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**An integrated anatomical, functional and evolutionary view of the
Drosophila olfactory system**

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48 **Abstract**

49

50 The *Drosophila melanogaster* olfactory system is one of the most intensively
51 studied parts of the nervous system in any animal. Composed of ~60 independent
52 olfactory neuron classes, with several associated hygrosensory and
53 thermosensory pathways, it has been subject to diverse types of experimental
54 analyses. However, synthesizing the available data is limited by the
55 incompleteness and inconsistent nomenclature found in the literature. In this work,
56 we first “complete” the peripheral sensory map through the identification of a
57 previously uncharacterized antennal sensory neuron population expressing
58 Or46aB, and the definition of an exceptional “hybrid” olfactory neuron class
59 comprising functional Or and Ir receptors. Second, we survey developmental,
60 anatomical, connectomic, functional and evolutionary studies to generate an
61 integrated dataset of these sensory neuron pathways – and associated
62 visualizations – creating an unprecedented comprehensive resource. Third, we
63 illustrate the utility of the dataset to reveal relationships between different
64 organizational properties of this sensory system, and the new questions these
65 stimulate. These examples emphasize the power of this resource to promote
66 further understanding of the construction, function and evolution of these neural
67 circuits.

68

69 **Introduction**

70

71 Sensory regions of the nervous system are, by virtue of their peripheral location
72 and molecularly-distinct cell types, particularly amenable for developmental,
73 anatomical and physiological investigations to obtain a holistic view of the
74 construction and function of neural circuits. Amongst model sensory systems, the
75 olfactory pathways of *Drosophila melanogaster* are some of the most intensively
76 studied (Benton, 2022; Grabe and Sachse, 2018; Jefferis and Hummel, 2006; Su
77 et al., 2009; Vosshall and Stocker, 2007) (Figure 1A).

78 Odor-sensing occurs in two bilaterally-symmetric pairs of peripheral organs,
79 the maxillary palps and antennae. These appendages are covered with hundreds
80 of porous sensory hairs, or sensilla, of distinct morphologies (basiconic, trichoid,
81 intermediate, coeloconic) (Nava Gonzales et al., 2021; Shanbhag et al., 1999,
82 2000; Shanbhag et al., 1995). Sensilla house the ciliated dendrites of 1-4 olfactory
83 sensory neurons (OSNs), each of which expresses a specific type of odor-binding
84 sensory receptor (or occasionally receptors) that recognize a defined set of volatile
85 chemicals (Couto et al., 2005; de Bruyne et al., 1999; de Bruyne et al., 2001;
86 Fishilevich and Vosshall, 2005; Munch and Galizia, 2016; Silbering et al., 2011).
87 Approximately 25 functional classes of olfactory sensilla on the antenna and
88 maxillary palp can be identified by the stereotypical receptor expression patterns
89 and odor response profiles of the neurons they house (Couto et al., 2005; de
90 Bruyne et al., 1999; de Bruyne et al., 2001; Grabe et al., 2016; van der Goes van
91 Naters and Carlson, 2007; Yao et al., 2005).

92 Olfactory receptors belong to two families of ligand-gated ion channels: the
93 Odorant receptors (Ors), the founder members of the seven transmembrane
94 domain ion channel (7TMIC) superfamily (Benton and Himmel, 2023; Butterwick et
95 al., 2018; Clyne et al., 1999b; Del Marmol et al., 2021; Gao and Chess, 1999;
96 Himmel et al., 2023; Sato et al., 2008; Vosshall et al., 1999; Wicher et al., 2008),
97 and the Ionotropic receptors (Irs), which are distantly-related to ionotropic

98 glutamate receptors (iGluRs) (Benton et al., 2009). Both Ors and Irs function in
99 known (or presumed) heterotetrameric complexes composed of “tuning” receptor
100 subunits that are thought to directly bind odors, and subunits of one or more
101 broadly-expressed co-receptors (Orco for Ors (Larsson et al., 2004); Ir8a, Ir25a
102 and Ir76b for Irs (Abuin et al., 2011; Vulpe and Menuz, 2021)). Other tuning Ir
103 subunits form hygro-sensory and thermo-sensory receptors with Ir25a and Ir93a co-
104 receptors expressed by sensillar neurons within specialized antennal structures:
105 the sacculus, a three-chambered internal pocket that also houses some olfactory
106 neurons (Ai et al., 2010; Vulpe et al., 2021)), and the arista, an elongated cuticular
107 projection (Budelli et al., 2019; Enjin et al., 2016; Frank et al., 2017; Gallio et al.,
108 2011; Knecht et al., 2017; Knecht et al., 2016; Marin et al., 2020). Finally, a few
109 “Gustatory receptors” (Grs), which are also 7TMICs, function in antennal neurons
110 in CO₂ detection (Jones et al., 2007; Kwon et al., 2007) and thermosensation (Ni
111 et al., 2013).

112 During development, each sensillum derives from an individual sensory
113 organ precursor (SOP) cell in the pupal antennal imaginal disk, which undergoes
114 three stereotyped rounds of division to produce four support cells and four sensory
115 neuron precursors termed Naa, Nab, Nba and Nbb (Chai et al., 2019; Endo et al.,
116 2007; Endo et al., 2011; Jefferis and Hummel, 2006; Rodrigues and Hummel, 2008)
117 (Figure 1A). (In many coeloconic lineages the Nbb precursor is thought to
118 differentiate as a glial cell (Endo et al., 2007; Rodrigues and Hummel, 2008; Sen
119 et al., 2005).) Support cells have diverse roles in synthesizing and shaping the
120 sensillar cuticle during development (Ando et al., 2019; Schmidt and Benton, 2020),
121 as well as secreting perireceptor proteins into the sensillar lymph that bathes
122 neuronal dendrites, where they can contribute to sensory responses (Larter et al.,
123 2016; Sun et al., 2018; Xu et al., 2005). Sensory neuron precursors are thought to
124 express unique combinations of transcription factors that, together with asymmetric
125 Notch activity between daughter cells of each division, result in the unique terminal
126 identities of the olfactory neurons (Barish and Volkan, 2015; Chai et al., 2019; Endo
127 et al., 2007; Endo et al., 2011; Mermert et al., 2025). In most sensillar classes, one
128 or more sensory neuron precursors stereotypically undergo programmed cell
129 death, leaving fewer than four functional neurons in mature sensilla (Endo et al.,
130 2007; Endo et al., 2011; Prieto-Godino et al., 2020; Sen et al., 2004).

131 Populations of sensory neurons expressing the same receptor(s) innervate
132 a specific glomerulus in the antennal lobe, the initial processing center in the brain
133 (Couto et al., 2005; Fishilevich and Vosshall, 2005; Gao et al., 2000; Silbering et
134 al., 2011; Vosshall et al., 2000). Here these sensory neurons synapse with local
135 neurons (LNs), which mediate interglomerular interactions (Chou et al., 2010;
136 Wilson, 2013) and projection neurons (PNs), which transmit sensory information to
137 higher processing centers, the mushroom body and lateral horn (Bates et al., 2020;
138 Marin et al., 2020; Marin et al., 2002; Schlegel et al., 2021; Wong et al., 2002)
139 (Figure 1A).

140 The global view of the organization and function of the *D. melanogaster*
141 olfactory system has emerged from diverse experimental approaches over the past
142 25 years. Odor response profiles of nearly all receptors and/or sensory neurons
143 have been obtained through measurement of odor-evoked activity *in vivo* by
144 extracellular electrophysiological recordings from individual sensilla (e.g., (de
145 Bruyne et al., 1999; de Bruyne et al., 2001; Hallem and Carlson, 2006; Yao et al.,
146 2005)), optical imaging of activity in sensory neuron axonal termini in glomeruli
147 (e.g., (Silbering et al., 2011; Wang et al., 2003)) and/or through characterization of

148 receptors in heterologous expression systems (e.g., (Ruel et al., 2021; Sato et al.,
149 2008)). *In situ* analysis of the expression of endogenous receptors or transgenic
150 promoter reporters (Benton et al., 2009; Couto et al., 2005; Fishilevich and
151 Vosshall, 2005; Grabe et al., 2016; Silbering et al., 2011) has been complemented
152 with comprehensive, high resolution transcriptomic analyses of OSNs and PNs
153 (Arguello et al., 2021; Li et al., 2017; Li et al., 2020; McLaughlin et al., 2021).
154 Receptor promoter transgenic reporters have also enabled neuronal tracing to
155 produce a near-complete, neuron-to-glomerulus map (Couto et al., 2005;
156 Fishilevich and Vosshall, 2005; Silbering et al., 2011), which has recently been
157 greatly extended by electron microscopic (EM) analyses that also offer insights into
158 the glomerular microcircuitry of sensory neurons, LNs and PNs (Bates et al., 2020;
159 Marin et al., 2020; Rybak et al., 2016; Schlegel et al., 2021; Tobin et al., 2017), as
160 well as the innervations of PNs in higher brain regions (Bates et al., 2020; Jefferis
161 et al., 2007; Marin et al., 2020; Schlegel et al., 2021). Insights into how this circuitry
162 forms have been discovered through a wealth of forward and reverse molecular
163 genetic investigations of OSN and PN development (Barish and Volkan, 2015;
164 Brochtrup and Hummel, 2011; Hong and Luo, 2014; Jefferis and Hummel, 2006).
165 The behavioral role(s) of many individual sensory pathways have been revealed
166 by genetic manipulations of receptors, as well as artificial inhibition or activation of
167 the neurons in which they are expressed (e.g., (Ai et al., 2010; Stensmyr et al.,
168 2012; Suh et al., 2004; Tumkaya et al., 2022; Wu et al., 2022)). Finally, comparative
169 analysis of the *D. melanogaster* olfactory system with that of other drosophilids and
170 more distantly-related insect species has begun to uncover how individual sensory
171 pathways diverge structurally and/or functionally during evolution (Auer et al., 2020;
172 Dekker et al., 2006; Depetris-Chauvin et al., 2023; Hansson and Stensmyr, 2011;
173 Prieto-Godino et al., 2016; Prieto-Godino et al., 2017; Ramdya and Benton, 2010;
174 Takagi et al., 2024; Zhao and McBride, 2020).

