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1	Aversive Training Induces Both Pre- and Postsynaptic Suppression in Drosophila
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55 84	Author Contributions
7	

X.Z., N.C.N. and R.L.D. planned all of the experiments. X.Z. performed the olfactory
memory experiments and *in vivo* imaging experiments with GCaMP6f. He analyzed the
data and wrote the initial draft of the manuscript along with N.C.N. X.Z. and N.C.N.
performed the *in vivo* imaging experiments with GACh. J.Z. and Y.L. constructed the
GACh reporter and transgenic flies. R.L.D. oversaw the execution of the project,

40 contributed to the interpretation of the data and edited the manuscript.

⁴¹ 42

44 Abstract

45 The α'β' subtype of Drosophila mushroom body neurons (MBn) is required for memory 46 acquisition, consolidation and early memory retrieval after aversive olfactory 47 conditioning. However, in vivo functional imaging studies have failed to detect an early 48 forming memory trace in these neurons as reflected by an enhanced G-CaMP signal in 49 response to presentation of the learned odor. Moreover, whether cellular memory traces 50 form early after conditioning in the mushroom body output neurons (MBOn) downstream 51 of the $\alpha'\beta'$ MBn remains unknown. Here, we show that aversive olfactory conditioning 52 suppresses the calcium responses to the learned odor in both α '3 and α '2 axon 53 segments of $\alpha'\beta'$ MBn and in the dendrites of $\alpha'3$ MBOn immediately after conditioning 54 using female flies. Notably, the cellular memory traces in both α '3 MBn and α '3 MBOn 55 are short-lived and persist for less than 30 min. The suppressed response in α '3 MBn is 56 accompanied by a reduction of acetylcholine (ACh) release, suggesting that the 57 memory trace in postsynaptic α '3 MBOn may simply reflect the suppression in 58 presynaptic α '3 MBn. Furthermore, we show that the α '3 MBn memory trace does not 59 occur from the inhibition of GABAergic neurons via GABAA receptor activation. Since 60 activation of the a'3 MBOn drives approach behavior of adult flies, our results 61 demonstrate that aversive conditioning promotes avoidance behavior through 62 suppression of the α '3 MBn-MBOn circuit.

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68 Significance Statement

- 69 Drosophila learn to avoid an odor if that odor is repeatedly paired with electric shock.
- 70 Mushroom body neurons (MBn) are known to be major cell types that mediate this form
- of aversive conditioning. Here we show that aversive conditioning causes a reduced
- 72 response to the conditioned odor in an axon branch of one subtype of the MBn for no
- more than 30 min after conditioning, and in the dendrites of post-synaptic, MB output
- 74 neurons (MBOn). Since experimenter-induced activation of the MBOn induces approach
- 75 behavior by the fly, our data support a model that aversive learning promotes avoidance
- ⁷⁶ by suppressing the MBn-MBOn synapses that normally promote attraction.

77 Introduction

Animals learn to avoid a neutral stimulus that is repeatedly coupled with an unpleasant 78 79 one. This type of learning, aversive associative learning, induces cellular memory traces 80 in engram cells in the brain and changes the representation of the neutral stimulus 81 (Davis, 2011; Tonegawa et al., 2015). In Drosophila, several memory traces detected 82 with the calcium indicator G-CaMP have been observed in the mushroom body (MB), a 83 brain region critical for olfactory learning and memory (Davis, 1993; Yu et al., 2006; 84 Wang et al., 2008; Davis, 2011; Cervantes-Sandoval et al., 2013). These memory 85 traces are detectable across discrete time periods extending from 30 min to several 86 days after training. However, memory traces that form immediately in the MB after conditioning have not been detected with *in vivo* Ca²⁺ imaging. 87

88

89 The MB is composed of ~2,000 intrinsic neurons in each hemisphere that integrates 90 olfactory cues received from antennal lobe projection neurons with aversive or 91 rewarding stimuli from two clusters (PPL1, PAM) of dopamine neurons (DAns) 92 (Schwaerzel et al., 2003; Mao and Davis, 2009; Claridge-Chang et al., 2009; Aso et al., 93 2012; Burke et al., 2012; Liu et al., 2012). MBn are classified into three major subtypes -94 $\alpha'\beta', \alpha\beta$, and γ neurons, based on their birth order and projection patterns of their axons 95 in the brain (Crittenden et al., 1998; Lee et al., 1999). The axons of $\alpha'\beta'$ and $\alpha\beta$ MBn 96 bifurcate and project within the vertical α'/α lobe and horizontal β'/β lobe neuropil, while 97 the axons of y neurons project only within the horizontal y lobe neuropil. Although each 98 of these MBn subtypes contributes to aversive olfactory memory, they do so at different 99 times after conditioning (Cervantes-Sandoval et al., 2013), with synaptic transmission

from the $\alpha'\beta'$ and γ MBn required for robust expression of early and intermediate-term memory (immediate to 3 hr) and synaptic transmission from the $\alpha\beta$ MBn having a more pronounced role for memory expression after 3 hr. Importantly, although the $\alpha'\beta'$ MBn are required for memory acquisition, consolidation and early memory retrieval (Krashes et al., 2007; Cervantes-Sandoval et al., 2013), no immediate memory trace in $\alpha'\beta'$ MBn has been detected using *in vivo* Ca²⁺ imaging (Wang et al., 2008).

