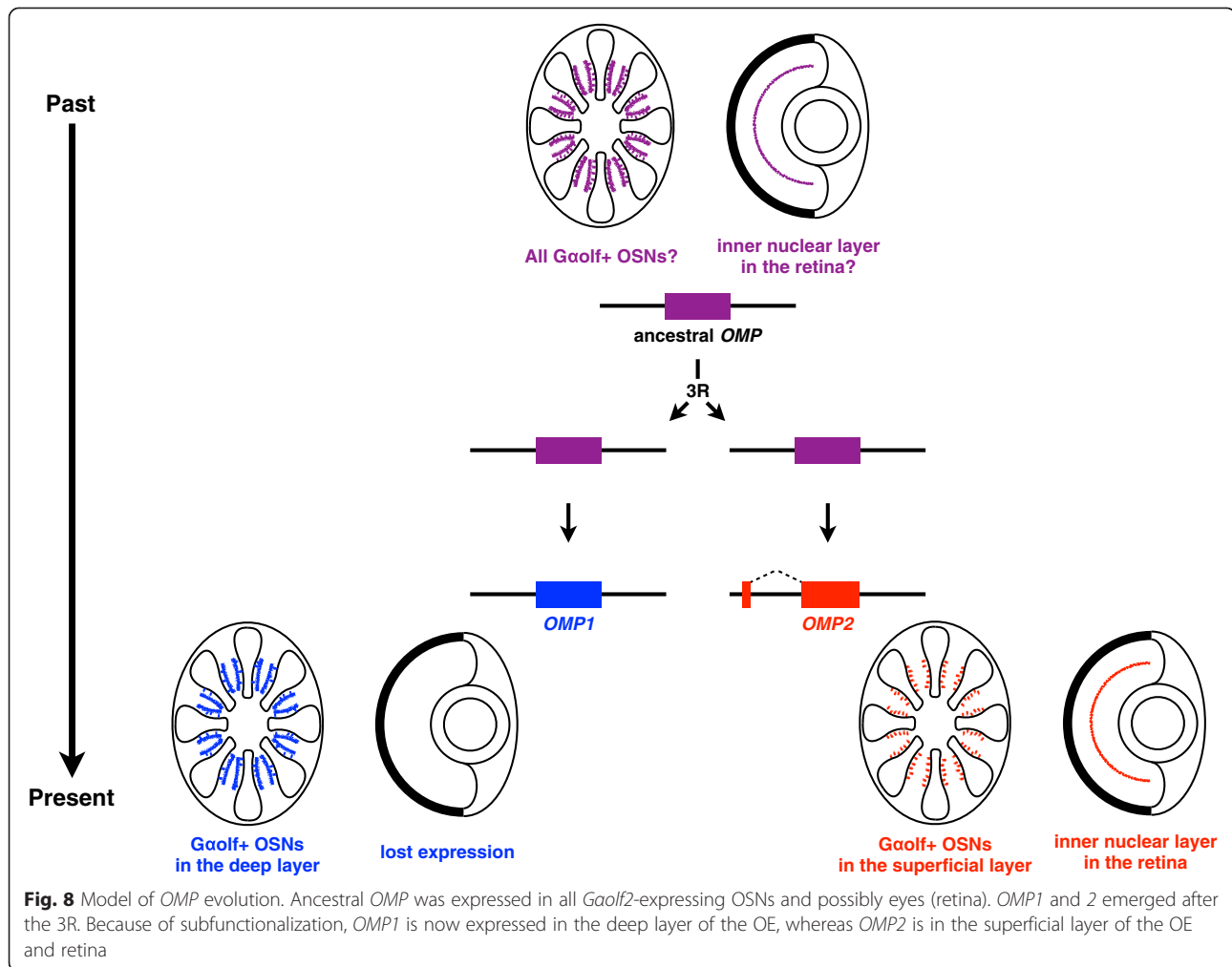
Fig. 7 Coexpression of *OMP2* and Ga families. Two-color fluorescence *in situ* hybridization analysis using DIG- or fluorescein-labeled antisense riboprobes in horizontal sections of the adult zebrafish OE. **a, d, g** Fluorescent images of Alexa 594 derived from DIG-labeled riboprobes. **b, e, h** Fluorescent images of Alexa 488 derived from fluorescein-labeled riboprobes. **c, f, i** Merged images of **(a)** and **(b)**, **(d)** and **(e)**, and **(g)** and **(h)**, respectively. Yellow two-headed arrows and cyan two-headed arrows indicate the superficial layer and the deep layer, respectively. Dashed lines indicate the outlines of the epithelium. White arrowheads indicate cells that coexpress *OMP2* and another gene. Scale bar, 20 μ m

