

1 **Subtype-specific roles of ellipsoid body ring neurons in sleep regulation in *Drosophila***

2 **Abbreviated title: Subtype-specificity of EB-Rs in sleep regulation**

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21 Number of pages: 29

22 Number of figures: 11

23 Number of words for abstract (249), introduction (640), and discussion (573)

24

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29 **Conflict of interest statement:** The authors declare no competing financial interests.

30

31 **Acknowledgements:** This work is supported by National Natural Science Foundation of
32 China (32071009 to CL), Guangdong Basic and Applied Basic Research Foundation
33 (2020A1515011055 to CL), CAS Key Laboratory of Brain Connectome and Manipulation
34 (2019DP173024), National Institutes of Health grant R01MH67284 to LCG.

35

36 **ABSTRACT**

37 The ellipsoid body (EB) is a major structure of the central complex of the *Drosophila*
38 *melanogaster* brain. 22 subtypes of EB ring neurons have been identified based on
39 anatomical and morphological characteristics with light-level microscopy and EM
40 connectomics. A few studies have associated ring neurons with the regulation of sleep
41 homeostasis and structure. However, cell type-specific and population interactions in the
42 regulation of sleep remain unclear. Employing a unbiased thermogenetic screen of collected
43 EB drivers, we found: 1) multiple ring neurons are involved in the modulation of amount of
44 sleep and structure in a synergistic manner; 2) analysis of data for $\Delta P(\text{doze})/\Delta P(\text{wake})$ using
45 a mixed Gaussian model detected 5 clusters of GAL4 drivers which had similar effects on
46 sleep pressure and/or depth: lines driving arousal contained R4m neurons, whereas lines that
47 increased sleep pressure had R3m cells; 3) a general linear model analysis correlating ring
48 cell subtype and activity-dependent changes in sleep parameters across all the lines identified
49 several cell types significantly associated with specific sleep effects: R3p for daytime sleep
50 promotion, and R4m for nighttime wake-promoting; and 4) another subclass, R3d cells
51 present in 5HT7-GAL4+ neurons and in GAL4 lines from our screen which exclusively

52 affect sleep structure, were found to contribute to fragmentation of sleep during both day and
53 night. Thus, multiple subtypes of ring neurons distinctively control sleep amount and/or
54 structure, and the unique highly interconnected structure of the EB and its connections with
55 other regions of brain suggest a local-network model worth future investigation.

56

57 **SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT**

58 How multiple brain regions, with many cell types, can coherently regulate sleep remains
59 unclear, but identification of cell type-specific roles can generate opportunities for
60 understanding the principles of integration and cooperation. The ellipsoid body (EB) of the
61 fly brain exhibits a high level of connectivity and functional heterogeneity yet is able to tune
62 multiple behaviours in real-time, including sleep. Leveraging the powerful genetic tools
63 available in *Drosophila* and recent progress in the characterization of the morphology and
64 connectivity of EB ring neurons, we identify several EB subtypes specifically associated with
65 distinct aspects of sleep. Our findings will aid in revealing the rules of coding and integration
66 in the brain.

67

68 **INTRODUCTION**

69 Sleep plays critical roles in many physiological functions. Sleep regulation in the brain
70 is a complex process modulated at the molecular, cellular, circuit and network levels (John et
71 al., 2016; Scammell et al., 2017; Bringmann, 2018; Herice and Sakata, 2019; Liu and Dan,
72 2019). Previous studies in *Drosophila melanogaster* have revealed multiple cell types and
73 neural circuits that participate in the regulation of sleep amount, structure and homeostasis.

74 The ellipsoid body (EB) contributes to regulation of multiple behaviors including spatial
75 orientation, navigation, arousal and sleep (Bausenwein et al., 1994; Lebestky et al., 2009;
76 Ofstad et al., 2011; Seelig and Jayaraman, 2015; Fisher et al., 2019; Kim et al., 2019; Kottler
77 et al., 2019). As one of the central structures on the midline of the fly brain, the EB receives
78 direct input from, and sends output to, many brain regions. This high level of connectivity
79 positions the EB to be a center for integration of multiple information streams, including
80 visual, motor, mechanosensory and circadian input, allowing it to functionally tune complex
81 behaviors (Franconville et al., 2018).

82 The organization within the EB also exhibits complexity. With recent progress on
83 morphology and connectivity of the EB, 22 distinct subtypes of ring neurons have been
84 identified (Hulse et al., 2021). Each subtype of ring neuron typically contains a dendritic
85 arborization lateral to the EB, then projects a single axon into the concentric laminated
86 structure within the EB neuropil. The projections from each subtype of ring neuron form
87 distinct layers within the neuropil, terminating in different rings at specific depths along the
88 anterior-posterior axis where they interconnect (Hanesch et al., 1989; Young and Armstrong,
89 2010; Lin et al., 2013). These connections, between neurons of the same type, provide each
90 ring neuron's strongest inputs (Isaacman-Beck et al., 2020; Hulse et al., 2021) and suggest a
91 structural basis for local communication and synergism for sleep regulation.

92 In spite of the growing understanding of EB connectivity, specific roles for each
93 subtype of ring neuron in sleep is limited. One subtype of R5 neuron (initially referred to as
94 R2) has been shown to drive a persistent sleep upon secession of thermoactivation,
95 suggesting a role in sleep drive and homeostasis (Donlea et al., 2014; Liu et al., 2016;

96 Pimentel et al., 2016). Another study showed that single R5 neurons get synchronized by
97 circadian input and the power of slow-wave oscillations in R5 neurons has been associated
98 with increased sleep drive (Raccuglia et al., 2019). 5HT7-GAL4+ EB neurons, which consist
99 of several subtypes and are modulated by serotonergic signaling, can regulate sleep
100 architecture (Liu et al., 2019). In spite of these important findings, the scope of ring neuron
101 involvement in the regulation of sleep is not clear.

