

Immunocytochemical Localization of Enzymes Involved in Dopamine, Serotonin, and Acetylcholine Synthesis in the Optic Neuropils and Neuroendocrine System of Eyestalks of *Paralithodes camtschaticus*

Elena Kotsyuba and Vyacheslav Dyachuk*

A.V. Zhirmunsky National Scientific Center of Marine Biology, Far Eastern Branch, Russian Academy of Sciences, Vladivostok, Russia

Identifying the neurotransmitters secreted by specific neurons in crustacean eyestalks is crucial to understanding their physiological roles. Here, we combined immunocytochemistry with confocal microscopy and identified the neurotransmitters dopamine (DA), serotonin (5-HT), and acetylcholine (ACh) in the optic neuropils and X-organ sinus gland (XO-SG) complex of the eyestalks of Paralithodes camtschaticus (red king crab). The distribution of Ach neurons was studied by choline acetyltransferase (ChAT) immunohistochemistry and compared with that of DA neurons examined in the same or adjacent sections by tyrosine hydroxylase (TH) immunohistochemistry. We detected 5-HT, TH, and ChAT in columnar, amacrine, and tangential neurons in the optic neuropils and established the presence of immunoreactive fibers and neurons in the terminal medulla in the XO region of the lateral protocerebrum. Additionally, we detected ChAT and 5-HT in the endogenous cells of the SG of P. camtschaticus for the first time. Furthermore, localization of 5-HT- and ChAT-positive cells in the SG indicated that these neurotransmitters locally modulate the secretion of neurohormones that are synthesized in the XO. These findings establish the presence of several neurotransmitters in the XO-SG complex of P. camtschaticus.

Keywords: serotonin, acetylcholine, tyrosine hydroxylase, sinus gland, dopamine, king crab, crustacea

INTRODUCTION

Similar to other arthropods, crustaceans possess a highly developed visual system and exhibit conspicuous visually guided behaviors (Zeil and Hemmi, 2006; Tomsic et al., 2017) in foraging (Tomsic et al., 2017), prey and mate recognition (Murai and Backwell, 2006), defensive strategies (Hemmi, 2005; Hemmi and Tomsic, 2012), spatial orientation, and environmental evaluation (Medan et al., 2015). The red king crab *Paralithodes camtschaticus* (Tilesius, 1815) is a commercially valuable species belonging to the Anomura group of the order Decapoda and inhabits the Bering Sea, Sea of Japan, and Sea of Okhotsk, as well as the North Pacific from the Kamchatka Peninsula

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> ***Correspondence:** Vyacheslav Dyachuk slavad83@gmail.com

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to Alaska (Donaldson and Byersdorfer, 2005; Stevens and Lovrich, 2014). An invasive population of this species occurs in the Barents Sea (Dvoretsky and Dvoretsky, 2015, 2018). Additionally, *P. camtschaticus* is a shelf species found in habitats at depths of up to \sim 300 m (Pavlova et al., 2007; Dvoretsky and Dvoretsky, 2013, 2015).

The optic lobes of P. camtschaticus and other decapod crustaceans are located within the evestalks and connect with the brain via the protocerebral tract. In the eyestalks of decapods and insects, primary visual processing is conducted in retinotopic neuropils referred to as the lamina, medulla, lobula, and lobula plate (Sinakevitch et al., 2003; Sztarker et al., 2005; Harzsch and Hansson, 2008; Krieger et al., 2012; Ito et al., 2014). As observed in insects, optic neuropils in crustaceans are connected via two chiasmata: one connects the lamina to the medulla, and the other connects the medulla to the lobula. The optic lobe also comprises other regions that form the lateral protocerebrum (Harzsch and Hansson, 2008; Maza et al., 2021; Strausfeld, 2021). To date, the neural organization and cellular morphologies of the crustacean optic neuropils have been studied in few taxa, including entomostracans and malacostracans, in the mysid Neomysis integer (Strausfeld and Nässel, 1981), euphausiacean Meganyctiphanes norvegica (Strausfeld and Nässel, 1981), isopod Ligia occidentalis (Sinakevitch et al., 2003), stomatopods (Strausfeld and Nässel, 1981; Thoen et al., 2017), and various decapods (Elofsson and Dahl, 1970; Nässel, 1977; Stowe et al., 1977; Sinakevitch et al., 2003; Sztarker et al., 2005, 2009; Sztarker and Tomsic, 2014). Although the neural organization and cellular morphologies of optic neuropils have been studied in these crustaceans, those in the optic neuropils of the red kind crab remain to be elucidated.

The key neuroendocrine center located in the eyestalks is the X-organ sinus gland (XO-SG) complex (Andrew and Saleuddin, 1978; Fingerman, 1992, 1997; Christie, 2011), which secretes hormones that regulate blood sugar levels and the molting, growth, and breeding processes of crustaceans (Cooke and Sullivan, 1982; Webster and Keller, 1987; Allavie et al., 2011; Pérez-Polanco et al., 2011; Chen et al., 2020). Furthermore, it is a crucial regulator of pigment migration in both the retina and chromatophores (De Kleijn and Van Herp, 1995) and also regulates the ability of crustaceans to metabolically adapt to changing environmental conditions (Chung et al., 2010). Despite progress in elucidating crustacean endocrinology in the previous decade, the neurochemical organization of the crustacean eyestalk remains poorly understood. Topographical data on the neurotransmitters that regulate neurohormone synthesis and release is important for the development of aquaculture technology. This is particularly critical for the adjustment of hormonal regulation in commercially valuable species, such as king crabs (Dvoretsky et al., 2021).