uplicated in zebrafish, and one of these, *NCX1b*, is expressed in zebrafish eyes as well as in other neural tissues [51, 52]. Thus it is possible that *OMP2* and *NCX1b* are colocalized and are both involved in the regulation of cations in teleost retinal horizontal cells. To further understand the mechanism underlying subfunctionalization in eyes caused by 3R, it is worth examining the gene expressions of *OMP* and *NCX1* of non-teleost fish as well as mice.

Characterization of *OMP1*- and *OMP2*-expressing OSNs

Teleost OE contains three types of OSNs: ciliated, microvillous, and crypt OSNs [53–55]. Generally, the cell bodies of the ciliated OSNs are situated in the deep layer of the OE, whereas those of microvillous OSNs are in the superficial layer. The crypt OSNs reside in the superficial layer of the OE. The axons of these three types of OSNs project to different regions of the olfactory bulb, suggesting that these OSNs have distinct functions [28, 54]. We confirmed that *OMP1* was mainly expressed in the deep layer of the OE (Fig. 6, Additional file 1: Figure S1), and was coexpressed with *Gaolf2* (Additional file 3: Figure S3) but not with *TRPC2* (Additional file 1: Figure S1). These results indicate that *OMP1* corresponds to the previously characterized zebrafish *OMP* [27]. In contrast, *OMP2* was

expressed in the superficial layer (Figs. 5 and 6), in which the cell bodies of microvillous and crypt cells are situated. So, we initially considered that *OMP2*-expressing cells might be microvillous or crypt cells. However, this assumption seems unlikely because *OMP2*-expressing cells also express *Gaolf2* (Fig. 7a-c), and neither microvillous nor crypt OSNs express *Gaolf2* [54, 55]. Furthermore, we examined the coexpression of *OMP2* with *Ora* genes [48, 49]. In particular, *Ora4* is expressed in zebrafish crypt OSNs [56]. Although these genes were expressed in the OE, none of them was coexpressed with *OMP2* (Additional file 4: Figure S4). Recently, a fourth type of OSN, kappe neuron, was identified, and these neurons are distributed in the superficial layer of the zebrafish OE [57]. They do, however, express *Gao* [57]. Taken together, these results suggest that the *OMP2*/*Gaolf2*-coexpressing cells are most likely to be ciliated OSNs, in spite of the fact that cell bodies were distributed in the superficial layer. Probably, they also coexpress some *ORs* and/or *TAARs*. To definitively determine the cell type, a specific antibody against *OMP2* is required. Nonetheless, the almost completely non-overlapping expression of *OMP1* and 2 (Fig. 6a-c) implies that *OMP1*- and 2-expressing cells possess distinct roles in the OE.



Subfunctionalization between *OMP1* and *OMP2* in the olfactory system

OMP2 was expressed in the superficial layer of the OE (Figs. 6 and 7), whereas *OMP1* was mainly expressed in the deep layer (Fig. 6, Additional file 1: Figure S1). The non-overlapping expression of *OMP1* and 2 can be explained by subfunctionalization, which is a model for paralog retention attributed to the reduction and specialization of expression. The 3R derived paralogs of *OMP* in teleosts have partitioned their expression and perhaps function since the WGD event (Fig. 8, Additional file 5: Figure S5). Given that a single *OMP* gene is expressed in all of area of OE in mice and frogs, it is speculated that the single *OMP* gene was expressed in all $G\alphaolf^+$ OSNs in the ancestral group (Additional file 5: Figure S5). In addition, because the *OMP* is known to play an important and fundamental role in signal transduction in OSNs [e.g. 29], *OMP* could be expressed in all OSNs of OE in the ancestral group that can be assessed by investigating the OE of non-teleost fish. We are now speculating that *OMP* could be expressed in all $G\alphaolf^+$ OSNs in the

spotted gar (Additional file 5: Figure S5, shown by blue characters). At present, however, the expression data of spotted gar was lacking, making it difficult to examine in this study.

