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## **Odor-induced multi-level inhibitory maps in *Drosophila***

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1 **1. Title**

2 Odor-induced multi-level inhibitory maps in *Drosophila*

3

4 **2. Abbreviated title**

5 Inhibitory odor maps

6

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50 S.S. generated transgenic Clomeleon flies and, together with A.F., established initial  
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54 experiments. V.G. and S.S. interpreted the results, prepared the figures, and,  
55 together with all other authors, wrote the paper.

56

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58 The authors declare no competing financial interests.

59

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64 **Odor-induced multi-level inhibitory maps in *Drosophila***

65

66 **Abstract**

67 Optical imaging of intracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  influx as a correlate of neuronal excitation  
68 represents a standard technique for visualizing spatiotemporal activity of neuronal  
69 networks. However, the information-processing properties of single neurons and  
70 neuronal circuits likewise involve inhibition of neuronal membrane potential. Here,  
71 we report spatially resolved optical imaging of odor-evoked inhibitory patterns in the  
72 olfactory circuitry of *Drosophila* using a genetically encoded fluorescent  $\text{Cl}^-$  sensor. In  
73 combination with the excitatory component reflected by intracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  dynamics,  
74 we present a comprehensive functional map of both odor-evoked neuronal activation  
75 and inhibition at different levels of olfactory processing. We demonstrate that odor-  
76 evoked inhibition carried by  $\text{Cl}^-$  influx is present both in sensory neurons and second-  
77 order projection neurons, and is characterized by stereotypic, odor-specific patterns.  
78  $\text{Cl}^-$  mediated inhibition features distinct dynamics in different neuronal populations.  
79 Our data support a dual role of inhibitory neurons in the olfactory system: global gain  
80 control across the neuronal circuitry and glomerulus-specific inhibition to enhance  
81 neuronal information processing.

82

83 **Significance Statement**

84 Neural inhibition is evidently as important as excitation given it is present at every  
85 level of sensory processing. This study characterizes odor-evoked inhibitory patterns  
86 along different levels of olfactory processing of *Drosophila* using functional imaging  
87 via *Clomeleon*, a genetically encoded indicator for chloride ions, the main mediator  
88 of synaptic inhibition in mature neurons. In combination with the excitatory

89 component reflected by intracellular calcium, we analyzed the interplay between  
90 odor-evoked excitation and inhibition. Our data provide both a more accurate and  
91 comprehensive characterization of the actual information content encoded by the  
92 olfactory circuitry, as well as elucidate network properties within the primary olfactory  
93 center of the fly.

94

## 95 **Introduction**

96 Inhibition of neural excitability is a ubiquitous feature of all neuronal circuits. Neurons  
97 that release inhibitory transmitters are present in all parts of the nervous system. In  
98 the olfactory systems of both insects and vertebrates, inhibition is crucial for stimulus  
99 gain control (Olsen and Wilson, 2008; Root et al., 2008), synchronizing neural  
100 networks (Laurent et al., 2001), generating precise timing (Schoppa and Westbrook,  
101 1999; Margrie and Schaefer, 2003), broadening transmission of olfactory signals  
102 (Nagel et al., 2014), odor mixture interactions (Mohamed et al., 2019) and enhancing  
103 contrast between similar odor representations (Mori et al., 1999; Sachse and Galizia,  
104 2002; Urban, 2002). In the mammalian olfactory bulb, inhibition is largely mediated  
105 by dendrodendritic synaptic connections between excitatory mitral cells and  
106 inhibitory granule cells (Schoppa and Urban, 2003; Egger and Urban, 2006). Despite  
107 these important roles of inhibition for odor processing, most studies analyzing  
108 olfactory coding at the level of spatially distributed neuronal populations focused on  
109 monitoring neuronal excitation. Therefore, odor representations at the level of the  
110 insect antennal lobe (AL) or the vertebrate olfactory bulb typically have been  
111 characterized as patterns of excitation. Here, we aimed at monitoring spatially  
112 distributed maps of odor-evoked inhibition at different levels of processing in  
113 *Drosophila melanogaster*.

114           In the fly, odors are detected by olfactory sensory neurons (OSNs) located on  
115 the antennae and maxillary palps. Each OSN typically expresses one or very few  
116 chemo-receptor genes, and each OSN projects its axon to the AL, the insect  
117 analogue of the vertebrate olfactory bulb. In the AL, those OSNs expressing the  
118 same odorant receptor (OR) stereotypically converge to the same spatially invariant  
119 olfactory glomeruli (Couto et al., 2005; Fishilevich and Vosshall, 2005), each of  
120 which can be unambiguously identified (Laissue et al., 1999; Grabe et al., 2015). The  
121 AL is densely innervated by local interneurons (LNs) that mediate both  
122 intraglomerular and transglomerular inhibition (Wilson and Laurent, 2005; Seki et al.,  
123 2010). Olfactory projection neurons (PNs) convey the olfactory signals to higher-  
124 order brain centers.

125           The morphological structure of the AL network specifies the physiological  
126 logic of how odors are encoded: Each odorant evokes a characteristic,  
127 spatiotemporal activity pattern leading to a combinatorial, stereotypic activation of  
128 glomeruli in the AL (Fiala et al., 2002; Wang et al., 2003). Inhibitory LNs provide both  
129 feedforward synaptic inhibition of PNs and feedback inhibition of OSNs (Wilson and  
130 Mainen, 2006; Olsen and Wilson, 2008; Root et al., 2008). However, it still remains  
131 elusive how spatially distributed, odor-evoked inhibition interferes with and relates to  
132 the well-described excitation-based odor maps.

133           In *Drosophila*, functional imaging has mainly relied on genetically expressed  
134  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  sensors that detect intracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  dynamics as a correlate of neuronal  
135 excitation (Grienberger and Konnerth, 2012). In this study, we monitored odor-  
136 induced inhibitory maps in the olfactory circuitry using a DNA-encoded indicator for  
137  $\text{Cl}^-$ , the main ionic mediator of synaptic inhibition in mature neurons (Owens and  
138 Kriegstein, 2002). The FRET-based indicator Clomeleon consists of a  $\text{Cl}^-$ -sensitive

139 yellow fluorescent protein (YFP) and a Cl<sup>-</sup>-insensitive cyan fluorescent protein (CFP)  
140 (Kuner and Augustine, 2000). Binding of Cl<sup>-</sup> to YFP reduces its absorbance, which  
141 results in a change of the YFP/CFP emission ratio proportional to [Cl<sup>-</sup>]<sub>i</sub>. The  
142 applicability of Clomeleon *in vivo* has been demonstrated in hippocampal slices  
143 (Berglund et al., 2006), retinal bipolar cells (Haverkamp et al., 2005; Duebel et al.,  
144 2006), thalamo-cortical neurons of mice (Glykys et al., 2009) and cerebellar granule  
145 cells (Berglund et al., 2016).

146 We genetically expressed Clomeleon in defined olfactory neurons and  
147 characterized odor-evoked inhibition at different levels of olfactory processing in  
148 comparison with Ca<sup>2+</sup>-mediated activity using the likewise FRET-based Ca<sup>2+</sup>-  
149 sensitive protein Cameleon 2.1 (Miyawaki et al., 1999). First, we observed odor-  
150 evoked Cl<sup>-</sup>-influx in dendrites of OSNs. Second, we generated a comprehensive  
151 functional map of both odor-evoked activation and inhibition of the fly AL. We  
152 demonstrate that odor-evoked inhibition carried by Cl<sup>-</sup> influx is characterized by  
153 stereotypic odor-specific patterns. Third, we show that Cl<sup>-</sup> mediated inhibition  
154 exhibits distinct features at different levels of olfactory processing pointing towards  
155 multiple roles of inhibition in the olfactory system.

156

## 157 **Materials & Methods**

### 158 ***Drosophila* stocks and *in vivo* preparation**

159 All fly stocks were maintained on conventional cornmeal-agar-molasses medium  
160 under 12h:12h light-dark conditions, relative humidity of 70% and at 25° C. The  
161 Clomeleon DNA construct (Kuner and Augustine, 2000), kindly provided by Thomas  
162 Kuner, was inserted into the pUAST vector (Brand and Perrimon, 1993) via the  
163 EcoRI and XhoI restriction sites. Transgenic constructs were injected by Genetic

164 Services Inc. (Cambridge, MA) into *yw* embryos using standard procedures and  
165 single transformants were outcrossed to autosomal balancers for chromosomal  
166 mapping. Two independent insertions on different chromosomes were combined.  
167 Homozygous female flies, 6-10 days old, carrying four copies of the UAS:Clomeleon  
168 transgenes, were used for all imaging experiments. The fly strain *UAS-Cameleon 2.1*  
169 (Fiala et al., 2002) was chosen for monitoring odor-evoked  $Ca^{2+}$  signals as an  
170 appropriate FRET-based sensor comparable in its chromophores with Clomeleon.  
171 *Orco-Gal4* (RRID:BDSC\_23292, (Wang et al., 2003)), *Or22a-Gal4*  
172 (RRID:BDSC\_9951, (Vosshall et al., 2000)) and *GH146-Gal4* (RRID:BDSC\_30026,  
173 (Stocker et al., 1997)) were used to drive expression of *UAS-Cameleon* or *UAS-*  
174 *Cameleon* (RRID:BDSC\_6901).

175

#### 176 **Optical imaging**

177 For imaging intracellular  $Cl^-$  and  $Ca^{2+}$  dynamics in the AL, flies were restrained in  
178 custom-built holders and a small window was cut into the head capsule. The hole  
179 was covered with physiological saline solution, and imaging was performed using a  
180 water immersion objective directly positioned above the exposed brain. Pharmaca  
181 (GABA, potassium gluconate, PTX, NPPB) were applied by exchanging the saline  
182 drop on the brain by a drop of the approximate volume and the targeted  
183 concentration. For NPPB an additional ethanol application was carried out to control  
184 for the solvent effect (data not shown). For transcuticular antennal imaging  
185 (Kamikouchi et al., 2010), flies were restrained as for the *in vivo* dissection method  
186 without opening the head capsule. Or22a-expressing OSNs were imaged from the  
187 posterior side, while the majority of OSNs using *Orco-Gal4* were recorded from the  
188 anterior side.