The expression and release of neurohormones in the XO-SG complex is regulated by neurons or factors secreted by peripheral cells and tissues and that relay signals that encode information about the internal and external environments (Aréchiga et al., 1985; Christie, 2011). Moreover, studies report that environmental and endogenous factors, such as light, dark, stressful stimuli, and circadian rhythms, affect this expression and release (Aréchiga et al., 1985; García and Aréchiga, 1998). For example, the expression and release of neuropeptides, such as the red pigment-concentrating hormone and the crustacean hyperglycemic hormone (CHH), in the XO-SG complex follows a circadian rhythm, as the complex is driven by retinal illumination (Glantz et al., 1983). Furthermore, hormones secreted by the XO-SG complex regulate the circadian rhythm depending on the adaptation of the eyes and body to light and the environment (Aréchiga et al., 1985; Rao, 2001; Aréchiga and Rodriguez-Sosa, 2002). These effects are reportedly mediated by various neurotransmitters and modulators (Fingeman and Nagabushanam, 1992); however, the mechanisms underlying the interaction between neurons of the visual system and the XO-SG complex in crustaceans are poorly understood.

The morphology of and relationships between the neural elements of the optic lobes of crabs have been comprehensively studied, and the neural elements reportedly demonstrate a highly ordered retinotopic organization (Sztarker et al., 2005, 2009). studies on several crustacean species (Harzsch and Hansson, 2008; Wolff et al., 2012; Krieger et al., 2015; Maza et al., 2016, 2021; Sayre and Strausfeld, 2019; Strausfeld et al., 2020; Strausfeld, 2021) report detailed neuroanatomical descriptions of highly ordered centers in the eyestalks. In previous decades, a variety of neuroactive substances, including serotonin (5-HT), dopamine (DA), GABA, acetylcholine (ACh), and various neuropeptides, such as enkephalin, substance P, molt-inhibiting hormone, red pigment-concentrating hormone, and CHH, have been identified in the crustacean brain and eyestalks by electrophoresis, highperformance liquid chromatography, and immunocytochemistry (Hildebrand et al., 1974; Mancillas et al., 1981; Cooke and Sullivan, 1982; Elofsson et al., 1982; Beltz and Kravitz, 1983; Elofsson, 1983; Nassel et al., 1985; Schueler et al., 1986; Siwicki and Bishon, 1986; Mangerich and Keller, 1988; Rudolph and Spaziani, 1990; Beltz, 1999; Sullivan and Beltz, 2004; Polanska et al., 2007, 2012; Santhoshi et al., 2008; Christie, 2011; Pérez-Polanco et al., 2011; Stewart et al., 2013; Rajendiran and Vasudevan, 2016).

Additionally, 5-HT, DA, GABA, FMRFamide, and substance P have been detected and attributed to single neurons in the optic neuropils and lateral protocerebrum of Stomatopoda (Thoen et al., 2017, 2019) and a few anomuran and brachyuran species (Krieger et al., 2010, 2012; Wolff et al., 2012; Strausfeld et al., 2020; Strausfeld, 2021). Furthermore, multiple studies have demonstrated that neurotransmitters can modulate visual information processing in arthropods (Crow and Bridge, 1985; Kloppenburg and Erber, 1995; Chen et al., 1999; Cheng and Frye, 2020), and various neurotransmitters reportedly regulate the release of neuropeptides from the XO-SG complex (Fingerman, 1997; Saenz et al., 1997; Lee et al., 2000; Alvarez Alvarado et al., 2005; Pitts and Mykles, 2015).

Despite numerous studies, there is little information about neurotransmitters, especially the Ach lobe of the optic nerve. The most accurate marker of cholinergic neurotransmission is antibodies against choline acetyltransferase (ChAT), an enzyme involved in Ach biosynthesis (Yasuyama and Salvaterra, 1999) and encoded by the *Cha* gene (Itoh et al., 1986). Moreover, the physiological roles and neuroarchitectures of cells synthesizing neurotransmitters in the optic and neuroendocrine centers of crustacean eyestalks are only partially known. Neurons can be mediated by more than one neurotransmitter, and a neurotransmitter can exert varying and even opposing effects on neurons (Nusbaum et al., 2001; Marder and Thirumalai, 2002; Birren and Marder, 2013). Thus, mapping neurotransmitters and co-transmitters and studying their functional interactions and roles in the optic and neuroendocrine centers is a necessity. Therefore, in this study, we analyzed the distribution of neurons expressing markers for 5-HT, DA, and ACh in the eyestalks of *P. camtschaticus*.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Preparation of Animal Tissue Samples

We captured adult male red king crabs (Tilesius, 1815) measuring \sim 150 mm in carapace width in the northwestern Pacific Ocean. Thereafter, the animals were kept in aerated seawater tanks at a temperature of 5 ± 0.5°C, a salinity of 30–31%, and a water-soluble oxygen concentration of 8.1–8.5 mg/L under natural light–dark cycles. During the 2 weeks of adaptation, the water in the tanks was changed three times weekly, and the animals were fed fresh blue mussels (*Mytilus edulis*) once every 2 days. Subsequently, the animals were anesthetized for at least 1 h on ice, and their eyestalks and supraesophageal ganglion were immediately dissected and fixed. These procedures were conducted in accordance with the European Community Council Directive of November 24, 1986 (86/609/EEC). All possible efforts were taken to minimize the number of animals used in this study.

Immunohistochemical Analysis

The eyestalk and supraesophageal ganglion were fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde dissolved in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS; pH 7.4) for 2 h at 4°C. The fixed samples were washed several times with PBS and incubated overnight in 30% sucrose (prepared in PBS) at 4°C for cryoprotection. Thereafter, the specimens were embedded in the optimum cutting temperature medium Cryomount (Cat. 45830; HistoLab, Espoo, Finland), frozen, and cut into 25-35-µm serial sections using a Cryo-Star HM560 MV cryostat (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, United States). These sections were mounted on slides and coated with poly-L-lysine (Sigma, St. Louis, MO, United States), after which they were air-dried and stored at -20° C for subsequent staining. We performed immunohistochemical staining of ChAT, tyrosine hydroxylase (TH), and 5-HT in the serial transverse sections through the eyestalks. We used a coordinate system previously proposed for crabs, wherein the eyestalk was oriented at 90° to the horizontal plane (Sztarker et al., 2005).