175 These numerous investigations on *D. melanogaster*'s olfactory pathways
176 provide essential resources for the field. However, integration of information across
177 different studies can be difficult due to conflicting assignment of some receptors to
178 neuron types and sensillar classes, inconsistent naming of antennal lobe glomeruli,
179 and ongoing updates to the olfactory map. In this work, we first “complete” this map
180 through the discovery of a previously undescribed antennal OSN type, which
181 resolves long-known inconsistencies in sensillar identification. We also reveal a
182 neuron that relies on both Ir and Or tuning receptors, the only such “hybrid”
183 olfactory neuron known in *D. melanogaster*. These findings spurred us to compile
184 an integrated data resource to overcome the dispersal of pertinent information with
185 disparate anatomical and molecular naming across the literature. We also created
186 updated representations of both the complete sensillar classes and the antennal
187 lobe glomeruli to serve as standardized references for the field.

188

189 **Results and Discussion**

190

191 **A novel antennal Or sensory neuron type**

192

193 Within a single-nuclear RNA-sequencing (snRNA-seq) atlas of the developing
194 antenna (Mermet et al., 2025), we observed a cell cluster expressing *Or46a* (Figure
195 1B). Transcripts for this gene had previously been observed by RT-PCR and in
196 bulk RNA-seq datasets of the antenna (Clyne et al., 1999a; Menuz et al., 2014),
197 but never assigned to a specific cell type. The *Or46a* locus encodes two receptors,

198 Or46aA and Or46aB, which share the same C-terminus encoded by a common last
199 exon (Figure 1C). Through RNA fluorescence *in situ* hybridization (FISH) with
200 isoform-specific probes, we detected expression of transcripts for *Or46aB* in ~8
201 neurons in the antenna, but not *Or46aA* (Figure 1D). As a control, we performed
202 RNA FISH on maxillary palps, verifying that both *Or46a* probes detect the same
203 neurons in this organ, as described previously (Ray et al., 2007) (Figure 1E).
204 However, we observed that the signals of the two probes were spatially distinct
205 (Figure 1F): *Or46aA* was detected both in the cytoplasm and the nucleus, while
206 *Or46aB* appeared predominantly nuclear in palp OSNs (Figure 1F), despite being
207 readily detected in the cytoplasm of antennal OSNs. This phenomenon is
208 reminiscent of the nuclear retention of transcripts of downstream genes in tandem
209 clusters of *Ors* in ants (Brahma et al., 2023).

210 To understand the reason for this differential location, we assessed
211 transcripts arising from the *Or46a* locus in antenna and maxillary palp/labellum bulk
212 transcriptomes (Bontonou et al., 2024) (Figure 1G). In the antenna, we detected
213 transcripts only for *Or46aB*, as expected. In the maxillary palp/labellum
214 transcriptome, we detected several alternative splicing events; many of these
215 correspond to splicing events in *Or46aA*, as previously characterized by RT-PCR
216 of full-length transcripts (Ray et al., 2007). Importantly, although we found
217 transcripts including *Or46aB* exons we did not find any evidence for proper splicing
218 between exons 4 and 5. This lack of splicing means that all transcripts with *Or46aB*
219 exons contain a frameshift that renders exon 5 unable to encode for the essential
220 ion channel pore region. We also observed sequences with an unusual alternative
221 splicing event in the first exon of *Or46aA* that would prevent them encoding a
222 functional receptor (Figure 1G). We suggest that many or all of these transcripts
223 are aberrant splice variants initiating from the *Or46aA* promoter and likely fail to be
224 exported efficiently from the nucleus or are rapidly degraded in the cytoplasm. The
225 simplest interpretation of these data is that antennal neurons only express Or46aB
226 protein, while maxillary palp neurons predominantly or only express Or46aA.

227

228 **“Completing” the olfactory map in the antenna and antennal lobe**

229

230 We next sought the antennal sensillum class in which the newly-identified Or46aB
231 neurons are housed, taking advantage of odor-to-neuron-to-sensillum maps
232 defined by electrophysiological and histological analyses (Couto et al., 2005; de
233 Bruyne et al., 2001; Grabe et al., 2016) and knowledge that Or46aB responds to
234 methylphenols when expressed in heterologous neurons (Ray et al., 2014). We
235 predicted that Or46aB is expressed in the antennal basiconic 6 (ab6) sensillar class
236 “B” neuron (i.e., with the smaller spike amplitude) as this ab6B neuron responds
237 strongly and selectively to methylphenols (de Bruyne et al., 2001; Hallem et al.,
238 2004). The molecular identity of the ab6A neuron (i.e., with the larger spike
239 amplitude) has been inconsistently described in the literature (see “Terminology”
240 section in the Methods), but the best evidence is that this neuron class expresses
241 Or13a, due to the similar odor-tuning profiles of ab6A neurons measured by single-
242 sensillum recordings (de Bruyne et al., 2001) and Or13a neurons measured by
243 calcium imaging (Galizia et al., 2010).

244 We tested this prediction through two-color RNA FISH using probes against
245 these receptors, observing precise pairing of Or46aB and Or13a neurons (Figure
246 2A). We further investigated the neuronal composition and function of this sensillum
247 through targeted electrophysiological recordings of sensilla labelled with GFP

248 driven by *Or13a-Gal4*. Observation of basal spiking patterns confirmed the
249 presence of two neurons, based upon their distinct spike amplitudes (Figure 2B),
250 countering a previous claim that these sensilla house a single neuron (Lin and
251 Potter, 2015). Profiling of the odor-evoked responses confirmed that the A neuron
252 responds most strongly to 1-octen-3-ol and robustly to 1-hexanol, E2-hexenal,
253 pentyl acetate, and 2-heptanone, matching the profile of ab6A neurons previously
254 defined by electrophysiological recordings (de Bruyne et al., 2001) and of Or13a
255 neurons measured with calcium imaging (Galizia et al., 2010). As previously
256 described for ab6B neurons (de Bruyne et al., 2001; Hallem et al., 2004), the
257 neuron paired with Or13a neurons responds to methylphenols (Figure 2B-C),
258 matching the response profile of heterologously-expressed Or46aB (Ray et al.,
259 2014). Together these data support the proposal that Or13a and Or46aB are
260 expressed in the originally-defined ab6 sensillum class (de Bruyne et al., 2001).

261 One complication with this assignment is that ab6B has previously been
262 posited to express Or49b (e.g. (Couto et al., 2005; Grabe et al., 2016; Hallem et
263 al., 2004)), likely because this receptor also responds to methylphenols (Hallem et
264 al., 2004). Although it is possible that Or49b and Or46aB are co-expressed in ab6B,
265 there is no evidence for this in our snRNA-seq datasets (Mermet et al., 2025).
266 Moreover, we recently demonstrated using RNA FISH that Or49b neurons are
267 paired with those expressing Or85b/(Or85c) (in this study, we place receptors in
268 parentheses if their function is unclear) (Takagi et al., 2024). The simplest
269 interpretation is that there are two discrete classes of sensilla, one with Or13a and
270 Or46aB neurons and the other with Or85b/(Or85c) and Or49b neurons. These
271 classes may have been conflated previously due to common sensitivity of both
272 Or46aB and Or49b to methylphenols.

273 To validate that Or49b and Or85b/(Or85c) define a unique sensillum class,
274 we used *Or49b-Gal4* to mark these sensilla with GFP and performed
275 electrophysiological recordings with the same set of odors as above (Figure 2D-E).
276 As expected, we found that the response profile of sensilla housing Or49b and
277 Or85b/(Or85c) neurons is similar to those containing Or13a and Or46aB neurons.
278 However, two key features indicate that the sensilla are distinct. First,
279 methylphenols activate the A neuron in the Or49b sensilla (Figure 2D-E), but the B
280 neuron in Or13a sensilla (Figure 2B-C), while odors such as 2-heptanone and 1-
281 octen-3-ol activate the B neuron in Or49b sensilla, but the A neuron in Or13a
282 sensilla. Second, the responses of Or13a and Or49b sensilla to indole, an odor
283 reported to strongly activate Or49b (Ruel et al., 2021) differ: the A neuron in Or49b
284 sensilla responds robustly to this odor, whereas neurons in Or13a sensilla do not
285 (Figure 2B-E), as originally reported in ab6 (de Bruyne et al., 2001). Together,
286 these data confirm that these receptors are expressed in two separate classes of
287 sensilla, and that the ab6 sensilla response profile is matched best by the sensillum
288 housing Or13a and Or46aB neurons. We propose to name the sensillum housing
289 Or49b and Or85b/(Or85c) neurons ab11 (see the “Terminology” section in the
290 Methods).