189 Imaging experiments were performed using TillPhotonics imaging equipment  
190 (TILL imago, Till Photonics GmbH) with a CCD-camera (PCO imaging, Sensicam)  
191 and a fluorescence microscope (Olympus, BX51WI) equipped with a 20x water  
192 immersion objective (NA 0.95, XLUM Plan FI, Olympus) for AL imaging and a 10x air  
193 objective (NA 0.30, UPlan FLN, Olympus) for antennal imaging. A monochromator  
194 (Polychrome V, Till Photonics) provided light at 440 nm excitation wavelength which  
195 was guided through a 470 nm dichroic short pass filter. The beam-splitter (Optical  
196 Insights, DV-CC) separated YFP from CFP emission with a 505 DCXR and narrowed  
197 the emissions with bandpass filters of 535/30 nm for YFP and 465/30 nm for CFP.  
198 Images of both emitted wavelengths were projected side by side onto a single CCD  
199 camera chip (PCO Imaging, Sensicam). Fourfold binning on the CCD-camera chip  
200 resulted in an image size of 344 x 260 pixels with 1 pixel corresponding to 1.25 x  
201 1.25  $\mu\text{m}$ . Each recording lasted for 20 s with an acquisition rate of 2 Hz. Since  
202 Clomeleon yielded a very low signal-to-noise ratio, we had to apply long exposure  
203 times which limited our recording frequency. We also performed experiments with  
204 the usually used frequency of 4Hz, resulting in weaker signal intensities and a lower  
205 dynamic range. Since these signals did not reveal different temporal patterns in the  
206 odor-evoked responses as the slower recorded signals, we decided in favor of an  
207 increased signal-to-noise ratio and maintained a recording frequency of 2Hz for the  
208 whole study. Odors were applied 2 s after experiment onset and lasted for 2 s.  
209 Individual flies were imaged for up to 1 h, with interstimulus time intervals of 1-3 min.

210

### 211 **Odor stimulation**

212 Pure odorants were diluted in mineral oil (BioChemika Ultra; odor CAS: ethyl-3-  
213 hydroxybutyrate: 5405-41-4, benzaldehyde: 100-52-7, acetic acid: 64-19-7, cis-

214 vaccenylacetate: 6186-98-7, pentyl acetate: 628-63-7, 1-hexanol: 111-27-3, ethyl  
215 benzoate: 93-89-0). For use, 6  $\mu$ l of 1:10 diluted odor was pipetted onto a small  
216 piece of filter paper (100 mm<sup>2</sup>, Whatman), which was inserted into a glass Pasteur  
217 pipette. A stimulus controller (Syntech, Stimulus Controller CS-55) was used to apply  
218 the odor in a continuous airstream at 1 l/min, monitored by a flow meter (Cole  
219 Parmer). An acrylic glass tube guided the airflow to the fly antennae. Two additional  
220 air sources (airflow 0.5 l/min) were connected to the tube and the stimulus controller.  
221 One of them consisted of the glass pipette containing the odor on filter paper and  
222 was hooked up for odor application, whereas the other pipette was empty and added  
223 clean air to the continuous airstream forming an air equation which was switched off  
224 during odor application.

225

## 226 **Data analysis**

227 Data were analyzed using custom-written IDL software (ITT Visual Information  
228 Solutions). First, a rigid registration was accomplished for all recordings separately to  
229 minimize movement artifacts throughout the time series. Second, the ratio of the two  
230 fluorescent signals was calculated as  $F_{YFP}/F_{CFP}$  for every time point. The ratio (R)  
231 represents the relative magnitude of the signal intensity. To achieve a comparable  
232 standard for the calculation of the relative fluorescence changes of the ratio ( $\Delta R/R$ ),  
233 the fluorescence background was subtracted from the averaged values of frames 0  
234 to 5 in each measurement, such that baseline fluorescence was normalized to zero.  
235 The false color-coded fluorescence changes in the raw-data images were calculated  
236 as the delta of frame 5 and 30 (Clomeleon) and frame 5 and 15 (Cameleon). Specific  
237 time traces of a measurement depict the mean of a 7 x 7 pixel coordinate (i.e. 9 x 9  
238  $\mu$ m), which was positioned into an anatomically identified glomerulus and plotted as

239 a function over time. Since *GH146-Gal4* does not label glomeruli VM5d and VM5v,  
240 these could not be characterized at the PN level (Grabe et al., 2015). To generate  
241 schematic AL maps, the mean value of frames 10-30 for Clomeleon and 10-15 for  
242 Cameleon of a specific glomerulus and odor was averaged over all animals imaged.  
243 Although the chloride and calcium kinetics are clearly odor induced, they develop  
244 very slowly over time and show their maximal response change after odor offset. We  
245 therefore selected a delayed time window for our signal evaluation to capture the  
246 maximum/minimum of the odor-induced responses. One has to keep in mind that the  
247 monitored  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Cl}^-$  dynamics are also dependent on the kinetics and  
248 concentrations (i.e. expression levels) of the fluorescent sensors and might not  
249 reflect accurately the physiological time traces. However, this issue is more relevant  
250 for fast stimulus dynamics (Martelli and Fiala, 2019), while with regard to slow  
251 recording frequencies, as used here, the resulting kinetics of  $\text{Cl}^-$  and  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  binding  
252 are rather negligible.

253 Responses in each fly were normalized to the highest  $\text{Cl}^-$  or  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  signal in  
254 each animal over all odors. To extract the temporal aspect of odor separation in the  
255 different neuronal populations, Euclidean distances ( $L_2$ -Norm) were calculated. To  
256 compare the results, we always used the same set of 11 identified glomeruli in each  
257 data set. For a given stimulus  $a$ , the  $n$ -dimensional population vector ( $v^a$ ) was  
258 constructed using the relative fluorescence changes over time. Then the population  
259 vectors of two stimuli,  $a$  and  $b$ , were used to calculate the distance for every single  
260 data point (time) in the 40 frames as follows:  $d(t) = (\sum (v_i^a(t) - v_i^b(t))^2)^{1/2}$ , where  $i$  is an  
261 index for the  $i$ -th glomerulus. In addition to the Euclidean distances, principal  
262 component analysis was used to visualize the population activity of OSNs and PNs  
263 depending on the imaged reporter protein. Taken together, the first three principal

264 components (**Figure 7C**) account for 67.3% (OSNs: Cameleon), 67.4% (OSNs:  
265 Clomeleon), 79.7% (PNs: Cameleon) and 59% (PNs: Clomeleon) of the variation in  
266 the related data set. Population vectors of all odor stimulations were aligned, taking  
267 into account time as the source of sample points, and number of glomeruli as the  
268 dimension of the original component space using the MatLab statistical toolbox. All  
269 statistical analyses were performed using GraphPad InStat 3 as specified in each  
270 figure legend.

271

## 272 **Results**

### 273 **Clomeleon as an indicator of intracellular Cl<sup>-</sup> dynamics in olfactory neurons**

274 We generated flies carrying the genetically encoded Cl<sup>-</sup> sensor Clomeleon (Kuner  
275 and Augustine, 2000) in order to visualize *in vivo* Cl<sup>-</sup> mediated inhibitory responses in  
276 the olfactory system. Using the binary GAL4-UAS transcriptional system (Brand and  
277 Perrimon, 1993), we expressed Clomeleon in the majority of OSNs using *Orco-Gal4*  
278 (Wang et al., 2003) and in PNs using *GH146-Gal4* (Stocker et al., 1997) (**Figure**  
279 **1A,B**). To test whether Clomeleon is functional in *Drosophila* olfactory neurons, we  
280 optically monitored fluorescence changes in OSNs and PNs in the AL, while we  
281 applied potassium gluconate (KGlu) to induce neuronal excitation globally and,  
282 concomitantly, inhibition through LN input onto OSNs and PNs (**Figure 1C-F**; see  
283 network scheme in **Figure 2A**). Applying KGlu increased CFP fluorescence, while  
284 YFP fluorescence was strongly decreased; thereby, the YFP/CFP ratio was reduced.  
285 To verify that this reflected inhibition, we applied the inhibitory transmitter  $\gamma$ -  
286 aminobutyric acid (GABA). GABA application immediately reduced the YFP/CFP  
287 ratio in both OSNs and PNs (**Figure 1G,H**). Notably, we observed a second, strong  
288 emission decrease which was delayed by about 35 s. The source of this second

289 decrease is yet unclear, but could be due to the slow diffusion rate of GABA as it is  
290 bath applied to the whole brain and not actively perfused. The gradually increasing  
291 GABA concentration might surpass a threshold that initiates a strong inhibition  
292 reflected by the second phase. In combination with a gradual desensitization towards  
293 GABA (Hong and Wilson, 2015), this could explain the observed slow and biphasic  
294 GABA effect. To confirm that these ratio changes were dependent on  $\text{Cl}^-$ , we  
295 removed  $\text{Cl}^-$  from the saline solution covering the fly's brain. Odor application before  
296  $\text{Cl}^-$  removal induced a clear ratio change, which was significantly reduced using  $\text{Cl}^-$ -  
297 free saline (**Figure 1I**). To further verify that our reporter was reflecting the  
298 intracellular  $\text{Cl}^-$  concentration, we applied the chloride channel blocker 5-nitro-2-(3-  
299 phenylpropylamine) benzoic acid (NPPB) to block  $\text{Cl}^-$  channels in *Drosophila*  
300 neurons (O'Donnell et al., 1998). As expected, application of NPPB strongly reduced  
301 the  $\text{Cl}^-$  influx which was partly reversibly (**Figure 1J**).

302         Since the YFP fluorescence has been reported to be affected by the pH value  
303 at  $[\text{Cl}^-]_i$  above 50 mM (Kuner and Augustine, 2000), we confirmed that the  
304 fluorescence emission was not influenced by pH changes within the physiologically  
305 relevant range of 6.9 to 7.3 (**Figure 1K**). This is in accordance with the described  $[\text{Cl}^-$   
306  $]_i$  in OSNs, which is ~24 mM in moths (Steinbrecht, 1992) and ~20 mM in flies  
307 (Reinert et al., 2011). Therefore, a potential influence of pH changes on Clomeleon  
308 is negligible. Overall, our results confirm that Clomeleon functions reliably as a  $\text{Cl}^-$   
309 indicator in olfactory neurons of the *Drosophila* AL.

