

Development of pigment-dispersing hormone-immunoreactive neurons in the American lobster: homology to the insect circadian pacemaker system?

Steffen Harzsch · Heinrich Dircksen · Barbara S. Beltz

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Abstract We have examined the development of pigment-dispersing hormone (PDH)-immunoreactive neurons in embryos of the American lobster *Homarus americanus* Milne Edwards, 1837 (Decapoda, Reptantia, Homarida) by using an antiserum against β -PDH. This peptide is detectable in the terminal medulla of the eyestalks and the protocerebrum where PDH immunoreactivity is present as early as 20% of embryonic development. During ontogenesis, an elaborate system of PDH-immunoreactive neurons and fibres develops in the eyestalks and the protocerebrum, whereas less labelling is present in the deuto- and tritocerebrum and the ventral nerve cord. The sinus gland is innervated by PDH neurites at hatching. This pattern of PDH immunoreactivity has been compared with that found in various insect species. Neurons immunoreactive to pigment-dispersing factor in the medulla have been shown

to be a central component of the system that generates the circadian rhythm in insects. Our results indicate that, in view of the position of the neuronal somata and projection patterns of their neurites, the immunolabelled medulla neurons in insects have homologous counterparts in the crustacean eyestalk. Since locomotory and other activities in crustaceans follow distinct circadian rhythms comparable with those observed in insects, we suggest that PDH-immunoreactive medulla neurons in crustaceans are involved in the generation of these rhythms.

Keywords Peptide · Circadian clock · Evolution · Arthropoda · Malacostraca · American lobster, *Homarus americanus* (Crustacea)

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S. Harzsch (✉)
Department of Evolutionary Neuroethology,
Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology,
Beutenberg Campus, Hans-Knöll-Strasse 8,
07745 Jena, Germany
e-mail: sharzsch@ice.mpg.de
URL: www.ice.mpg.de/han/home/home_en.htm

H. Dircksen
Department of Zoology, Stockholm University,
Stockholm, Sweden

B. S. Beltz
Department of Biological Sciences, Wellesley College,
Wellesley, Mass., USA

Introduction

Pigment-dispersing hormones (PDHs) are a family of octadecapeptides that, in crustaceans, mediate the dispersion of mainly black pigment granules within integumental chromatophores and the light adaptional movements of screening pigments in the ommatidia (for reviews, see Rao and Riehm 1989, 1993). In order to localise the sources of PDH and neuronal pathways utilising this peptide, an antiserum raised against synthetic β -PDH (Dircksen et al. 1987), which is the most common crustacean PDH (Rao et al. 1985), has been used to reconstruct the architecture of PDH-immunoreactive (PDHir) neurons in the adult crustacean nervous system, viz. in crabs and crayfish (Dircksen et al. 1987; Mangerich et al. 1987; Mangerich and Keller 1988; Nussbaum and Dircksen 1995; Hsu et al. 2008).

Pigment-dispersing factor-like-immunoreactivity (PDFli) has also been mapped in a variety of adult insects (Homberg et al. 1991a, b; Nässel et al. 1991, 1993;

Helfrich-Förster and Homberg 1993; Würden and Homberg 1995; Petri et al. 1995; Reischig and Stengel 1996, 2002, 2003; Persson et al. 2001; Sehadová et al. 2003; for a review, see Homberg 1994). The receptors of the pigment-dispersing factor have been identified in insects (Hyun et al. 2005; Lear et al. 2005; Mertens et al. 2005). However, whereas the development of the PDFli system has been studied in several insect species such as *Locusta migratoria* (Dirksen 1994), *Schistocerca gregaria* (Homberg and Prakash 1996), *Drosophila melanogaster* (Helfrich-Förster 1997), and *Musca domestica* (Pyza et al. 2003), only one study on peptidergic neurones in embryos of the green shore crab, *Carcinus maenas*, has also included developmental aspects of PDHir neurons and the expression of the PDH-mRNA throughout embryogenesis (Chung and Webster 2004). In both the crustacean and the insect nervous systems, the majority of PDFir/PDHir neurons and their neurites are localised in the eyestalks and the medial protocerebrum. Based on this observation, Homberg et al. (1991b) and Nässel et al. (1993) have suggested that a subset of the identified PDFli neurons in insects fulfils several morphological criteria of circadian pacemaker neurons. Furthermore, changes in the arborisation pattern of PDFli neurons associated with the medulla in mutants of the fruitfly *D. melanogaster* with altered circadian rhythmicity have indicated an involvement of PDFli neurons in the generation or modulation of the circadian rhythm (Helfrich-Förster and Homberg 1993). This claim has subsequently been substantiated by behavioural experiments combined with lesions in the optic ganglia of the cockroach (Stengl and Homberg 1994), by the finding that the protein of the *period* and *timeless* clock gene is colocalised with PDF in neurons in the medulla of *D. melanogaster* (Helfrich-Förster 1995; Hunter-Ensoe et al. 1996; Kaneko et al. 1997), pharmacological interference with synthetic PDH (Petri and Stengl 1997), the isolation of the PDF gene in *D. melanogaster* and an expression analysis in arrhythmic mutants (Park and Hall 1998), transplantation experiments (Reischig and Stengl 2003), mis-expression and mutation studies of the PDF gene (Renn et al. 1999; Helfrich-Förster et al. 2000) and tissue culture experiments (Petri and Stengl 1999). PDF is also known to be involved in a variety of morphological circadian changes of the cellular and subcellular components of the insect visual system (Pyza and Meinertzhagen 1996, 1997, 1998; Chen et al. 1999; Pyza 2002). Substantial evidence now exists that, in insects, a subset of PDF-expressing neurons in the optic ganglia and the brain play important roles in generating or modulating the rhythm of the circadian clock and in transmitting this message to the medial part of the brain (for reviews, see Helfrich-Förster 1996; Meinertzhagen and Pyza 1996; Helfrich-Förster et al. 1998; Meinertzhagen and Pyza 1999; Giebultowicz et al. 2001; Pyza 2001;

Tomioka et al. 2001; Helfrich-Förster 2002, 2003; Saunders 2002; Homberg et al. 2003).