102 In the present study, we take an unbiased approach, screening 34 drivers that label
103 different combinations of subtypes of ring neurons by thermoactivation using the warmth-
104 sensitive cation channel dTrpA1 (Hamada et al., 2008). Most drivers label multiple ring
105 neurons, and activation of many drivers resulted in significant changes in sleep amount
106 and/or sleep structure. The complexity of the tools and phenotypes necessitated developing
107 computational approaches for assessing the importance of each subtype. Using P(wake) and
108 P(doze) analysis with a mixed Gaussian model, 5 clusters of drivers were found to regulate
109 sleep depth and pressure during the day and/or at night, respectively. Furthermore, a general
110 linear model analysis based on the GAL4 expression pattern and the sleep behavior upon 24-
111 hour activation suggest several types of ring neuron contribute to sleep regulation consistent
112 with and extending the findings from the Gaussian model. Finally, using genetic suppression
113 of intersected population strategy, we identified a subpopulation of neurons which is
114 sufficient to fragment sleep during both day and night. Although how the ring neurons
115 cooperate to coherently modulate sleep is not yet clear, the identification of roles for specific
116 cell types provides an important piece of the puzzle.

117

118 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

119

120 **EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND SUBJECT DETAILS**

121 **Animals**

122 Unless specified, flies were reared on standard cornmeal food (Each 1 liter H₂O: 70g
123 cornmeal, 50g sucrose, 10g soybean powder, 20g yeast powder, 6g agar, and 3g Methyl 4-
124 hydroxybenzoate) at 23°C with 60% relative humidity and under a regime of 12-hour
125 light/12-hour dark. Flies were allowed to freely mate after eclosion, and mated females aged
126 2~5 days were used for all experiments. GAL4 lines: R12B01 (48487), R15B07 (48678),
127 R28D01 (47342), R28E01 (49457), R38B06 (49986), R38G08 (50020), R38H02 (47352),
128 R41A08 (50108), R41F05-GAL4 (50133), R47F07 (50302), R48B10 (50352), R49E12
129 (38693), R53F11 (50443), R53G11 (69747), R54B05 (69148), R56C09 (39145), R64H04
130 (39323), R70B04 (39513), R70B05 (47721), R73A06 (39805), R73B05 (48312), R81F01
131 (40120), R84H09 (47803), Aph^{c507} (30840), C232 (30828), and R44D11-LexA (41264),
132 UAS-dTrpA1 (26263), UAS-mCD8::GFP (5136), UAS-mCD8::RFP, LexAop2-mCD8::GFP
133 (32229), LexAop-Gal80 (32213) were ordered from the Bloomington Drosophila Stock
134 Center. GAL4 lines of VT038828 (v201975), VT040539 (v204084), and VT059775
135 (v201924) were ordered from Vienna Drosophila Resource Center (VDRC). GAL4 lines:
136 VT012446, VT026841, VT042577, VT042759, VT045108 and VT057257 were ordered
137 from VDRC originally, but unfortunately not available anymore. 5HT7-GAL4 was provided
138 by Charles Nicols' Lab. Feb170-GAL4 was generated by Günter Korge's Lab (Siegmund and

139 Korge, 2001). The wild type line *w^{CS}* was crossed with GAL4 and UAS parental lines as
140 genetic controls.

141

142 **Method details**

143 **Sleep assay and calculation of sleep changes**

144 F1 generation of flies were all maintained on standard food at 23 °C. 2-5 days old mated
145 F1 female flies were individually placed into a 65 mm × 5 mm glass tube containing food
146 (2% agar and 5% sucrose). After loading to the DAM2 system (Drosophila Activity Monitor)
147 (Trikinetics, Waltham) at 21°C in 12 hr: 12 hr light/dark (LD) cycles, flies were entrained for
148 2-3 days. Then one day baseline sleep, one day neural activation sleep as well as one day
149 recovery sleep were recorded at 21°C, 30 °C and 21 °C, respectively. Total sleep, the number
150 of sleep episodes, and max episode length were analyzed for light and dark periods (LP and
151 DP) separately, using MATLAB program (SCAMP2019v2) scripts.

152 To overview the effects upon activation of GAL4+ neurons, all genotypes were arranged
153 in a descending order according to the changes of total sleep during the light period. Sleep
154 changes were calculated by subtracting baseline day sleep of each genotype from its
155 activation day. For genotypes with significant changes in sleep and/or sleep structure, three
156 days' sleep profiles of sleep time in 30 min were plotted. Sleep changes of the recovery day
157 were also calculated. The significant difference was marked when the experimental group is
158 different compared to both genetic controls.

159 **Immunohistochemistry**

160 Brains of adult flies were dissected in 10 mM ice-cold PBS and fixed for 20 min in PBS
161 with 4% paraformaldehyde at room temperature. Brains were then washed three times for 5
162 min each in PBT (PBS with 0.5% Triton X-100). For GFP and RFP immunostaining, brains
163 were incubated with primary antibodies (1:200, chicken anti-GFP, Abcam, Cat# ab13970;
164 1:200, mouse anti-GFP, Roche, Cat# AB_390913; 1:1000, rabbit anti-GFP, Invitrogen, Cat#
165 A-11122; 1:200, rabbit anti DsRed, Takara, Cat# AB_10013483) in 10% NGS in PBT at 4 °C
166 for two nights. After three times washes for 5 min each with PBT at room temperature, brains
167 were incubated with secondary antibody at 4°C overnight. Second antibodies (488 goat anti-
168 mouse, Invitrogen, Cat# A-11001; 488 goat anti-chicken, Invitrogen, Cat# A-11039; 488 goat
169 anti-rabbit, Invitrogen, Cat# A-11008; 568 goat anti-rabbit, Thermo Fisher, Cat# A-11011)
170 were all used in a ratio of 1:200. Samples were then washed three times for 5 min each in
171 PBT at room temperature, and mounted on microscope slide in Vectashield mounting
172 medium (Vector Laboratories, Inc. Cat# H-1000). Finally, samples were imaged with Leica
173 TCS SP5/LSM900 confocal microscope and analyzed using the open source of FIJI (Image-J)
174 software.

175 **Probability Analysis**

176 The probability of transitioning from a sleep to an awake state ($P(\text{wake})$), and from a
177 wake state to a sleep state ($P(\text{doze})$) were used power law distributions analysis as previously
178 described (Wiggin et al., 2020). $P(\text{wake})$ and $P(\text{doze})$ were calculated identically, with
179 calculation of 1-min bin of inactivity and activity reversed. The MATLAB scripts for analysis
180 of $P(\text{wake})/P(\text{doze})$ can be accessed in GitHub at https://github.com/Griffith-Lab/Fly_Sleep_Probability.