291 We next sought where Or46aB antennal OSNs project in the brain.
292 Functional transgenic drivers for the Or46aB neuron have been difficult to generate
293 (Couto et al., 2005; Tirian and Dickson, 2017), likely reflecting the unusual genomic
294 organization of this locus (Figure 1C). This unfortunately prevents direct
295 visualization of their glomerular target in the antennal lobe. However, we
296 hypothesized that these neurons innervate the VA7m glomerulus. Three pieces of
297 evidence support this possibility: VA7m is the last “orphan” glomerulus in the

298 antennal lobe (Schlegel et al., 2021), i.e., without molecularly-defined sensory
299 innervations. Second, the glomerulus is adjacent to the VA7I glomerulus, which is
300 innervated by maxillary palp Or46aA neurons (Couto et al., 2005). Such an
301 assignment aligns with evidence that evolutionarily closely-related receptors tend
302 to be expressed in neurons that project to nearby glomeruli (Couto et al., 2005;
303 Silbering et al., 2011). Most compellingly, clonal labelling of OSNs demonstrated
304 that the sister neuron of Or13a – i.e., arising from the same SOP lineage, which we
305 have now established is the Or46aB neuron (Figure 2A) – innervates VA7m (Figure
306 2F) (Endo et al., 2007). This neuron-to-glomerulus assignment effectively
307 completes the antennal lobe map. Additionally, while reviewing data from (Endo et
308 al., 2007), we found several examples of brains in which VA5 (Or49b) neurons are
309 co-labeled with VM5d (Or85b/(Or85c)) neurons, supporting the pairing of these
310 neurons in ab11 (Figure 2G). This co-labeling was previously over-looked as VM5d
311 (Or85b/(Or85c)) neurons were mostly co-labeled with DM2 (Or22a/(Or22b))
312 neurons, corresponding to the co-housing of these OSN types in ab3.

313

314 **A “hybrid” olfactory pathway expressing a functional Or and Ir tuning** 315 **receptor**

316

317 Our snRNA-seq atlas (Mermet et al., 2025) revealed a second, previously-
318 unreported expression pattern (Benton et al., 2009): weak expression of *Ir76a* in
319 *Or35a*-expressing cells that correspond to the B neurons in antennal coeloconic 3
320 (ac3) sensilla (Figure 3A). (Stronger *Ir76a* expression was detected in the ac4 *Ir76a*
321 neuron (Benton et al., 2009; Mermet et al., 2025)). We confirmed these
322 transcriptomic data *in vivo* using RNA FISH, which detected *Ir76a* transcripts in
323 several, though not all, *Or35a* ac3B neurons (Figure 3B).

324 The expression of *Ir76a* in ac3B was intriguing because while most odor
325 responses of the broadly-tuned ac3B neuron depend upon Ors (Silbering et al.,
326 2011; Yao et al., 2005), responses to amines – notably phenethylamine and
327 amylamine – require instead the Ir co-receptors *Ir25a* and *Ir76b* (Vulpe and Menuz,
328 2021), which are also expressed in these cells (Figure 3A) (Task et al., 2022). As
329 these amines are amongst the best agonists of ac4 *Ir76a* neurons (Silbering et al.,
330 2011), we hypothesized that *Ir76a* is the tuning receptor mediating amine
331 responses in ac3B neurons. We tested this possibility through single-sensillum
332 electrophysiological analyses of *Ir76a^{RNAi}* flies (Figure 3C-D). Using two
333 independent transgenic RNAi lines, we first verified the efficiency of *Ir76a^{RNAi}* in ac4
334 sensilla, observing complete loss of responses to amine ligands of *Ir76a* neurons,
335 while responses of the co-housed *Ir84a* neurons to phenylacetaldehyde were
336 unchanged (Figure 3C-D). In ac3B neurons, amine responses were similarly
337 abolished by *Ir76a^{RNAi}*, while responses to the *Or35a*/*Orco*-dependent ligand *1*-
338 hexanol were unaffected (Figure 3C-D).

339 These results indicate that the ac3B neuron is, to our knowledge, the first
340 unambiguous example of an OSN expressing functionally relevant combinations of
341 tuning and co-receptors of both Or and Ir families. Interestingly, recent snRNA-seq
342 and RNA FISH in the mosquito *Aedes aegypti* identified a few OSN populations in
343 the antenna and maxillary palp expressing putatively complete sets of both Or and
344 Ir complexes (Adavi et al., 2024; Herre et al., 2022), indicating that similar “hybrid”
345 neuron types might exist in other species.

346

347

348 **A new integrated dataset of the developmental, anatomical and functional**
349 **properties of the *D. melanogaster* olfactory system**

350

351 Our discoveries of the Or46aB and hybrid Or35a/Ir76a sensory channels both
352 highlighted prior inaccuracies and omissions in the antennal and antennal lobe
353 maps and exemplified the power of using information from disparate sources to
354 extract new insights. We therefore reasoned that it was timely to systematically
355 integrate current data resources on diverse developmental, anatomical and
356 functional properties of the olfactory and hygro/thermosensory systems. Building
357 on a foundational data resource generated nearly a decade ago (Grabe et al.,
358 2016) and from several recent studies on sacculus hygrosensors and
359 thermosensors (Budelli et al., 2019; Enjin et al., 2016; Frank et al., 2017; Gallio et
360 al., 2011; Knecht et al., 2017; Knecht et al., 2016; Marin et al., 2020), we made
361 substantial new additions and corrections regarding receptor expression patterns,
362 neuronal and sensillar annotations. For example, in addition to the definition of ab6
363 and ab11 described above, we distinguish the classes of antennal intermediate
364 (ai2, ai3) and trichoid (at1, at4) sensilla more clearly, as these have been conflated
365 in the past (e.g., (Couto et al., 2005)). We also update the definition of ac3 sensilla
366 that comprise two subtypes, ac3I and ac3II, housing Ir75b and Ir75c neurons
367 respectively (Prieto-Godino et al., 2017), each together with the Or35a/Ir76a
368 neurons characterized here.

369 We also collated improved quantitative estimates of neuronal populations
370 favoring numbers from analyses of *in situ* gene expression – including many new
371 quantifications using HCR FISH (Figure S1), other numbers from the literature
372 (e.g., (Mermet et al., 2025)) and from very recent EM connectomic datasets
373 (Dorkenwald et al., 2024; Schlegel et al., 2021; Schlegel et al., 2024) – rather than
374 transgenic reporters as in (Grabe et al., 2016), which do not always faithfully reflect
375 endogenous gene expression. We additionally integrated several developmental
376 properties, such as expression of proneural and other fate determinants, as well as
377 available anatomical information on LNs (Chou et al., 2010) and uniglomerular PNs
378 (Schlegel et al., 2021). Finally, we incorporated comparative datasets of OSN
379 numbers and glomerular size available for several species in the *Drosophila* group
380 (Depetris-Chauvin et al., 2023).

381 Behavior is of course the *raison d'être* of the olfactory system, and there is
382 a wealth of information on the contributions of many individual olfactory pathways
383 (e.g., (Badel et al., 2016; Semmelhack and Wang, 2009; Wu et al., 2022)). For
384 certain sensory channels, such as those detecting pheromones, several studies
385 provide consistent evidence for their behavioral role(s) (Kurtovic et al., 2007; Taisz
386 et al., 2023). For the majority of pathways, their contribution to odor-evoked
387 behaviors – as assessed by loss-of-function or artificial neuronal activation
388 approaches – are highly context-dependent (Currier and Nagel, 2020), influenced
389 by the experimental assay design (Chin et al., 2018; Tumkaya et al., 2022; Wu et
390 al., 2022), environmental conditions (e.g., air currents (Bell and Wilson, 2016;
391 Matheson et al., 2022; Stupski and van Breugel, 2024)), other simultaneous
392 olfactory and taste inputs (Grabe and Sachse, 2018; Oh et al., 2021; Wilson, 2013)
393 and the internal state of the fly (e.g., starvation (Ko et al., 2015; Lebreton et al.,
394 2015; Root et al., 2011)). Collectively these studies support the idea that many
395 sensory channels function as part of a “combinatorial code” to control behavioral
396 outputs. We have therefore adopted the more general idea of the “sensory scene”
397 within which a particular olfactory pathway might function (Schlegel et al., 2021).

398 This classification is largely defined by the likely ecological source of the odor(s) to
399 which a given OSN responds (Mansourian and Stensmyr, 2015). We caution that
400 such classification is tentative, as some chemicals can be found in many different
401 biological settings.

402 The full integrated dataset is provided in Table S1; this is also available
403 online (<https://shorturl.at/gznii>), with the aim that such a dataset can be
404 supplemented with information emerging in future investigations, such as additional
405 molecular markers (McLaughlin et al., 2021; Mermert et al., 2025; Xie et al., 2021),
406 functional properties of individual sensory pathways, and further data from other
407 species of drosophilids (Bontonou et al., 2024). Accompanying this resource, we
408 have created schematics highlighting some key organizational properties of
409 sensory sensilla (Figure 4). We have also generated labeled atlases and movies
410 depicting coronal (anterior-to-posterior) (Figure 5 and Data S2) and transverse
411 (dorsal-to-ventral) (Figure S2 and Data S2) sections through the antennal lobe
412 based on 3D glomerular meshes from a recent EM-based atlas (Bates et al., 2020).
413 Together, these should serve as practical guides during, for example,
414 neurophysiological and anatomical investigations.

415

416 **Illustration of insights from the integrated dataset**

417

418 While the information compiled above should serve as a useful reference source
419 during study of specific sensory pathways, we describe in this section a few
420 examples of insights that can be gleaned from global analyses using these updated
421 data.

422 *Relationship between OSN precursor identity and OSN morphology:* unlike
423 the odor response profile, OSN spike amplitude is not defined by the tuning
424 receptor (Hallem et al., 2004) but rather reflects the morphology of the
425 corresponding OSN. OSNs with greater dendritic surface area, typically due to
426 extensive branching of the sensory cilia endings, have larger spike amplitudes
427 (Nava Gonzales et al., 2021; Shanbhag et al., 1999, 2000). Essentially all sensilla
428 house neurons of distinct, stereotyped spike amplitudes, implying a hard-wired
429 genetic control of neuronal morphology. We asked whether these differences
430 reflect the corresponding neuronal precursor identity. By examining sensilla with
431 two OSNs, we found that the neurons with larger spike amplitudes (A neurons) and
432 those with smaller spike amplitudes (B neurons) were derived from a similar
433 proportion of Nab and Nba precursors (Figure 6A, Table S1). Similarly, in 3-OSN
434 sensilla the A neuron was derived either from Nab (at4, ac2, ac4) or Nba (ai3), and
435 in 4-OSN sensilla the A neuron was derived from either Nba (ab1) or Nbb (ac1).
436 These observations indicate the OSN sensillar morphology is not simply derived
437 from the developmental pathway characteristic of different OSN precursors such
438 as the Notch status after asymmetric cell division (Endo et al., 2007; Endo et al.,
439 2011). Extraction of transcripts enriched in large or small spiking neurons from
440 snRNA-seq datasets (Li et al., 2020; McLaughlin et al., 2021; Mermert et al., 2025)
441 might reveal candidate molecules underlying differences in cilia morphology, an
442 outstanding question in sensory biology in insects and other animals (Maurya,
443 2022).