By focusing on two *OMPs* in teleosts, we proposed the scenarios of subfunctionalization of 3R-derived paralogs. To further verify this scenarios, it is important to incorporate the information about the ancestral states, which are represented by extinct species or close relatives of teleosts. The basal lineages of ray-finned fish (non-teleost fish), which did not undergo the 3R, could be ideal species to infer the ancestral state. Accordingly, the expression pattern of *OMP* in gar and/or polypterus, should be analyzed in detail based on *in situ* hybridization *etc.* in the near future.

Other duplications of *OMP* in vertebrate evolution

African clawed frog has two *OMPs* in its genome [36]. Our phylogenetic analysis suggested that xenopus *OMPs* emerged in the African clawed frog lineage. The African clawed frog is an allotetraploid animal [58, 59], and the

most recent WGD was estimated to have occurred ~30 MYA [58]. Accordingly, *OMP* duplication in African clawed frog is likely to be derived from a xenopus-specific WGD. Although the two xenopus *OMPs* show distinct expression patterns [36], such expression patterns do not appear to be mutually exclusive. Incomplete differentiation of xenopus *OMPs* is attributed to more recent WGD than 3R. Two *OMPs* are also present in the salmon genome [38]. Our results showed that both salmon *OMPs* are included in the *OMP2* clade. It is well known that another round of WGD occurred independently in the salmon lineage [60, 61]. Therefore, it is most likely that two salmon *OMP2*s found in the present study emerged by this additional WGD. Interestingly, it has been suggested that certain groups of genes tend to be specifically retained after a WGD event [13, 61], and *OMP* would seem to be one of these genes. As salmon genome data become available, it will be interesting to attempt to locate *OMP1* for further analysis.

Conclusions

We suggested that *OMP* paralogs, which were derived from 3R, have been retained in visual and olfactory system by subfunctionalization (Fig. 8). The expression pattern of *OMP* in gar or polypterus (ray-finned fish without 3R) should be investigated to confirm this scenarios in the future study. In addition, we propose that *OMP2* could be used as a novel molecular marker of OSNs because *OMP1* and 2 were separately expressed in the OE. Thus, the 3R-derived duplicated genes might become promising markers for the classification of various types of cells in the same organ, such as neural tissues.

Methods

Ethic statement

The animal protocols and procedures used in this study were approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee of Tokyo Institute of Technology [62].

Data mining

Human (*Homo sapiens*), mouse (*Mus musculus*), Western clawed frog, African clawed frog, zebrafish, and salmon *OMP* nucleotides sequences were acquired from DNA Data Bank of Japan (DDBJ) with the ARSA keyword search [63]. Accession numbers are as follows: human, BC069365; mouse, U02557; Western clawed frog, BC061304; African clawed frog, AJ010978, AJ010979; zebrafish, AF457189; salmon, AB490250, AB490251. These sequences were used as queries for a BLASTN search to acquire zebrafish, stickleback, and tilapia *OMP* cDNA sequences from the DDBJ EST database [64]. Accession numbers from the EST database are listed in Table 1. Other *OMP* sequences were acquired from Ensembl genome browser [65] with a TBLASTN search. For all

analyses, a BLAST cutoff E-value was set at 1. Then, complete coding sequences were estimated by GeneWise [66]. The same method was used to acquire *CAPN5* sequences. Accession numbers are as follows: human, BC018123; mouse, BC014767; Western clawed frog, BC075496; African clawed frog, BC048218. Information about *OMP* loci for syntenic analysis was also acquired from Ensembl with a BLASTN search.

Phylogenetic analysis

Deduced amino acid sequences of *OMPs* were aligned by ClustalW2 [67] with default parameters. Because of its low similarity, exon1 of *OMP2* and the homologous regions of the other *OMPs* were removed from the alignment, and then the maximum likelihood phylogeny was constructed with MEGA6 [68] based on the multiple sequence alignment, using the amino acids WAG + F model with 10,000 bootstrap repetitions and other default parameters.