For immunohistochemical staining, the freshly frozen sections were processed, as described previously (Dyachuk et al., 2015). To eliminate nonspecific binding, the slides were incubated overnight in a blocking buffer comprising 10% normal donkey serum, 1% Triton-X 100, and 1% bovine serum albumin (BSA; Millipore, Burlington, MA, United States) dissolved in 1 × PBS at 4°C. Additionally, we dissolved the following polyclonal primary antibodies in this buffer: rabbit anti-TH (1:500; Millipore, Burlington, MA, United States), rabbit or goat anti-5-HT (1:2000; ImmunoStar Inc., Hudson, WI, United States), and goat anti-ChAT (1:500; Millipore, Burlington, MA, United States). Moreover, a primary mouse anti-synapsin antibody (1:500; clone 3C11; Developmental Studies Hybridoma Bank, Iowa City, IA, United States) was also used, as previously described (Krieger et al., 2012). Subsequently, the sections were washed in 0.01 M PBS (pH 7.4) containing 0.5% Triton X-100 (pH 7.4) prior to incubation with 488-, 555-, or 647-Alexa Fluorconjugated donkey secondary antibodies (1:1000; Invitrogen, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, United States) along with the nuclear marker 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI; Sigma-Aldrich) for 2 h at 22°C. The sections were then washed with PBS and embedded in glycerol (Merck, Kenilworth, NJ, United States).

Primary Antibody Specificity and Immunohistochemical Control

We used polyclonal rabbit or goat antibodies that targeted BSA-bound 5-HT with paraformaldehyde (Cat. Nos. 20080 and 20079, respectively; ImmunoStar Inc., Hudson, United States). According to manufacturer instructions, staining with these antibodies is completely eliminated upon pretreatment with 25 µg of the 5-HT-BSA conjugate per 1 mL of diluted antibody. We demonstrated that overnight preincubation of the antibody with 10 µg/mL of the conjugate (Cat. No. 20081; ImmunoStar Inc., Hudson, United States) at 4°C completely eliminated 5-HT immunolabeling in our control tissues. Furthermore, overnight preadsorption of the diluted antibody with 10 mg/mL BSA at 4°C did not affect this staining (i.e., these antibodies recognized 5-HT alone and not BSA). This 5-HT antibody has been used to detect 5-HT in arthropod brains, including that of crabs, hermit crabs, and lobsters (Beltz and Kravitz, 1983; Elofsson, 1983; Harzsch and Waloszek, 2000; Sayre and Strausfeld, 2019).

The rabbit anti-TH antibody (Cat. No. AB152; Millipore, Burlington, MA, United States) targets TH as a key enzyme involved in tyrosine biosynthesis. The antibody against TH was previously identified in the eyestalk ganglia of the blue crab Callinectes sapidus (Wood and Derby, 1996) and also in that of the crab Neohelice granulata (Klappenbach et al., 2012; Maza et al., 2021). Previous immunohistological studies on related crustaceans demonstrated that antibodies against DA and TH yield highly consistent staining patterns (Cournil et al., 1994; Wood and Derby, 1996), thereby validating the use of a TH antibody as a reliable marker of dopaminergic neurons in crustaceans. Cytoplasmic ChAT, which synthesizes acetylcholinesterase (AChE), is a more specific marker of cholinergic neurons than AChE itself. In this study, we utilized the manufacturer-recommended concentration anti-ChAT along with a concentrated blocking buffer to eliminate nonspecific binding. Antibodies against these proteins are used as phenotypic markers for cholinergic neurons (Salvaterra and Kitamoto, 2001). We performed anti-ChAT labeling similar to that for TH and 5-HT, with the exception of the primary antibody. Polyclonal goat anti-ChAT (Cat. No. AB143; Millipore, Burlington, MA, United States) was diluted to 1:500 in blocking buffer, and we followed a recently published protocol for ChAT immunostaining (Kotsyuba and Dyachuk, 2021). To avoid nonspecific immunorecognition, we performed immunohistochemistry by bypassing the use of primary antibodies and used only secondary antibodies (1:500-1000; I5006, I5381, and I5256; Sigma, St. Louis, MO, United States). We cut and stained at least 30 tissue sections of the eyestalks for each combination of the immunolabels. To visualize the neural structures of the eyestalks, these sections were incubated with mouse monoclonal anti- synapsin, which targets a presynaptic marker (SYNORF1 or antibody 3C11). A previous study showed that this antibody detects an epitope widely conserved in the nervous systems of arthropods, including that of crustaceans (Harzsch et al., 1997; Beltz et al., 2003; Harzsch and Hansson, 2008; Krieger et al., 2012, 2015). The sections were then incubated with 10 mg/mL of the nuclear marker DAPI (in PBS) following pre-incubation with the secondary antibody.

Microscopy and Imaging

Images for immunohistochemistry were captured with a Zeiss LSM 700 confocal microscope (Carl Zeiss, Oberkochen, Germany) and analyzed using ImageJ software (National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD, United States). This software was used for three-dimensional visualization and analysis of the confocal stacks. Each section was sequentially scanned for each fluorophore, and separate and overlaid (of all three channels) images were obtained, which were subsequently converted into projected images using subsets of z-stacks. The converted images were saved as TIFF-images and transferred to Photoshop CS software (Adobe, San Jose, CA, United States), and their contrast and brightness were adjusted for optimal clarity. Negative controls for each fluorochrome were scanned using the same settings.

Nomenclature

The neuroanatomical nomenclature used in this study is based on that proposed by Sandeman et al. (1992, 1993), with some





modifications adopted from Harzsch and Hansson (2008) and Richter et al. (2010). Additionally, we classified the major cell types and neuropils in the *P. camtschaticus* eyestalks according to previously described classifications in the eyestalks of several decapod species (Wang-Bennett and Glantz, 1987a,b; Sztarker et al., 2005; Krieger et al., 2010, 2012; Sztarker and Tomsic, 2014). In this study, we did not study the distribution of tested neurotransmitters in the hemiellipsoid bodies.