182 **Mixed Gaussian Model Clustering**

183 To figure out different effects of EB drivers on both sleep pressure and depth, we divided
184 all significant subtypes of EB ring neurons into groups with similar distributions of delta
185 P(Wake) and delta P(Doze), using mixed gaussian model clustering. The clustering analysis
186 was conducted using the scripts of fitgmdist and cluster in Matlab. Given the small sample size
187 of neuron subtypes (14 and 13 for daytime and nighttime, respectively), the number of cluster
188 k was set to 3, 4, or 5 for both daytime and nighttime. We calculated the silhouette coefficients
189 for each k value using the script of silhouette in Matlab and chose the final k value whose
190 silhouette coefficient was the closest to one (Lecompte et al., 1986). The size of ellipse for each
191 cluster was decided by the corresponding sigma values of its gaussian mixture distribution.

192 **General linear model**

193 To evaluate the effect of a specific anatomical subtype of ring neurons on sleep, the
194 generalized linear model (GLM) (Generalized Linear Models. 2nd Edition, Chapman and
195 Hall (CRC Press). <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4899-3242-6>) was used to estimate the
196 weights and the corresponding statistical significance of all subtypes for each sleep
197 parameter. The GLM analysis was conducted using the script of glmfit in Matlab
198 (MathWorks, Natick, MA) to predict each sleep parameter under the combination of all
199 subtypes of neurons. The input variable was defined as 1 or 0 for each subtype of ring
200 neurons (R1, R2, R3d, R3m, R3a, R3p, R3w, R4m, R4d, R5, and R6) when labeled or not
201 labeled by each driver, respectively. And the corresponding output variable was the mean
202 change rate of each sleep parameter of the same driver upon the activation to its baseline
203 level (output variable value = (activation-baseline)/baseline). We chose the default

204 parameters for the script of glmfit. According to the weight calculation for each subtype
205 (Figure 5-1), a positive value represents positive relationship, and a negative value represents
206 negative relationship between the subtype and the sleep parameter, respectively, when the
207 corresponding p value < 0.05.

208 **Statistical analysis**

209 Power analysis was conducted using the script of sampsizewr in Matlab (MathWorks,
210 Natick, MA) to calculate the power for the sample size in this study. The power analysis was
211 based on the sleep parameters in drivers with significant differences from both control groups
212 presented in the main figures. We selected the mean and standard deviation of control groups
213 under the null hypothesis, and the mean value of experimental groups under the alternative
214 hypothesis during the calculation of power values. Based on current sample size, >80% of the
215 powers of significances of sleep parameters were greater than 0.9 (Figures 2-2, and 5-2).

216 Data were performed using GraphPad Prism 8. Group means were compared using one-
217 way ANOVA followed by Bonferroni's multiple comparison test when data were normally
218 distributed, or Kruskal-Wallis test followed by Dunn's multiple comparison test was
219 employed when data failed passing normality test. All experiments were performed at least 2
220 replicates, and data presented in the figures were chosen from one representative replicate. To
221 uniform the data presentation, all figures were prepared as mean \pm SEM. To visualize all
222 groups in the same figure clearer, error bars were not shown. Asterisk (*) indicates a
223 significant difference: *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01, ***p < 0.001, ****p < 0.0001; N.S., not
224 significant.

225

226 **RESULTS**

227 **Thermoactivation of ring neurons changes sleep amount**

228 To investigate the roles of ring neuron types, we collected 34 GAL4 drivers that label
229 different populations of ring neurons and used them to drive the thermogenetic tool dTrpA1,
230 allowing the use of elevated temperature to drive neuronal firing (Hamada et al., 2008).
231 Animals were placed in DAM2 system tubes and entrained at 21°C in a 12 hr: 12 hr light/dark
232 (LD) cycle. Sleep was then recorded for 3 days: one day of baseline sleep at 21 °C, one day of
233 neural activation sleep at 30 °C, then one day of recovery sleep at 21 °C (Figure 1A). Changes
234 in sleep parameters for each genotype on the activation and recovery days were calculated by
235 subtracting the baseline day value (Figure 1A). Changes were only considered significant when
236 the experimental group was different from both genetic controls. Changes in total daytime sleep
237 of the 34 drivers on the activation day are arranged in descending order (Figure 1B), and
238 changes of total nighttime sleep (Figure 1G) as well as changes in the number of episodes
239 (Figure 1C and H), maximum episode duration (Figure 1D and I), P(doze) (Figure 1E and J),
240 and P(wake) (Figure 1F and K) are displayed in the same order as the daytime sleep data to
241 allow assessment of all parameter changes for each genotype. The color-coding of the
242 histogram bars corresponds to the Gaussian clusters shown in Figure 4 and is also used to
243 identify lines in Figures 2 and 5 and Figure 2-1 as part of particular clusters.

244 Activation of GAL4+ neurons produced many different patterns of change in the amount
245 of sleep. During the daytime, a significant increase in total sleep was found when R47F07-
246 GAL4+, R28E01-GAL4+, and C232-GAL4+ neurons were activated (Figure 1B). Since

247 change in total sleep is often associated with change in sleep structure (Liu et al., 2019; Wiggin
248 et al., 2020), we also evaluated the number of sleep episodes, episode length, and the behavioral
249 transition probabilities, $P(\text{doze})$ and $P(\text{wake})$ (Wiggin et al., 2020) to further understand the
250 changes in sleep drive and arousal threshold. The increased sleep observed in the above three
251 drivers was accompanied by a significant increase in max episode length but no change in the
252 number of episodes compared to their genetic controls (Figure 1C-D). These flies had increased
253 $P(\text{doze})$ and decreased $P(\text{wake})$, suggesting that these neurons possibly contribute to increase
254 sleep pressure and sleep depth (Figure 1E-F).

255 We also found cell groups which, when activated, induced a significant reduction in total
256 sleep: Feb170-GAL4+ and R70B05-GAL4+ neurons (Figure 1B). Sleep reduction was
257 associated with significant decreases in max episode length with no change in the number of
258 episodes compared to their genetic controls (Figure 1C-D). The reduced sleep amount and
259 episode length were possibly due to the increased $P(\text{doze})$ and $P(\text{wake})$ (Figure 1E-F),
260 suggesting neurons labeled by these two drivers are involved in upregulation of sleep pressure
261 and downregulation of sleep depth during the daytime.