106

107 Five different types of MB output neurons (MBOns) tile the $\alpha'\beta'$ lobe with their dendritic 108 trees into five discrete compartments, matching the tiling by axon terminals from 109 presynaptic DAn (Mao and Davis, 2009; Aso et al., 2014a). Several of these MBOns are 110 required for aversive memory or appetitive memory expression, and intermediate-term 111 memory traces (~1-2 hr after conditioning) have been detected in some of these 112 neurons (Séjourné et al., 2011; Owald et al., 2015). However, early memory traces have 113 not been documented in these MBOns, and the relationship between such putative 114 traces and those in the presynaptic MBn is unexplored. Connectome studies revealed 115 that DAns make direct connection with MBOns (Eichler et al., 2017; Takemura et al., 116 2017), opening the possibility that MBOns form traces independently of the MBn. 117 118 Here, we show that a cellular memory trace forms immediately after conditioning in the 119 MBn axons occupying the α '3 compartment and in the downstream α '3 MBOn. 120 Functional Ca²⁺ imaging reveals that aversive conditioning suppresses subsequent

121 responses to the learned odor in both the presynaptic α '3 compartment and the

122 postsynaptic α '3 MBOn across a similar time period, suggestive of a causal relationship.

123 *In vivo* ACh imaging revealed that the suppressed Ca^{2+} responses are accompanied by 124 reduced ACh release in the α '3 compartment, supporting the model that the α '3 MBOn 125 memory trace occurs from suppressed presynaptic activity. We also show that the 126 conditioning-induced suppression in the α '3 compartment does not occur from 127 increased inhibition through the RdI GABA_A receptor, indicating that mechanisms other 128 than RdI receptor activation are responsible for the suppression of activity.

130 Materials and Methods

131 *Fly Husbandry:* Fly stocks were cultured on standard food at room temperature.

Crosses were kept at 25°C with 70% relative humidity and a 12 hr light, 12 hr dark cycle
except for the *shibire^{ts}* experiments in which flies were raised on standard food at 23°C
until training and testing (see below for details). Fly lines used in this study include w¹¹¹⁸
(BDSC, 3605), *c305a-gal4* (Krashes et al., 2007), *MB027B split gal4* (Aso et al., 2014b), *20XUAS-IVS-GCaMP6f* (Chen et al., 2013), *20XUAS-shibire^{ts}* (Pfeiffer et al., 2012), *UAS-mCD::GFP* (BDSC, 32197), *UAS-Rdli8-10* (Liu et al., 2007), *UAS-GACh4.4* (Jing
et al., 2018).

139

Behavioral Experiments: We used 2-6 day old flies of mixed gender for behavior experiments. Standard aversive olfactory associative conditioning was performed as described (Beck et al., 2000). About 50-60 flies were equilibrated in a room dimly lit with red light and with ~70% humidity for >30 min in fresh food vials. Then they were loaded into a training tube where they received the following stimuli in sequence: 30 sec air, 1 min of an odor (CS+) paired with 12 electric shock pulses at 90 V (1.25 sec each pulse;

146	12 pulses, 30 V in Figure 6B), 30 sec of air, 1 min of a second odor (CS-) without
147	shocks, 30 sec air. We used 4-methylcyclohexanol (MCH) and 3-octanol (OCT) as
148	odors for conditioning. To measure 3 min memory, flies were transferred into a T-maze
149	where they were allowed to choose between two arms containing the two odors for 2
150	min. The performance index (PI) was calculated as (number of flies choosing the correct
151	arm) - (number of flies choosing the incorrect arm) / (total number of flies). A PI = 1
152	means that all flies choose the correct arm, and a PI = 0 means that the flies choose
153	equally between the two arms. To measure memory at a later time, flies were
154	transferred back to food vial until testing. For <i>shibire^{ts}</i> experiments, flies were trained in
155	23°C, then they were transferred to 30°C (for <i>shibire^{ts}</i> activation) or 23°C (Ctrl)
156	immediately after training until testing of 15 min memory at that temperature.
157	
158	In Vivo Imaging: We used a customized chamber for in vivo training and imaging
159	(Figure 1B) similar to that used in a previous report (Berry et al., 2018). Briefly, a single
160	female fly was aspirated into a 200 μI pipette tip cut to allow only the head to be
161	exposed. Females are used only because of their larger size. The proboscis of the fly

was secured in the retracted position with myristic acid to reduce the movement of the brain during imaging. The fly was then located in a narrow slot cut from the lid of a 5 cm petri dish. A small piece of stainless steel foil with a hole in it was glued to a 5 cm petri dish and covered the slot and the fly to expose the head. The head was glued to the foil with UV glue; the antenna underneath the foil remained free of glue. A small optical window was cut in the head cuticle to expose the brain and the head was then covered

168 with fresh saline (124 mM NaCl, 3 mM KCl, 20 mM MOPS, 1.5 mM CaCl₂, 4 mM

MgCl₂·6H₂O, 5 mM NaHCO₃, 1 mM NaH₂PO₄·H₂O, 10 mM trehalose, 7 mM sucrose, 10 mM glucose, pH 7.2). Then the petri dish with the fly was attached to a base platform with magnets. To deliver electric shock pulses to the fly, a custom shock platform made with shock grids used in standard aversive training was secured to the base platform so that the fly legs were in contact but with sufficient room so that the fly could temporarily break the contact.

175

176 The fly was positioned such that the α ' lobe neuropil was in the vertical line of the 177 objective lens in order to facilitate distinguishing the α '3 and α '2 compartments. In this 178 position, the α '3 compartment appears first as a crescent-shaped object with successive 179 Z steps in the ventral direction. Moving ventrally, a donut-shaped ring comes into focus. 180 We defined the α '3 region as essentially half the distance between the dorsal tip of the α ' 181 lobe neuropil and the ring. The ring disappears with deeper imaging, being replaced by 182 a triangular region of fluorescence. We defined the α '2 compartment for imaging 183 purposes as the triangular region. Further down, the fluorescence region becomes 184 circular and then eventually merges at the junction area with the β lobe. These 185 definitions are consistent with our immunostaining results showing the MBn $\alpha'3/\alpha'3$ 186 MBOn compartment with MB027B split gal4 (Figure 4) and the MB compartments 187 illustrated in the literature (Aso et al., 2014b).