RESULTS

General Neuromorphology of Paralithodes camtschaticus Eyestalks

We determined that the compound eyes of *P. camtschaticus* were vertically elongated ellipsoids located on the eyestalks at the front of the carapace (**Figure 1A**). The eyestalks had an average height and width of 12.3 ± 1.1 mm and 6.4 ± 0.5 mm, respectively.



FIGURE 2 | Immunolabeled optic neuropils, SG, and lateral protocerebrum. Regions were labeled with DAPI (blue) and anti-SYN (green) or anti-5-HT, anti-ChAT (red), and anti-TH (magenta). (A) Dorsal view of SYN-positive immunostaining in the Me, Lo, and LoP. (B) Ventral view of immunolabeled SYN- and ChAT-positive immunostaining in the Me, Lo, and LoP. (C) Tissue section displaying high TH immunostaining in the LP adjacent to the PT. Dashed line in panel (B) indicates cells of the SG. Scale bars = 100 μ m. Me, medulla; Lo, lobula; LoP, lobula plate; LP, lateral protocerebrum; OT, optic tract; PT, protocerebral tract; SYN, synapsin; D, dorsal; V, ventral; L, lateral; M, medial. Similar to other decapods (Harzsch and Hansson, 2008; Krieger et al., 2010, 2012), the eyestalks, optic neuropils (lamina, medulla, lobula, and lobula plate), SG, and lateral protocerebrum of *P. camtschaticus* were arranged from the periphery to the center beneath the retina, respectively (**Figures 1B,C**). All neuropils were identified by detecting immunolabeled synapsin (**Figures 1C,D**). In the lamina, immunolabeled synapsin was detected in a thin layer that corresponded to the plexiform layer (**Figure 1D**). The monopolar neuronal somata (cell cluster 1) were localized above the lamina.

The second optic neuropil (i.e., the medulla) was domeshaped (Figures 1C,D, 2A). Most cell bodies (cell cluster 2) associated with the medulla were located above the neuropil. Although the third optic neuropil (i.e., the lobula) was also dome-shaped, it was slightly elongated along the lateromedial axis (Figures 1C,D, 2A,B). Moreover, cell bodies in cluster 3 were visible in the vicinity of the lobula (Figures 1C,D, 2C). Consistent with other representatives of anomuran crustaceans (Krieger et al., 2010, 2012), the lobula plate was located next to the lobula and is a small neuropil that displayed a high number of immunolabeled synapsin (Figures 1C, 2A,B). Additionally, the neurohemal SG was located at the level of the lobula and bordered cell cluster 3 (Figures 1C,D, 2B). Our observation regarding the position of the lobula plate near the lobula and immediately beneath the SG in P. camtschaticus agreed with that in the crab Chasmagnathus granulatus (Sztarker et al., 2005).

The lateral protocerebrum that comprised distinct neuropils, including the terminal medulla and the hemiellipsoid body, was located proximal to the lobula (**Figures 1C,D, 2C**). In fact, the lateral protocerebrum exhibited significant immunostaining of synapsin; however, no clear separation between the terminal medulla and the hemiellipsoid body was detected (**Figures 1C,D**). The lateral protocerebrum is a part of the brain that connects with the optic neuropils *via* the optic tract (**Figure 2C**) and with the anterior medial protocerebral neuropil and other areas of the brain *via* the protocerebral tract.

Distribution of Serotonin, Tyrosine Hydroxylase, and Choline Acetyltransferase in the Eyestalk

We detected 5-HT, TH, and ChAT in a majority of eyestalk regions, including the optic neuropils, SG, and lateral protocerebrum (**Figures 3–11**).

The Lamina

In the lamina (the first optic neuropil), few of the 5-HTand ChAT-positive cell bodies were located in cell cluster 1 (**Figures 3A–D,B1–D1**). The sizes of these labeled cell bodies ranged from 15 to 20 μ m and contained large nuclei that were 6–10 μ m in diameter. Unfortunately, immunolabeling did not help in deciphering the processes of these cells. Notably, double immunolabeling determined that 5-HT and ChAT co-localized in the cell bodies (**Figures 3B1–D1**). Additionally, we identified a high number of similar-sized 5-HT- and ChAT-positive cell bodies in the proximal cell layer (below the lamina synaptic layer; **Figures 3B–D** and



FIGURE 3 [Immunolocalization of 5-H1 and ChA1 in the lamina of *Paralithodes camtschaticus*. (A) Horizontal section through an eyestalk showing positive immunostaining for ChAT and 5-HT in the optic neuropils, SG, and LP. (B–D) Detection of ChAT and 5-HT in cell cluster 1 above and below the plexiform layer of the La. (B1–D1) Double immunolabeling of ChAT and 5-HT in cell cluster 1 of the La. Arrows indicate the co-localization of 5-HT with ChAT in neurons. (E) 5-HT-positive immunostaining in varicose processes of the La. Green, 5-HT; red, ChAT; blue, DAPI. Dashed line in panels (A) indicates cells of the SG. Scale bars = (A–D) 100 μm and (B1–E) 50 μm. La, lamina; Me, medulla; Lo, lobula; LP, lateral protocerebrum; 1, 2, 3 cell clusters; OT, optic tract; PT, the protocerebral tract; D, dorsal; V, ventral; L, lateral.

Supplementary Figure 1B). In fact, we observed co-localization of 5-HT and ChAT in most of these cell bodies. Furthermore, numerous 5-HT-positive processes with varicosities were located in the lamina plexiform layer adjacent to the first optic chiasma (Figures 3A,B,D,E). Moreover, we found numerous TH-positive fibers that interconnected the lamina and the medulla (Figures 4A–C and Supplementary Figures 1A,B, 2A– C). These fibers displayed varicosities and displayed highly intense immunostaining of TH in the lamina plexiform layer and in the first (or the outer) optic chiasma (Figure 4A and Supplementary Figures 1A,B, 2B).