310

### 311 **Odor stimulation induces peripheral $\text{Cl}^-$ influx in dendrites of OSNs**

312 Next, we analyzed whether odor stimulation causes a  $\text{Cl}^-$  increase at the most  
313 peripheral level of sensory transduction and performed transcuticular  $\text{Cl}^-$  imaging in

314 OSN dendrites located on the fly's antenna (**Figure 2A,B**). Odor stimulation induced  
315 an odor-specific, spatially confined increase in  $[Cl^-]_i$ . These spatially restricted signals  
316 correspond to distinct sensillum types, which have well-described, specific  
317 distributions on the third antennal segment (Shanbhag et al., 1999; Grabe et al.,  
318 2016) (**Figure 2C,D**). In order to determine which sensillum types were excited by  
319 the odors used, we performed  $Ca^{2+}$  imaging in comparison using the ratiometric  $Ca^{2+}$   
320 indicator Cameleon 2.1 (Miyawaki et al., 1999).  $Cl^-$  signals are characterized by a  
321 reduction in the Cameleon's YFP/CFP ratio (= increase in  $[Cl^-]_i$ ) whereas  $Ca^{2+}$   
322 signals were indicated by a ratio increase in the Cameleon's YFP/CFP ratio (=   
323 increase in  $[Ca^{2+}]_i$ ) (**Figure 2D**). Notably, some odors, such as ethyl-3-  
324 hydroxybutyrate, evoked both a  $Ca^{2+}$  and a  $Cl^-$  signal in the same areas of the  
325 antennal surface, indicating a concomitant  $Ca^{2+}$  and  $Cl^-$  influx in OSNs. Other  
326 odorants, e.g., benzaldehyde, induced spatially non-overlapping  $Cl^-$  and  $Ca^{2+}$  signals,  
327 indicating independent excitation and inhibition events in distinct sensilla (**Figure 2D**).  
328 This separation of inhibition and excitation is underlined by the strong  $Cl^-$  increase  
329 induced by acetic acid in the tip region of the antenna without significant  $Ca^{2+}$   
330 responses (**Figure 2E**). Acetic acid activates solely OSNs present in one type of  
331 coeloconic sensilla (Abuin et al., 2011), which is not labeled by the *Orco-Gal4* line.  
332 To verify that the observed antennal  $Cl^-$  signals indeed reflect neuronal inhibition, we  
333 expressed Cameleon selectively in OSNs expressing Or47b. OSNs expressing this  
334 receptor selectively respond to the pheromone methyl laurate and are mainly  
335 inhibited by other odors (Hallem and Carlson, 2006; Dweck et al., 2015). Application  
336 of the odor ethyl-3-hydroxybutyrate, which induces an inhibition of Or47b-expressing  
337 OSNs as shown via single-sensillum recordings (Hallem and Carlson, 2006), leads  
338 to a strong and long-lasting  $Cl^-$  influx in this OSN type (**Figure 2F**).

339 We next wondered whether the odor-induced antennal  $\text{Cl}^-$  increase derives  
340 within the sensillum and can be attributed to OSN dendrites or whether these signals  
341 rather reflect a feedback inhibition from the AL. We therefore monitored  $\text{Cl}^-$  signals  
342 following odor stimulation while we abolished any feedback signaling from the AL by  
343 cutting the antennal nerve (**Figure 2G**). Interestingly, this treatment significantly  
344 reduced  $\text{Cl}^-$  signals in the antenna, but did not abolish them. This result  
345 demonstrates  $\text{Cl}^-$  conductivity in dendrites of OSNs, indicating that  $\text{Cl}^-$  channels are  
346 present in OSNs and localized to the most peripheral dendritic compartments in the  
347 fly antenna. However, at the same time we do not exclude an additional feedback  
348 inhibition from the AL.

349

#### 350 **$\text{Cl}^-$ -dependent, inhibitory odor maps in OSN terminals in the AL**

351 Within the AL, OSNs are presynaptically inhibited by GABAergic LNs (Olsen and  
352 Wilson, 2008; Root et al., 2008; Mohamed et al., 2019) with varying and glomerulus-  
353 specific GABA sensitivities (Hong and Wilson, 2015). In order to visualize odor-  
354 evoked inhibition at the level of the axonal termini across multiple glomeruli, we  
355 performed  $\text{Cl}^-$  imaging in presynaptic OSN axons in the AL using an *in vivo*  
356 preparation (Strutz et al., 2012) (**Figure 3A**). Due to the stereotypy of the glomerular  
357 AL morphology, we could reliably identify individual glomeruli in each animal using  
358 digital AL atlases (Laissue et al., 1999; Couto et al., 2005) (**Figure 3B**). Each odor  
359 stimulation induced a specific combinatorial pattern of inhibited glomeruli, which was  
360 stereotypic among individuals (**Figure 3C, Figure 6**). The time courses of YFP/CFP  
361 ratio changes in selected glomeruli revealed odor-specific and glomerulus-specific  
362  $\text{Cl}^-$  influx (**Figure 3D**). However, a time-resolved analysis across multiple glomeruli  
363 showed that  $\text{Cl}^-$  signals are detected in all glomeruli optically accessible during the

364 imaging experiments (**Figure 3E**). In conclusion, strong and odor-specific inhibition  
365 of distinct glomeruli is accompanied by less intense, global inhibition across the  
366 entire OSN population. The  $\text{Cl}^-$  signals that were optically monitored lasted until the  
367 end of each measurement, i.e., they strongly outlasted the 2 s odor stimulation.  
368 Therefore, we examined how much time was required before the Clomeleon signal  
369 returned to baseline (**Figure 3F-H**). Odor application with different inter-stimulus  
370 intervals revealed that even though the fluorescence emission ( $\Delta R/R$ ) continued to  
371 drop after stimulation, repetitive odor stimulation still elicited further Clomeleon  
372 signals after 10 or 60 s (**Figure 3F,G**). A complete recovery of the Clomeleon  
373 fluorescence was not observed before 120 s after odor stimulation had elapsed  
374 (**Figure 3H**). The actual kinetics of any fluorescence sensor depend on multiple  
375 factors, e.g., the concentration of the sensor determined by the expression level, the  
376 affinity of the sensor to its ligand, or the dynamic range of the sensor. Therefore, it is  
377 difficult to conclude to what degree the dynamics of  $\text{Cl}^-$  transients quantitatively  
378 reflect the actual balance between  $\text{Cl}^-$  influx and intracellular  $\text{Cl}^-$  removal. However, a  
379 slow recovery of Clomeleon signals has also been observed in mammalian neurons  
380 (Kuner and Augustine, 2000; Berglund et al., 2006) and has been attributed to the  
381 slow removal of  $[\text{Cl}^-]_i$  by transporters rather than kinetic properties of the  $\text{Cl}^-$  sensor  
382 (Staley and Proctor, 1999; Berglund et al., 2009; Berglund et al., 2016). It is  
383 therefore quite conceivable that the odor-evoked  $\text{Cl}^-$  transients in OSNs indeed  
384 strongly outlast the actual stimulation.

385

### 386 **Comparison between odor-evoked $\text{Cl}^-$ signaling in OSN dendrites and axons**

387 As shown so far, odors induce a clear  $\text{Cl}^-$  increase at the level of the peripheral  
388 signal input, i.e., in the antenna (**Figure 2**), and at the sites of synaptic transmission,

389 i.e., in OSNs of the AL (**Figure 3**). To examine the relationship between these two  
390 signal sources in more detail, we comparatively monitored odor-evoked  $[Cl^-]_i$  and  
391  $[Ca^{2+}]_i$  of a single OSN population at its dendrites and axonal termini. This was  
392 achieved by selective expression of Clomeleon or Cameleon, respectively, in OSNs  
393 expressing the odorant receptor Or22a, which targets the glomerulus DM2 (Couto et  
394 al., 2005; Fishilevich and Vosshall, 2005). As described previously (Pelz et al., 2006),  
395 a strong excitatory  $Ca^{2+}$  response was elicited by methyl hexanoate, while ethyl-3-  
396 hydroxybutyrate induced an intermediate, and benzaldehyde no significant response  
397 (**Figure 4A,B**). The relative intensities of odor-evoked  $Ca^{2+}$  responses did not differ  
398 between antenna and AL (**Figure 4C**). However, all three odors induced  
399 comparatively strong  $Cl^-$  responses in the fly antenna (**Figure 4A, lower panel**),  
400 while only methyl hexanoate, one of the most potent activators of this OSN type,  
401 elicited a significant  $Cl^-$  response at the AL level (**Figure 4B, lower panel, Figure**  
402 **4D**). Hence, the intensity of odor-evoked  $Cl^-$  influx at the level of OSN dendrites and  
403 somata is relatively independent of the actual intensity of the accompanying  $Ca^{2+}$   
404 influx. On the contrary  $Cl^-$  mediated inhibition in the AL reflects more odor-specific  
405 inhibition.

406

#### 407 **$Cl^-$ -dependent, inhibitory odor maps in projection neuron terminals in the AL**

408 In order to analyze inhibitory patterns of output neurons in the AL, we performed  $Cl^-$   
409 imaging at the dendrites of PNs using the enhancer trap line *GH146-Gal4* that labels  
410 the majority of uniglomerular PNs (Stocker et al., 1997). Odor application induced  
411 clear spatially confined and odorant-specific patterns of inhibition that could be  
412 assigned to identified glomeruli (**Figure 5A,B**). A time-resolved analysis across all  
413 glomeruli revealed a strongly pronounced  $Cl^-$  influx in a glomerulus- and odor-

414 specific manner, and typically with some delay after odor onset (**Figure 5C**). These  
415 odor-specific, inhibitory patterns evolve slowly over time and persist until the end of  
416 the measurement, as it is the case at the OSN level. Notably, we observed a  
417 concordance in the  $\text{Cl}^-$  responses between OSNs and PNs, in a way that a given  
418 odor inhibited the same glomeruli at the input and the output level of the AL (**Figure**  
419 **3E**, and **Figure 5C**). However, this correlation was only apparent for strongly  
420 inhibited glomeruli, while weaker  $\text{Cl}^-$  responses occurred in more glomeruli at the PN  
421 level when compared to OSNs. Again, this indicates a dual role of  $\text{Cl}^-$ -mediated  
422 inhibition, i.e., a moderate, global inhibition and a strong odor- and glomerulus-  
423 specific inhibition, potentially reflecting the various types of inhibitory neurons in the  
424 AL, the global and patchy GABAergic LNs (Chou et al., 2010; Mohamed et al., 2019).