188

To deliver odors (MCH and OCT) to the fly, 100 ml/min air stream was diverted from flowing through a 20 ml glass vial containing 10 ml mineral oil to flow through a 20 ml

191 glass vial containing 10 ml 1X10⁻³ dilution of odorant in mineral oil. This air stream was

192 then blended into a 1000 ml/min fresh air stream before reaching the fly through a \sim 3 193 mm glass pipette positioned approximately 1 cm from the fly's antenna. After dissection, 194 the flies were allowed to rest for 3 min under the microscope before odor exposure. For 195 GCaMP6f and GACh imaging, 5 sec of each odor was delivered to the flies with a 30 196 sec interstimulus interval to confirm that the fly was alive and responding. Then, each fly 197 was presented with 2 pulses of 5 sec odor A (MCH or OCT) and 2 pulses of 5 sec odor 198 B (OCT or MCH) ("Pre" response) in alternating order. Each odor stimulus was 199 separated by 30 sec of fresh air. In the paired training protocol, flies were trained using a schedule identical to the protocol described for behavior (above) starting 5 min after 200 201 the Pre odor exposure. For the unpaired training protocol, 1 min of electric shock pulses 202 was presented 2 min after the Pre odor exposure (Figure 1C). Following training, the 203 flies were presented with another set of 2 pulses of 5 sec odor A and 2 pulses of 5 sec 204 odor B ("Post") identical to the "Pre" stimulation.

205

206 A Leica TCS SP8 confocal microscope with a 488 nm argon laser and 25X water-207 immersion objective was used for imaging. Imaging began 1 min before the first 5 sec 208 odor exposure and ended 30 sec after last 5 sec odor exposure for both Pre and Post 209 recording. Images were collected with a HyD detector (495-545 nm) at 2 Hz at a 210 resolution of 256X256 pixels. The baseline fluorescence F_0 was calculated as the 211 average fluorescence across the 5 sec prior to each odor exposure. Odor responses 212 were calculated as the average fluorescence (normalized to F₀ for each frame) within 5 213 sec odor presentation. Responses to the two pulses of the same odor in Pre and Post 214 tests were then averaged as the Pre or Post response for each fly.

216	<i>Immunostaining:</i> For the immunostaining of GFP driven by <i>c305a-gal4</i> and <i>MB027B-</i>
217	gal4 (Figure 1A and Figure 4A), whole brains were isolated and processed as described
218	(Jenett et al., 2012). The primary antibodies used were rabbit anti-GFP (1:1000,
219	ThermoFisher, cat# A11122) and mouse anti-nc82 (1:50, DSHB, RRID: AB2314866).
220	The secondary antibodies used were goat anti-rabbit IgG conjugated to Alexa Fluor 488
221	(1:800, ThermoFisher, cat# A11008) and goat anti-mouse IgG conjugated to Alexa
222	Fluor 633 (1:500, ThermoFisher, cat# A21052). Images were collected using a 10X
223	objective with a Leica TCS SP8 confocal microscope with 488 and 633 nm laser
224	excitation. The step size was 1 μm and images were collected at a resolution of
225	515X512 pixels.

226

227 Experimental Design and Statistical Analysis: For behavioral experiments, a mixture of 228 both male and female flies was used. For in vivo imaging, only female flies were used 229 because of their larger size. Statistical analyses were performed using Prism 5 230 (Graphpad). All tests were two tailed and confidence levels were set at $\alpha = 0.05$. Non-231 parametric tests were used for imaging data, while parametric tests were used for 232 olfactory memory scores (PI) as the values are normally distributed (Walkinshaw et al., 233 2015). Sample sizes and statistical tests used for each experiment are listed in the 234 figure legends.

236 Results

Aversive olfactory conditioning transiently suppresses responses to the learned odor in the axons of α'β' MBn

239 Since prior behavioral studies demonstrated that the output of $\alpha'\beta'$ MBn is required 240 during acquisition, consolidation and retrieval of memories at early times after 241 conditioning, we searched for memory traces in the axons of these neurons to identify 242 the plasticity that might underlie this requirement (Krashes et al., 2007; Wang et al., 243 2008; Tan et al., 2010; Cervantes-Sandoval et al., 2013). There are five compartments 244 in $\alpha'\beta'$ lobe neuropil (Figure 1A), defined by the connections made with presynaptic 245 modulatory DAn axons and the dendritic trees of postsynaptic MBOns (Mao and Davis, 246 2009; Aso et al., 2014a, 2014b). We first focused on the α '3 region. To detect possible 247 changes in odor responses in the α '3 compartment due to associative conditioning, we 248 employed in vivo functional imaging, training the flies under the confocal microscope 249 and recording odor responses before (Pre) and after (Post) training (Figure 1B and 1C). 250 We used a paired training protocol consisting of 12 pulses electric shock at 90V (US) 251 presented simultaneously with a 1 min presentation of an odor (CS+) followed by a 252 second unpaired odor (CS-) with a 30 sec inter-odor interval. To control for non-253 associative effects, we employed a protocol in which the CS+ and US were explicitly 254 unpaired (Figure 1C). We validated our paired and unpaired training protocols using 255 behavioral assays. The paired training protocol induced robust memory for the CS+ at 256 both 3 min and 1 hr after training, whereas, the unpaired training protocol produced no 257 memory at either timepoint (Figure 1D).

259	Prior to conditioning, the MBn axons in the α '3 compartment showed robust Ca ²⁺
260	responses to the two odors used as CS+ or CS-, 4-methylcyclohexanol (MCH) and 3-
261	octanol (OCT), detected with the reporter GCaMP6f expressed using the $\alpha'\beta'$ MBn
262	driver, c305a-gal4 (Figure 1A and 1E). When we paired MCH (CS+) with 12 pulses
263	electric shock followed by OCT without shock (CS-), we surprisingly observed a strong
264	suppression of the Ca ²⁺ response in α '3 compartment to MCH but not OCT at 3 min
265	after pairing (Figure 1E and 1F). This suppression was pairing specific since the
266	suppression was not observed in unpaired group (Figure 1F). In addition, the
267	suppression was not odor specific since we observed a significant suppression using
268	OCT as CS+ and MCH as CS- (Figure 1G). A weaker training protocol with 6 pulses of
269	30V electric shock also induced significant suppression to CS+ in α '3 compartment
270	(Figure 1H).