The Medulla

We detected few associations between certain TH-positive fibers and TH-positive cell bodies of cluster 2 (Figures 4A–C and Supplementary Figure 2B). These cell bodies had sizes ranging from 12 to 18 μ m (Figures 4A–C, 5A,B). Interestingly, the identified TH-positive neuronal populations included a small group of TH-positive neurons that had somata that were located in the first optic chiasma (arrows in Figures 4A,A1; large arrows in Supplementary Figure 1B). Moreover, fibers that showed intense TH immunolabeling were detected in the distal portion of the medulla in layers 1 through 4 (Figures 4A, 5A and Supplementary Figures 2A-C), which comprise ~ 27 to \sim 34% of the depth of a neuropil that they cover (Sztarker and Tomsic, 2014). Layers 5 through 11, except for single fine processes, hardly exhibited any TH-positive immunostaining (Supplementary Figures 2B,C). Furthermore, we detected 5-HTand ChAT-positive cell bodies in cluster 2 (Figures 3A, 5C-E); however, the TH-positive cells did not co-localize with either 5-HT- or ChAT-positive cells. Remarkably, double immunolabeling revealed that ChAT co-localized with 5-HT in most but not all 5-HT-positive perikarya (Figures 5C-E, arrowheads in C1-E1). Notably, the medulla was innervated by 5-HT-positive fibers.



(A1,C) 50 µm. La, lamina; Me, medulla; 1, 2, cell clusters; Ch, optic chiasma; D, dorsal; V, ventral; A, anterior; P, posterior.

Layers 1 through 3 contained thin fibers diffusely projecting along the columns of the medulla and also contained labeled tangentially oriented fibers (**Figures 5C,E**). Thus, the medulla comprised 5-HT- and ChAT-positive fibers that formed large bundles of fibers and extended into the lobula and lobula plate (**Figures 6A–C**).

The Lobula and Lobula Plate

In the lobula, we detected TH, 5-HT, and ChAT in cell bodies and fibers (**Figures 6A–C**, **7A–H** and **Supplementary Figure 2A**). Additionally, the labeled bodies of neurons that formed cluster 3 ranged from 10 to 18 μ m (**Figures 7A,B,D–H**). Notably, double immunolabeling indicated that a portion of the ChAT-positive neuronal population also displayed co-localization of ChAT with 5-HT (**Figures 7F–H**). The anterior edge of the lobula near the lobula plate contained solitary TH-positive cell bodies ranging from 25 to 30 μ m in size (**Figures 8A,B**) and grouped ChAT-positive neuronal perikarya ranging from 10 to 28 μ m in size (**Figures 8B,C**).

All layers of the lobula displayed immunostaining (Figures 6A-C, 7A-C and Supplementary Figure 2A). For example, the proximal regions of layers 6 through 11, which are supplied by fibers extending from the medulla, showed highly intense 5-HT staining. By contrast, the distal region of

layers 1 through 5 exhibited moderately intense 5-HT staining (**Figure 6A**). The lobula plate of *P. camtschaticus* received a thick bundle of 5-HT- and ChAT-positive fibers corresponding to the columns of the medulla (**Figures 6A,C**), and the lobula was connected to the medulla and lobula plate *via* a bundle of 5-HT- (**Figure 6A**) and ChAT-positive fibers (**Figures 6B,C**), which ran through the lobula to the lobula plate. Moreover, the lobula was invaded by thick 5-HT-positive axons from the central brain and that ramified in the neuropil (**Figure 8D**).

The Sinus Gland

The SG of *P. camtschaticus* bordered cluster 3 comprising TH-, 5– HT-, and ChAT-positive neurons (**Figures 1C,D, 2B, 3A, 8D, 9A,B** and **Supplementary Figure 2A**). Interesting, only cells ranging from 8 to 10 μ m in size exhibited 5-HT- and ChATpositive immunostaining in the SG, with these cells containing a large nucleus and a narrow rim of cytoplasm (**Figures 9B,B1**). Additionally, the ChAT-positive neuronal processes in few of the sections showed staining in the anterior edge of the SG (**Figures 9C,E**). Previous studies observed neuronal processes in the SG by electron microscopy (Hodge and Chapman, 1958). Double immunolabeling revealed that ChAT co-localized with 5-HT in few of the SG cells (**Figures 9C-E**). Although fibers between cluster 3 and the SG were positive for 5-HT (**Figure 8B**), we did not identify TH immunolabeling in SG cells (**Figure 9B** and **Supplementary Figure 2A**).

The Lateral Protocerebrum

Fluorescence labeling revealed the presence of TH, ChAT, and 5-HT in the lateral protocerebrum (Figures 2C, 9A, 10A-F, 11A-D and Supplementary Figure 2A); however, it was not dominated by TH-positive immunostaining. Owing to difficulties in reliable orientation of the tissue sections, we could only study the most conspicuous substructures within the lateral protocerebrum (i.e., the hemiellipsoid body and the terminal medulla) by combining anti-synapsin with anti-TH immunolabeling. We did not consider hemiellipsoid neuropils in this study. The hemiellipsoid body comprised TH-immunolabeled fibers, which branched into numerous thin fibers (Figure 10A). Moreover, cells ranging in size from 15 to 45 µm and having large varicose processes exhibited TH-positive immunostaining in the caudal part of the lateral protocerebrum (Figures 10A,A1). Indeed, their processes extended near the hemiellipsoid body and towards the optic tract (Figure 10A). The sections through the lateral protocerebrum, dissected at various levels, showed intense immunolabeling of rather coarse neuritis throughout the medulla terminalis (Figures 9A, 10B, 11A-B). Remarkably, some of these fibers projected to the protocerebral and optic tracts. Furthermore, small groups of neurons of various sizes (10-35 μ m) that were located laterally to the hemielliposoid body in the terminal medulla displayed positive immunostaining for 5-HT and ChAT (Figures 10C-F). In fact, double immunolabeling revealed that 5-HT co-localized with ChAT in some of these neurons (Figures 10D-F).