RT-PCR

The zebrafish were euthanized under anesthesia using ethyl 4-aminobenzoate. Total RNA was extracted from each organ of two adult zebrafish (strain Tü, 12–24 months old) with TRIzol (Invitrogen). After RNase-free DNase I (TaKaRa) digestion, each RNA sample was diluted to 10 ng/μl. cDNA was synthesized from 100 ng total RNA with SuperScript III Reverse Transcriptase (Invitrogen) using oligo-dT₁₈ as a primer for 1 h at 50 °C. Genomic DNA for control was extracted from fins of adult zebrafish with DNeasy Blood & Tissue Kit (QIAGEN). PCR amplification was carried out for 30 s at 94 °C, 30 s at 55 °C, and 40 s at 72 °C for 35 cycles. Sequences of primers are listed in Table 2. To eliminate contamination of the PCR products derived from the genomic DNA, we designed intron-spanning primers for *OMP2* and *GAPDH*.

Transcriptome data analysis

Transcriptome data from the eyes are acquired from DDBJ sequence read archive [69]. Accession numbers are as follows: spotted gar, SRR1288001 and SRR1288144; zebrafish, SRR1562528. Fragments per kilobase of exon per million mapped fragments (FPKM), which reflect relative expression level, were calculated by bowtie-2.2.5 [70] and rsem-1.2.21 [71].

Riboprobe synthesis

Each zebrafish RT-PCR product was ligated into pBlue-script II SK(-) vector. Sequences of primers used for RT-PCR are listed in Table 2. Degenerate primers were designed to amplify several paralogs. After cloning and sequencing, the plasmids were extracted with the QIAfilter Plasmid Midi Kit (QIAGEN) and then linearized with

Table 2 PCR primer sequences

Gene	Forward	Reverse
<i>OMP1</i>	5'-CAGTCTCTACAACAACGAGGA-3'	5'-TTCATAGGTCTTTAGGAACCC-3'
<i>OMP2</i>	5'-ATGGGTTTCAGAAATGGAGC-3'	5'-CTAAACAAAGACTACGCATCTGA-3'
<i>GAPDH</i>	5'-GGAGTCTTCTCAGCATTGA-3'	5'-ACAGACTCCTTGATGTTGGC-3'
<i>TRPC2</i>	5'-GCGSGAGATYGTGAACA-3'	5'-GACARRTAMGCACGGCTG-3'
<i>NCAM</i>	5'-GAGATCAGCGTYGGRGAGTC-3'	5'-ATGTCKGCAGTGGCRIT-3'
<i>Gaolf</i>	5'-AAGAAGATMGAGAAACAGTT-3'	5'-TTAAARCACTGAATCCATTT-3'
<i>Gao</i>	5'-ARAGCCATCGAGAAACC-3'	5'-AGCAYYGGTCGTATCC-3'
<i>Gai</i>	5'-CAGTCCATMATBGCCATC-3'	5'-GTSTCBGTRAACCACTTGTT-3'
<i>Gaq</i>	5'-GGCTCAGGCTATTAGAAGA-3'	5'-TCTGAAACCAGGGGTATGTT-3'
<i>Ora1</i>	5'-GTGTCCCGCAGACTATGACT-3'	5'-ATCCAGATCACGTTATCGATG-3'
<i>Ora2</i>	5'-TCCACAATGTGTTTGACGAC-3'	5'-CAGTGAGGTGAAGAAGAGCC-3'
<i>Ora3</i>	5'-MAACCTGATGGTGTGCTTG-3'	5'-AAGAGGATGTTGAGMGCCAG-3'
<i>Ora4</i>	5'-ACCTGTGTCTGGCTAACCTG-3'	5'-AGCCATGATGACGTGACC-3'
<i>Ora5</i>	5'-GTTTTTCATCAGACCTCTCGG-3'	5'-TACGGGACAAAACAGGTGTAT-3'
<i>Ora6</i>	5'-ATGGTGATGTGTATGATGTTCC-3'	5'-TGATGAAGAACTCCACCTCC-3'

the appropriate restriction enzyme. Digoxigenin (DIG)-labeled or fluorescein-labeled riboprobes were synthesized with T7 or T3 RNA polymerase (Roche) from the linearized plasmids with DIG or fluorescein RNA labeling mix (Roche), respectively. The riboprobes were treated with recombinant DNase I (TaKaRa) to exclude template plasmids.

Tissue preparation

Olfactory rosettes and eyes of adult zebrafish were dissected out, and fixed in 4 % paraformaldehyde (PFA) in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) overnight at 4 °C. After fixation, tissues were cryoprotected in 20 % sucrose in PBS, embedded in O.C.T. compound (Sakura Finetek), and sectioned at a thickness of 10 μm on a cryostat (Leica). Sections were stored at -80 °C until use.