444 *Sexual dimorphisms and species differences in OSN numbers:* many
445 insects have sex-specific olfactory pathways, most famously in moths that possess
446 male-specific populations detecting female pheromones (Nakagawa et al., 2005).
447 By contrast, in *D. melanogaster* sexual dimorphisms in the size of OSN populations

448 appear to be limited. With our revised set of neuron numbers (Table S1), we re-
449 visited this issue by plotting the female:male ratio of OSN numbers, where data are
450 available. While we confirmed that sexual dimorphisms are modest, we noted that
451 sensilla with the greatest over-representation in females are ab10 (implied by
452 greater numbers of Or49a/Or85f neurons) and ab3 (implied by greater numbers of
453 Or22a/(Or22b) neurons) (Figure 6B). Importantly, the latter example was
454 previously overlooked due to underestimation of ab3 numbers quantified using an
455 *Or22a-Gal4* transgenic reporter (Grabe et al., 2016). The sexual dimorphism in ab3
456 numbers is noteworthy because these neurons also display interspecific variation
457 in number, notably representing the greatest difference of all Or neuron types
458 between *D. melanogaster* and the ecological specialist *D. sechellia* (Auer et al.,
459 2021), which has 2-3-fold more ab3 OSNs (Auer et al., 2020; Dekker et al., 2006;
460 Takagi et al., 2024) (Figure 6C). We recently provided evidence that increased
461 OSN population size in *D. sechellia* enhances olfactory behavior not by increasing
462 sensitivity of partner PNs, but rather by influencing their adaptation properties to
463 repetitive or prolonged stimuli (Takagi et al., 2024). This invites the question of
464 whether the dynamics of odor processing in PNs receiving input from ab3 and ab10
465 neurons are sexually dimorphic in *D. melanogaster* due to the differences in OSN
466 number.

467 Shared sexually dimorphic and interspecific differences in OSN population
468 size are not observed for other populations. For example, while ab10 Or49a/Or85f
469 neurons are over-represented in females, there is no species difference in ab10
470 (as inferred from Or67a OSN numbers) between *D. melanogaster* and *D. sechellia*
471 (Figure 6B-C). Reciprocally, while the ac3I Ir75b neuron population is greatly
472 expanded in *D. sechellia* compared to *D. melanogaster* (Figure 6C), it is of a similar
473 size in males and females in both species (Prieto-Godino et al., 2017; Takagi et al.,
474 2024).

475 *Relationship of glomerular size with neuron and synapse numbers:* previous
476 studies suggested a shallow, but significant correlation between the number of
477 OSNs and the size of the corresponding glomerulus (Grabe et al., 2016). We re-
478 analyzed this relationship, both for all glomeruli where data is available, and those
479 receiving input from Or and Ir OSNs separately (Figure 6D). While we confirmed a
480 statistically significant correlation overall, we found that this is driven by a strong
481 relationship with Or glomeruli, as Ir OSN number and glomerular size are
482 uncorrelated (Figure 6D). These observations indicate that Ir glomerular size must
483 be dictated by other properties.

484 Using the more extensive dataset from the FlyWire connectome
485 (Dorkenwald et al., 2024; Schlegel et al., 2024), we therefore examined correlations
486 between glomerular size and PN number, but there was no evidence of a strong
487 relationship, globally or within either olfactory subsystem (Figure 6E). However,
488 comparison of glomerular size with the number of synapses that individual classes
489 of OSNs make with PNs, LNs, and other OSNs in the hemibrain connectome
490 (Schlegel et al., 2021) revealed positive correlations in all cases, although this was
491 only a trend for Ir glomeruli for OSN:PN synapses, potentially because of limited
492 sample size (Figure 6F-H). These observations indicate that the densities of
493 OSN:PN, OSN:LN and OSN:OSN synapses are relatively consistent across
494 glomeruli regardless of the number of input or output neurons. The determinant of
495 Ir glomerular size differences remains an interesting open question, which might
496 be answered by future analysis of other microarchitectural features revealed by the
497 connectome.

498

499 **Concluding remarks**

500

501 Through identification of new olfactory sensory channels in *D. melanogaster*, we
502 have “completed” our understanding of the basic molecular organization of this
503 sensory system, notwithstanding structural and functional heterogeneity that
504 undoubtedly exists within at least some sensory pathways. Using this finding as a
505 stimulus to create an updated, integrated data resource of much of the enormous
506 body of knowledge of the construction and function of this species’ olfactory (as
507 well as hygrosensory and thermosensory) systems, we believe this work should
508 facilitate and inspire the coming years of research in the field.

509

510 **Methods**

511

512 **RNA FISH**

513

514 HCR RNA FISH was performed on a control *peb-Gal4* genotype
515 (RRID:BDSC_80570) (Figures 1-2, Figure S1) or *w¹¹¹⁸* (Figure 3) using female flies,
516 as described (Mermet et al., 2025). All probes were produced by Molecular
517 Instruments (Table S2). Images from antennae and maxillary palps were acquired
518 with confocal microscopes (Zeiss LSM710 or Zeiss LSM880 systems) using a 40×
519 (or 63× for the palp) oil immersion objective and processed using Fiji software
520 (Schindelin et al., 2012).

521

522 **Electrophysiology**

523

524 GFP-guided single sensillum electrophysiological recordings were performed on 2-
525 day old females using glass electrodes filled with sensillum recording solution,
526 essentially as described (Vulpe et al., 2021). For ab6 sensilla we used *Or13a-
527 Gal4/UAS-mCD8::GFP* (parental stocks RRID:BDSC_23886 and RRID:
528 BDSC_5130); for ab11 sensilla we used *Or49b-Gal4/UAS-mCD8::GFP* (parental
529 stocks RRID:BDSC_24614 and RRID:BDSC_5130). A Prior Scientific Lumen 200
530 Illuminator was used as the excitation light source. The sample was visualized
531 using a BX51WI Olympus microscope with a 1.6× magnification changer, a 50×
532 objective and a Semrock GFP-4050B-OMF filter cube.

533

534 For *Ir76a* loss-of-function analysis in ac3 and ac4, we crossed the *P{Act5C-
535 GAL4}25FO1* driver (RRID:BDSC_4414) to the following *Ir76a^{RNAi}* or RNAi control
536 transgenic lines: *UAS-Ir76a^{RNAi}* (KK) (VDRC_101590), *UAS-Ir76a^{RNAi}* (TRiP)
537 (RRID:BDSC_34678), RNAi control (KK) (VDRC_60100), RNAi control (TRiP)
538 (RRID:BDSC_36303) (see Data S1 for final genotypes). ac3 and ac4 sensilla were
539 identified based upon their stereotyped location on the antenna (Benton et al.,
540 2009) and their responses to diagnostic odors (Silbering et al., 2011).

541

542 Odorants (Table S3) were diluted (v/v) in paraffin oil (or water for ammonia),
543 as indicated in the figure plots. Odor cartridges were prepared by applying 50 µl
544 odorant solution onto a Whatman 13 mm assay disc, which was inserted into a
545 Pasteur pipette closed with a 1 ml pipette tip. Fly preps were placed in a 2 l/min air
546 flow directed by a glass air tube. Odor stimuli were injected into the air flow for 0.5
547 s at 0.5 l/min. The odor response was calculated from the difference in OSN spike
548 frequency (or summed frequencies of all OSNs for ac sensilla) in response to a 0.5
549 s odor puff compared to a 0.5 s solvent puff, as described (Vulpe et al., 2021).

548

549 Terminology

550

551 There is some inconsistency in the literature regarding the use of certain terms,
552 which we aim to clarify here.

553 First, “Olfactory Receptor Neuron” (ORN) and “Olfactory Sensory Neuron”
554 (OSN) terms have been used interchangeably. We have favored the latter, as the
555 terminology “sensory” describes more generally the function of these neuron
556 populations, rather than linking them to a molecular entity (“receptor”). Moreover,
557 this general terminology better encompasses the diversity of sensory neuron types,
558 which can express Ors, Irs or Grs.

559 Second, the use of the terms “tuning receptor” and “co-receptor” are
560 generally well-accepted, though not equally applicable in every neuron. “Tuning
561 receptor” refers to the subunit defining stimulus-specificity of a sensory receptor
562 complex, and likely directly binds and/or is conformationally modified by the
563 stimulus. Some neurons house multiple potential tuning receptors; the best-
564 characterized case is the maxillary palp pb2 neuron expressing two functional
565 receptors, Or85e and Or33c (Goldman et al., 2005). Several other cases of tuning
566 receptor co-expression have been described, but only one receptor is functional
567 (e.g., the ab4 neuron expressing Or56a and Or33a, where only the former receptor
568 appears to contribute to neuronal specificity (Stensmyr et al., 2012)). In this study
569 we indicate such potentially non-functional receptors in parentheses. “Co-
570 receptors” are obligatory subunits necessary for olfactory receptor trafficking and
571 function. Due to their broad expression across multiple classes of neurons, they
572 are assumed not to contribute to the sensory specificity of a particular neuron type
573 and likely do not bind ligands; while this is clearest for the Or co-receptor Orco,
574 several Ir co-receptors exhibit narrower expression patterns in sets of neurons that
575 respond to particular functional classes of stimuli (e.g., Ir76b in amine-sensing
576 neurons; Ir93a in hygro/thermosensory neurons), and it cannot be excluded that
577 such proteins have a more direct role in stimulus recognition. Many co-receptors
578 are expressed in neurons where there is no corresponding tuning receptor (Task
579 et al., 2022), but there is so far little evidence for their roles in such neurons (see
580 also (Mermet et al., 2025)). Finally, tuning and co-receptor identity is ambiguous or
581 irrelevant in certain neurons. For example, in arista Gr28b.d neurons, this Gr
582 appears to function alone (Mishra et al., 2018; Ni et al., 2013). In ab1C CO₂-sensing
583 neurons, both Gr21a and Gr63a are, at least in *Xenopus* oocytes, partially sufficient
584 for conferring sensory responses, although less effectively than these receptors
585 together (Ziemba et al., 2023), and both are required for *in vivo* reconstitution of
586 CO₂ sensitivity in heterologous neurons (Jones et al., 2007; Kwon et al., 2007).