262 Nighttime effects of thermogenetic neuron activation are more complex to interpret. Data
263 have to be viewed in the context of the sleep-suppressing effects of elevated temperature on
264 normal wild type animal sleep (Parisky et al., 2016; Jin et al., 2021). This temperature effect
265 can be visualized in the continuous sleep plots for most of the GAL4 and UAS control lines in
266 Figures 2 and 5 and Figures 2-1. VT059775-GAL4+ and VT057257-GAL4+ neuron activation
267 led to almost no change of total sleep compared to their own baseline, but this reflects a

268 significant difference from genetic controls, which respond to heat with at large reduction in
269 sleep. These lines also had only small reductions in P(wake) compared to controls, implying
270 that these neurons may be involved in sleep promotion by changing sleep depth (Figure 1G and
271 1K).

272 We also found a number of GAL4 drivers, including R47F07, Aphc507, R64H04,
273 R84H09, Feb170, and R70B05 which significantly reduced nighttime sleep amount compared
274 to their controls, suggesting they contribute to promoting wakefulness (Figure 1G). These
275 reductions in total sleep were accompanied by changes in sleep structure, featured as
276 fragmentation where the number of episodes significantly increased and/or episode length
277 reduced (Figure 1H-I). Many drivers exhibited increased P(doze) and P(wake) (Figure 1J-K),
278 suggesting sleep pressure and sleep depth play important roles in nighttime sleep.

279 **Thermoactivation of ring neurons can change sleep structure independent of sleep
280 amount**

281 We also found cases where sleep structure was changed without alterations in total sleep,
282 supporting the idea that structure can be regulated independently (Liu et al., 2019). Activation
283 of neurons from several GAL4 drivers, including R70B04, R53F11, R54B05, R53G11,
284 R48B10, and VT038828, resulted in significant change only in sleep structure. Except for
285 R70B04, which induced consolidated daytime sleep with a decrease in the number of episodes
286 and an increase in the episode length, all drivers mentioned above exhibited fragmented sleep
287 either during the day or at night (Figure 1C-D and 1H-I). Fragmentation was accompanied by
288 a robust increase in P(doze) for the majority drivers (Figure 1E and J). P(doze) is believed to

289 correlate with sleep pressure (Wiggin et al., 2020), suggesting the fragmentation reflects an
290 increase in the probability of switching from wake to sleep i.e. high sleep drive.

291 The circadian period during which fragmentation occurred varied with GAL4 line.
292 Daytime fragmentation was observed when R54B05-GAL4+ and R48B10-GAL4+ neurons
293 were activated (Figure 1C), and nighttime fragmentation was seen when VT038828-GAL4+
294 neurons were activated (Figure 1H). Fragmentation of both day and night was found when
295 R53G11-GAL4+ and R53F11-GAL4+ neurons were activated (Figure 1C-D and H-I).

296 The structural parameters that were altered were also variable. Three GAL4 drivers,
297 R53F11, R54B05 and VT038828, only exhibited a significant increase in the number of
298 episodes. R53G11 and R48B10 only showed reduced episode length. All of these changes
299 contributed to increases in P(doze) with little or weak P(wake) effects, especially during the
300 day (Figure 1E-F and J-K). Interestingly, R12B01-GAL4 did not exhibit detectable changes in
301 the number of episodes or episode length, but had a significant increase in P(doze) compared
302 to both controls (Figure 1E), suggesting a potential specific contribution of R28E01-GAL4+
303 neurons to control of sleep pressure. Taken together, changes in sleep structure are highly
304 associated with P(doze), but when sleep structure changes are accompanied by changes in total
305 sleep amount, P(wake) becomes an important component of the regulation.

306 **Thermoactivation of ring neurons has complex effects on sleep homeostasis**

307 We summarized drivers with significant changes of total amount of sleep or sleep structure
308 either during the day, at night or both (Figure 2A). We plotted sleep and changes in parameters
309 over three days to provide a more nuanced picture of the lasting effects of activation of these

310 neurons and present the lines ordered from largest to smallest rebound sleep on the recovery
311 day (Figure 2B-Q, Figure 2-1). For some of the lines, the changes in total sleep appeared to
312 activate homeostatic changes that were evident during the recovery day. Activation of C232-
313 GAL4+ neurons, which increases sleep on the activation day, leads to a negative rebound
314 (decrease in sleep) upon cessation of activation (Figure 2C). Activation of Feb170-GAL4+
315 neurons decreased sleep both in the day and night, and this was followed by a homeostatic
316 rebound increase in sleep (Figure 2G). Activation of R48B10-GAL4+ or R53F11-GAL4+
317 neurons led to fragmentation during either the day or both in the day and night, and a robust
318 homeostatic rebound increase occurred (Figures 2J-Q). Interestingly, some drivers exhibited
319 decreased sleep without a rebound change in sleep afterwards, e.g. R64H04, R47F07 and
320 R84H09 (Figure 2-1), suggesting that for these lines, sleep loss was either not able to be
321 compensated for or was not “counted” by the homeostat. These may represent cell types that
322 are not integrated into the homeostat (Seidner et al., 2015).

323 **Association of changes in arousal and sleep drive with GAL4+ groups of ring neurons**

324 The majority of the GAL4 lines we screened contained more than one subtype of ring
325 neuron (Figure 3A). To examine the linkage between ring neuron types and distinct aspects of
326 sleep amount and/or sleep structure, we first separated drivers into two groups (Figure 2A): 1)
327 those which exhibited changes in sleep amount; and 2) those which exhibited no change in
328 sleep amount but had changes in sleep structure. Based on the time of day when the phenotype
329 was observed (day only, night only or both day and night), we classed those drivers into three
330 clusters. For lines that changed total sleep, we noted their effects in Figure 2A as increasing or

331 decreasing. The second type of information we layered into the analysis was the identification
332 of the subtypes of ring neurons in each line according to anatomical features and recent
333 nomenclature (Omoto et al., 2018; Hulse et al., 2021) (Figure 3A). Based on this primary
334 classification, many subtypes of ring neurons including R1, R2, R4m, R4d, R5 and many R3
335 subtypes (R3a, R3m, R3d, and R3p) may participate in the regulation of sleep amount (Figure
336 3B). Due to the multiplicity of ring neurons in these EB drivers, it was hard to *a priori* link a
337 single subtype of EB neuron with a specific function in the regulation of sleep amount/structure.
338 Thus, we employed statistical models to try to identify links between ring subtypes and
339 phenotypes.