425         Since the spatio-temporal activity of PN ensembles is influenced by inhibitory,  
426 GABAergic LNs (Wilson and Laurent, 2005), we tested whether the Clomeleon  
427 signals were dependent on GABA receptors. Therefore, we performed  $\text{Cl}^-$  imaging  
428 experiments after silencing the inhibitory LN input by applying the GABA<sub>A</sub>-type  
429 antagonist picrotoxin (5 $\mu\text{M}$ ) that blocks ionotropic  $\text{Cl}^-$ -ion channels. In addition to  
430 GABA<sub>A</sub> receptors, picrotoxin has been shown to block also glutamate-gated chloride  
431 channels (GluCl) (Liu and Wilson, 2013). However, at the low concentration used in  
432 this study the antagonist mainly functions as a GABA<sub>A</sub> antagonist without affecting  
433 GluCl channels (Hong and Wilson, 2015). Application of picrotoxin led to a significant  
434 reduction of the odor-induced  $\text{Cl}^-$  signals by on average 59% (**Figure 5D**). This result  
435 indicates that the GABA<sub>A</sub> receptor contributes to the  $\text{Cl}^-$  mediated inhibition at the AL  
436 output level.

437

438 **A comparative functional map of odor-evoked activation and inhibition in the**  
439 **antennal lobe**

440 We next examined the overlap of the odor-evoked inhibitory patterns compared to  
441 the spatial patterns of glomerular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  activities. Therefore, we performed functional  
442 imaging experiments to a variety of different odors and monitored odor-evoked  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$   
443 as well as  $\text{Cl}^-$  responses by expressing Cameleon or Clomeleon in OSNs and PNs,  
444 respectively. Subsequently, we mapped the odor-induced responses to identified  
445 glomeruli to generate a functional AL atlas (**Figure 6**). First, we observed that, in the  
446 majority of cases, the odor-evoked maps of excitation and inhibition closely match at  
447 the input and the output level, i.e., those glomeruli which were excited were also  
448 often inhibited by a certain odor. Such a concordance suggests a gain control  
449 mechanism for odor-induced excitation as described for the OSN level (Olsen and  
450 Wilson, 2008), which should occur in all glomeruli receiving an excitatory input.  
451 Second, we observed that some glomeruli were inhibited without being excited. This  
452 finding suggests a second role of  $\text{Cl}^-$  mediated inhibition in the *Drosophila* AL which  
453 could contribute to confining the spatio-temporal patterns, resulting in an enhanced  
454 contrast between different odor representations as shown for the honeybee AL  
455 (Sachse and Galizia, 2002). Notably, we never observed glomeruli, which were  
456 excited without being inhibited.

457

458 **Input-output transformation**

459 Last, we analyzed the difference between the odor-evoked representations of input  
460 and output neurons for a subgroup of 11 glomeruli that could be unambiguously  
461 identified in each experiment (**Figure 7A**). Since each fluorescent reporter protein  
462 exhibits different kinetics, one has to be careful when comparing temporal dynamics

463 between different sensors. We therefore compared temporal aspects of odor-evoked  
464 responses of different processing levels for one reporter protein only. Quantification  
465 of the evoked mean responses to specific odors showed that excitatory as well as  
466 inhibitory odor responses were, on average, stronger at the PN level than at the  
467 OSN level (**Figure 7B**) which is well in line with electrophysiological recordings  
468 (Wilson and Laurent, 2005; Bhandawat et al., 2007; Seki et al., 2017). To visualize  
469 how the odor-specific responses evolve over time, we applied principal component  
470 analyses to reduce the multidimensional, spatio-temporal activity/inhibition to three  
471 dimensions and illustrated the odor-evoked ensemble activity as trajectories over  
472 time (**Figure 7C**). Independent of the reporter protein, different odors evoked distinct  
473 trajectories, which demonstrates an odor-specific separation of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  as well as  $\text{Cl}^-$   
474 responses at both processing levels, i.e., OSNs and PNs. To quantify how fast this  
475 odor separation evolved, we calculated Euclidean distances between the population  
476 vectors of the different odor representations for Cameleon and Clomeleon signals,  
477 respectively (**Figure 7D,E**, upper panels). Interestingly, PN responses revealed in  
478 general lower Euclidean distances than OSN responses. Although PNs showed an  
479 increased level of inhibition, PNs exhibited generally broader odor-evoked responses  
480 compared to OSNs (Wilson et al., 2004; Seki et al., 2017). This broadening leads to  
481 broader odor tuning curves and a stronger overlap of odor representations at the PN  
482 level (Niewalda et al., 2011; Schubert et al., 2014; Seki et al., 2017), while PN  
483 responses show a higher degree of odor categorization according to behaviorally  
484 meaningful values (Niewalda et al., 2011; Knaden et al., 2012).

485 After normalizing all pair-wise Euclidean distances, we calculated the  
486 latencies to the half maximum odor separation (**Figure 7D,E**, lower panel) and  
487 observed that it was reached significantly earlier in PNs than in OSNs. This finding is

488 in accordance with electrophysiological recordings in *Drosophila* showing that PN  
489 responses have shorter latencies to reach 90% of their response peak than OSNs  
490 (Bhandawat et al., 2007) indicating that PNs act as high-pass filters that rapidly  
491 convey rising OSN responses to third-order neurons. When considering the chloride  
492 responses, this latency shift is even more pronounced for Cl<sup>-</sup> signals. This  
493 observation is most likely due to reciprocal inhibitory mechanisms that differently  
494 affect OSN and PN responses: PNs are inhibited by fast forward inhibition from  
495 OSNs via GABAergic LNs (Wilson and Laurent, 2005) before OSNs receive  
496 presynaptic feedback inhibition from PNs through, in turn, GABAergic LNs (Olsen  
497 and Wilson, 2008; Root et al., 2008).

498

## 499 **Discussion**

### 500 **Clomeleon-based Cl<sup>-</sup> imaging in the *Drosophila* nervous system**

501 Hardly any optical imaging technique reaches the unmatched temporal precision of  
502 electrophysiological recordings as yet, and the determination of membrane potential  
503 changes represents the most accurate approach to determine how sensory stimuli  
504 are represented by single or small groups of neurons (Wilson et al., 2004; Wilson  
505 and Laurent, 2005; Seki et al., 2017). Optical imaging, on the contrary, offers the  
506 advantage of monitoring physiological parameters that correlate with membrane  
507 potential changes across spatio-temporally distributed populations of neurons  
508 (Ahrens et al., 2013; Chen et al., 2013). Membrane depolarization is typically  
509 accompanied by increases in intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> from a variety of sources, and Ca<sup>2+</sup>  
510 imaging represents currently the “gold standard” for visualizing neuronal excitation in  
511 *Drosophila* (Riemensperger et al., 2012). However, neuronal inhibition, most often  
512 mediated by Cl<sup>-</sup> influx, is not directly captured using Ca<sup>2+</sup> imaging. Establishing

513 Clomeleon as a tool for monitoring  $\text{Cl}^-$  dynamics both in the peripheral and central  
514 nervous system provides an important step towards filling this gap. Its ratiometric  
515 nature as a FRET-based sensor demands some additional considerations in contrast  
516 to single chromophore sensors such as calcium reporters belonging to the GCaMP  
517 family (Tian et al., 2009). Especially the size, pH sensitivity, and slow response  
518 dynamics require the future development of a single chromophore chloride sensor,  
519 which hopefully eases its applicability. The development of the  $\text{Cl}^-$  sensor  
520 SuperClomeleon, which still represents a FRET-based sensor, reveals an improved  
521 signal-to-noise ratio and needs to be established for the *Drosophila* olfactory system  
522 (Grimley et al., 2013).

523         It is important to consider that the monitored changes in intracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  and  
524  $\text{Cl}^-$  derive from different cell processes within the neurons. Recorded changes in  
525  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Cl}^-$  can therefore depend on fluxes at the synapse or along the neuron, as  
526 well as release from intracellular calcium stores, which are mediated by ligand-gated  
527 as well as voltage-gated  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Cl}^-$  channels in insects (Messina et al., 1996;  
528 Wicher et al., 2001; Fiala and Spall, 2003; Flores et al., 2006; Pézier et al., 2010).  
529 Since the temporal resolution in functional imaging recordings is rather low  
530 compared to electrophysiological recordings, the different dynamics of these ion  
531 channels are not visible in the fluorescence signal of the different sensors.

532

### 533 **Is $\text{Cl}^-$ influx part of the olfactory signal transduction in insects?**

534 We observed an odor-evoked  $\text{Cl}^-$  influx in OSN dendrites of the *Drosophila* antenna.  
535 In vertebrates,  $\text{Cl}^-$ -conductance is an integral component of the canonical olfactory  
536 signal transduction cascade (Labarrera et al., 2013). Here, odor stimulation leads to  
537 a membrane-current composed of a cationic and a delayed  $\text{Cl}^-$  component

538 (Kurahashi and Yau, 1993). Although  $\text{Cl}^-$ -conductance is in most cases associated  
539 with neuronal inhibition, this  $\text{Cl}^-$  current amplifies the olfactory signal by  $\text{Cl}^-$  efflux  
540 through a  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -activated  $\text{Cl}^-$  channel which is most likely mediated by anoctamin-2  
541 (ANO2) (Lowe and Gold, 1993; Stephan et al., 2009; Delgado et al., 2016). The  
542 insect olfactory signal transduction is crucially different from that of vertebrates in two  
543 aspects: First, olfactory receptors of the OR and IR type are ionotropic receptors  
544 mediating excitatory cation influx (Sato et al., 2008; Wicher et al., 2008; Rytz et al.,  
545 2013). Metabotropic signaling cascades have been clearly described for insect  
546 OSNs, but their exact modulatory functions remain unclear as yet (Wicher et al.,  
547 2008). Second, the equilibrium potential of  $\text{Cl}^-$  ( $E_{\text{Cl}}$ ) in insect OSNs differs from that  
548 of vertebrates. Since  $[\text{Cl}^-]_i$  is lower than in the extracellular medium, as shown in  
549 moths (Steinbrecht, 1992), the electromotive force will lead to a  $\text{Cl}^-$  influx, if the  
550 membrane potential is shifted above  $E_{\text{Cl}}$  (i.e. -36 mV). Hence, when OSNs become  
551 excited, a  $\text{Cl}^-$  influx through  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -activated  $\text{Cl}^-$  channels might result in  
552 hyperpolarization of the plasma membrane (Pézier et al., 2010).