272 We then measured the duration of the suppressed response. For this, we imaged the 273 responses in the a'3 compartment at 15, 30, and 45 min after paired and unpaired 274 conditioning and compared them with pre-conditioning responses. We found that the 275 suppression in the α '3 compartment persisted to 15 min but was absent at 30 and 45 276 min after conditioning (Figure 2A, MCH as CS+). We observed the same time course 277 using OCT as CS+ (Figure 2B). We note that the post-training responses tended to 278 increase with time when compared to pre-training responses for both odors and in both 279 paired and unpaired groups (Figure 2A and 2B). The source of this drift is unknown, but 280 the critical measure is the difference between the paired and unpaired conditions. 281 Together, these results demonstrate that aversive olfactory conditioning induces a very

early cellular memory trace in the α'3 compartment that is registered as a suppressed
response specifically to the trained odor. This memory trace is transient and persists for
less than 30 min.

285

The α'β' MBn, α'2 neuropil compartment also shows conditioning-induced suppression in CS+ odor responses

288 We next asked if the conditioning-induced suppression is specific to the α '3

289 compartment or whether it generalizes to the vertical axons of the $\alpha'\beta'$ MBn. Like the

290 axonal segments in the α '3 compartment, those in the α '2 compartment region (Figure

3A) are also innervated by DAn of the PPL1 cluster (Mao and Davis, 2009; Aso et al.,

292 2014a). In addition, activation of α'3 MBOn and α'2 MBOn both drive approach behavior,

shown by the fly's preference to the light used to stimulate these neurons with

294 CsChrimson (Aso et al., 2014a). Indeed, we observed a significant suppression to the

295 CS+ in the α'2 compartment at 3 min using the paired but not the unpaired conditioning

296 protocol (Figure 3B and 3C, OCT as CS+). In addition, the suppression generalized to

297 the other odor when used as CS+ (Figure 3D). The α '1 compartment may also show a

298 similar memory trace, but this region was difficult to resolve. The combined results

299 reveal that olfactory aversive conditioning suppresses Ca²⁺ responses in the axon

300 segments of the $\alpha'\beta'$ MBn residing in the $\alpha'3$ and $\alpha'2$ compartments.

301

Aversive olfactory conditioning transiently suppresses responses to the learned
 odor in the dendrites of α'3 MBOn

304 Because the dendrites of the α '3 MBOn innervate the α '3 compartment (Figure 4A), we 305 wondered whether the suppressed responses of the axonal segments of $\alpha'\beta'$ MBn in the 306 α '3 compartment would be transmitted to the α '3 MBOn. This was the simplest model, 307 assuming direct innervation and transfer of information from MBn to MBOn. However, 308 given the complexity of this neuropil, which contains the processes of $\alpha'\beta'$ MBn, PPL1 309 DAn, α'3 MBOn, octopaminergic/GABAergic anterior paired lateral (APL) neurons (Liu 310 and Davis, 2009; Wu et al., 2013) and serotonergic/GABAergic dorsal paired medial 311 (DPM) neurons (Lee et al., 2011; Haynes et al., 2015), any signal from α ' β ' MBn may 312 easily be modulated in some way.

313

314 We expressed GCaMP6f specifically in the α '3 MBOn with the split gal4 MB027B 315 (Figure 4A) and monitored responses before and after conditioning. The standard 316 pairing protocol of 12 pulses, 90V of electric shock along with 1 min of CS+ (MCH) 317 induced a strong suppression of α '3 MBOn responses to both the CS+ and CS- at 3 min 318 after conditioning (Figure 4B). This suppression was also observed with both odors in 319 the unpaired groups. We wondered whether this strong, CS+/CS- and paired/unpaired-320 independent suppression might mask an associative conditioning-induced memory 321 trace in α '3 MBOn. To explore this possibility, we employed weaker training protocols 322 with reduced shock voltage and fewer pulses to minimize the hypothetical non-specific 323 suppression.

324

We found that non-specific suppression was weak or undetectable using 6 shock pulses of 30V, and that pairing and CS+ (MCH) odor-specific suppression was revealed (Figure

327 4C and 4D). We did observe a slight but significant decrease in the responses to OCT 328 (CS-) in both the paired and unpaired groups (Figure 4D), however, there was no 329 significant difference in the magnitude of the decrease between the two groups (Figure 330 4F, 3 min time point). Again, the training-induced suppression in α '3 MBOn was specific 331 to the CS+ odor, since we observed the same result when we used OCT as CS+ and 332 MCH as CS- (Figure 4E). Together, these results show that olfactory aversive 333 conditioning also suppresses the CS+ odor response properties of the postsynaptic α '3 334 MBOn immediately after conditioning.

335

336 Given that DAn and other neuron types innervate the α '3 compartment, we considered 337 the possibility that training may induce distinct memory traces in presynaptic α '3 MBn 338 axons and postsynaptic α '3 MBOn dendrites. To address this possibility, we studied the 339 duration of a'3 MBOn suppression to the conditioned odor and compared it with the time 340 course for suppression in presynaptic a'3 axons. Using the 6 pulses, 30V conditioning 341 schedule, we found that the suppression in the α '3 MBOn dendrites persisted for at 342 least 15 but not 30 min after conditioning using MCH as CS+ (Figure 4F). There was no 343 significant difference between paired and unpaired group responses to the CS- at either 344 time point (Figure 4F). We worried that a US consisting of 6 pulses at 30V may be too 345 weak to induce suppression lasting at least 30 min after conditioning, so we performed 346 an experiment using 12 pulses of 90V as the US. Using this stronger conditioning 347 paradigm, we failed to observe significant suppression in the α '3 MBOn dendrites at 30 348 min after conditioning (Figure 4G). We conclude that the suppressed response to the

conditioned odor in the dendrites of the α '3 MBOn follows the same time course as that observed in the MBn axonal segments in the α '3 compartment.