340 The first approach we used was aimed at determining the effects of the GAL4 lines (each
341 of which has a different mixture of ring neuron subtypes) in regulating sleep. We used a mixed
342 Gaussian model for changes in P(wake) or P(doze) on the activation day compared to the
343 baseline day (Figure 4A-B). We chose to use these transition probabilities since they capture
344 some of the more complex aspects of sleep: P(wake) correlates with arousal state/sleep depth,
345 while P(doze) is a measure of sleep drive (Wiggin et al., 2020). A single value of $\Delta P(\text{wake})$
346 and $\Delta P(\text{doze})$ for each line was calculated by subtracting the average of the genetic controls
347 for that driver (experimental $\Delta P - (UAS \Delta P + GAL4 \Delta P)/2$). These values were then plotted
348 in $\Delta P(\text{wake})$ - $\Delta P(\text{doze})$ space and clustered with the model to find groups with similar effects
349 on sleep depth and pressure. We identified 5 clusters of GAL4 lines for day and night,
350 respectively (Figure 4A-B). These clusters define the color codes used in Figures 1, 2, 5 and
351 Figure 2-1.

352 Using our anatomical analysis of these lines, we found that the lines within each cluster
353 shared a common ring neuron subtype. During the daytime (Figure 4A), R4m (and perhaps R2
354 neurons) emerged as strong candidates for the regulation of sleep depth/arousal since they are
355 present in lines that have high $\Delta P(\text{wake})$ values. R3dm cells appeared to increase sleep drive;
356 lines with these cells had large $\Delta P(\text{doze})$. R2, R3d and R3p neurons were present in several
357 clusters and did not appear to have unique functionality with regard to sleep depth and drive,
358 but a role in facilitation of the effects of R2 and R3m neurons, or in more specialized functions
359 in sleep structure, cannot be ruled out. We also observed that many drivers play different roles
360 during the day and night (Figure 4B). For example, R70B05 exhibits relative strong $P(\text{wake})$
361 but weak $P(\text{doze})$ effect during the day, but at night increases its influence on $P(\text{doze})$; R47F07
362 has little effect on $P(\text{wake})$ in the day, but becomes much more wake-promoting at night.

363 **Association of specific ring neuron subtypes with changes in sleep parameters**

364 Since the variable analyzed using Gaussian clustering was the GAL4 line, which is most
365 often a collection of different ring neuron subtypes, the effects we saw could also be the result
366 of particular combinations of subtypes rather than the result of one dominant subtype alone. To
367 try to isolate effects specific to subtypes, and to look at more specific sleep parameters, we
368 employed a second method to extract the contributions of each ring neuron subtype to
369 functional outcomes. Using a general linear model (GLM) with ring neuron subtype as the
370 variable allowed us to calculate the weights of the potential contribution of each subtype of
371 ring neuron to all the sleep parameters for daytime and nighttime, respectively (Figure 5-1).
372 R3p exhibited a significantly positive effect on daytime sleep amount which was associated

373 with its positive weight in episode length (Figure 5A-B). As an example, activation of R28E01-
374 GAL4+ neurons, which include the R3p subtype, elevated daytime sleep and max episode
375 length (Figure 5C-E, Figure 5-1). But the R3p subtype had little effect on P(doze) or P(wake)
376 (Figure 5F). We also found that R4m had a significantly inhibiting effect on total sleep at night
377 and a negative effect on episode length (Figure 5G-H, Figure 5-1), consistent with the results
378 of Gaussian clustering. R70B05-GAL4+ neurons include the R4m subtype, and activation of
379 neurons labeled by this driver caused a dramatic reduction of sleep in both day and night which
380 is likely due to the shortened episode length (Figure 5I-K). The effects of activation of these
381 R70B05-GAL4+ neurons persisted into the recovery day, with flies exhibiting significantly
382 elevated sleep pressure and lightened sleep depth (Figure 5L).

383 **Ring neuron synergy is important for sculpting sleep**

384 Interestingly, there were effects uncovered in the GLM analysis that were not seen with GAL4
385 drivers that labelled only that specific subtype. R1 and R2 neurons exhibit a significantly
386 negative weight in the number of episodes at night, suggesting that these neurons may
387 contribute to consolidation of sleep structure (Figure 5-1). However, we failed to observe
388 consolidation after activation of R1- or R2-specific GAL4 drivers; R56C09 and R81F01 had
389 little significant effect on sleep structure (Figure 1), while activation of R48B10 produced a
390 moderately strong increase in P(doze/wake) (Figure 2M). This suggests that the sleep
391 consolidation effects of activating these neurons uncovered by the GLM requires co-activation
392 of other subtypes.

393 Supporting the complexity of ring neuron subtype interactions, we observed that
394 activation of the R47F07-GAL4 driver, which labels R3a, R3m and R3p ring neurons, induced
395 increased daytime sleep but reduced nighttime sleep (Figure 4, Figure 2-1E-F). Increased
396 daytime sleep was associated with an increase of episode length, explained by elevated sleep
397 pressure and “deeper” sleep depth (Figure 4, Figure 2-1G-H). Opposite to the daytime change,
398 reduced nighttime sleep was accompanied by fragmentation, resulting in increased sleep
399 pressure and/or light sleep depth (Figure 4, Figure 2-1G-H). How these three subtypes of ring
400 neurons coordinate to segregate, and effect a sign change on, day and night sleep still needs to
401 be determined, but may provide insight into coordination of the EB circuit.

402 **Regulation of sleep fragmentation by a specific ring neuron subset**

403 One of the interesting findings of this screen was that there appeared to be circuits which
404 regulate sleep structure independent of sleep amount. These data were consistent with our
405 previous studies which identified 5HT in EB as a modulator of sleep structure; activation of
406 5HT7-GAL4+ neurons fragmented sleep without changing the amount of sleep (Liu et al.,
407 2019). 5HT7-GAL4+ neurons include R3d, R3p, and R4d subtypes (Hulse et al., 2021). To
408 examine whether sleep structure regulation could be attributed to a specific subtype, we
409 identified a driver R44D11-LexA that had an expression pattern similar to 5HT7-GAL4 (Figure
410 6A). LexA+ neurons overlapped nearly 79% with 5HT7-GAL4+ neurons (Figure 6C), but
411 activation of R44D11-LexA+ neurons did not induce sleep/structure changes upon activation
412 (Figure 6-1). To test the hypothesis that sleep fragmentation might be induced by the non-
413 overlapping population of 5HT7-GAL4+ neurons, we introduced LexAop-GAL80 to suppress

414 the overlapping neurons between R44D11-LexA+ and 5HT7-GAL4+ neurons (Figure 6B). We
415 found that activation of the non-overlapping 5HT7-GAL4+ neurons increased the number of
416 episodes and reduced episode length (Figure 6D), suggesting that the non-overlapping neurons
417 play a critical role in sleep fragmentation. Interestingly, the non-overlapping neurons
418 morphologically are R3d subtypes (Figure 6B). This subtype of ring neuron was present in 4/6
419 of the lines we identified in this screen as affecting structure only (R70B04, R53F11, R54B05,
420 R53G11) and there were also R3d neurons in some lines that fragmented sleep in addition to
421 changing its amount (Aphc507, R84H09). The fact that not all lines which contain this ring
422 neuron subtype fragment sleep may be due to interactions with other ring neuron types or
423 heterogeneity within the R3d population.