As is now well established, adult decapod crustaceans display distinct circadian and circatidal rhythms of locomotor activity (Naylor 1988; Aréchiga et al. 1993; Naylor 1996; Palmer 2001) and retinal sensitivity rhythms (Aréchiga and Rodríguez-Sosa 1998; Fanjul-Moles and Prieto-Sagredo 2003). Earlier studies had shown that the 24-h rhythmicity of red and black chromatophore dispersion during colour changes in juvenile crabs, *C. maenas*, is primarily mediated by substances extractable from eyestalk ganglia; these are probably released from the sinus gland, as has been clearly determined by sinus gland ablation experiments (Powell 1966). Experiments involving eyestalk ablations and eyestalk extract injections have further substantiated that this rhythmicity is mediated by the release of a hormonal factor from the eyestalk neuroendocrine system (for reviews, see Aréchiga et al. 1985, 1993; Huberman 1996; Naylor 1996; Fanjul-Moles and Prieto-Sagredo 2003). Recent work with eyestalk perfusion experiments in crayfish has shown a clear-cut influence of PDH on the generation and expression of the circadian rhythmicity of the electroretinogram. Furthermore, in-vivo-injected PDH induces pigment migration characteristic of light adaptation and shifts the rhythm of response to light in photoreceptors (Verde et al. 2007). Since the behavioural repertoire of decapod crustacean larvae from hatching onwards comprises endogenous circadian and circatidal rhythms of vertical migration and moulting (Fanjul-Moles et al. 1996; Zeng and Naylor 1996a, b, c, d, 1997; Abello et al. 1997; Zeng et al. 1997; Fanjul-Moles and Prieto-Sagredo 2003), we have addressed the question as to whether a network of PDHir is present as early as when the embryos hatch and is possibly involved in the generation of such a rhythmicity. We have used an antiserum against β -PDH (Dirksen et al. 1987) to examine the development of PDHir neurons in embryos and juveniles of the American lobster *Homarus americanus* Milne Edwards, 1837 (Decapoda, Reptantia, Homarida). Recently, the β -PDH of the lobster *H. americanus* has been found to be identical in amino acid sequence to the *Uca*-PDH (Fu et al. 2005; Ma et al. 2008), which served as the antigen for the production of this antiserum. The positions of the labelled neuronal somata and projection patterns of their neurites indicate that most, if not all, of the insect PDFli groups of neurons in the optic ganglia and protocerebrum have counterparts in the crustacean brain. This is especially true of the neurons associated with the accessory medulla that, in insects, are likely to be a part of the circadian pacemaker system. Based on these results, we propose that PDHir neurons are involved in the generation or modulation of circadian or circatidal rhythms in decapod crustaceans, as in insects.

Materials and methods

Ovigerous female lobsters *Homarus americanus* Milne Edwards, 1873 (Malacostraca, Pleocyemata, Homarida) were obtained from the lobster-rearing facility at the New England Aquarium (Boston, Mass.) and kept in recirculating artificial seawater (30 ppt) at 18°C and a 12:12 h light-dark regime (Harzsch et al. 1999a, b). Embryos were staged according to Helluy and Beltz (1991) on the basis of the length and width of the pigmented zone in the eye. The general layout and development of the nervous system in this species was recently reviewed by Harzsch (2002, 2003). In the present study, lobster embryos from 25% to 80% embryonic development (E25% to E80%) were used for immunohistochemical studies. Embryos were fixed overnight in 4% paraformaldehyde in 0.1 M phosphate buffer (pH 7.4) and 1% 1-ethyl-3(3-dimethylaminopropyl) carbodiimide at 4°C. Dissected whole-mounts of the embryos were washed in several changes of 0.1 M phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) for 4 h and afterwards incubated in PBS containing 1% normal goat serum (NGS) and 0.3% Triton X-100 (PBS-TX) for 2 h at room temperature. Incubations in the polyclonal anti- β PDH antiserum (1:8,000; for antibody production and characterisation, see Dircksen et al. 1987; Honda et al. 2006) were carried out overnight at 4°C. The omission of primary antibody resulted in the complete absence of neuronal labelling. The specimens were then incubated in a biotinylated secondary antibody for 3 h (Vector) and subsequently for another 3 h in the peroxidase-conjugated avidin biotin-complex (Vectastain; Vector Laboratories). After being washed for 3 h in PBS, the tissues were reacted with 0.013% diaminobenzidine and a reagent containing hydrogen peroxide, cobalt chloride and nickel chloride (Amersham, RPN 20) for 7–9 min to reveal the peroxidase label. Finally, whole-mount preparations were dehydrated and mounted in Eukitt (Riedel-de Haen). Preparations were observed with a Nikon or Olympus microscope; labelled neurons and neuropils were drawn by using a camera-lucida attachment. The pattern of PDH immunoreactivity was reproducible between different specimens and was recorded in semi-schematic drawings based on the analysis of at least seven specimens for each developmental stage. The specimens were also photographed on 35-mm black and white-film (25 ASA, Ilford); the negatives were scanned onto Kodak Photo CD and processed in Adobe Photoshop. Alternatively, after incubation in the primary antiserum, the embryos were incubated in a secondary anti-rabbit antibody conjugated to Alexa 488 (Molecular Probes) for 3 h. The specimens were then washed in PBS, mounted in Gel mount (Sigma) and viewed with a Leica confocal laser-scanning microscope. All confocal images presented here are based on stacks of between 5 and 20 optical sections

(single images are averages of four laser sweeps) of a z-series taken at 1- μ m intervals. Red-green three-dimensional (3D) images were generated from these stacks with the software provided with the Leica microscope.

Results

PDH immunoreactivity in the developing eyestalks

The eyestalks contain a pair of PDHir neurons (group A) and another single cell (B) associated with the medulla terminalis, even in the earliest embryonic stage examined (E25%; Fig. 1). The neurites of these cells branch within the medulla terminalis and send their axons towards the protocerebrum via the protocerebral tract (Figs. 1, 2a,b, 3c,d, 4a, 5). From the earliest stages onwards there also is a group of PDHir somata (group C) with neurites projecting towards the developing medulla externa (Figs. 1, 2). These cells are also the source of an immunopositive fibre bundle that runs towards the medulla terminalis and then joins the descending fibres of the group A cells. The system of fibre branches in the medulla externa becomes denser and more complex during successive development of the lobster embryos (Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6). This process is paralleled by an increase in numbers of immunoreactive somata within group C and, beginning at E35% (Figs. 1, 3), the emergence of the sister clusters C' and C'' next to cluster C. From E25% to E80%, the number of immunolabelled somata in cluster C and its sisters increases from 2 to about 22. In some specimens, the sister clusters appear well separated from cluster C (Figs. 4, 6), whereas in others, they merge with cluster C. The neurites of these new sister clusters C' and C'' form distinct bundles that meet the fibres of the existing cluster C neurons. The densely immunolabelled structures consisting of elaborately fasciculating axons and superimposed neuropilar fibre networks make it impossible to follow the course of single axons within a distinct branching point proximal to the medulla (arrows in Figs. 4b, 6b,c). However, within this branching point, some of the neurites from clusters C, C' and C'' probably course towards the medulla externa, whereas others follow the thick fibre bundle towards the medulla terminalis and exit the eyestalk to target the brain. From this branching point, fibres also invade a small longitudinal neuropil (the medulla satellite neuropil proximal to the medulla) that extends anteriorly (Figs. 1, 2b, 4a, 6a). Fine immunoreactive fibres innervating the most proximal layer of the lamina ganglionaris are present by E45% (Fig. 4). The 3D laser-scan images of the 60% lobster embryos reveal that the sinus gland is a spherical, densely PDHir structure close to, but clearly distinct from, the medulla externa (Figs. 1, 4, 6). Its innervation could not be traced