351

The output of the α'3 MBOn is required for normal memory performance early after conditioning

354 Although prior studies revealed that α '3 MBOn activation drives approach behavior (Aso 355 et al., 2014a), the requirement of these neurons in the early phases of aversive memory 356 expression remains unknown. The memory trace described here and its time course 357 suggests that the α '3 MBOn may be required for the formation of behavioral memory 358 and/or its retrieval at early times after conditioning. We reasoned that if α '3 MBOn 359 output is disrupted during memory retrieval, then the training-induced difference 360 between the CS+ and CS- evoked α '3 MBOn output will be eliminated, which will result 361 in an impairment of memory expression.

362

To probe this issue, we expressed the temperature sensitive *shibire^{ts}* transgene (*shi^{ts}*) in 363 364 α '3 MBOn with MB027B-gal4 driver. When we blocked α '3 MBOn output immediately 365 after aversive training by elevating the temperature for 15 min prior to and during testing, 366 we found a significant impairment in memory expression (Figure 4H). These results 367 indicate that the synaptic output of α '3 MBOn is required for the expression of early 368 memory, and further suggest that the short-lived cellular memory trace which forms in 369 the α '3 MBn axon segments and/or the α '3 MBOn, contributes to behavioral memory 370 expression early after conditioning.

371

372 Conditioning-induced suppression of calcium responses in the α '3 MBn axon

373 segment is accompanied by reduced ACh release

374 The results presented above indicate that olfactory aversive conditioning suppresses the Ca²⁺ responses to CS+ odor in both the presynaptic α '3 MBn axon segments and in 375 376 the postsynaptic a'3 MBOn dendrites. The similar time courses for the suppression in 377 both the pre- and post-synaptic elements (Figure 2 and Figure 4F) is most consistent 378 with the possibility that the postsynaptic memory trace is a reflection of the presynaptic memory trace. This model predicts that the reduced Ca²⁺ responses to the conditioned 379 odor observed in the presynaptic α '3 MBn axon segments translates into reduced 380 neurotransmitter release and a corresponding reduction of Ca²⁺ responses in the 381 382 postsynaptic dendrites. To probe this possibility, we measured the release of ACh in α '3 383 compartment as detected by the dendrites of α '3 MBOn after aversive conditioning. 384

385 We expressed an ACh sensor GACh (Jing et al., 2018) in α'3 MBOn using MB027B-386 gal4 and imaged the postsynaptic α '3 MBOn before and after conditioning with 6 pulses 387 of 30V electric shock (Figure 5A). We found that pairing odor (MCH) with electric shock 388 significantly suppressed the GACh signal using the paired but not the unpaired protocol 389 when measured at 3 min after conditioning (Figure 5B). This suggests that paired 390 conditioning leads to reduced ACh release in response to the CS+ odor in α '3 391 compartment. No suppression of GACh response to CS+ was observed at 30 min after 392 conditioning (Figure 5C). Since the time window of reduced ACh release matches the time window of $\alpha'3 \text{ MBn}/\alpha'3 \text{ MBOn}$ suppressed Ca²⁺ responses, we conclude that the 393

394 suppressed Ca²⁺ signal of the α '3 MBOn dendrites likely occurs by reduced ACh 395 release from the α '3 MBn axon segments.

396

397 Suppression in α'3 MBn axon segments is not due to increased GABAergic

398 inhibition through the Rdl GABA_A receptor

399 Many different cellular or network models can explain the reduced ACh release by the 400 $\alpha'\beta'$ MBn due to conditioning. One of the more attractive models envisions an increased 401 inhibitory tone on the MBn due to conditioning. Part of the attraction of this inhibitory 402 model stems from the broad innervation of the MB neuropil by the APL and DPM 403 GABAergic neurons. To probe this model, we reduced GABAergic input by knocking 404 down the RdI (GABA_A) receptor in α ' β ' neurons using RNAi (Liu and Davis, 2009). 405 When RdI was reduced in $\alpha'\beta'$ neurons, we found that 3 min memory was enhanced 406 using 12 pulses, 30V as the US (Figure 6B), consistent with previous reports (Liu et al., 407 2007; Liu and Davis, 2009). We failed to see this enhancement using 12 pulses, 90V as 408 US (Figure 6A), probably due to a ceiling effect. We then measured the short-term 409 cellular memory trace that forms in the $\alpha'\beta'$ MBn with and without reduced RdI 410 expression. When the receptor expression was reduced using RNAi knockdown, we 411 failed to observe any impairment of the α '3 compartment memory trace with GCaMP6f 412 (Figure 6C), indicating that memory trace formation is independent of RdI-mediated 413 GABAergic inhibition. Instead, the suppression to the CS+ odor in the knocked down 414 group was perhaps more robust compared to the control (59% vs 44% reduction, Figure 415 6C compared to Figure 6D). This slight increase in suppression might underlie the 416 enhanced 3 min memory when Rdl is reduced in $\alpha'\beta'$ neurons. These results argue

417 against a model for a substantial role of increased inhibition to explain the suppression418 to CS+ odors due to conditioning.