424

425 **DISCUSSION**

426 Sleep is crucial for survival and overall health across animal kingdoms. Fly sleep
427 exhibits the majority of the highly conserved features of vertebrate sleep, and the tractability
428 of *Drosophila* as an experimental model has produced a growing number of studies which
429 contribute to our knowledge of sleep mechanisms and circuits. Besides the importance in
430 learning and memory of the mushroom body (MB), multiple subtypes of intrinsic MB
431 Kenyon cells (KCs) have been identified for the control of sleep (Joiner et al., 2006;
432 Sitaraman et al., 2015; Artiushin and Sehgal, 2017; Bringmann, 2018). For example, $\alpha'\beta'$ and
433 $\gamma\mu$ KCs contribute to wake promotion, and $\gamma\delta$ KCs contribute to sleep promotion (Sitaraman
434 et al., 2015). A pair of GABAergic and serotonergic dorsal paired medial (DPM) neurons,
435 which are MB extrinsic projecting neurons and play a role in memory consolidation (Keene

436 et al., 2004; Keene et al., 2006; Zhang et al., 2013), were shown to be involved in sleep
437 promotion (Haynes et al., 2015). Dopaminergic PPL1 and PPM3 neurons that project to
438 different layers of fan-shaped body (FB) have been shown their specific roles in promoting
439 wake, via suppression of the FB which is thought as a sleep induction center (Liu et al., 2012;
440 Ueno et al., 2012; Pimentel et al., 2016).

441 Many of these brain structures have been implicated in multiple behaviors. Like the MB
442 and FB mentioned above, the EB has been shown to integrate sensory inputs to formulate
443 locomotor output commands, but understanding of its role in sleep is still limited. In the present
444 study, we identified subtypes of ring neurons that regulate sleep/structure by: 1) screening a
445 small collection of EB drivers using thermogenetic activation; and 2) specifying the roles of
446 several single subtypes in different sleep components employing two models and intersection
447 strategies. We found that R3m/R3p neurons contribute to daytime sleep, R4m neurons to
448 wakefulness, and R3d neurons fragment sleep structure (Figure 6E).

449 The role of these neurons in sleep may be intimately involved with their other functions.
450 Previous studies found that R2, R3, R4d and R4m subtypes appear to be tuned to visual stimuli
451 (Shiozaki and Kazama, 2017; Fisher et al., 2019; Kim et al., 2019; Hardcastle et al., 2021).
452 This sensory input may be an important cue to change sleep/wake status, and is likely
453 influenced by the circadian system. Previous study showed that the R5 subtype is linked to the
454 control of sleep homeostasis and stabilization of sleep structure (Liu et al., 2016; Liu et al.,
455 2019), and our analysis support previous findings. A recent study released on bioRxiv
456 identified two subtypes, sleep promoting R3m neurons and wake promoting R3d neurons
457 (Aleman et al., 2021). Consistently, we also observed that R3m contributes both sleep amount

458 and sleep structure. 5HT7-GAL4+ neurons play an important role in sleep maintenance, when
459 they are activated, sleep became fragmented (Liu et al., 2019). According to a recent anatomical
460 analysis (Hulse et al., 2021), 5HT7-GAL4+ neurons include R3d, R3p and R4d subtypes, and
461 we narrowed the fragmentation effect down to a specific subtype, R3d in the present study.
462 However, more efforts are still needed to understand how a certain subtype of ring neuron
463 responds to sensory inputs and how neuronal activity patterns form in the network. Future work
464 examining the neural activity of each subtype of ring neurons that control distinct sleep
465 components and the interaction with other behaviors may reveal fundamental information
466 about the rules of the coding and integration of the brain.

467

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579

580 **FIGURE LEDENDS**

581 **Figure 1. Sleep changes with activation of subtypes of ring neurons.**

582 (A) Design of the experiments and calculation of sleep parameters on the activation day (red
583 dashed box). (B, G) Changes in sleep amount during day (LP) and night (DP). (C, H)
584 Changes in number of sleep during daytime and night. (D, I) Changes in max sleep episodes
585 during daytime and night. (E, J) Changes in P(doze) during daytime and night. (F, K)
586 Changes in P(wake) during daytime and night. The colored and black bars represent the
587 experimental groups. Color codes are consistent through all of the figures and are based on
588 the daytime cluster analysis in Figure 4. The grey and dark grey bars indicate GAL4 control
589 and UAS control, respectively. One-way ANOVA analysis and Dunn's multiple comparisons
590 test were used. Significance is marked by asterisks only when the experimental group is
591 significantly different from both GAL4 and UAS controls. * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p <$
592 **** $p < 0.0001$. Data are presented as mean \pm SEM. LP, light period; DP, dark period.

593

594 **Figure 2. Complex effects on sleep homeostasis with thermoactivation of ring neurons.**
595 (A) Summary of the drivers exhibited significant changes in total amount of sleep and sleep
596 structure, respectively. Arrows on the left and right represent changes during the day and
597 night, respectively. Up arrows: increased total amount of sleep; down arrows: decreased total
598 amount of sleep. Clusters represent the phenotypes observed day only, night only or both day
599 and night. Expression patterns of c232-GAL4 (B), Feb170-GAL4 (F), R48B10-GAL4 (J) and
600 R53F11-GAL4 (N). Sleep profiles with quantification of changes of sleep parameters of each
601 driver: total sleep (C, G, K, O), the number of episodes and max episode length (D, H, L, P),
602 and P(doze) and P(wake) (E, I, M, Q). Scale bar: 20 μ m.