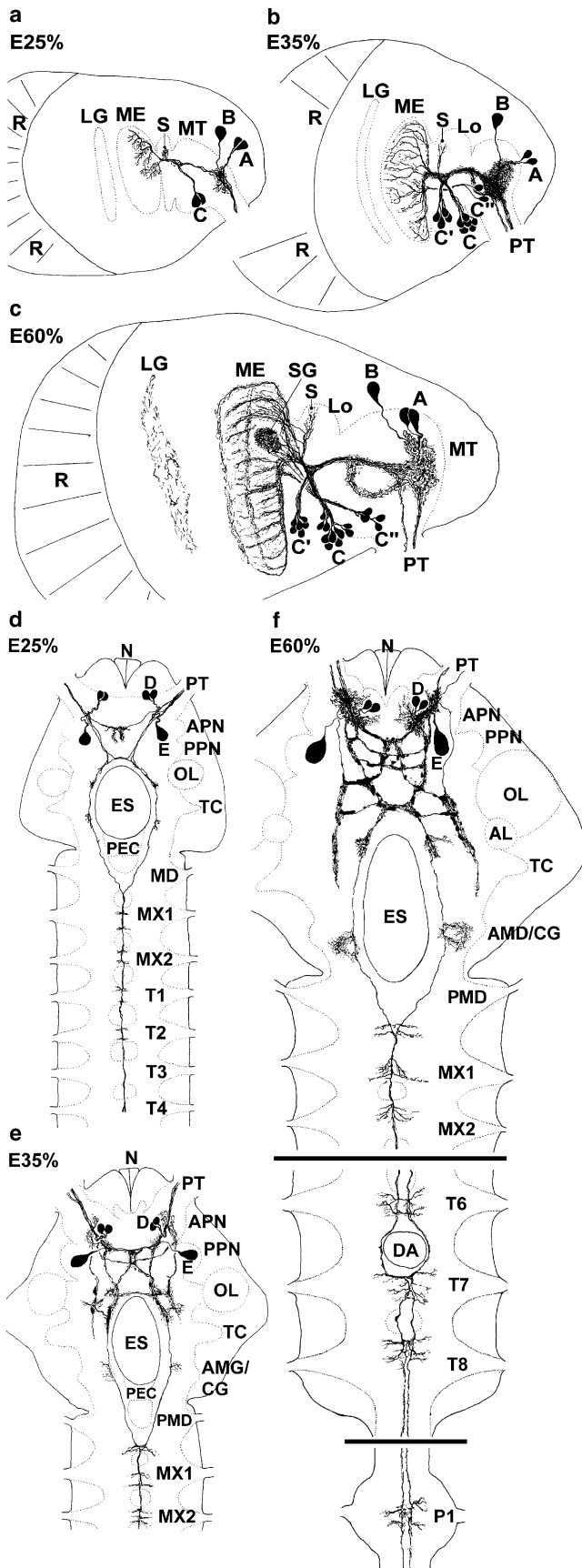


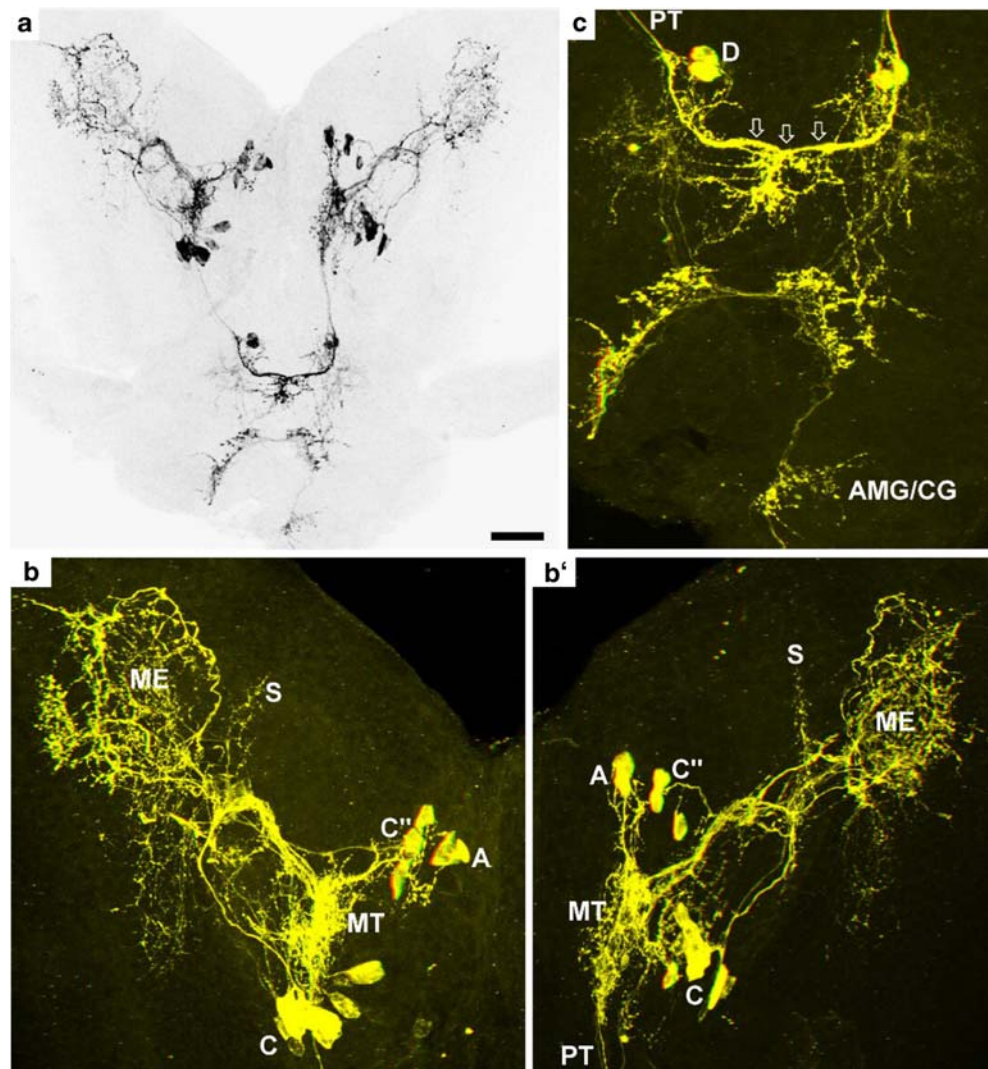
Fig. 1 Representations summarising the PDHir structures in embryonic lobster eyestalks (a-c) and median brains and ventral nerve cords (d-f) from 25% to 60% of embryonic development (E25%-E60%). Groups of neuronal somata are denoted by letters A–E (AL accessory lobe, AMD/CG anterior part of the mandibular neuromere, which is termed commissural ganglion in adult crustaceans, APN anterior protocerebral neuropil, DA descending artery, ES oesophageal foramen, LG lamina ganglionaris, Lo lobula, ME medulla externa, MT medulla terminalis, MX1 neuromeres of maxilla 1, MX2 neuromeres of maxilla 2, N nauplius eye, OL olfactory lobe, PI pleon neuromere 1, PEC postoesophageal commissure, PMD posterior part of the mandibular neuromere, PPN posterior protocerebral neuropil, PT protocerebral tract, R retina, S medulla satellite neuropil, SG sinus gland, T1–8 thoracic neuromeres 1–8, TC tritocerebrum)

unambiguously but PDHir fibres from soma groups C probably terminate in the sinus gland. Furthermore, a loose network of fibres, which is arranged at a level clearly ventral to those described so far, is in contact with the sinus gland but their origin could not be traced (Figs. 4, 6).