553         Interestingly, dendrites of moth OSNs express an analogous  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -activated  
554  $\text{Cl}^-$  channel that functionally resembles ANO2 (Pézier et al., 2010). The *Drosophila*  
555 *melanogaster* genome contains two different ANO2 orthologues (CG6938, CG10353)  
556 whose molecular function has, however, not yet been studied. Further experiments  
557 are needed to analyze the role of ANO2 in odor-evoked  $\text{Cl}^-$  dynamics in *Drosophila*  
558 OSNs. The fact that the antennal  $\text{Cl}^-$  influx co-occurred frequently with a  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  influx  
559 further suggest the existence of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -activated  $\text{Cl}^-$  channels in the antenna. This type  
560 of  $\text{Cl}^-$ -mediated inhibition might reflect shunting inhibition as a mechanism for gain  
561 control leading to stabilization of odor-evoked excitation (Wilson and Mainen, 2006).

562 In addition, we also observed  $\text{Cl}^-$  influx that was not directly correlated with the  
563 excitation of the respective OSNs, reflecting a second type of  $\text{Cl}^-$  mediated inhibition.  
564 This finding suggests either again the existence of  $\text{Cl}^-$ -channels in OSN dendrites or,  
565 alternatively, a retrograde diffusion of  $\text{Cl}^-$  from the AL. Interestingly, when we  
566 abolished any feedback signaling from the AL we still observed  $\text{Cl}^-$  influx, supporting  
567 the first assumption. However, since the  $\text{Cl}^-$  signals were not identical but reduced,  
568 we assume that  $\text{Cl}^-$  dynamics in OSN dendrites are partly influenced by  $\text{Cl}^-$  influx into  
569 OSN axonal termini in the AL. The latter assumption is further supported by our  
570 observation that applying GABA to the AL induced a significant  $\text{Cl}^-$  influx in the  
571 antenna (data not shown).

572 The comprehensive study by Hallem and Carlson on receptor-ligand  
573 interactions where a widespread inhibition below baseline firing rates among one  
574 third out of 24 selectively expressed ORs was observed (Hallem and Carlson, 2006),  
575 is well in line with our observation of inhibitory odor responses in the *Drosophila*  
576 antenna. Interestingly, OSNs expressing Or47b - known to selectively respond to the  
577 pheromone methyl laurate (Dweck et al., 2015) - were never excited by the large  
578 odor set tested in the aforementioned study, but showed inhibitory responses to 34%  
579 of the odors. Those OSNs target glomerulus VA1d, and we indeed observed clear  
580 odor-evoked  $\text{Cl}^-$  responses in VA1d, while  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -influx did never occur. In addition,  $\text{Cl}^-$   
581 imaging of Or47b-expressing OSNs on the antenna confirms the odor-induced  
582 inhibition of this OSN type. As a second example, benzaldehyde elicited a strong  $\text{Cl}^-$   
583 influx in OSNs expressing Or22a in the antenna without being accompanied by a  
584  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  influx. This odor has already been characterized as an Or22a-inhibitor (Pelz et  
585 al., 2006; Wicher et al., 2008), which strongly suggests that our second type of  $\text{Cl}^-$   
586 mediated inhibition reflects hyperpolarization and thus odor-specific inhibition in the

587 antenna. Therefore, our study demonstrates that inhibitory odor responses of OSNs  
588 are not only generated by a reduction in the intracellular cation concentration leading  
589 to a reduced firing rate as widely assumed, but that they are also carried by an influx  
590 of  $\text{Cl}^-$ . It still remains to be investigated how  $\text{Cl}^-$  channels are integrated in the  
591 olfactory signal transduction machinery of insects.

592

### 593 **Multiple roles of $\text{Cl}^-$ signaling at the antennal lobe network level**

594 Within the insect AL, odor representations are shaped by the inhibitory network of  
595 various types of GABAergic LNs (Sachse and Galizia, 2002; Wilson and Laurent,  
596 2005; Silbering and Galizia, 2007; Hong and Wilson, 2015; Mohamed et al., 2019). It  
597 has been shown that OSNs are presynaptically inhibited by LNs, mediated by both  
598  $\text{GABA}_A$  and  $\text{GABA}_B$  receptors (Olsen and Wilson, 2008; Root et al., 2008). Since  
599  $\text{GABA}_A$  receptors are ligand-activated  $\text{Cl}^-$  channels, they provide a direct molecular  
600 substrate for the  $\text{Cl}^-$  influx in OSNs at the AL level. Likewise, PNs express both  
601  $\text{GABA}_A$  and  $\text{GABA}_B$  receptors (Enell et al., 2007), and their odor responses are  
602 influenced by both receptor types (Wilson and Laurent, 2005; Silbering and Galizia,  
603 2007). Here we confirm the contribution of  $\text{GABA}_A$  receptors pharmacologically for  
604  $\text{Cl}^-$  influx. In addition, our data provide evidence that the synaptic inhibition of PNs is  
605 stronger than that of OSNs, since we clearly see an increase in the number of  
606 inhibited glomeruli from the input to the output level. However, one has to keep in  
607 mind that the sensor dynamics might not reflect the potentially varying dynamics of  
608 the membrane potential in these different neuron types. Chloride ions themselves  
609 have their own dynamics, and potentially those dynamics reflect actual neuronal  
610 dynamics only loosely. Still, our data demonstrates a transformation of odor  
611 representations that is not accessible if only excitation-associated  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  is taken into

612 account. Our findings suggest two distinct types of  $\text{Cl}^-$  signals in the AL, i.e., a global,  
613 moderate inhibition and a strong, cell-type-specific inhibition. This reflects the  
614 structural diversity of GABAergic LNs in the *Drosophila* AL (Chou et al., 2010; Seki et  
615 al., 2010; Hong and Wilson, 2015). The majority of LNs arborizes in most glomeruli,  
616 and therefore evenly distributes the input from most OSN types. Thus, we would  
617 expect that the level of inhibition in each glomerulus should mirror the level of activity  
618 in all glomeruli with varying sensitivities to the GABAergic input (Hong et al. 2015).  
619 This assumption provides a mechanism for global, inhibitory gain control at the  
620 cellular and network level to keep the olfactory circuitry in the operating state across  
621 odorant combinations and concentrations as shown for the zebrafish olfactory bulb  
622 (Zhu et al., 2013).

623       As a second type of  $\text{Cl}^-$  mediated inhibition, we observed  $\text{Cl}^-$  responses that  
624 were not linked to any excitation, and most likely reflect local inhibition that  
625 specifically shapes neuronal information processing, analogous to the mammalian  
626 system (Mori et al., 1999; Urban, 2002). In fact, heterogeneous populations of LNs  
627 innervating only few glomeruli also exist (Chou et al., 2010; Seki et al., 2010), which  
628 might provide the neuronal substrate for such glomerulus- and odor-specific  
629 inhibition. Along that line, recent data provide evidence that patchy, but not global  
630 GABAergic LNs accomplish selective lateral inhibition between specific glomeruli  
631 processing odors with opposing hedonic valences (Mohamed et al., 2019).

632

### 633 **Temporal aspects of odor-evoked chloride responses**

634 The measured odor-induced  $\text{Cl}^-$  and  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  responses reveal different temporal  
635 dynamics. However, the temporal differences between  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ - and  $\text{Cl}^-$ -evoked signals  
636 are difficult to interpret because it is not clear whether they derive from different

637 reporter dynamics or indeed reflect physiological properties. Hence when  
638 considering temporal dynamics, we restricted any comparison of data obtained to  
639 only one reporter protein and therefore compared dynamics of input and output  
640 neurons for Cameleon and Clomeleon separately.

641         Although the chloride influx is clearly odor-induced, it evolves slowly over time  
642 and outlasts the odor stimulation period. Such long-lasting chloride responses are  
643 consistent with observations in mammalian neurons (Kuner and Augustine, 2000;  
644 Berglund et al., 2006) and might reflect the relatively slow rate of  $\text{Cl}^-$  removal from  
645 the neurons (Staley and Proctor, 1999; Berglund et al., 2009; Berglund et al., 2016).  
646 This slow recovery in the  $\text{Cl}^-$  response might affect the excitability of the neuron for a  
647 period significantly outlasting the stimulation. However, as mentioned above, the  
648 kinetics of fluorescence sensors depend on intrinsic parameters of the sensor itself  
649 and firm conclusions about the exact kinetics about the  $\text{Cl}^-$  currents cannot be drawn  
650 as yet.

651

652 **Determining  $\text{Cl}^-$  and  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  representations together provide a more accurate**  
653 **assessment of sensory processing**

654 The importance of synaptic inhibition for accurate behavioral responses to olfactory  
655 stimuli has been demonstrated in different species. Mice show accelerated  
656 discrimination ability when synaptic inhibition of mitral cells is increased by  
657 selectively altering granule cell function (Abraham et al., 2010). In locusts and flies,  
658 disruptive manipulation of the GABAergic AL network reduces the insects' ability to  
659 behaviorally discriminate between similar odors (Stopfer et al., 1997; Barth et al.,  
660 2014). The similarity between glomerular excitation patterns evoked by different  
661 odors often matches with the animals' ability to discriminate between the odors in

662 behavioral tasks (Sachse and Galizia, 2003; Guerrieri et al., 2005; Niewalda et al.,  
663 2011; Barth et al., 2014; Carcaud et al., 2018). In *Drosophila*, the spatiotemporal,  
664 glomerular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  activity patterns at the PN level reflect more accurately the animals'  
665 perception of similarities between odors than the patterns observed at the OSN level  
666 (Niewalda et al., 2011). This difference between OSNs and PNs could, at least partly,  
667 be due to the influence of GABA-mediated inhibition. Determining  $\text{Cl}^-$ -mediated  
668 inhibition across ensembles of neurons in addition to  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -mediated excitation  
669 therefore enables us to more comprehensively and more accurately characterize  
670 sensory processing underlying the perception of olfactory or other sensory stimuli.