419

420 Discussion

421 Here, we provide evidence for the existence of immediate cellular memory traces that 422 form in at least two adjacent segments of the axons in the vertical lobe neuropil of the 423 $\alpha'\beta'$ MBn and at least one ($\alpha'3$ MBOn) of the corresponding output neurons. These memory traces, detected as decreased Ca²⁺ responses to the CS+ odor immediately 424 425 after conditioning when compared to pre-conditioning responses, and persisting for less 426 than 30 min before the response properties return to the naïve state, are consistent with 427 the fact that $\alpha'\beta'$ MBn are required for memory acquisition, consolidation and early 428 memory retrieval (Krashes et al., 2007; Cervantes-Sandoval et al., 2013). Several other 429 previously characterized early memory traces due to odor conditioning provide an 430 interesting background to these newly discovered traces (Davis, 2011). The neurites of the DPM neurons innervating the vertical MB lobe neuropil exhibit an increased Ca²⁺ 431 432 response to the learned odor from ~30-70 min after conditioning (Yu et al., 2005; 433 Cervantes-Sandoval and Davis, 2012). A memory trace forms in the antennal lobe, 434 registered as the recruitment of new projection neuron activity in response to the 435 learned odor, that lasts less than 10 min after conditioning (Yu et al., 2004). The activity 436 of GABAergic APL neurons that synapse in the vertical lobe neuropil of the MBn is 437 suppressed for a period of a few min after conditioning (Liu and Davis, 2009). And, in vivo functional imaging of the $\alpha'\beta'$ MBn axons revealed an early memory trace displayed 438 as increased Ca²⁺ influx by 30 min after conditioning that persists for at least an hour 439

(Wang et al., 2008; Tan et al., 2010; Cervantes-Sandoval and Davis, 2012). The action of these five memory traces, together along with other unknown traces, may provide the cellular modifications required for behavioral performance gains to be made across the first hour after conditioning. Memory traces in compartments other than α '3 and/or their MBOns may underlie the requirement of α ' β ' MBn for memory retrieval beyond the first hour (Séjourné et al., 2011; Cervantes-Sandoval et al., 2013; Owald et al., 2015).

446

447 However, the developmental trajectory of the memory traces forming in the $\alpha'\beta'$ MBn 448 lobe is of additional interest. As indicated above, a cellular memory trace forms in these neurons by 30 min after conditioning that is manifested as an increased Ca²⁺ response 449 450 to the conditioned odor (Wang et al., 2008; Tan et al., 2010). The data presented here 451 show that the $\alpha'\beta'$ MBn axons become suppressed across the first ~15 min after 452 conditioning. The combined studies thus indicate that the CS+ odor response properties 453 in the $\alpha'\beta'$ MBn axons are initially suppressed after conditioning but then become 454 enhanced at later times. The time courses for the two cellular memory traces do not 455 match exactly (0-15 min for the suppression and ~30-60 min for the increase) given our 456 current data showing no detectable increase at 30 or 45 min, but this is easily explained 457 by variation in the strength of conditioning or minor technical differences between the 458 two studies. Thus, the most parsimonious conclusion is that the vertical axon 459 compartments of the $\alpha'\beta'$ MBn initially exhibit a suppressed response to the CS+ 460 followed by an increased response with the transition from suppression to enhancement 461 occurring somewhere between ~30-45 min after conditioning. How this evolution in

response properties from negative to positive with time translates into behavioralmemory expression remains unclear.

464

465 The suppressed responses to the CS+ odor were found in both the axon segments of 466 the $\alpha'\beta'$ MBn and the dendrites of $\alpha'3$ MBOn. Given that activation of $\alpha'3$ MBOn drives 467 approach behavior (Aso et al., 2014a), our results are consistent with the model that 468 aversive conditioning promotes avoidance through suppressing the MBn-MBOn circuits 469 that signal positive valence, at least across the time that the MBOn responses are suppressed. Notably, the memory traces in a'3 MBn and a'3 MBOn persisted for the 470 471 similar time, raising the question of whether the suppressed responses form 472 independently or whether the α '3 MBOn memory trace simply reflects the presynaptic 473 one. Our data support the model in which the suppressed $\alpha'\beta'$ MBn responses are simply transmitted to the MBOn from reduced synaptic activity: the suppressed Ca²⁺ 474 475 response in α'3 MBn axon compartment is correlated with reduced ACh release and the 476 suppressed response in the α '3 MBOn dendrites. Our behavioral data (Figure 4H) 477 suggest that if the early cellular memory traces that form in the a'3 MBn-MBOn circuit 478 cannot be readout precisely, the expression of behavioral memory early after 479 conditioning becomes impaired. However, we cannot exclude the possibility that 480 memory traces can be formed independently in α '3 MBOn. 481 482 We formulated the hypothesis that the immediate suppression in α '3 MBn axons after

483 aversive conditioning might be due to enhanced GABAergic input to the α '3

484 compartment in an effort to delineate the underlying mechanism. However, we failed to

detect any impairment of the immediate suppression in α'3 axonal compartment when
we knocked down Rdl GABA_A receptor in α'β' neurons. Thus, our data argue against
attributing the suppression in the α'3 compartment to GABAergic inhibition through
GABA_A receptor.

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589 590

591 Figure Legends

Figure 1. Pairing of Odor and Electric Shock Induces Suppression to CS+ Odors in the α'3 Compartment

(A) Left: schematic diagram of MB showing $\alpha'\beta'$ lobe neuropil and its five compartments from a frontal perspective. The line across $\alpha'3$ indicates the plane that was selected for imaging. Middle: morphology of MB $\alpha'\beta'$ lobe neuropil visualized using c305a-*gal4* > mCD8::GFP. Right: a representative *in vivo* image of GCaMP6f expression in the $\alpha'3$ region driven by c305a-*gal4* (scale bar, 10 µm; brightness and contrast were adjusted for better visualization).

(B) Schematic diagram of the *in vivo* training setup. The fly head is glued to a thin metal plate. There is a small hole in the plate through which the head cuticle is dissected and the brain can be imaged. The electric shock pulses are delivered to the fly through an electric grid contacting the fly's legs. Odor is delivered to the fly via glass pipette (~3 mm diameter) whose tip is close to the antenna of the fly (arrows indicate odor flow direction).

(C) Paired and unpaired training protocol. In paired training, 1 min of 12 pulses electric
shock and odor A (CS+) were presented simultaneously followed by odor B (CS-) that
was unpaired with shock. In unpaired training, 1 min of electric shock pulses was
presented 3 min before odor A onset. Prior to training, two pulses of each odor were
presented to the fly in alternating fashion for 5 sec each with a 30 sec interstimulus
interval (Pre). After training, an identical set of odor pulses were presented to the fly
(Post).