PDH immunoreactivity in the brain and ventral nerve cord

In E25% and E30% embryos, a fibre bundle composed of the neurites of cells A, B and C in the eyestalk enters the brain *via* the protocerebral tract and gives off branches that extend into the anterior protocerebrum where they form a small immunolabelled plexus (Figs. 1, 2). Later on in development, the axons of cell groups C' and C'' join this bundle. Some of the neurites within this tract cross the midline and enter the contralateral eyestalk via the protocerebral tract. Another portion of these fibres proceeds posteriorly and approaches the oesophageal foramen (Figs. 1, 2a,c, 3d,e). From the earliest embryonic stage onwards, two pairs of PDHir neurons (group D) and another large labelled cell (E) could be traced, all of which send their neurites into the protocerebral plexus (Figs. 1, 2c, 3a, 5). The pattern of immunolabelled fibres in the protocerebrum becomes more and more complex throughout development. However, the components of the central complex (protocerebral bridge, central body, lateral lobes) are devoid of any labelling, as are the olfactory and accessory lobes. Whereas the axonal projection pattern of the protocerebral group D cells could not be determined, the axons of the large cells E most probably join the tract of axons that run from the eyestalks posteriorly towards the oesophagus (Fig. 1). Some of the axons in this tract cross over to the contralateral side in front of the oesophagus. The fibres then course around the oesophagus towards the ventral nerve cord (VNC). Side-branches of these neurites give rise to a small immunolabelled plexus at the anterior part of the mandibular neuromere, which is part of the so-called commissural ganglion in adult crustaceans [see Harzsch (2003) for a discussion of this nomenclature; Figs. 1, 3d,e]. The bilateral axonal tracts from the brain in all embryos examined enter the VNC via the circum-

Fig. 2 Pigment-dispersing hormone (PDH)-immunoreactive (PDHir) structures at 30% of embryonic development. **a** Overview over the developing eyestalks and the brain; black-white inverted image, projection of a z-stack of confocal laser-scan images. **b, b'** Left and right eyestalk, respectively. **c** Median brain of the same specimen as in **a**; colour-coded three-dimensional (3D) images (use red-green glasses to view). Note the contralateral fibre link (*open arrows* in **c**) in the median brain. The sinus gland is not in focus in **b, b'** (*C, D* groups of neuronal somata, *AMD/CG* anterior part of the mandibular neuromere, which is termed commissural ganglion in adult crustaceans, *ME* medulla externa, *MT* medulla terminalis, *PT* protocerebral tract, *S* medulla satellite neuropil). Bar 50 μ m



oesophageal connectives and join each other at the level of the posterior part of the mandibular neuromere (Figs. 1, 3f). From here, they proceed posteriorly to split up again into two separate tracts at the level of the third thoracic neuromere. These tracts, which could be traced caudally down through all pleon neuromeres (data not shown) give off tiny side-branches in each neuromere of the VNC (Fig. 3f).