603

604 **Figure 3. Expression patterns of EB drivers in the screen.** (A) Distinct subtypes of ring
605 neurons were labeled by the 34 drivers. Expression patterns of all the publicly available
606 drivers (26) are shown. (B) Single subtype of ring neurons that involved in the regulation of
607 sleep amount (yellow), structure (blue), and both amount and structure (green).

608

609 **Figure 4. Association of changes in arousal and sleep drive with GAL4+ groups of ring**
610 **neurons.** Mixed Gaussian Model cluster analysis for drivers have similar patterns during the
611 daytime (A) and at night (B). Grey dots: activation did not show significance in
612 P(wake)/P(doze) analysis; green dots: increase in both P(wake) and P(doze); blue dots: mild
613 increase in both P(wake) and P(doze); brown dots: weak increase in both P(wake) and
614 P(doze); purple dots: increase only in P(doze); red dots: increase in P(doze) and decrease in
615 P(wake). Vertical and horizontal arrows in nighttime panel represent shifts in location of
616 P(doze) and P(wake) compared to the daytime.

617

618 **Figure 5. Two subtypes of ring neurons identified by general linear model that**
619 **significantly contribute in the regulation of total sleep and episode length.**

620 (A, G) Schematic morphological pattern of a single R3p neuron and R4m neuron,
621 respectively. (B, H) R3p neuron and R4m neuron are highly correlated to regulate daytime
622 sleep and nighttime sleep, respectively. The weight of each subclasses was analyzed with a
623 generalized linear model. (C, I) Expression pattern of R28E01-GAL4 and R70B05-GAL4 as
624 representative for R3p and R4m. (D, J) Sleep profiles of total sleep before, during and after
625 activation of R28E01-GAL4+ and R70B05-GAL4+ neurons with two controls. (E, K)

626 Changes in total amount of sleep and max episodes on the activation day and the recovery
627 day. R70B05-GAL4+ neurons not only significantly reduced nighttime sleep, also exhibited
628 strong impact on reducing daytime sleep. (F) No detectable changes in P(doze) upon and
629 after activation of R28E01-GAL4+ neurons. Weak elevation of P(wake) on the recovery day
630 was found. (L) Strong increase in P(doze) were found when R70B05-GAL4+ neurons were
631 activated, and this effect lasted with cessation of activation. Significant increase in P(wake)
632 were also observed upon and after activation.

633

634 **Figure 6. R3d neurons contribute to sleep fragmentation.**

635 (A) Expression pattern of R44D11-LexA+ neurons and 5HT7-GAL4+ neurons labeled by
636 GFP and RFP, respectively. 79% of the R44D11-LexA+ neurons (green) overlap with 5HT7-
637 GAL4+ neurons (magenta). (B) R3d populations are labeled by suppressing the overlapped
638 neurons of R44D11-LexA+ and 5HT7-GAL4+ by using LexAOP-GAL80. Bar: 20 μ m. (C)
639 Venn diagram shows the overlapping and non-overlapping cells between 5HT7-GAL4+ and
640 R44D11-LexA+. Bar graph represents the quantified ratio of non-overlapping neurons. (D)
641 Activation the non-overlapping R3d neurons fragments sleep without significant effect on
642 total amount during LP and DP. (E) Schematic of sleep/structure regulation by multiple
643 subtypes of ring neurons.

644

645 **Figure 2-1. (A-D) Decreased nighttime sleep often fails to induce rebound sleep upon**
646 **cessation of thermoactivation of ring neurons.** (A) Expression pattern of R64H04-GAL4
647 which labels R3a, R3m and R3d neurons. (B) Sleep profile and quantification of total sleep

648 before, during and after activation. Activation of R64H04-GAL4+ neurons reduced total
649 sleep at night, and a persisting reduced sleep upon cessation of activation. (C) No significant
650 change was observed in the number of episodes and max episode length. (D) No change of
651 P(doze) was observed, and significantly higher change in P(wake) than controls was found
652 upon cessation of activation. **(E-L) Drivers involved in the regulation of sleep amount**
653 **and/or structure do not exhibit homeostatic rebound upon cessation of**
654 **thermoactivation.** Expression pattern, sleep profile, quantification of sleep amount, sleep
655 structure, and sleep drive/arousal threshold of each driver were presented. (E-H) R47F07-
656 GAL4. (I-L) R84H09-GAL4.

657

658 **Figure 2-2. Power analysis for the sample size of drivers employed in Figure 2.**

659

660 **Figure 5-1. Statistical table of the weight of the effect of subclasses of ring neurons on**
661 **the sleep using a generalized linear model. * p<0.05**

662

663 **Figure 5-2. Power analysis for the sample size of drivers employed in Figure 5.**

664

665 **Figure 6-1. Activation of R44D11-LexA+ neurons do not change sleep or sleep**
666 **structure.** Upon the activation, no significant change was detected compared to both genetic
667 controls in total sleep (A), the number of episodes (B), and max episode length (C) during
668 both day and night.