We detected high levels of 5-HT and TH near cell cluster 5 (Figures 11A-C). The data also indicated that cells of various sizes (14–35 μ m) contained ChAT (Figures 11C,D),



FIGURE 5 | Immunolocalization of 5-HT, TH, and ChAT in the medulla. (A) TH- and 5-HT-positive neurons and nerve fibers in the Me. (B) Immunohistochemical localization of TH in neurons of cell cluster 2. (C–E) Double immunolabeling of 5-HT and ChAT in neurons and nerve fibers of the Me. (C1–E1) Higher magnification of 5-HT- and ChAT-positive neurons of the Me. Arrows indicate colocalization of 5-HT with ChAT in some of the neurons. Green, 5-HT; red, ChAT; magenta, TH; blue, DAPI. Scale bars = (A,C–E1) 100 μm and (B) 50 μm. Me, medulla; 2, cell clusters; D, dorsal; V, ventral; L, lateral; M, medial.

whereas single neurons $15-25 \ \mu m$ in diameter contained 5-HT (**Figure 11B1**). Furthermore, we observed that numerous nerve fibers showing intense TH-positive immunostaining were present lateral to cluster 5 in the XO region (**Figures 11A,A1**). Notably, the TH-positive fibers were part of a larger bundle of fibers, some of which extended to the SG.

DISCUSSION

These results clearly demonstrate the presence of enzymes involved in DA, 5-HT, and ACh synthesis in the optic lobe of *P. camtschaticus*.

The lamina, which was the first optic neuropil, harbored 5-HT- and TH-positive processes that were distributed throughout the plexiform layer; however, we observed no co-localization of 5-HT with TH in these fibers. Most monopolar somata were unreactive to primary antibodies used in this study. Nevertheless, some cells that were identical in size and located above and below the lamina exhibited double immunolabeling of 5-HT and ChAT. It is possible that amacrine cells with displaced cell bodies are located in the layer of monopolar cells above the lamina (Glantz et al., 2000). However, the double-immunolabeled cell bodies located below the lamina are most likely those of amacrine neurons, which would be consistent with previously described observations for several crayfish species (Nässel, 1977; Glantz et al., 2000; Polanska et al., 2007) and the crab C. granulatus (Sztarker et al., 2009). There is evidence that neuroactive substances are possibly released by amacrine cells under quantitatively varying levels of excitation (Marder et al., 1995). These neuromodulatory substances may increase the photoreceptor sensitivity to dark adaptation and/or





circadian rhythms (Aréchiga et al., 1990). Notably, 5-HT is involved in circadian clock regulation (Ichikawa, 1994; Pyza and Meinertzhagen, 1996; Chen et al., 1999) and has been identified in eyestalks of all previously studied crustacean species (Beltz and Kravitz, 1983; Elofsson, 1983; Nassel et al., 1985; Sandeman et al., 1988). Additionally, 5-HT reportedly increases the receptor potential by modulating its K⁺ conductance in various arthropod species (Aréchiga et al., 1990; Weckström, 1994; Hevers and Hardie, 1995), and another study demonstrated 5-HT as a local modulator of retinal activity (Aréchiga et al., 1990). Moreover, in insects, voltage-dependent K+ conductivities in photoreceptors are activated during depolarization, thereby reducing membrane resistance, adjusting the bandwidth in accordance with functional requirements, and causing shifts in photoreceptor performance toward higher contrast gains and lower membrane bandwidths (Heras et al., 2018).

In this study, fibers in the lamina originated from TH-positive cell bodies at the dorsal border of the medulla. These cells in *P. camtschaticus* can be identified as tangential cells, with their identification based on the location of their cell bodies at the

distal edge of the medulla. Their location is also dependent on the presence of lateral processes in the lamina extending over several cartridges and an axon connecting the lamina with the medulla (Nässel, 1977; Wang-Bennett and Glantz, 1987a,b). The morphology of tangential cells has been described in detail for several crustacean species using Golgi-impregnation techniques (Nässel, 1977; Strausfeld and Nässel, 1981; Wang-Bennett and Glantz, 1987a,b; Sztarker et al., 2005, 2009). In *P. camtschaticus*, the TH-positive tangential cells exhibited few similarities with catecholaminergic tangential neurons previously identified in *Pacifastacus leniusculus* (Elofsson et al., 1977). Remarkably, the amacrine and tangential neurons form local circuits within the lamina in crustaceans (Nässel, 1977; Stowe et al., 1977; Strausfeld and Nässel, 1981; Sztarker et al., 2005, 2009; Thoen et al., 2017) and insects (Strausfeld, 1976; Douglass and Strausfeld, 2005).

The Medulla

We detected 5-HT, ChAT, and TH in numerous immunoreactive processes in the medulla of *P. camtschaticus*. Consistent with our findings, the source of these processes can be columnar, amacrine,



FIGURE 7 [Immunolocalization of 5-H1, 1H, and ChA1 in the lobula. (A) 5-H1- and ChA1-positive cell bodies and nerve fibers in the Lo. (B) 1H- and 5-H1-positive cell bodies and nerve fibers in the Lo. (D) Immunohistochemical localization of TH in the somata of cell cluster 3. (E) Immunohistochemical localization of 5-HT- and TH-positive neurons of cell cluster 3. (F–H) Double immunohabeling of ChAT and 5-HT in cell cluster 3 of the distal part of the Lo. Arrows indicate co-localization of 5-HT with ChAT in neurons. Green, 5-HT; red, ChAT; magenta, TH; blue, DAPI. Scale bars = (A–C) 100 μm and (D–H) 50 μm.