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900  
901

902 **Figure Legends**

903 **Figure 1. Clomeleon is a functional chloride indicator in *Drosophila* olfactory**  
904 **neurons.**

905 **A, B**, Schematic of AL neurons indicating expression site of Clomeleon with images  
906 of brain preparation showing Clomeleon YFP baseline fluorescence (**A**: olfactory  
907 sensory neurons, OSNs; **B**: projection neurons, PNs). AL, antennal lobe; CX, calyx;  
908 LP, lateral protocerebrum. **C, D**, Fluorescence change in a representative animal  
909 over time of CFP, YFP and YFP:CFP ratio induced by potassium gluconate  
910 application (K<sub>2</sub>Glu, 1M, 20  $\mu$ l) into saline (300  $\mu$ l) in OSNs (**C**) and PNs (**D**). **E, F**,  
911 Time course of  $[Cl^-]_i$  increase induced by applying K<sub>2</sub>Glu (arrowhead) averaged  
912 across several animals in OSNs (**E**) and PNs (**F**). Color shading indicates standard  
913 deviation, n=6-10. **G, H**, Time courses of  $[Cl^-]_i$  increase induced by GABA application  
914 (1M, 20  $\mu$ l) into saline (300  $\mu$ l) averaged across several animals in OSNs (**G**) and  
915 PNs (**H**). Insets show enlarged area around the time point of GABA application.  
916 Dashed lines mark the biphasic response threshold. Color shading indicates  
917 standard deviation, n=6-9. **I**, Effect of  $Cl^-$  free saline application on  $Cl^-$  changes  
918 evoked by ethyl-3-hydroxybutyrate in OSNs. Box plots represent median value  
919 (horizontal line inside the box), interquartile range (box) and minimum/maximum  
920 value (whiskers). Removing  $Cl^-$  significantly reduced the Clomeleon signal  
921 (\*\*p<0.001, repeated measures ANOVA, n=13). **J**, Effect of chloride channel  
922 blocker NPPB (500  $\mu$ M) application on  $Cl^-$  signals evoked by ethyl-3-hydroxybutyrate  
923 in OSNs (\*\*p<0.01, \*p<0.05, repeated measures ANOVA, n=7). **K**, Quantification of  
924 Clomeleon baseline fluorescence in OSNs at different saline pH in relation to  
925 standard condition (i.e. pH=7.3). Arrangement of different box plots from left to right

926 reflects temporal sequence of the experiment ( $p=0.144$ , repeated measures ANOVA,  
927  $n=11$ ).

928

929 **Figure 2. Odor application induces spatially confined chloride influx in**  
930 **olfactory sensory neurons in the *Drosophila* antenna.**

931 **A**, Network model scheme of neuronal connectivity in the fly AL. **B**, Clomeleon YFP  
932 baseline fluorescence in OSN dendrites in the *Drosophila* antenna (Ant).

933 **C**, Schematic of olfactory sensilla distribution on the third antennal segment. Sensilla  
934 marked in green are labeled by *Orco-Gal4*. **D**, Pseudocolor rendering of odor-evoked  
935 changes in  $\text{Cl}^-$  concentration using Clomeleon (upper row) and in  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  concentration

936 using Cameleon (lower row) in response to different odors and mineral oil in OSN in  
937 the antenna. Images represent  $\Delta R/R$  (%) superimposed onto raw fluorescence

938 images according to the scales and color codes on the right. Time courses on the  
939 right reveal representative  $\text{Cl}^-$  and  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  signals for different odors across the entire

940 antennal segment. Odor application is indicated by a grey bar. **E**, Quantification of  
941  $\text{Cl}^-$  (left) and  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  (right) responses to different odors and mineral oil (n.s., not  
942 significant from solvent; repeated measures ANOVA followed by Dunnett Multiple

943 Comparisons Test,  $n=8$ ). **F**, Maximum intensity projection of Clomeleon expressed in

944 the antenna under the control of *Or47b-Gal4*. Time courses of normalized  $\text{Cl}^-$   
945 responses to the solvent control mineral oil and ethyl-3-hydroxybutyrate ( $n=8$ ). **G**,

946 Schematic of the connection between the antenna and AL via the antennal nerve  
947 (AN), which was disrupted here. Time course of normalized  $\text{Cl}^-$  responses to ethyl-3-

948 hydroxybutyrate in 3 animals of the left antenna (AN intact, solid line) and right  
949 antenna after the right antennal nerve was cut (AN cut, dotted line). Lines indicate

950 means, color shading gives SEM ( $*p < 0.05$ , two-way ANOVA).

951

952 **Figure 3. An odor-specific spatial map of chloride responses in antennal lobe**  
953 **sensory neurons.**

954 **A**, Schematic illustrating the expression site of Clomeleon (AL, antennal lobe; AN,  
955 antennal nerve; CX, calyx; LP, lateral protocerebrum). **B**, Left, Clomeleon YFP  
956 baseline fluorescence in axon termini of OSNs in the AL with anatomical  
957 identification of individual glomeruli. Right, schematic AL map viewed from the angle  
958 used for imaging experiments. Glomeruli marked in orange could reliably be  
959 identified. AC, antennal commissure. **C**, Pseudocolor rendering of Cl<sup>-</sup> responses to  
960 different odors and mineral oil in OSN axon termini in the AL of two different  
961 individuals. Images represent  $\Delta R/R$  (%) superimposed onto raw fluorescence images  
962 according to the scales on the right. Numbers in each image represent individual  
963 fluorescence minimum. Glomerular positions are shown in the first image; glomeruli  
964 revealing highest Cl<sup>-</sup> increase are indicated in each image. The minimum of the  
965 scaling is indicated in each frame in the upper right corner. **D**, Time courses of Cl<sup>-</sup>  
966 influx for each odor and mineral oil averaged across 6-9 animals. Individual glomeruli  
967 are indicated by different colors, odor stimulation is marked in grey. **E**, False color  
968 pictures of averaged odor-evoked Cl<sup>-</sup> signals for 14 glomeruli (42% of all glomeruli  
969 labeled by *Orco-Gal4*) over time across 6-9 animals. Clomeleon responses were  
970 normalized to highest Cl<sup>-</sup> influx in each animal over all odors before averaging. Black  
971 bar indicates odor application. **F-H**, Representative time courses of Cl<sup>-</sup> influx to  
972 repeated stimulations of ethyl-3-hydroxybutyrate using interstimulus intervals of 10 s  
973 (**F**), 60 s (**G**) or 120 s (**H**). Odor stimulations are marked in grey.

974

975 **Figure 4. Chloride responses are modulated on their way from the antenna to**  
976 **the antennal lobe.**

977 **A**, Left, schematic of the third antennal segment illustrating selective expression of  
978 Cameleon or Clomeleon in dendrites and somata of Or22a-expressing OSNs. Right,  
979 averaged time courses of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  (upper row) and  $\text{Cl}^-$  influx (lower row) in Or22a-  
980 expressing OSNs in the fly antenna to 3 different odors. Odor stimulation is indicated  
981 in grey. Lines represent means, color shadings represent SEM (n=6-7). **B**, Left,  
982 schematic of the *Drosophila* AL indicating selective expression of Cameleon or  
983 Clomeleon in axonal termini of Or22a-expressing OSNs which converge to  
984 glomerulus DM2. Right, averaged time courses of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  (upper row) and  $\text{Cl}^-$  influx  
985 (lower row) in DM2 to 3 different odors. Odor stimulation is marked in grey. Lines  
986 represent means, color shading represents SEM (n=6). **C,D**, Quantification of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$   
987 (**C**) and  $\text{Cl}^-$  (**D**) influx in Or22a-expressing OSNs to 3 different odors and mineral oil.  
988 Data are shown as pair-wise comparisons between antenna (Or22a) and AL (DM2).  
989 Clomeleon and Cameleon responses have been normalized to highest  $\text{Cl}^-$  or  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$   
990 influx in each animal over all odors, respectively.  $\text{Cl}^-$  responses to ethyl-3-  
991 hydroxybutyrate and benzaldehyde are significantly lower in the AL compared to the  
992 antenna (\*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ , Mann-Whitney test, n=6-7).

993

994 **Figure 5. GABA<sub>A</sub> receptors contribute to odor-evoked chloride responses in**  
995 **projection neurons.**

996 **A**, Left, schematic illustrating expression site of Clomeleon. Middle, AL map viewed  
997 from the angle that was used for imaging. Glomeruli indicated in green could reliably  
998 be identified. Right, contra lateral AL including reliably identified glomeruli. APT,  
999 antenno-protocerebral tract. **B**, Pseudocolor rendering of representative  $\text{Cl}^-$

1000 responses to different odors and mineral oil in PN dendrites in the AL. Images  
1001 represent  $\Delta R/R$  (%) superimposed onto raw fluorescence images according to the  
1002 scale on the right. Numbers in each image give the individual fluorescence minimum.  
1003 Glomerular positions are shown in the first image; individual glomeruli revealing  
1004 highest  $Cl^-$  increase are indicated in each image. **C**, False color pictures of averaged  
1005 odor-evoked  $Cl^-$  signals for 12 identified glomeruli (40% of all glomeruli labeled by  
1006 *GH146-Gal4*) over time across 9-11 animals. Clomeleon responses were normalized  
1007 to highest  $Cl^-$  influx in each animal over all odors before averaging. Black bar  
1008 indicates the odor application. **D**, Quantification of  $Cl^-$  influx to ethyl-3-  
1009 hydroxybutyrate in PNs before, during and after applying of picrotoxin. The  $GABA_A$   
1010 receptor blocker significantly reduces odor-evoked  $Cl^-$  responses (\*\* $p < 0.01$ , repeated  
1011 measures ANOVA,  $n=9$ ).