587 Third, for sensillum nomenclature, we note the literature contains several
588 discrepancies in the descriptions of the neuronal composition of ab6 and ai1
589 sensilla. The first characterization of ab6 was through electrophysiological
590 recordings, which demonstrated the presence of two neurons: one responded to
591 various alcohols (notably 1-octen-3-ol) and the other to 4-methylphenol (de Bruyne
592 et al., 2001). Subsequent functional studies matched the response profile of Or49b
593 receptors to ab6B neurons (Hallem et al., 2004). Further molecular and histological
594 studies tentatively suggested Or49b is housed in the ab6 sensillum with Or85b
595 and/or Or98b neurons (Couto et al., 2005). However, a later survey proposed that
596 Or49b and Or13a neurons are paired in this sensillum, due to the close similarity
597 of Or13a and ab6A response profiles (Galizia et al., 2010). This proposition was

598 re-quoted in subsequent papers (e.g., (Auer et al., 2020; Grabe et al., 2016; Prieto-
599 Godino et al., 2020)). Concurrently, targeted recording of sensilla housing Or13a
600 neurons (through expression of GFP under the control of *Or13a-Gal4*) lead to its
601 designation as the sole neuron housed in so-called ai1 sensilla, distinct from “ab6”
602 sensilla housing Or49b neurons (Lin and Potter, 2015). However, the length of the
603 putative ai1 sensillum resembles more closely small basiconic sensilla than other
604 ai sensilla (Lin and Potter, 2015). Moreover, our re-analysis of electrophysiological
605 traces from that study (Lin and Potter, 2015) revealed the presence of two spike
606 amplitudes in at least some sensilla (data not shown), and our new recordings
607 (Figure 2B) unambiguously demonstrate the presence of a second neuron in this
608 sensillum, which we have shown expresses Or46aB.

609 Recently, we demonstrated that Or49b-expressing neurons are paired with
610 those expressing Or85b/(Or85c), and we described these as ab6 sensilla based on
611 their expression of Or49b (Takagi et al., 2024). This receptor pairing might have
612 been overlooked in previous studies because the majority of Or85b/(Or85c)
613 neurons are housed in ab3, paired with Or22a/(Or22b) neurons (Takagi et al.,
614 2024). In the current study, we have determined that there are two sensilla
615 populations that could potentially be named ab6: those housing Or49b and
616 Or85b/(Or85c) neurons and those with Or13a and Or46aB neurons. We propose
617 to give precedent to the original electrophysiological analysis (de Bruyne et al.,
618 2001) by designating the ab6 sensillum as that housing Or13a and Or46aB
619 neurons. The sensillum housing Or49b and Or85b/(Or85c) neurons therefore
620 represents a new type of sensillum, which we name ab11. Finally, we note that one
621 report described “ab11” and “ab12” sensilla, each housing three OSNs, one of
622 which responds to the insect repellent citronellal (Kwon et al., 2010). The molecular
623 identity of these sensilla is unclear, and they have not been described in any
624 subsequent studies. Given the apparent completeness of the antennal lobe map
625 with our discovery of Or46aB neurons, we suggest the sensilla classes described
626 in that study represent variants of other basiconic classes (e.g., a three-OSN “abX”
627 from (Nava Gonzales et al., 2021)), rather than new classes.

628

629 **Data resources and analysis**

630

631 The snRNA-seq data and analysis methods are described in (Mermert et al., 2025);
632 gene expression levels shown in the UMAPs are residuals from a regularized
633 negative binomial regression, and have arbitrary units. The antennal lobe confocal
634 images are from (Endo et al., 2007). The antennal lobe atlas used glomerular
635 meshes previously generated by EM analysis of the antennal lobe (Bates et al.,
636 2020), incorporating updated glomerular naming (Schlegel et al., 2021). Antennal
637 lobe images were generated using the open-source software 3D Slicer (Fedorov et
638 al., 2012) (see Data S2). Statistical analyses and plots were generated in RStudio
639 with Seurat (v4.3.0.1) and GraphPad Prism 10.3.1. All other main sources of data
640 are referenced directly in Table S1.

641

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643

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652

653 **Author contributions**

654

655 R.B. conceived and supervised the project and collated and analyzed most data
656 for Table S1. J.M. identified and characterized the Or46aA/B and Or35a/Ir76a cell
657 types through snRNA-seq analysis and RNA FISH and contributed other OSN
658 population quantifications. A.J. performed and analyzed electrophysiological
659 experiments. K.E. provided data from SOP lineage labelling experiments. S.C.
660 performed and quantified RNA FISH experiments. K.M. conceived and supervised
661 the project, contributed to data collation in Table S1, analyzed bulk RNA-seq and
662 generated the antennal lobe atlas files. R.B. and K.M. prepared the figures, with
663 contributions from J.M. and A.J. The manuscript was drafted by R.B. with input
664 from K.M. and J.M. All authors approved the final manuscript.

665

666 **Declaration of interests**

667

668 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

669

670

671 **Figure legends**

672

673 **Figure 1. A new antennal olfactory sensory neuron population**

674 (A) Schematic of *D. melanogaster* olfactory system anatomy, development and
675 circuitry (see text for details). The scanning electron micrograph (left) was adapted
676 from (Benton and Dahanukar, 2011) (copyright © Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
677 Press).

678 (B) UMAP of an snRNA-seq atlas of developing antennal neurons colored for
679 developmental phase of the *Or46a* neurons (“early” = 18-30 h after puparium
680 formation (APF), “mid” = 36-48 h APF, “late” = 56-80 h APF) (left) and expression
681 of *Or46a* transcripts (right). Data from (Mermet et al., 2025). Gene expression
682 levels, here and in other UMAPs, are residuals from a regularized negative binomial
683 regression and have arbitrary units.

684 (C) Structure of the *Or46a* locus and the transcript isoforms for *Or46aA* and
685 *Or46aB*.

686 (D-E) RNA FISH with isoform-specific probes for *Or46aA* and *Or46aB* in a whole-
687 mount antenna (D) and maxillary palp (E). Scale bars, 25 μ m. Quantifications of
688 neuron numbers are shown on the right. Box plots show median (thick line), first
689 and third quartiles, while whiskers indicate data distribution limits, overlaid with
690 individual data points ($n = 10$ (D) and 7 (E)).

691 (F) High-magnification images of RNA FISH for *Or46aA* and *Or46aB* in an antenna
692 and a maxillary palp. Dashed lines outline the nuclei (stained with DAPI), revealing
693 greater nuclear sequestration of *Or46aB* in the maxillary palp neurons, compared
694 to *Or46aA* transcripts, or to *Or46aB* transcripts in the antenna. Scale bars, 3 μ m.

695 (G) *Or46a* isoform expression analyzed from bulk RNA-seq data of antennal and
696 maxillary palp/labellar tissue (Bontonou et al., 2024). Top: structure of the *Or46a*
697 locus. Sashimi plots generated with IGV (Thorvaldsdottir et al., 2013) showing
698 mapped reads (grey) from the indicated tissue transcriptomes aligned to
699 the *Or46a* locus. Quantification of splice junction mapping reads are indicated
700 beneath the plots, and the predicted transcript isoforms in each tissue are shown
701 below. Potential transcripts in the palp shown in grey are unlikely to encode
702 functional receptor proteins (see Results).

703

704 **Figure 2. Molecular, functional and anatomical validation of ab6 and ab11**
705 **sensilla.**

706 (A) RNA FISH on a whole-mount antenna illustrating the pairing of *Or46aB* and
707 *Or13a* neurons. Quantification of neuron numbers are shown on the right ($n = 12$).
708 Scale bar, 25 μ m.

709 (B) Representative traces of single-sensillum recordings of GFP+ ab6 sensilla from
710 *Or13a>mCD8:GFP* flies illustrating neuronal responses to the indicated odors (0.5
711 s stimulation time, black bars). In the top trace, two spike amplitudes, reflecting
712 distinct neurons, are highlighted with dark and light grey arrowheads.

713 (C) Quantification of odor-evoked responses in A (large spiking) and B (small
714 spiking) neurons from ab6 sensilla. Odor dilutions (v/v in paraffin oil) are shown in
715 superscript. Solvent-corrected responses (mean \pm SEM) are shown. See Data S1
716 for spike counts and sample sizes.

717 (D-E) As in (B-C), but for recordings of GFP+ ab11 sensilla from *Or49b>mCD8:*
718 *GFP* flies.

719 (F) Antennal lobe projections of clonally-marked OSNs visualized with GFP
720 immunofluorescence (green) together with nc82 neuropil stain (magenta) revealing

721 co-labeling of neurons innervating DC2 (Or13a) and VA7m (inferred to be Or46aB)
722 glomeruli. Data were re-processed from (Endo et al., 2007); of 12 brains with DC2-
723 labelled neurons, all had VA7m-labeled neurons (1 with weak labelling), strongly
724 supporting the innervation patterns of the paired neurons in ab6. In this image, DA1
725 (Or67d) OSNs are also labeled, representing an independent clone in the at1
726 lineage. Scale bar, 20 μm .