613 (D) Behavior performance of flies receiving paired and unpaired training protocols. 614 Paired training induced robust memory performance at both 3 min and 1 hr after training. 615 However, unpaired training induced no memory at 3 min or 1 hr after training. Mean ± SEM, ***p < 0.0001, ns, not significant, $p \ge 0.4976$, one sample t-test against a 616 theoretical mean of "0", n = 6. 617 618 (E) Pseudocolored peak responses of α '3 axon segments to CS+ and CS- before (Pre) 619 and 3 min after (Post) paired training. 620 (F) Left: top, time course of GCaMP6f response in α '3 to CS+ (MCH) during 5 sec odor 621 presentation before (Pre, blue) and 3 min after (Post, red) paired or unpaired training. 622 Traces show the average response (±SEM) across all flies tested. Bottom: mean odor-623 evoked Pre and Post responses during the 5 sec odor presentation. Right: responses to 624 the CS- (OCT). Mean \pm SEM; ***p = 0.0003; ns, not significant, p > 0.9999; repeated-625 measures two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post hoc tests, n = 8. 626 (G) Left: top, time course of GCaMP6f response in α '3 to OCT (CS+) during a 5 sec 627 odor presentation before (Pre, blue) and 3 min after (Post, red) paired or unpaired 628 training. Traces show the average response (±SEM) across all flies tested. Bottom: 629 mean odor-evoked Pre and Post responses during 5 sec odor presentation. Right: responses to the CS- (MCH). Mean \pm SEM; **p = 0.0022; ns, not significant, $p \ge 0.4230$; 630 631 repeated-measures two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post hoc tests, n = 8. 632 (H) Top: mean odor-evoked Pre and Post responses during 5 sec odor presentation to 633 MCH (CS+) with 6 pulses of 30V electric shock training protocol. Bottom: responses to the CS- (OCT). Mean \pm SEM, **p = 0.0077; ns, not significant, $p \ge 0.6267$; repeated-634 635 measures two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post hoc tests, n = 6.

636 Figure 2. Conditioning-induced Suppression to CS+ in the α'3 Compartment

637 Persists less than 30 min

638 (A) Change of odor response in α'3 axon segments between Post and Pre odor stimuli

639 at 3, 15, 30, and 45 min after paired or unpaired training with MCH as CS+ and OCT as

640 CS-. The change of odor response within each fly was calculated as (Post-Pre)/Pre.

The paired training-induced suppression of the CS+ persisted for at least 15 min and

642 became non-significant at 30 and 45 min. No significant difference was observed in CS-

643 between paired and unpaired groups at any time point. Mean \pm SEM; ***p = 0.0002, **p

644 = 0.0047; ns, not significant, $p \ge 0.2345$; Mann-Whitney U test, n = 8.

(B) Change of odor response in the α '3 compartment between Post and Pre at 3, 15, 30,

646 and 45 min after paired or unpaired training with OCT as CS+ and MCH as CS-. The

647 paired training-induced suppression of the CS+ persisted for at least 15 min and

648 became non-significant at 30 and 45 min. No significant difference was observed in CS-

649 between paired and unpaired groups at any time point. Mean \pm SEM; ***p =0.0006, *p =

650 0.0379; ns, not significant, $p \ge 0.1304$; Mann-Whitney U test, n = 8.

651

Figure 3. Pairing of Odor and Electric Shock Induces Suppression to CS+ Odors in the α'2 Compartment

654 (A) Left: schematic diagram of MB showing $\alpha'\beta'$ lobe neuropil and its five compartments.

655 The line across α '2 indicates the plane that was selected for imaging. Middle:

656 morphology of MB $\alpha'\beta'$ lobe visualized using c305a-gal4 > mCD8::GFP. Right: a

657 representative *in vivo* image of GCaMP6f expression in the α'2 region driven by c305a-

658 gal4 (scale bar, 10 μm; brightness and contrast were adjusted for better visualization).

(B) Pseudocolored peak responses of α'2 to CS+ and CS- before (Pre) and 3 min after
(Post) paired training.

661 (C) Left: top, time course of GCaMP6f response in α'2 to CS+ (OCT) during 5 sec odor

662 presentation before (Pre, blue) and 3 min after (Post, red) paired or unpaired training.

663 Traces show the average response (±SEM) across all flies tested. Bottom: mean odor-

664 evoked Pre and Post responses during 5 sec odor presentation. Right: responses to the

665 CS- (MCH). Mean \pm SEM; **p = 0.0085; ns, not significant, $p \ge 0.3129$; repeated-

666 measures two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post hoc tests, n = 9.

667 (D) Left: top, time course of GCaMP6f response in α'2 to MCH (CS+) during a 5 sec

668 odor presentation before (Pre, blue) and 3 min after (Post, red) paired or unpaired

669 training. Traces show the average response (±SEM) across all flies tested. Bottom:

670 mean odor-evoked Pre and Post responses during 5 sec odor presentation. Right:

responses to the CS- (OCT). Mean \pm SEM; *p = 0.0192; ns, not significant, p > 0.9999;

672 repeated-measures two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post hoc tests, n = 7.

673

674 Figure 4. Pairing of Odor and Electric Shock Induces Suppression in α'3 MBOn

(A) Morphology of postsynaptic MBOn that innervates α '3 compartment visualized using

676 MB027B split gal4 > mCD8::GFP. The line across α '3 MBOn indicates the plane that

677 was selected for imaging.

678 (B) Left: mean odor-evoked GCaMP6f responses in α'3 MBOn to MCH (CS+) during 5

679 sec odor presentation before (Pre, blue) and 3 min after (Post, red) paired or unpaired

training with 12 pulses of 90V electric shock. Right: responses to OCT (CS-). Mean ±

SEM; ***p = 0.0008, ** $p \le 0.0021$; repeated-measures two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post hoc tests, n = 7.