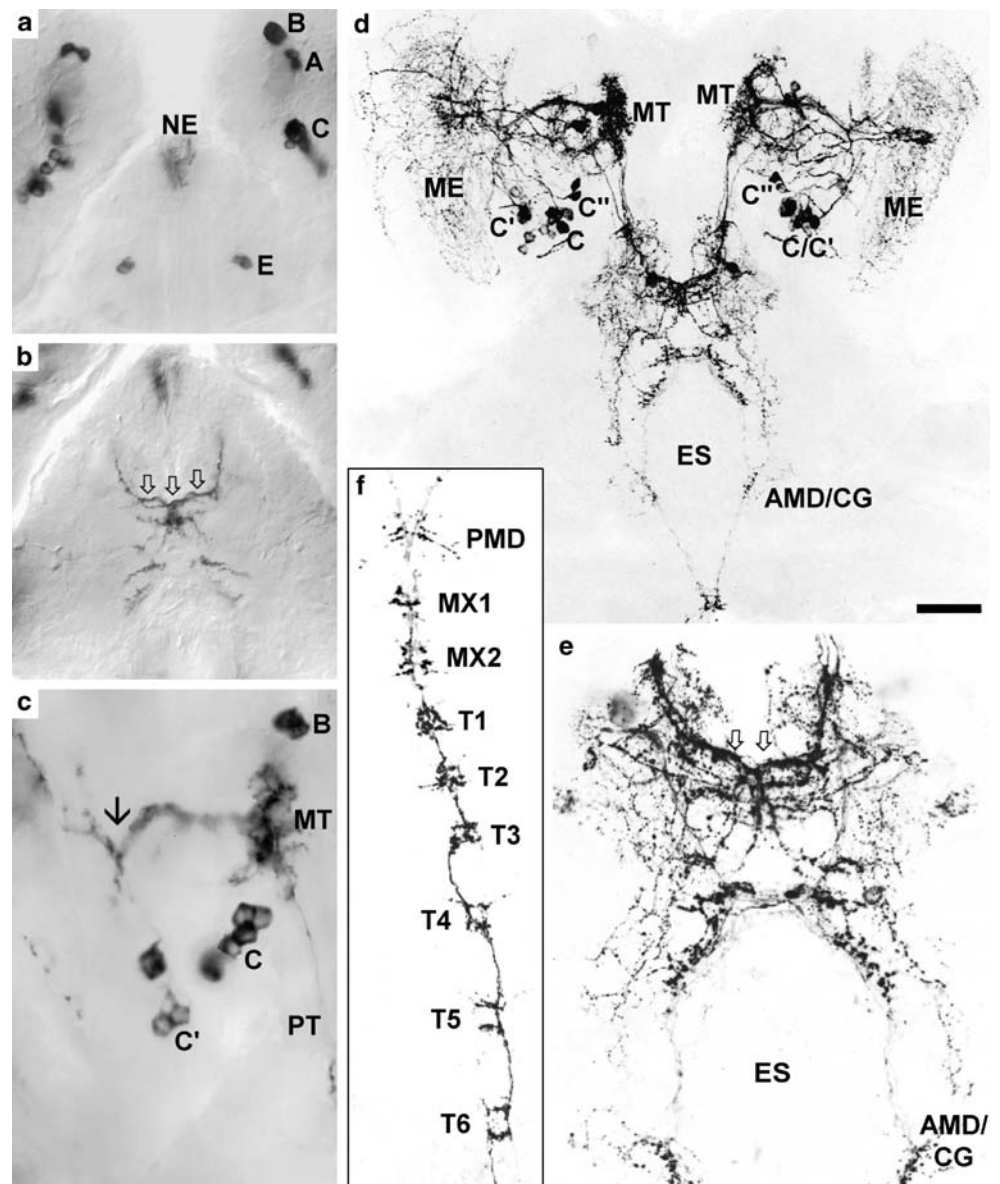
Discussion

Comparison with adult crustaceans

The pattern of PDHir elements has been studied in the adult nervous systems of the shore crab *C. maenas*, the crayfish *Orconectes limosus*, and the woodlouse *Oniscus asellus* (Dirksen et al. 1987; Mangerich et al. 1987; Mangerich and Keller 1988; Nussbaum and Dirksen 1995). Many of the immunolabelled structures described in these reports

can be found in the developing lobster nervous system at the earliest embryonic stages examined in the present study. Exceptions are the PDHir cells associated with the lamina ganglionaris in adult shore crabs and crayfish (Mangerich et al. 1987; Hsu et al. 2008), which are not present in lobster embryos but may develop postembryonically. Mangerich and coauthors (1987) have described two clusters of PDHir neurons comprising a total of 30–35 somata that correspond to cell groups C, C' and C'' in the present report, although the number of cells within these clusters is smaller in the embryos that we have examined (about 22). However, evidence from studies with proliferation markers (Harzsch et al. 1999a, b; Harzsch 2002, 2003) indicates that neurogenesis is still under way in the stages of lobster embryos analysed in our study; therefore, additional PDH neurons may be generated in later stages. The pattern of the PDH immunoreactivity in the present study closely resembles that in embryos of the shore crab *C. maenas* (Chung and Webster 2004) in that the lobster eyestalk group C cells most probably correspond to the crab cell groups 2, 4 and 5.

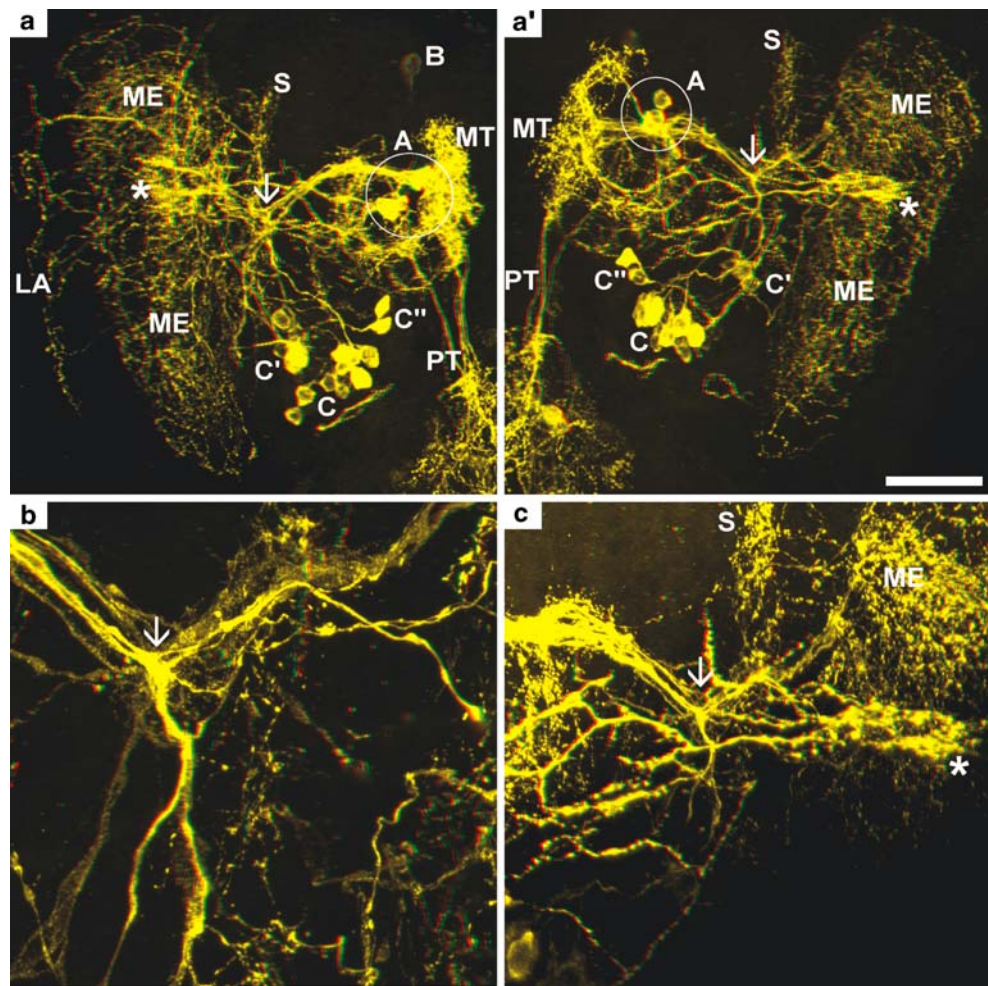
Fig. 3 **a–c** PDHir structures at 35% of embryonic development; bright-field images of diaminobenzidine-reacted specimens. **a** Natural pigmentation of the nauplius eye (*NE*) is visible. **b** Note the contralateral fibre link in the median brain (*arrows*). **c** Note the conspicuous branching point of the C neuron fibres (*arrow*). **d–f** PDHir structures at 45% of embryonic development; black-white inverted images, projections of z-stacks of confocal laser-scans. **d** Low-power overview of the developing eyestalks and median brain. **e** Higher magnification of the median brain (*arrows* contralateral fibre link in the median brain). **f** Fibres in the ventral nerve cord.—Groups of neuronal somata are denoted by letters *A–C* and *E* (*AMD/CG* anterior part of the mandibular neuromere, which is termed commissural ganglion in adult crustaceans, *ES* oesophageal foramen, *ME* medulla externa, *MT* medulla terminalis, *MX1* neuromeres of maxilla 1, *MX2* neuromeres of maxilla 2, *PMD* posterior part of the mandibular neuromere, *PT* protocerebral tract, *T1–6* thoracic neuromeres 1–6). *Bar* 50 μ m