and tangential neurons previously identified by neuroanatomical methods in crustaceans (Sztarker and Tomsic, 2014). Apparently, few of the 5- HT-, ChAT-, and TH-positive processes in the medulla appear to be derived from 5- HT-, ChAT-, and THpositive columnar neurons, whose bodies localize along the distal surface of the anterior medulla. Consistent with our findings, ChAT-positive columnar neurons with cell bodies along the distal surface of the medulla were identified in crayfish (Wang-Bennett et al., 1989) and *Drosophila melanogaster* (Buchner et al., 1986). Moreover, the overall distribution of ChAT in the medulla and lobula follows similar patterns between crustaceans (Wang-Bennett and Glantz, 1986; Wang-Bennett et al., 1989) and insects (Buchner et al., 1986). Furthermore, a small number of neurons in the lobula of *P. camtschaticus* displayed THpositive immunostaining. These neurons are derived from cell bodies present above the distal surface of the medulla and have dendrite-like processes at specific levels of the medulla and terminate in the lobula (Bengochea et al., 2018). The TH- and ChAT-positive cell bodies observed at the anterior rim of the medulla in *P. camtschaticus* may be those of tangential neurons.

The Lobula and Lobula Plate

We identified ChAT-, TH-, and 5-HT-positive processes in the lobula and lobula plate. The ChAT-positive fibers in the lobula plate are likely derived from sets of immunoreactive cell bodies at the anterior rim of the *P. camtschaticus* medulla. Indeed,



relationships between the medulla, lobula, and lobula plate have been described in several crustacean species (Harzsch and Hansson, 2008; Krieger et al., 2010, 2012). Furthermore, our observation that the 5-HT- and ChAT-positive fibers connect the lobula to the lobula plate in *P. camtschaticus* is consistent with that of studies on the crab *N. granulata* and suggests that the columnar neurons projecting from the lobula convey information toward the lobula plate (Bengochea et al., 2018).

The Lateral Protocerebrum

Our observation of highly intense TH-positive immunostaining in neurons and nerve fibers in the lateral protocerebrum in *P. camtschaticus* has been validated in studies on *N. granulata* that reported intense dopaminergic innervation (Maza et al., 2021). Similar to previously studied crustacean species, such as *Procambarus clarkii*, *P. leniusculus*, and *Scylla olivacea* (Elofsson and Klemm, 1972; Elofsson et al., 1977; Alvarez Alvarado et al., 2005; Khornchatri et al., 2015; Sayre and Strausfeld, 2019; Strausfeld et al., 2020; Maza et al., 2021), we detected TH in the XO of *P camtschaticus*. The XO is formed by neurosecretory cells that synthesize various neuropeptides and send axons to the SG (Andrew et al., 1978; Jaros, 1978; Böcking et al., 2002; Hopkins, 2012). These neuropeptides are transported along the axons for storage in the SG, from which they are subsequently circulated





directly into hemolymph (Fanjul-Moles, 2006). We identified TH-positive neurons and processes on the periphery of the XO in *P. camtschaticus*. Interestingly, we identified only individual TH-positive fibers reaching the SG, although high levels of TH in processes extending from cells of the XO to the SG have been previously found in *N. granulata* (Maza et al., 2021). These data confirm the role of DA as a neurotransmitter or neuromodulator in XO neurons (Alvarez Alvarado et al., 2005; Christie, 2011). To date, DA has been consistently reported as involved in the differential regulation of activity in neurons that synthesize CHH (Kuo et al., 1995; Sarojini et al., 1995; Zou et al., 2003; Chen et al., 2020), pigment-concentrating hormones (Rodriguez-Sosa et al., 1994; Fingerman, 1997), and the distal retinal pigment

lightness-assimilating hormone (Kulkarni and Fingerman, 1986). Additionally, experimental studies on the effect of DA on CHH release show that DA-induced increases in CHH and glucose levels are absent in eyestalk-ablated animals. These results show that DA enhances CHH release into hemolymph, which in turn evokes hyperglycemic responses, and that the predominant site of DA-induced CHH release is the XO-SG complex located within the eyestalk (Zou et al., 2003).

Another neurotransmitter present in the crustacean eyestalks is 5-HT (Rodriguez-Sosa et al., 1997). In the present study, we identified 5-HT in axonal branches and several neuronal varicosities in the XO. The presence of 5-HT-positive somata and fibers proximal to the XO has been described in other



FIGURE 10 Immunolocalization of 5-HT, TH, and ChAT in the optic neuropils, SG, and lateral protocerebrum. (A) Tissue section showing high levels of TH-positive immunostaining in the Me, Lo, and LP. (A1) TH-positive cells with large varicose processes in the LP. (B) High levels of TH in processes of both the HE and the TM. (C) ChAT- and 5-HT-positive immunostaining in the HE and neurons in different regions of the TM. (D–F) Double immunolabeling of 5-HT and ChAT in neurons of the TM. Green, 5-HT; red, ChAT; magenta, TH; blue, DAPI. Scale bars = 100 μm. Me, medulla; Lo, lobula; HE, hemiellipsoid body; TM, terminal medulla; PT, protocerebral tract; 2, 3, 5 (ds), cell cluster; D, dorsal; V, ventral; L, lateral; M, medial; A, anterior; P, posterior.

crustacean species, including *P. leniusculus* (Elofsson, 1983), *Cherax destructor* (Sandeman et al., 1988), and the crayfish *P. clarkii* (Rodriguez-Sosa et al., 1997).

We identified separate TH- and 5-HT-immunopositive axons in the optic nerve of P. camtschaticus, suggesting that some of these axons may be efferent axons running from the protocerebrum to the XO. The presence of immunopositive axons close to the neurosecretory cells of the XO and the effect of 5-HT on the activity of XO somata, as previously described (Rodriguez-Sosa et al., 1997; Saenz et al., 1997; Basu and Kravitz, 2003), indicate that 5-HT plays a modulatory role in neurosecretion (Saenz et al., 1997; García and Aréchiga, 1998; Escamilla-Chimal et al., 2001; Harlioğlu et al., 2020). Furthermore, 5-HT involvement in regulating the release of neuropeptides, including CHH (Basu and Kravitz, 2003; Chen et al., 2020), gonad-inhibiting hormone (Richardson et al., 1991; Sarojini et al., 1995; Fingerman, 1997; Chen et al., 2003), and red- and black-pigment-dispersing hormones (Kulkarni and Fingerman, 1986), from the SG complex has been experimentally

validated (Saenz et al., 1997). Although a previous study reported the presence of 5-HT in the SG (Krieger et al., 2010, 2012) and others confirmed its regulatory role in hormone release (Cooke and Sullivan, 1982; Beltz, 1988), the endogenous sources of 5-HT synthesis in the SG remain controversial.