727 (G) Antennal lobe projections of clonally-marked OSNs innervating VA5 (Or49b)
728 and VM5d (Or85b/(Or85c)) glomeruli. Data were re-processed from (Endo et al.,
729 2007); of 4 brains with VA5-labelled neurons, 3 also had VM5d-labeled neurons,
730 supporting the pairing of these neurons in ab11. In this image, VM2 (Or43b) and
731 VM3 (Or9a) OSNs are also labeled, representing an independent clone in the ab8
732 lineage. Scale bar, 20 μm .

733

734 **Figure 3. A hybrid Or/Ir OSN population.**

735 (A) Top: UMAPs of the ac3B neurons at different development phases extracted
736 from the snRNA-seq atlas (Figure 1A) (Mermet et al., 2025) illustrating the
737 expression patterns of the indicated receptor genes.

738 (B) RNA FISH on a whole-mount antenna of control (w^{1118} , $n = 10$) animals with
739 probes targeting the indicated transcripts. The ac3 sensilla zone is indicated;
740 distinct from the ac4 zone where Ir84a neurons (and most Ir76a neurons) are
741 located. Scale bar, 25 μm . Right: ac3B neurons co-expressing *Or35a* and *Ir76a*
742 (but not paired with ac4 *Ir84a*-expressing neurons) in a single confocal Z-slice.
743 Scale bar, 10 μm .

744 (C) Representative traces of single-sensillum recordings from ac4 and ac3 sensilla
745 in control and *Ir76a^{RNAi}* flies (TRiP lines) illustrating neuronal responses to the
746 indicated odors (0.5 s stimulation time, black bars).

747 (D) Electrophysiological responses to the indicated ligands in ac4 and ac3 sensilla
748 from antennae of two independent lines of control and *Ir76a^{RNAi}* animals. Solvent-
749 corrected responses (mean \pm SEM) of the combined activities of all neurons in the
750 sensilla are shown (see Data S1 for spike counts, sample sizes and statistical
751 analyses).

752

753 **Figure 4. Antennal and maxillary palp sensory sensillum organization**

754 Updated neuronal composition of all sensillar classes in the maxillary palp and
755 antenna, including tuning receptors, co-receptors and the corresponding
756 glomerular targets in the antennal lobe. Tuning receptors shown in parentheses
757 are reported to be expressed in the neuron population but have not yet been shown
758 to contribute to their odor responses; in some cases, these might be non-functional.
759 In ab10 and at4, a specific neuron is sometimes lacking in mature sensilla
760 (asterisks), likely due to promiscuous programmed cell death (Mermet et al., 2025;
761 Nava Gonzales et al., 2021). The approximate distribution of olfactory sensilla
762 within the sensory organs (shown above each sensillum) is adapted from (Grabe
763 et al., 2016) except for ab3 and ab11, which were mapped using image data from
764 (Takagi et al., 2024), and ac3I and ac3II, which were mapped using data from (Mika
765 et al., 2021). While the overall distribution is stereotyped between antennae, there
766 is variation in the individual position of sensilla. The anterior/posterior distribution
767 of large basiconic sensilla does not fully agree with an earlier mapping (de Bruyne
768 et al., 2001), which might reflect differences in definition of the anterior and
769 posterior surfaces between studies.

770

771 **Figure 5. Antennal lobe atlas.**

772 Coronal sections through an updated antennal lobe atlas adapted from glomerular
773 meshes based on the female adult fly brain (FAFB) EM dataset (Bates et al., 2020)
774 (see Methods). Anterior is top-left and posterior is bottom-right. The atlas contains
775 updated tuning receptor and glomerular names (Schlegel et al., 2021), and
776 glomeruli are color coded by sensillar class. Glomeruli innervated by OSNs from
777 sacculus chamber III are colored green, as they are most similar to coeloconic
778 neurons. For compactness, only the main known tuning receptor is indicated. For
779 an alternative set of transverse sections along the dorsal-ventral axis, see Figure
780 S2. See Data S2 for an interactive and modifiable version and associated files as
781 well as finer-grained coronal and transverse movies of sections through the
782 antennal lobe.

783

784 **Figure 6. Organizational insights obtained from the resource table.**

785 (A) Stacked bar plot of the identity of OSN precursor type (Nab or Nba; Naa and
786 Nbb are absent due to developmental programmed cell death) in large-spike
787 amplitude A and small-spike amplitude B neurons in sensilla with two OSNs.

788 (B-C) Bar plots of the ratio of OSN numbers in female and male *D. melanogaster*
789 (B) and female *D. sechellia* and *D. melanogaster* (C), revealing that the
790 Or22a/(Or22b) population exhibits both sexual and species dimorphism. Note that
791 only OSN populations for which direct experimental data are available (see Table
792 S1) are plotted; however, similar ratios can be inferred for the paired neurons within
793 a given sensillum (e.g., Or85b/(Or85c) neurons in ab3 (Takagi et al., 2024)).

794 (D) Correlation of glomerular volume and OSN numbers for all glomeruli (top), Or
795 glomeruli (middle) and Ir glomeruli including the VC3 Or35a/Ir76a glomerulus
796 (Mermet et al., 2025)(bottom). Note that OSN numbers per glomerulus were used;
797 for nearly all populations this number represents twice the number of OSNs per
798 antenna because most OSNs project bilaterally. There are two exceptions (Ir75d
799 and Gr21a/Gr63a OSNs), which project only unilaterally; here the numbers of
800 neurons per glomerulus are equivalent to those in the antenna.

801 (E) Correlation of glomerular volume and PN numbers for all glomeruli (top), Or
802 glomeruli (middle) and Ir glomeruli (bottom).

803 (F-H) Correlation of glomerular volume and numbers of OSN:PN synapses (F),
804 OSN:LN synapses (G) and OSN:OSN synapses (H) for all glomeruli (top), Or
805 glomeruli (middle) and Ir glomeruli (bottom).

806 For all plots in (D-H), data are from Table S1; coefficients of determination (R^2) and
807 p values are indicated on each plot.

808 **Supplementary Tables and Figures**

809

810 **Table S1. Maxillary palp and antennal neuron cell types and circuitry.**

811

812 **Table S2. RNA FISH probes.**

813

Gene	Source	Target sequence
<i>Or7a</i>	Molecular Instruments	NM_078526.1
<i>Or13a</i>	Molecular Instruments	NM_078635.3
<i>Or19a</i>	Molecular Instruments	NM_080274.3
<i>Or23a</i>	Molecular Instruments	NM_078734.4
<i>Or35a</i>	Molecular Instruments	NM_165117.2
<i>Or43a</i>	Molecular Instrument	NM_078923.3
<i>Or46aA</i>	Molecular Instruments	NM_206072.2
<i>Or46aB</i>	Molecular Instruments	NM_206071.2
<i>Or47a</i>	Molecular Instruments	NM_078965.3
<i>Or56a</i>	Molecular Instruments	NM_079072.2
<i>Or67b</i>	Molecular Instruments	NM_079283.5
<i>Or69aA</i>	Molecular Instruments	NM_206348.1
<i>Or69aB</i>	Molecular Instruments	NM_206347.1
<i>Or82a</i>	Molecular Instruments	NM_164323.1
<i>Or83c</i>	Molecular Instruments	NM_079520.3
<i>Or98a</i>	Molecular Instruments	NM_079812.2
<i>Ir76a</i>	Molecular Instruments	NM_001104177.3
<i>Ir84a</i>	Molecular Instruments	NM_141463.2

814

815

816 **Table S3. Odors.**

817

Odor	Source	CAS
ammonia	Fisher Scientific	7664-41-7
amylamine	Sigma-Aldrich	110-58-7
<i>E2</i> -hexenal	Sigma Aldrich	6728-26-3
2-heptanone	Sigma Aldrich	110-43-0
1-hexanol	Acros Organics	111-27-3
hexyl acetate	Sigma-Aldrich	142-92-7
indole	Sigma Aldrich	120-72-9
2-methylphenol	Sigma Aldrich	95-48-7
3-methylphenol	Sigma Aldrich	108-39-4
4-methylphenol	Sigma Aldrich	106-44-5
1-octen-3-ol	Acros Organics	3391-86-4
paraffin oil (solvent)	Thermo Scientific	8012-95-1
pentyl acetate	Sigma Aldrich	628-63-7
phenethylamine	Acros Organics	64-04-0
phenylacetaldehyde	Alfa Aesar	122-78-1

818

819

820 **Figure S1. Quantification of OSN populations by HCR RNA FISH.**

821 Representative images of HCR RNA FISH on whole-mount antennae (control
822 genotype *peb-Gal4*) using the indicated gene probes, and quantifications of OSN
823 population size. These data were used to complement information in Table S1. For
824 Or69aA/B neurons, the image shown is with an *Or69aA* probe, but the
825 quantifications are pooled from images using either *Or69aA* or *Or69aB* probes.
826 Scale bars, 25 μ m.

827

828 **Figure S2. Antennal lobe atlas.**

829 Transverse sections, along the dorsal-ventral axis, of the antennal lobe atlas shown
830 in Figure 5. Such views are more typical of those obtained during *in vivo* calcium
831 imaging experiments.