1012

1013 **Figure 6. A functional map of odor-evoked inhibition and excitation.**

1014 **A,B**, Averaged odor-evoked  $Cl^-$  (left, in blue) and  $Ca^{2+}$  (right, in red) responses in  
1015 OSNs (**A**) and PNs (**B**) are represented as schematic ALs for 11 odors according to  
1016 the scales below. Responses were normalized to highest  $Cl^-$  or  $Ca^{2+}$  influx in each  
1017 animal over all odors. Glomerular identities are indicated by AL maps at the top. AC,  
1018 antennal commissure; AN, antennal nerve; ALT, antennal lobe tract.

1019

1020 **Figure 7. Input-output transformation of odor-evoked  $Ca^{2+}$  and  $Cl^-$  responses.**

1021 **A**, False colored activity of averaged odor-evoked  $Ca^{2+}$  (white-yellow-red) and  $Cl^-$   
1022 (white-green-blue) influx to different odors for the same set of glomeruli in OSNs  
1023 (upper panels) and PNs (lower panels) over time. Responses were normalized to  
1024 highest  $Cl^-$  or  $Ca^{2+}$  influx in each animal over all odors before averaging. Black bars

1025 indicate odor application. **B**, Time courses of mean excitation (above, red) and  
1026 inhibition (below, blue) to different odors averaged over all glomeruli and animals for  
1027 OSNs (solid line) and PNs (dotted line). Odor stimulation is given by a grey bar.  
1028 Cameleon, n=7; Clomeleon, n=9-11. **C**, Odor separation visualized using principal  
1029 component analysis. Plotting the first three principal components reveals odor  
1030 specific trajectories of ensemble activity in OSNs (upper panels) and PNs (lower  
1031 panels). **D**, *Upper two panels*, time-resolved Euclidean distances between population  
1032 vectors of different odor representations using Cameleon. Odor stimulation is  
1033 marked in grey. Distances were calculated separately for OSN (solid lines) and PN  
1034 (dotted lines) responses. Individual pair-wise odor distances are given by thin lines,  
1035 averaged Euclidean distances are shown in bold. *Lower panel*, latency to half  
1036 maximal odor separation based on normalized Euclidean distances for 10 pair-wise  
1037 odor combinations (individual lines in **B**) for  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  signals in OSNs and PNs. PNs  
1038 reach half maximum odor separation significantly earlier than OSNs (\*\* $p < 0.001$ ,  
1039 two-tailed paired t-test; n=7). **E**, Same as in **D** for Clomeleon-derived odor responses.  
1040 Half maximum odor separation based on odor-evoked  $\text{Cl}^-$  responses occurs  
1041 significantly earlier in PNs than in OSNs ( $*p < 0.05$ , two-tailed paired t-test; n=9-11).