Fluorescence in situ hybridization

Sections were pretreated with 4 % PFA in PBS for 5 min, followed by treatment with 0.3 % H₂O₂ in PBS for 15 min and then with 5 μg/ml proteinase K in PBS for 10 min at 37 °C. After fixation with 4 % PFA in PBS for 10 min, sections were treated with 0.2 % glycine in PBS for 5 min, and with 0.2 N HCl for 20 min, followed by 0.25 % acetic anhydride/0.03 N HCl/0.1 M triethanolamine for 3 min. Sections were prehybridized with hybridization solution, which consisted of 50 % formamide; 10 mM Tris-HCl buffer, pH 7.5; 0.6 M NaCl; 1 mM EDTA; 0.25 % SDS; 1× Denhardt's solution; 5 % dextran sulfate; and 0.2 mg/ml Yeast tRNA, for 40 minutes and were then hybridized with the hybridization solution containing 5 ng/μl DIG-labeled riboprobe at 60 °C overnight. After hybridization, sections were washed sequentially at

50 °C in 5× saline-sodium citrate (SSC), 50 % formamide in 5× SSC (twice), and then in 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, containing 150 mM NaCl and 1 mM EDTA (TNE). After RNase treatment with 2 μg/ml RNase A in TNE for 30 min at 37 °C, sections were washed at 50 °C in 2× SSC (twice) and 0.2× SSC (twice). After treatment of the sections with streptavidin/biotin blocking kit (Vector Laboratories) and 1 % blocking reagent (PerkinElmer) in TBS, bound riboprobe was detected with peroxidase-conjugated anti-DIG antibody (1:100; Roche), and visualized with the TSA Plus biotin kit (PerkinElmer) and Alexa 594-conjugated streptavidin (1:500; Molecular Probes). Sections were coverslipped with VECTASHIELD mounting medium with 4',6'-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI) (Vector Laboratories), and images were digitally captured on a fluorescence microscope (Carl Zeiss). In the case of two-color detection, fluorescein-labeled riboprobe was mixed with DIG-labeled riboprobe, and used for hybridization. Fluorescein-labeled riboprobe was detected with peroxidase-conjugated anti-fluorescein antibody (1:500; PerkinElmer), and was visualized with the TSA Plus 2,4-dinitrophenyl (DNP) system (PerkinElmer) and Alexa 488-conjugated anti-DNP antibody (1:500; Molecular Probes). After the detection of the fluorescein-labeled riboprobe, sections were treated with 15 % H₂O₂ in PBS for 30 min to inactivate peroxidase. Then, the DIG-labeled riboprobe was detected as described above.

Availability of data and materials

The data sets supporting the results of this article are available as Additional file.

Additional files

Additional file 1: Figure S1. Expression patterns of *OMP1* and *TRPC2*. (PDF 4.99 mb)

Additional file 2: Figure S2. Expression patterns of *Gaolf2* and *Gao2*. (PDF 4.99 mb)

Additional file 3: Figure S3. Expression patterns of *OMP1* and *Gaolf2*. (PDF 4.99 mb)

Additional file 4: Figure S4. Expression patterns of *OMP2* and *Ora* genes. (PDF 4.99 mb)

Additional file 5: Figure S5. Schematics of *OMP* duplication and subdivision of gene expressions during evolution. (PDF 4.99 mb)

Abbreviations

WGD: Whole genome duplication; OE: Olfactory epithelium; OMP: Olfactory marker protein; OSN: Olfactory sensory neuron; KO: Knockout; OR: Odorant receptor; TAAR: Trace amine-associated receptor; V1R: Vomeronasal type 1 receptor; V2R: Vomeronasal type 2 receptor.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Authors' contributions

HS participated in the design of the study, carried out analyses, and drafted the manuscript. MN initiated the study, participated in its design, and helped to draft the manuscript. KH technically supported the histological analyses. NO participated in the design of the study, supervised the study and finalized the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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Author details

¹Department of Biological Sciences, Graduate School of Bioscience and Biotechnology, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Yokohama 226-8501, Japan.

²Department of Dementia and Higher Brain Function, Integrated Neuroscience Research Project, Tokyo Metropolitan Institute of Medical Science, Tokyo 156-8506, Japan. ³Foundation for Advancement of International Science, Tsukuba 305-0821, Japan. ⁴Department of Life Sciences, National Cheng Kung University, Tainan 701, Taiwan.

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