832

833 **Supplementary Datasets**

834

835 **Data S1. Odor-evoked neuronal responses.**

836

837 **Data S2. Antennal lobe atlas data.**

838 The DataS2.seg.vtm file and associated folder contain segmentations of the
839 antennal lobe created from the glomerular mesh models generated previously from
840 the female adult fly brain (FAFB) connectome (Bates et al., 2020). When opened
841 in the open-source software 3D Slicer (Fedorov et al., 2012) and viewed in the
842 Segmentation module, the antennal lobe can be viewed in 3D with each glomerulus
843 represented as an individual segmentation labeled with its name, and associated
844 receptor(s) and sensillum. The antennal lobe can be rotated for viewing from
845 different angles, and interactive coloring and visibility control of individual glomeruli
846 are supported. A binary labelmap was created from DataS2.seg.vtm and used to
847 generate the DataS2-label.nrrd volume file and the color lookup file DataS2-
848 label_ColorTable.ctbl. When opened together in 3D Slicer and viewed in the
849 Volume module, the colors from DataS2-label_ColorTable.ctbl can be associated
850 with the glomeruli in the DataS2-label.nrrd volume. When viewed in the Volume
851 Rendering module, the 3D volume can be visualized and slices taken through the
852 volume (anterior-to-posterior, lateral-to-medial or dorsal-to-ventral axes) using the
853 ROI feature. Data S2 also contains two movies of coronal (anterior-to-posterior)
854 and transverse (dorsal-to-ventral) slices through the antennal lobe colored as in
855 Figure 5 and DataS2.seg.vtm.

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857

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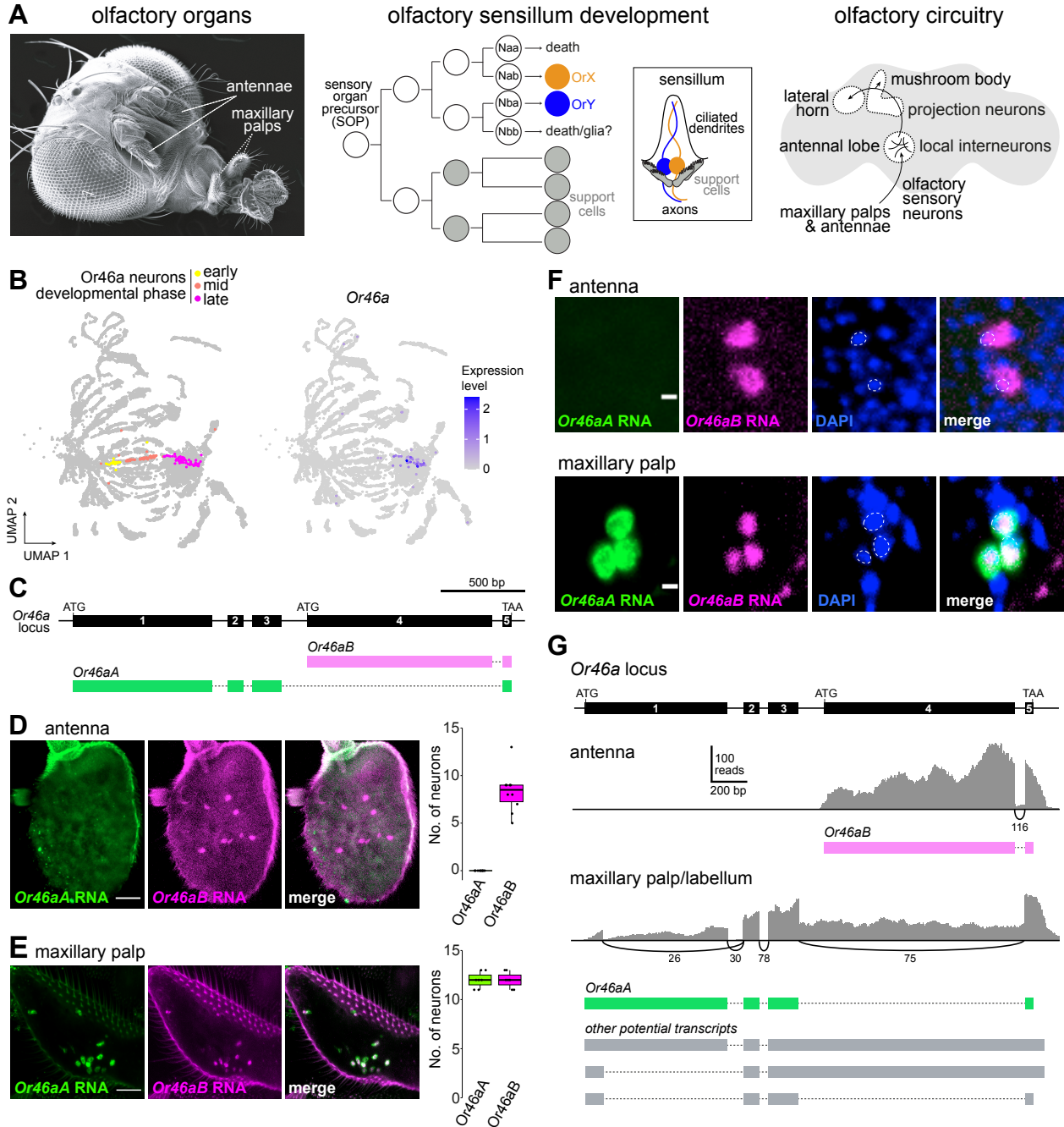
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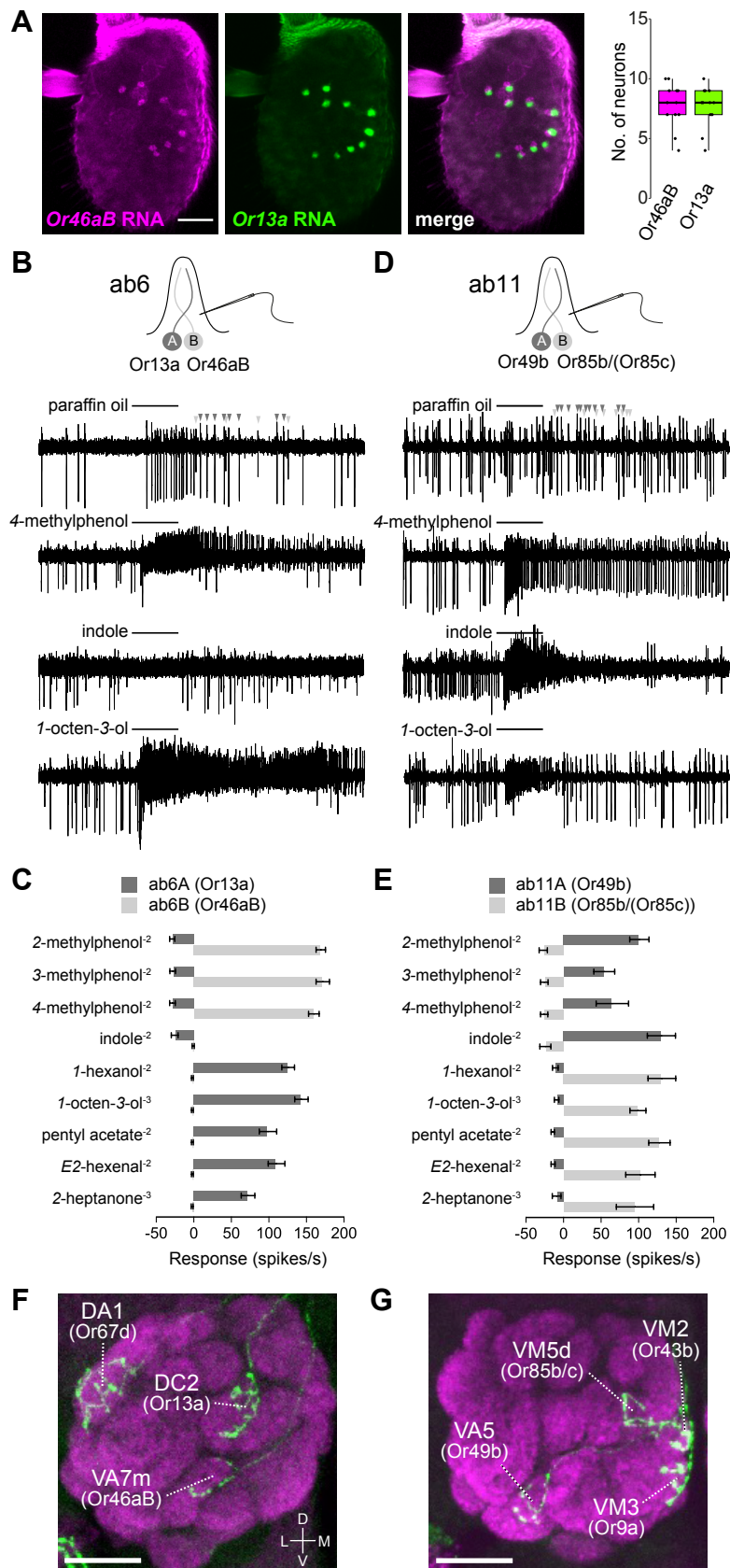
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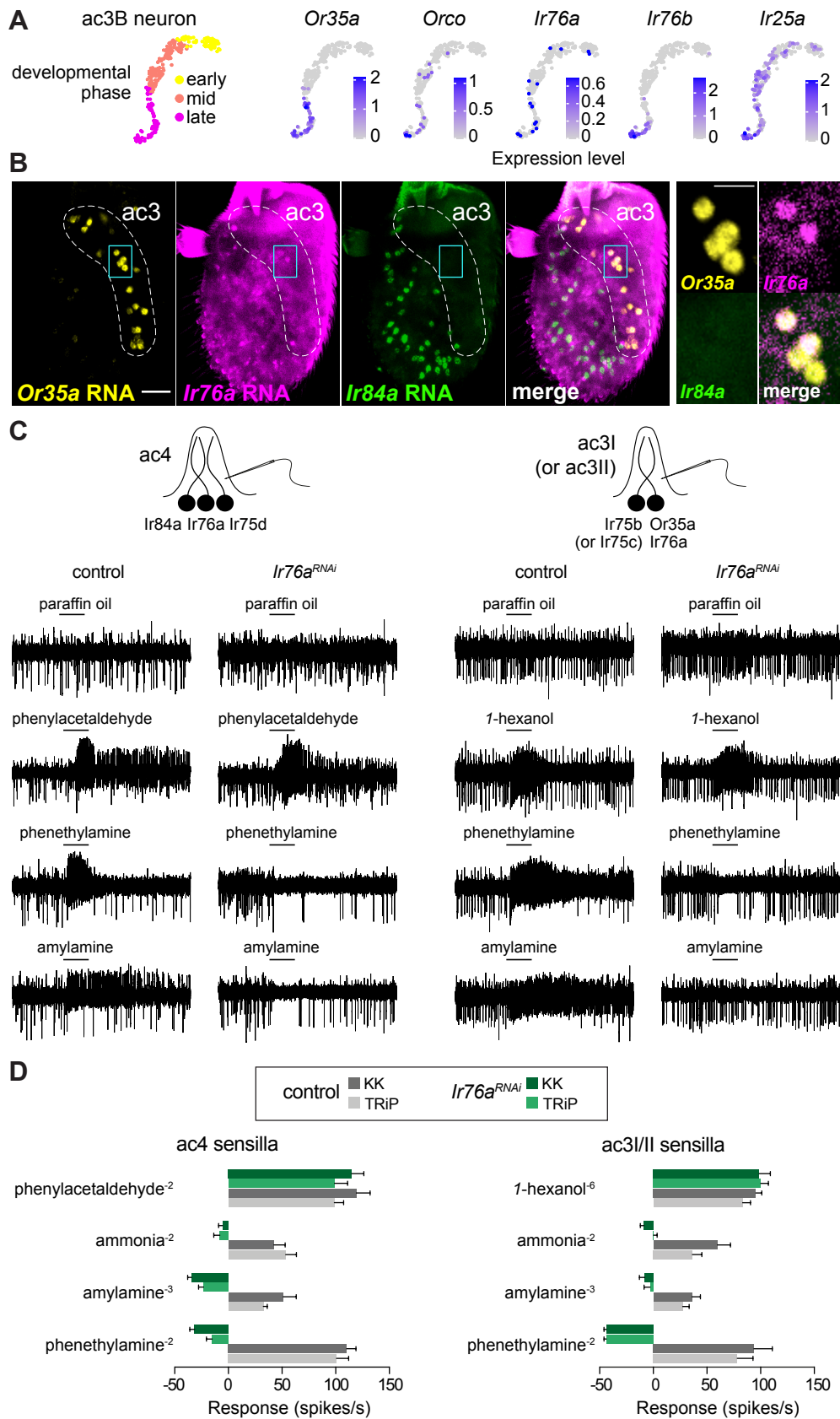
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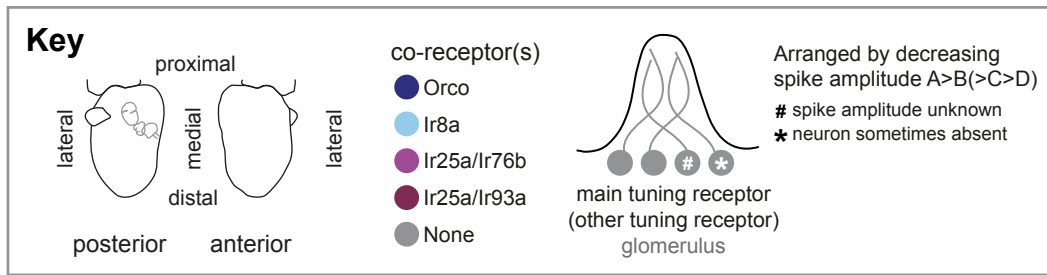
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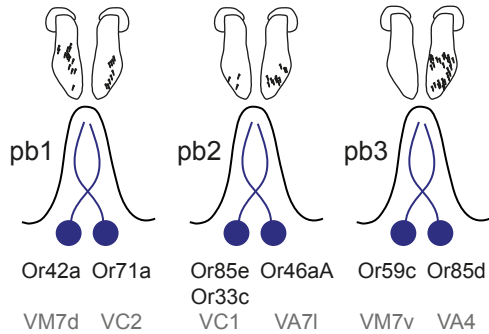