683 (C) Pseudocolored peak responses of α'3 MBOn to CS+ (MCH) and CS- (OCT) before
684 (Pre) and 3 min after (Post) paired training with 6 pulses of 30V electric shock.

(D) Left: top, time course of GCaMP6f response in α '3 MBOn to CS+ (MCH) during 5 sec odor presentation before (Pre, blue) and 3 min after (Post, red) paired or unpaired training with 6 pulses of 30V electric shock. Traces show the average response (±SEM) across all flies tested. Bottom: Mean odor-evoked Pre and Post responses during the 5 sec odor presentation. Right: responses to the CS- (OCT). Mean ± SEM; ***p = 0.0009, * $p \le 0.0119$; ns, not significant, p = 0.2951; repeated-measures two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post hoc tests, n = 6.

(E) Left: mean odor-evoked GCaMP6f responses in α'3 MBOn to OCT (CS+) during 5 sec odor presentation before (Pre, blue) and 3 min after (Post, red) paired or unpaired training with 6 pulses of 30V electric shock. Right: responses to MCH (CS-). Mean ± SEM; **p = 0.0029; ns, not significant, p ≥ 0.1236; repeated-measures two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post hoc tests, n = 8.

(F) Change of odor response in α'3 MBOn between Post and Pre at 3, 15, and 30 min
after paired or unpaired training (CS+:MCH, CS-:OCT). The paired training-induced
suppression of CS+ persisted for at least 15 min and became non-significant at 30 min.
No significant difference was observed in CS- between paired and unpaired groups at
any time point. Mean ± SEM; ***p* = 0.0087, **p* = 0.0411; ns, not significant, *p* ≥ 0.3095;
Mann-Whitney U test, *n* = 6.

/03	(G) Mean odor-evoked GCaMP6t response at 30 min after training in a 3 MBOn during
704	5 sec odor presentation with 12 pulses of 90V electric shock (CS+:MCH, CS-:OCT).
705	Mean ± SEM; ns, not significant, $p \ge 0.1372$; repeated-measures two-way ANOVA with
706	Bonferroni post hoc tests, $n = 7$.
707	(H) Blocking synaptic output of α '3 MBOn immediately after training through testing
708	impaired 15 min memory. Flies were trained at 23°C, transferred to 30°C immediately
709	after training for 15 min, and tested at 30°C. Mean \pm SEM; *p = 0.0186; ns, not
710	significant, $p > 0.9999$; two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post hoc tests, $n = 6$.
711	
712	Figure 5. Pairing of Odor and Electric Shock Reduces ACh Release in the α '3
713	Compartment
714	(A) Morphology of postsynaptic MBOn that innervates α '3 compartment visualized using
715	MB027B split gal4 > mCD8::GFP. The line across α '3 MBOn indicates the plane that
716	was selected for imaging.
717	(B) Left: top, time course of GACh (ACh sensor) response in the dendrites of α '3 MBOn
718	to CS+ (MCH) during 5 sec odor presentation before (Pre, blue) and 3 min after (Post,
719	red) paired or unpaired training with 6 pulses of 30V electric shock. Traces show the
720	average response (±SEM) across all flies tested. Bottom: mean odor-evoked Pre and
721	Post responses during the 5 sec odor presentation. Right: responses to the CS- (OCT).
722	Mean ± SEM; * $p = 0.0457$; ns, not significant, $p > 0.9999$ for MCH in unpaired group, p
723	= 0.3003 for OCT in paired group and p = 0.0856 for OCT in unpaired group; repeated-
724	measures two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post boc tests $n = 6$

726 MBOn during 5 sec odor presentation with 6 pulses of 30V electric shock (CS+:MCH, 727 CS-:OCT). Mean \pm SEM; ns, not significant, $p \ge 0.6660$; repeated-measures two-way 728 ANOVA with Bonferroni post hoc tests, n = 6. 729 730 Figure 6. Suppression in a'3 is not Induced by GABAergic Inhibition Through RdI 731 **GABA**_A Receptor 732 (A) No change in 3 min memory with 12 pulses of 90V electric shock when RdI (GABA_A) 733 receptor) was knocked down in $\alpha'\beta'$ MBn. Mean ± SEM; ns, not significant; one-way 734 ANOVA with Tukey's post hoc tests, n = 6. 735 (B) There was significant enhancement of 3 min memory expression with 12 pulses of 736 30V electric shock when RdI was knocked down in α ' β ' MBn. Mean ± SEM; * $p \le 0.0391$; 737 one-way ANOVA with Tukey's post hoc tests, n = 6. 738 (C) Knocking down Rdl did not impair the odor suppression to the CS+ in the α '3 739 compartment. Left: top, time course of GCaMP6f response in the α '3 compartment to 740 the CS+ (MCH) during a 5 sec odor presentation before (Pre, blue) and 3 min after 741 (Post, red) paired or unpaired training. Traces show the average response (±SEM) 742 across all flies tested. Bottom: mean odor-evoked Pre and Post responses during 5 sec 743 odor presentation. Right: responses to the CS- (OCT). Mean \pm SEM; ***p = 0.0009; ns, 744 not significant, $p \ge 0.1515$; repeated-measures two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post

(C) Mean odor-evoked GACh response at 30 min after training in the dendrites of α '3

745 hoc tests, n = 8.

(D) Control for Rdl knockdown in $\alpha'\beta'$ MBn. Left: top, time course of GCaMP6f response

in the α '3 compartment to the CS+ (MCH) during 5 sec odor presentation before (Pre,

- 548 blue) and 3 min after (Post, red) paired or unpaired training. Traces show the average
- 749 response (±SEM) across all flies tested. Bottom: Mean odor-evoked Pre and Post
- responses during 5 sec odor presentation. Right: responses to the CS- (OCT). Mean ±
- SEM; ***p = 0.0006; ns, not significant, $p \ge 0.5049$; repeated-measures two-way
- ANOVA with Bonferroni post hoc tests, n = 6.



Figure 1





Figure 2





Figure 3







Figure 5



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Figure 6