The SG comprises axons and axon terminals of neurosecretory cells and glial cells present in the XO (Andrew et al., 1978; Jaros, 1978; Azzouna and Rezig, 2001). Glial cells in the SG have been previously studied using electron microscopy (Hodge and Chapman, 1958; Dircksen, 1992; Azzouna and Rezig, 2001), and single secretory cells having a typical neurosecretory varicosity filled with elementary granules have been described previously in the SG of *Carcinus maenas* (May and Golding, 1983). Nevertheless, the neurochemical organization and role of glial cells and neurosecretory neurons in the SG remain poorly understood. The present study demonstrated the presence of 5-HT and ChAT in endogenous cells of the SG in *P. camtschaticus*. Recent studies discovered that nitric oxide (NO) is synthesized in the SG of the crayfish *P. clarkii* (Lee et al., 2000) and the green



FIGURE 11 Immunolocalization of 5-HT, TH, and ChAT in the lateral protocerebrum of *Paralithodes camtschaticus*. (A,A1) Tissue section through the eyestalk of *P. camtschaticus* showing TH-positive immunostaining in the Lo and LP. (A1) Regions of the XO showing strong TH immunostaining. (B) TH-positive processes in the LP near the cells of cluster 5 and regions of the TM. (B1–D) 5-HT- and ChAT-positive neurons and processes near cell cluster 5. TH-positive immunostaining in optic neuropils and the LP. Scale bars = 100 µm. Lo, lobula; 5, cell cluster; LP, lateral protocerebrum; TM, terminal medulla; HE, the hemiellipsoid body; D, dorsal; V, ventral; L, lateral; M, medial; A, anterior; P, posterior.

shore crab *C. maenas* (Pitts and Mykles, 2015). The site of NO production, storage, and release is confined to supportive tissues that contain glial cells according to Pitts and Mykles (2015), the NO produced and released by supportive tissues modulates the secretion of neuropeptides from axon terminals. In *P. camtschaticus*, endogenous cells of the SG contained enzymes for the synthesis of 5-HT and Ach. Furthermore, the lobula of *P. camtschaticus* comprised cells that expressed DA, 5-HT, and Ach, with these cells positioned near the major hemolymph sinus that allows these neurotransmitters to be released into the blood stream. Moreover, the positions of 5-HT- and ChAT-positive endogenous cells in the SG indicated that 5-HT and

ChAT act as local neuromodulators. Thus, our data suggest that SG cells regulate neurosecretion *via* interactions between several neurotransmitters.

CONCLUSION

In summary, we identified the distribution of neurotransmitters in the optic neuropils and XO-SG complex of the eyestalks of *P. camtschaticus*. The results indicate the presence of these neurotransmitters in immunoreactive fibers and neurons, as well as endogenous SG cells, suggesting their roles in regulating the release of neurohormones, a process that occurs in several physiological reactions that determine animal behavior. Hormone levels in crustaceans are mediated by numerous humoral and neural pathways (Hodge and Chapman, 1958; Shivers, 1976; Christie, 2011). Although further physiological analysis is required to validate the presence of 5-HT and ChAT in endogenous SG cells, the present data provide a broader understanding of the role of neurotransmitters in the regulation of neurohormone release. For example, localization of 5-HT- and ChAT-positive cells in the SG indicates that 5-HT and ChAT might be local modulators that participate in regulating the secretion of neurohormones synthesized by the XO.

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The raw data supporting the conclusions of this article will be made available by the authors, without undue reservation.

ETHICS STATEMENT

The field studies did not involve any endangered or rare invertebrate species. To access the marine area, no specific permissions were required, as it falls within Russian stateowned land.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

EK: study concept, design, and data acquisition. VD: administrative, technical, and material support and study supervision. Both authors contributed to data analysis and interpretation, drafting of the manuscript, critical revision of the manuscript for important intellectual content, and had full access to all the data in the study and take responsibility for the integrity and accuracy of the analyzed data.

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SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

The Supplementary Material for this article can be found online at: https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fnana. 2022.844654/full#supplementary-material

Supplementary Figure 1 | Immunolocalization of serotonin (5-HT) and tyrosine hydroxylase (TH) in the optic neuropil lamina of *Paralithodes camtschaticus*. (A) TH-positive nerve fibers between the lamina and the medulla form the first optic chiasma. (B) Varicose processes of TH-immunoreactivity in the lamina of a plexiform layer and at the first chiasma. Arrows indicate 5-HT in the amacrine neurons; large arrows indicate TH-positive neurons localized at the first chiasma. Abbreviations: La, lamina; 1, cell clusters; D, dorsal; V, ventral; L, lateral; M, medial; A, anterior; P, posterior. Scale bars = 100 μ m.

Supplementary Figure 2 | Immunolocalization of tyrosine hydroxylase (TH) in the optic neuropils of *Paralithodes camtschaticus*. (A) Horizontal section showing the immunohistochemical localization of TH in the optic neuropils (HN) and lateral protocerebrum; (B,C) Immunohistochemical localization of TH in the neurons and nerve fibers of the medulla. Abbreviations: La, lamina; Me, medulla; Lo, lobula; SG, sinus gland; OT, optic tract; LP, the lateral protocerebrum; D, dorsal; V, ventral; L, lateral; M, medial; A, anterior; P, posterior. Scale bar = 100 μ m.

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