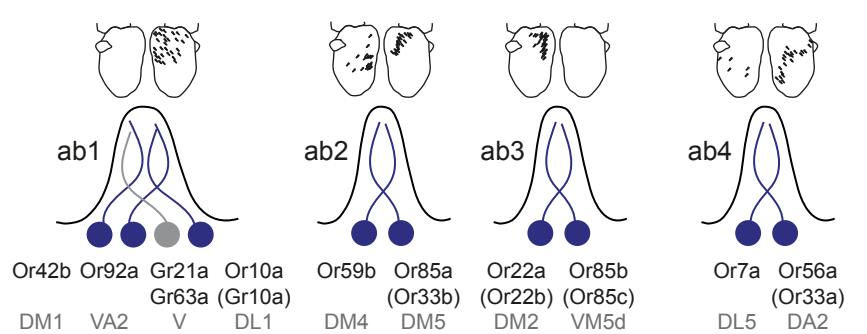




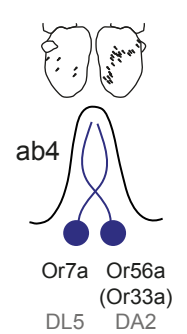
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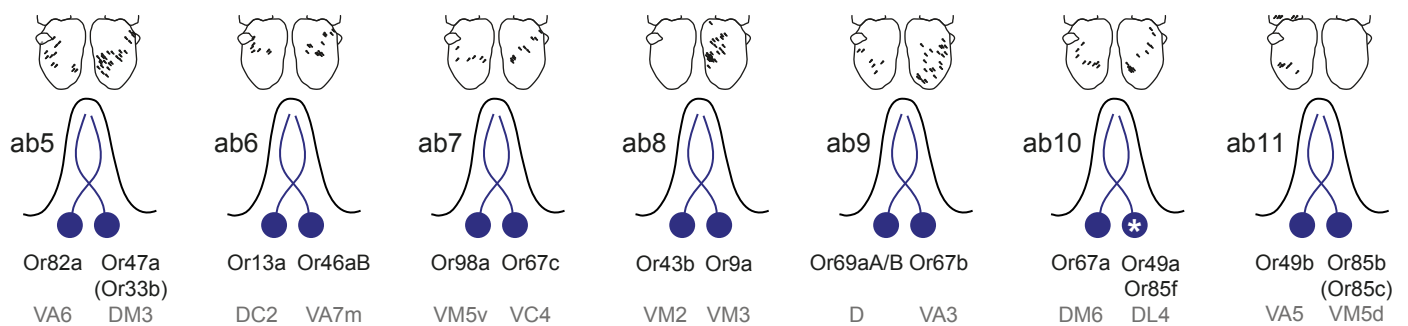
large basiconics



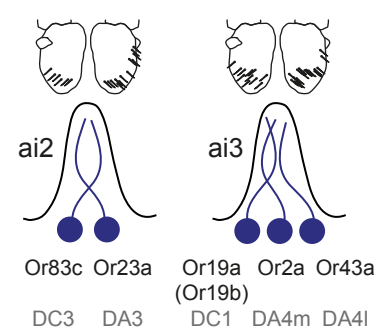
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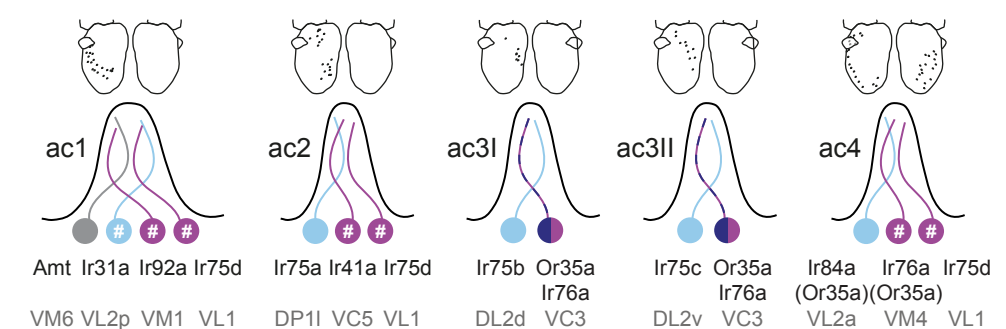
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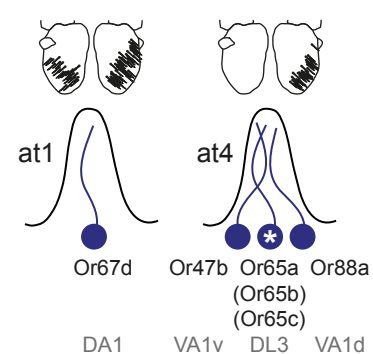
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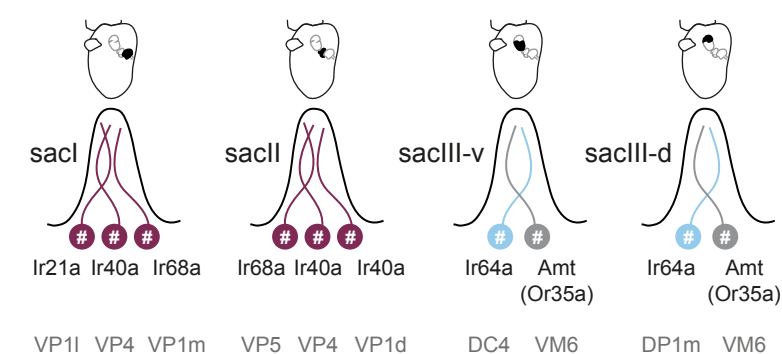
coeloconics



trichoids



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