Chung and Webster (2004) have also identified an early embryonic innervation of the lamina with PDHir structures, whereas in lobster embryos, instead the medulla seems to receive such an early input of PDHir fibres. In the woodlouse, a group of PDHir somata has been found (group 3 in Nussbaum and Dirksen 1995) that also shares the properties of group C cells and their sisters (as described in the present report) in that their fibres project towards the medulla externa and are the origin of a fibre bundle running towards the medulla terminalis. This latter bundle is also present in adult crayfish and crabs (Mangerich et al. 1987; Hsu et al. 2008). The neurons in groups A and B (present study) also have counterparts in the adult crustacean eyestalks where they are “located in the X-organ area” (Mangerich et al. 1987). In the adult woodlouse, a group of neurons associated with the medulla terminalis has been

identified that send their axons towards the brain and further posteriorly into the VNC (group 2 in Nussbaum and Dirksen 1995). We therefore conclude that they correspond to group A cells in the present report. Furthermore, another group of PDHir somata associated with the adult woodlouse medulla terminalis is present (group 1, Nussbaum and Dirksen 1995), the neurites of which branch within the medulla terminalis and innervate the sinus gland. Although distinct immunolabelled fibres extend from the medulla terminalis towards the sinus gland in the lobster embryos examined in the present report, as in adult shore crabs and crayfish (Mangerich et al. 1987), the source of these fibres could not be clearly traced. Possible candidates are the group B cells or fibres ascending through the protocerebral tract from the brain or contralateral eyestalk. However, the more probable innervation of the sinus gland arises from

Fig. 4 PDHir structures in the developing eyestalks at 45% of embryonic development (higher magnifications of the specimen shown in Fig. 3d); colour-coded 3D images (use red-green glasses to view). **a, a'** Left and right eyestalk, respectively (*stars* sinus gland). **b, c** Higher magnifications of **a, a'**, respectively, showing the conspicuous branching point of the C neuron fibres (*arrows*). Groups of neuronal somata are denoted by letters *A* (circle) to *C* (*ME* medulla externa, *MT* medulla terminalis, *PT* protocerebral tract, *S* medulla satellite neuro-pil). *Bar* 50 μ m

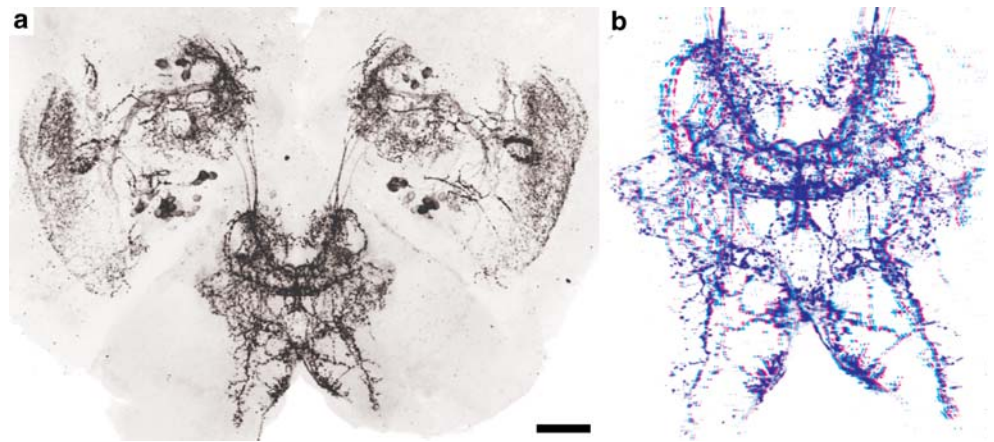


group C neurons in lobster embryos. This would closely match the situation in crabs, crayfish and woodlouse in which only three relatively large neurons with three fibres emerging from T-shaped branches in the large PDHir protocerebral tract usually occur, thus resembling those of the lobster group C embryonic neurons (especially the C' subgroup here; Mangerich et al. 1987; Nussbaum and Dirksen 1995; Hsu et al. 2008). Interestingly, Hsu et al. (2008) have found evidence, in adult crabs, for the existence of two different closely related β -PDHs (I and II) derived from two different precursors. The precursor of β -PDH-II appears to be preferentially expressed in three neurons innervating the sinus gland. Using tissue mass spectrometry, these authors have found β -PDH-II only in sinus glands together with β -PDH-I, an isoform apparently present in all other neurons. This finding resembles earlier results in crayfish in which three different β -PDH isoforms have been identified by nanoscale on-line liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry (Bulau et al. 2004). We cannot exclude the existence of further β -PDH isoforms in lobster embryos. However, these isoforms cannot be distinguished by the use of the β -PDH antiserum applied

here, since it recognises epitopes similar or identical in all crustacean and insect β -PDH-like molecules (for more details, see Honda et al. 2006).

The median protocerebral PDHir somata, which are present in adult crabs and crayfish (Mangerich and Keller 1988; Hsu et al. 2008), are also present in the lobster embryos examined in the present report, as are the immunolabelled neuropils on the proto-, deuto- and tritocerebrum. However, the labelled somata in the adult deuto- and tritocerebrum are not observed in the lobster developmental stages and the same applies to the PDHir somata in the adult VNC (Mangerich and Keller 1988). In the VNC of all adult crustaceans hitherto analysed in this regard, a system of immunolabelled fibres that courses posteriorly from the brain with segmental side-branches in the VNC ganglia is present (Mangerich and Keller 1988; Chung and Webster 2004). The present study clearly shows that the VNC pathways are laid down as early as the embryonic stages. In adult crustaceans, PDHir structures are also present in the stomatogastric nervous system (Mortin and Marder 1991; Hsu et al. 2008) but we have not analysed this aspect in lobster embryos.

Fig. 5 Overview of PDHir structures in the developing eyestalks and median brain at 80% of embryonic development. **a** Black-white inverted image from a projection of z-stacks of confocal laser-scans. **b** Colour-coded 3D image (use red-green glasses to view) of the median brain. Higher magnifications of this specimen including labels are provided in Fig. 6. *Bar* 50 μ m