Figure 1

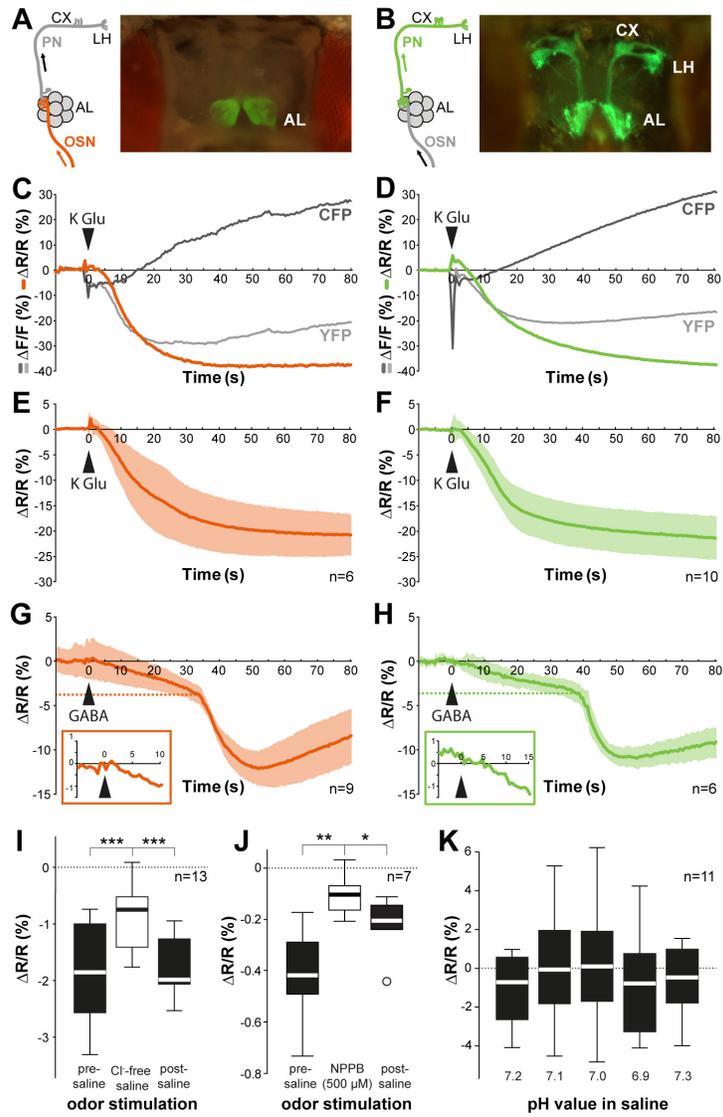


Figure 2

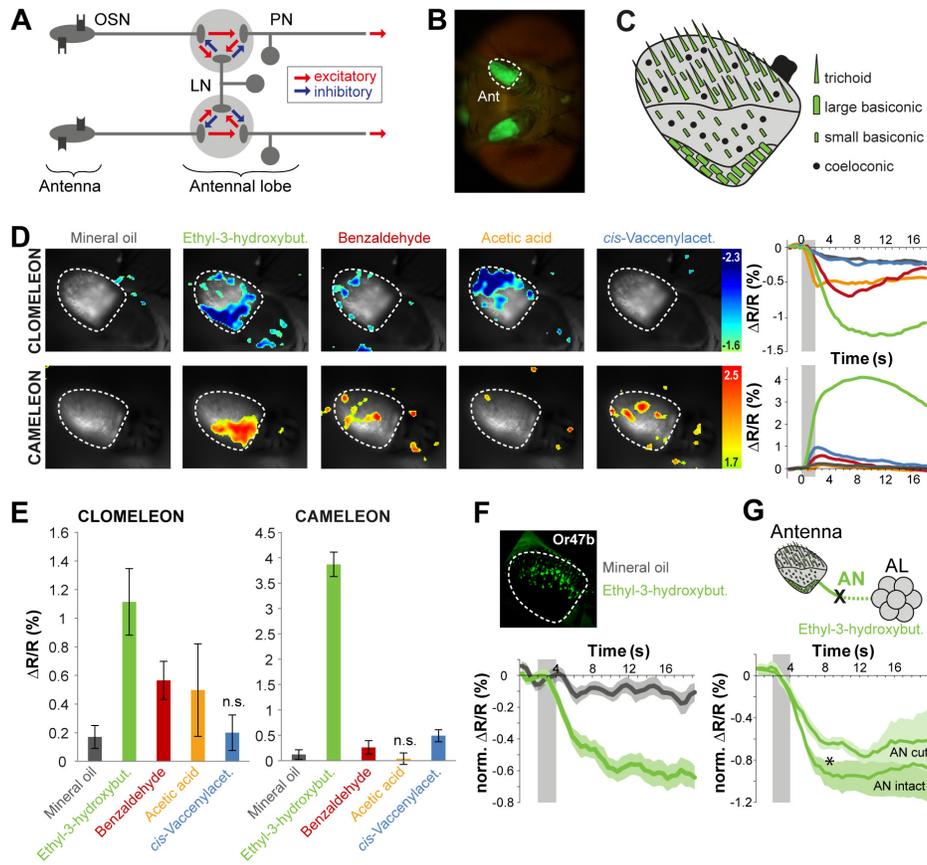


Figure 3

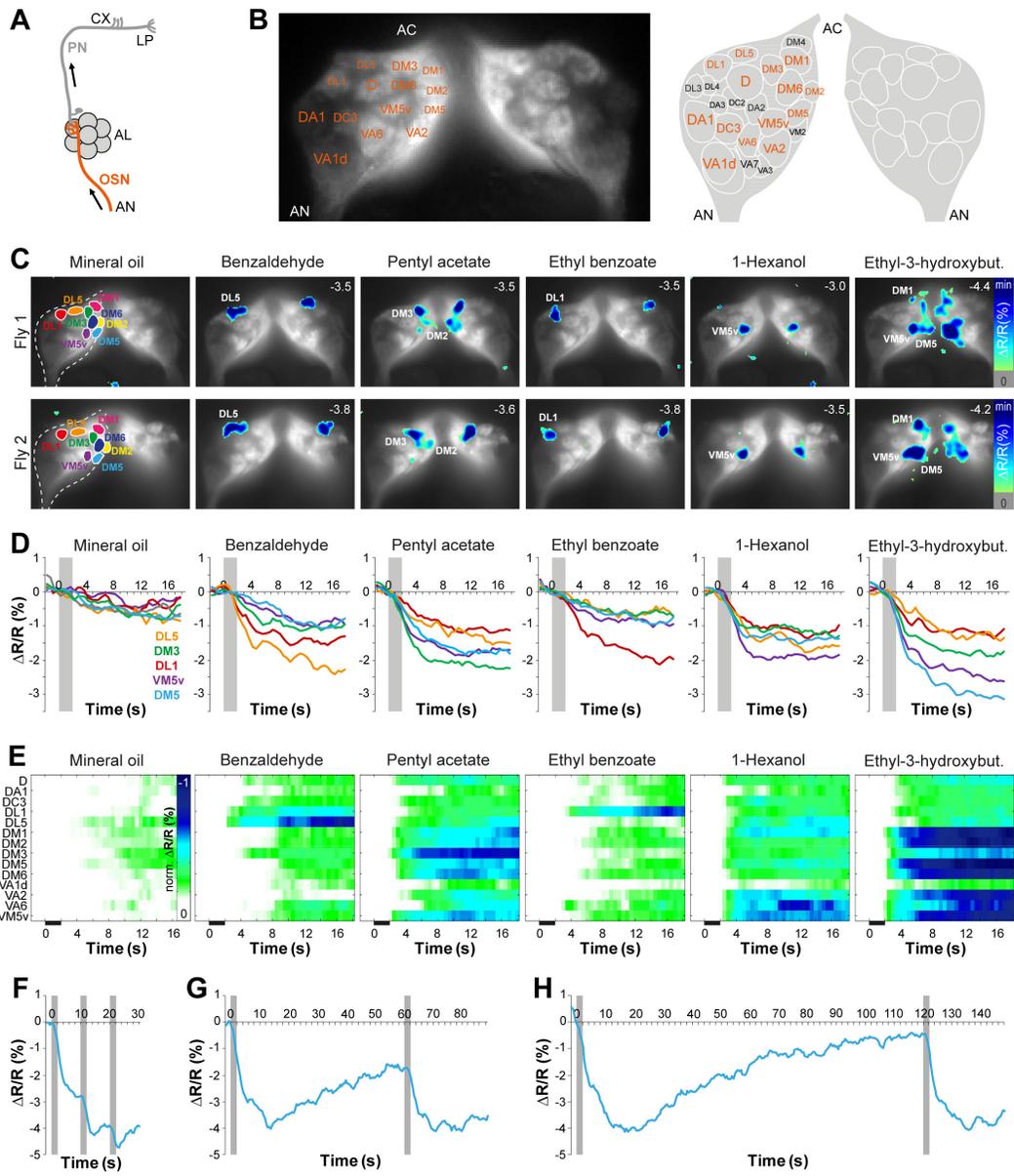


Figure 4

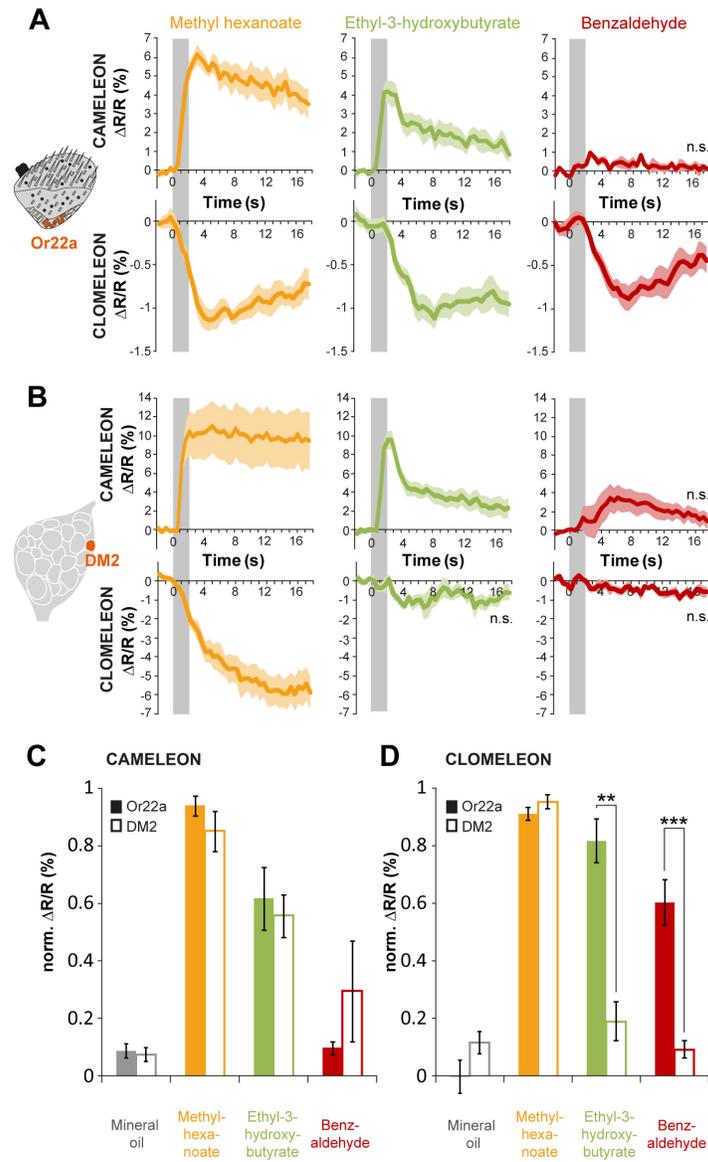


Figure 5

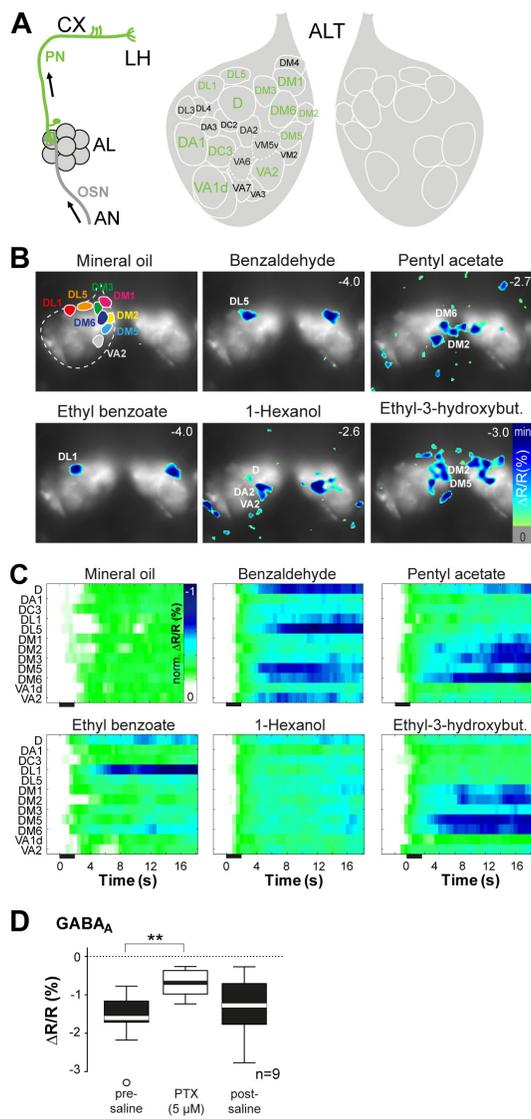


Figure 6

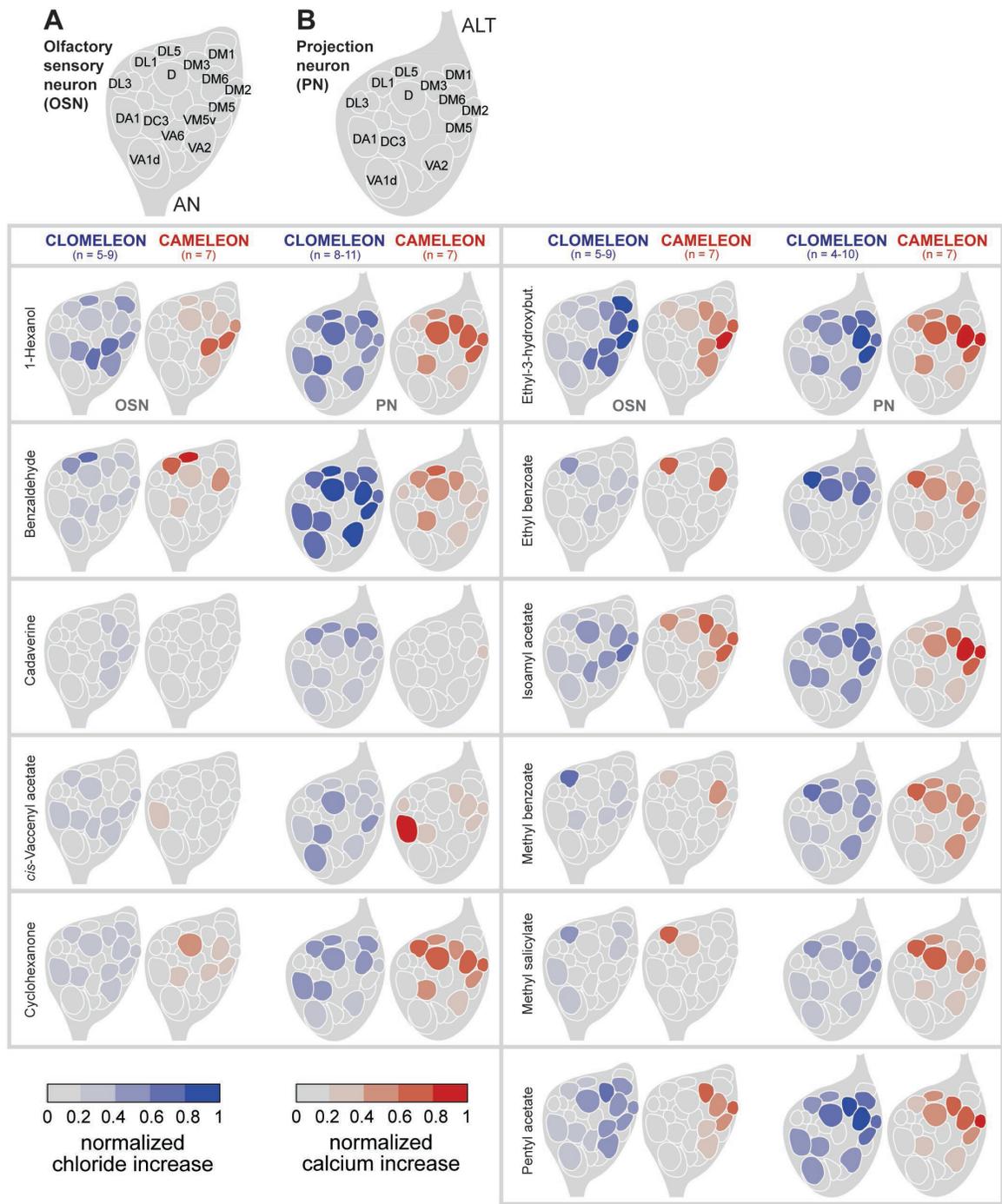


Figure 7