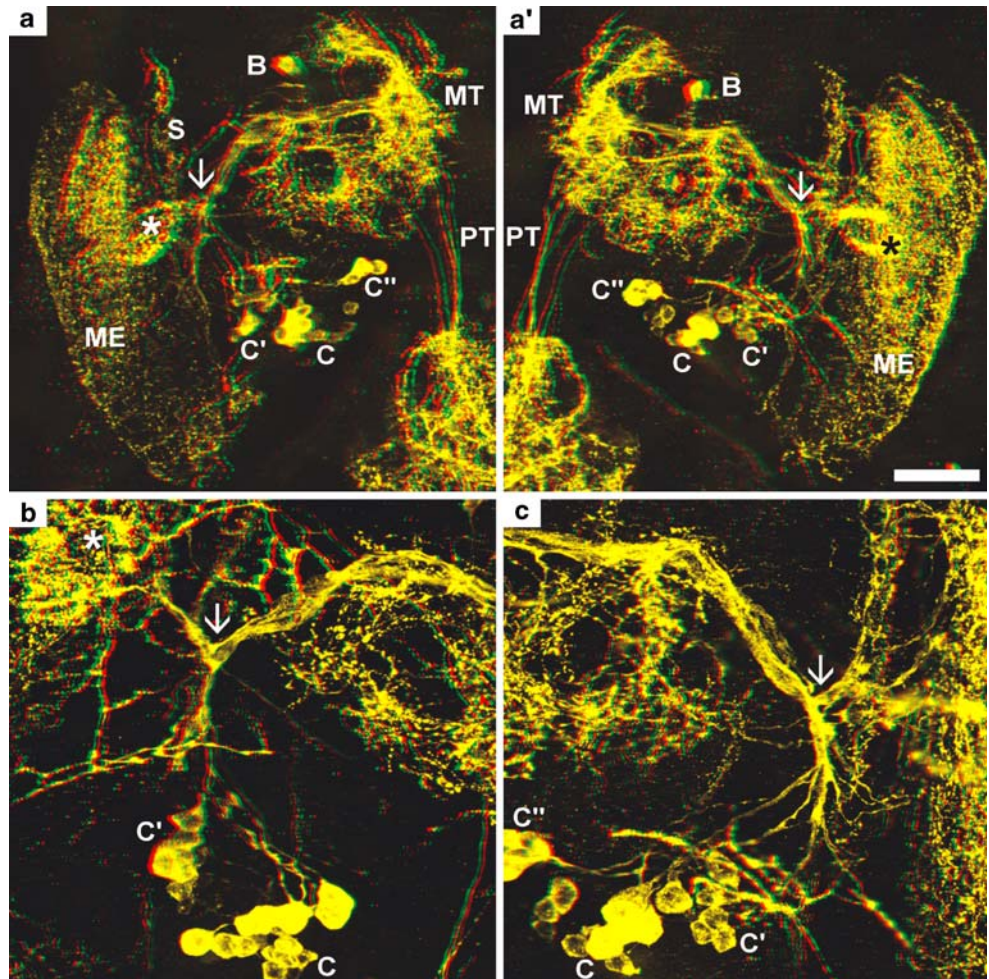


Comparison with insects

The neuronal expression of members of the PDH family of peptides has been mapped in a variety of insect species: the locust *Schistocerca gregaria* (Würden and Homberg 1995; Homberg and Prakash 1996) and seven other locust and cricket species (Homberg et al. 1991b), the cockroaches *Leucophora maderae* and *Periplaneta americana* (Homberg

et al. 1991b; Nässel et al. 1991; Stengl and Homberg 1994; Petri et al. 1995; Reischig and Stengl 1996, 2002, 2003), the phasmid *Extatosoma tiaratum* (Homberg et al. 1991b), the sphinx moth *Manduca sexta* (Homberg et al. 1991a), several polyneopteran insects (Sehadová et al. 2003), the blowfly *Phormia terraenovae* (Nässel et al. 1991, 1993), the house fly *M. domestica* (Pyza et al. 2003) and the fruitfly *D. melanogaster* (Nässel et al. 1993; Helfrich-Förster and

Fig. 6 PDHir structures in the developing eyestalks at 80% of embryonic development (higher magnifications of the specimen shown in Fig. 5a); colour-coded 3D images (use red-green glasses to view). **a, a'** Left and right eyestalk, respectively (*stars* sinus gland). **b, c** Higher magnifications of **a, a'**, respectively, showing the conspicuous branching point of the C neuron fibres (*arrows*). Groups of neuronal somata are denoted by *letters A–C* (*ME* medulla externa, *MT* medulla terminalis, *PT* protocerebral tract, *S* medulla satellite neuropil). *Bar* 50 μ m



Homberg 1993; Helfrich-Förster 1995). For the first time, we embark here upon a comparison between insect and crustacean PDRir structures. We will begin in the distal part of the eyestalks and then proceed proximally towards the brain. We have aimed at applying the criteria for the homology of arthropod nervous structures as laid out by Kutsch and Breidbach (1994).

1. A cluster of PDHir cells similar to that associated with the crustacean lamina ganglionaris (Mangerich et al. 1987; Hsu et al. 2008) is also present in locusts, crickets and cockroaches (Homberg et al. 1991b; Nässel et al. 1991; Homberg and Prakash 1996). As in crustaceans, immunoreactive arborisations in the insect lamina are largely restricted to the inner, most proximal layer. The insect lamina neurons, however, are not evenly distributed below the lamina but are condensed into two clusters at the posterior dorsal and ventral edge of the lamina (cell groups PDFlad and PDFlav in Homberg et al. 1991b; Homberg and Prakash 1996). In flies, the lamina PDFli neurons are absent (Nässel et al. 1991, 1993; Helfrich-Förster and Homberg 1993).
2. In all insect species studied, two clusters of PDFli somata lie at the base of the medulla (Homberg et al. 1991b; Nässel et al. 1991, 1993; Helfrich-Förster 1995, 1997) in a position corresponding to the lobster group C neurons. The projection pattern of these two groups could not be unravelled unambiguously in all of the insects studied because of the superposition of numerous arborising processes in the regions critical for determination of origin (Homberg et al. 1991b; Nässel et al. 1991; Petri et al. 1995; Reischig and Stengl 1996). However, the most likely pattern is that the cells of one group of the insect medulla neurons send PDFli processes mainly into the medulla and the accessory medulla (Petri et al. 1995; Würden and Homberg 1995; Reischig and Stengl 1996) and give rise to a contralateral projection. These have been termed large pigment-dispersing factor-like immunoreactive medulla (PDFMe) neurons by Helfrich-Förster and Homberg (1993) and Helfrich-Förster (1995, 1997), large cell bodies by Nässel et al. (1991) and optic lobe 1 (OL1) neurons by Nässel et al. (1993). These cells, as in crustaceans, form several layers of immunopositive tangential processes in the medulla. We suggest that this cluster is homologous to the crustacean cell group C and/or its sisters C' and C'' because of the similarities in the position of the cell somata and projection patterns of the neurites. Specifically, these cells in Crustacea give rise to fibres that provide a link with the contralateral eyestalk, as is the case in insects. The accessory medulla and its associated neurons is a well-characterised neuropil in insects and is an integral part of the circadian pacemaker system in these groups (Homberg 1994; Petri et al. 1995; Würden and Homberg 1995; Reischig and Stengl 1996; Loesel and Homberg 2001). The paired accessory medullae in both optic lobes are coupled with each other by commissural fibres passing through the posterior optic tubercles and this anatomical link is supposed to play an important role in the synchronisation of the oscillations of these pacemakers (Reischig et al. 2004). A distinct crustacean equivalent to the insect accessory medulla has yet to be clearly identified, but the small longitudinal satellite neuropil at the base of the medulla described for the first time in the present report is a possible candidate. Immunohistochemical demonstration of additional neuropeptides in this satellite neuropil (compare Petri et al. 1995; Würden and Homberg 1995) will be necessary to substantiate this suggestion.
3. The second group of insect medulla neurons and the bundle of contralaterally projecting fibres of the first group give rise to extensive ramifications in several regions of the median protocerebrum: the lateral horn, which is a region adjacent to the mushroom body calyces and is most probably comparable with the lateral protocerebrum with the hemi-ellipsoid body in decapod crustaceans (Harzsch 2007); a median posterior neuropil close to the oesophageal foramen; a protocerebral neuropil posterior to the fan-shaped body of the central body complex. These cells have been termed small PDFMe neurons by Helfrich-Förster and Homberg (1993) and Helfrich-Förster (1995, 1997), small cell bodies (scb) by Nässel et al. (1991) and optic lobe 2 (OL2) neurons by Nässel et al. (1993). We suggest that they are homologous to the crustacean group C, C' and/or C'' neurons because of the similarities in the position of the cell somata and projection patterns of the neurites.
4. Our hypothesis regarding the homology of the lobster C neurons is substantiated by a comparison with the emergence of the small and large PDFMe neurons in the fruitfly *D. melanogaster* (Helfrich-Förster 1997). In the brain of this animal, pigment-dispersing factor-like immunoreactive neurons appear in first-instar larvae 4–5 h after hatching. A cluster of four small PDFMe neurons is the first to appear, and this cluster persists throughout pupal development into adulthood. Their putative postsynaptic endings are associated with the accessory medulla. Four to six large PDFMe neurons appear halfway through pupal development in a position close to the small PDFMe neurons. Their arborisations extend into the accessory medulla and also innervate the medulla. They also give rise to immunolabelled fibres in the posterior optic tract to the

contralateral optic lobe (Helfrich-Förster 1997). The similarities in developmental appearance and projection pattern suggest a correspondence of the pupal small and large PDFMe neurons of *D. melanogaster* with the embryonic C, C', and C'' neurons of the lobster, but a more specific statement is not possible at this point. The differences are that, in the fly, a maximum of ten neurons is present, whereas in lobster, there are approximately twenty. Furthermore, the embryonic lobster cells do not display a clear-cut size difference as the fly cells do.

5. A further cluster of PDFli neurons is present in the medial part of the insect protocerebrum, close to the site where the fibres from the medulla cells terminate, i.e. the lateral horn adjacent to the calyces of the mushroom bodies. These neurons have been termed pigment-dispersing factor-like immunoreactive calyx (PDFca) neurons in the fruitfly (Helfrich-Förster 1995, 1997), posterior dorsal (PD) neurons in the blowfly (Nässel et al. 1993) and pars intercerebralis neurons in crickets and the sphinx moth (Homberg et al. 1991a, b). Immunoreactive fibres from these cells join the median bundle and project towards the oesophageal foramen and then proceed further posteriorly towards the VNC. We suggest that these cells are homologous to the crustacean neurons A and B for the following reasons: the medulla interna/terminalis complex (“lateral protocerebrum”) in the crustacean eyestalks is a structure that phylogenetically is derived from the protocerebrum (Vilpoux et al. 2006). Therefore, the crustacean medulla terminalis, together with the hemi-ellipsoid body, probably corresponds to the insect lateral horns (Harzsch 2007). The termination site of the axons of the insect medulla neuron in the lateral horn may hence correspond to the innervation of crustacean group C, C' and C'' neurons in the medulla terminalis. This is the reason that the afore-mentioned PDFli cells close to the insect lateral horn might be homologous to the crustacean group A and B cells in the medulla terminalis. The insect protocerebral neurons and crustacean group A cells also share the same projection pattern in that their neurites proceed posteriorly towards the VNC.

Insect and crustacean circadian rhythms

Insects are known to display distinct circadian rhythms of motor activity and, in the last few years, the cellular and molecular mechanisms of the circadian clock have been elucidated (reviews Helfrich-Förster 1996; Meinertzhagen and Pyza 1996; Helfrich-Förster et al. 1998; Meinertzhagen and Pyza 1999; Giebultowicz et al. 2001; Pyza 2001; Tomioka et al. 2001; Helfrich-Förster 2002, 2003; Saunders

2002; Homberg et al. 2003). Homberg et al. (1991b) and Nässel et al. (1993) have suggested that the medulla PDFli neurons in insects fulfil several morphological criteria of circadian pacemaker neurons in that they are well suited to pick up visual stimuli and transfer this information to the medial part of the brain, and because they have an anatomical link for contralateral coupling.

From the results in the present study, we propose that the insect PDFli medulla neurons are homologous to the crustacean PDHir neurons of group C. Adult decapod crustaceans display distinct circadian and circatidal rhythms of locomotor activity (Naylor 1988; Aréchiga et al. 1993; Naylor 1996; Palmer 2001). What is more, crustacean larvae display endogenous circadian and circatidal rhythms of vertical migration (Fanjul-Moles et al. 1996; Zeng and Naylor 1996a, b, c, d, 1997) and retinal sensitivity rhythms (Fanjul-Moles and Prieto-Sagredo 2003) and larval moulting is also influenced by circatidal rhythmicity (Abello et al. 1997; Zeng et al. 1997). Since we have been able to show that, in late lobster embryos, an elaborate system of PDH medulla neurons is present, we propose that this system, as in insects, plays a functional role in the circadian/circatidal clock of crustacean larvae.

Evolutionary implications: “neurophylogeny” and arthropod relationships

The structure and development of the nervous system contribute important arguments to the revived debate on arthropod relationships, so that arthropod “neurophylogeny”, i.e. the synthesis of neurobiology and phylogenetic analyses, is now a well-established and active discipline (for recent contributions, see Loesel 2004, 2005; Harzsch et al. 2005; Strausfeld 2005; Harzsch 2006, 2007; Harzsch and Hafner 2006; Strausfeld et al. 2006a, b; Heuer and Loesel 2008; Mayer and Harzsch 2008). Specifically, the considerable number of recent studies of the brain architecture in various non-model arthropods reflects the progress that we have made in analysing the cellular architecture of the arthropod brain in a depth that can provide detailed character sets with a strong impact on our understanding of arthropod phylogeny (e.g. Loesel et al. 2002; Schachtner et al. 2005; Strausfeld 2005; Fanenbruck and Harzsch 2005; Strausfeld et al. 2006a, b; Homberg 2008). All recent studies in this field have collectively indicated a closer phylogenetic affinity of insects with crustaceans (Tetraconata hypothesis) rather than with myriapods (Tracheate hypothesis; for reviews, see Harzsch 2006, 2007). The current study, which provides evidence for a close similarity of a certain identified neuronal system in Hexapoda and malacostracan Crustacea, might provide a basis for a new approach in this direction. In order to extract meaningful phylogenetic information, the

next step should be to analyse PDH immunolocalisation in the brains of non-malacostracan crustaceans and myriapods as the potential outgroups to the Hexapoda and Malacostraca.

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