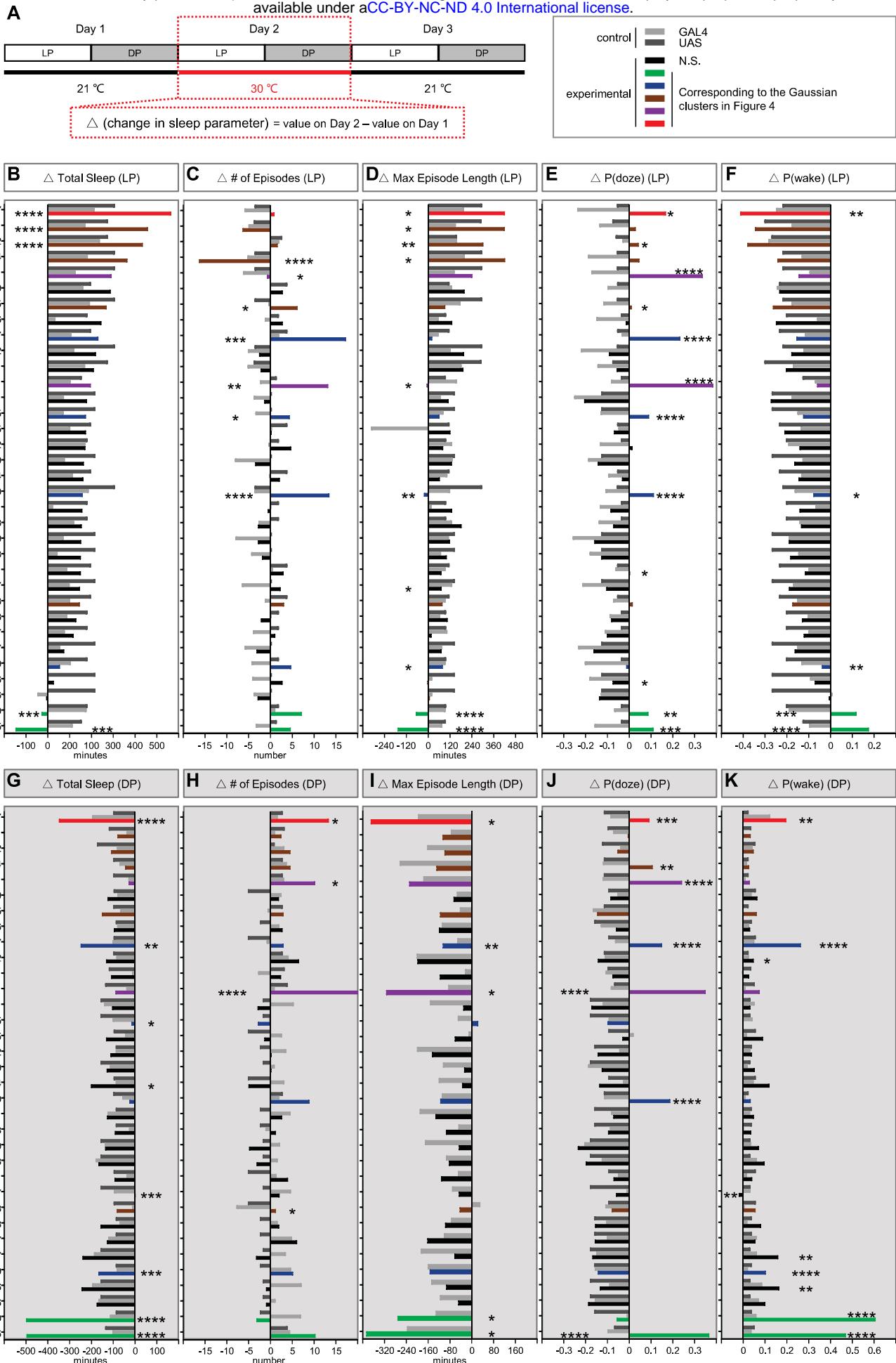


Figure 1

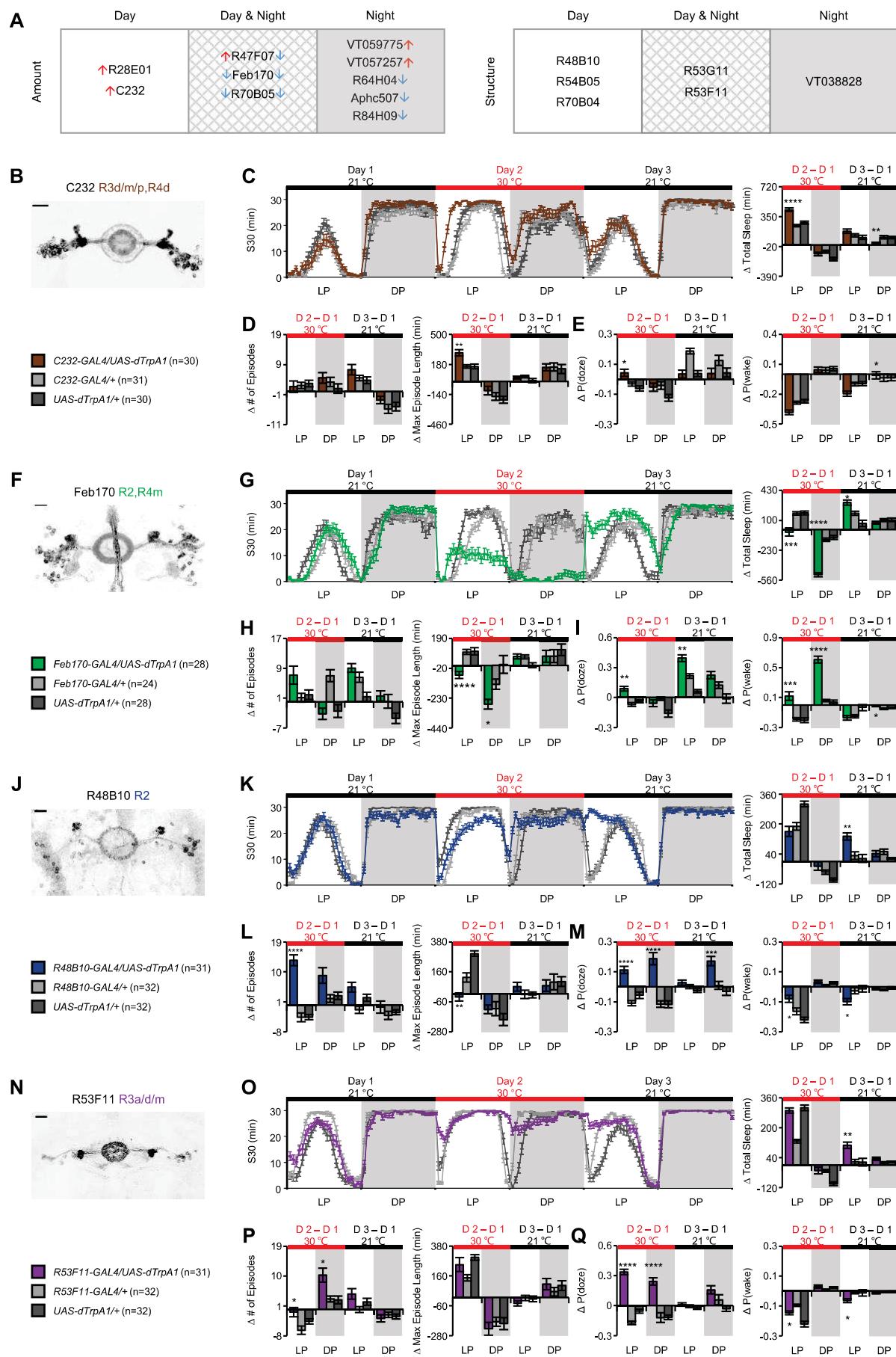
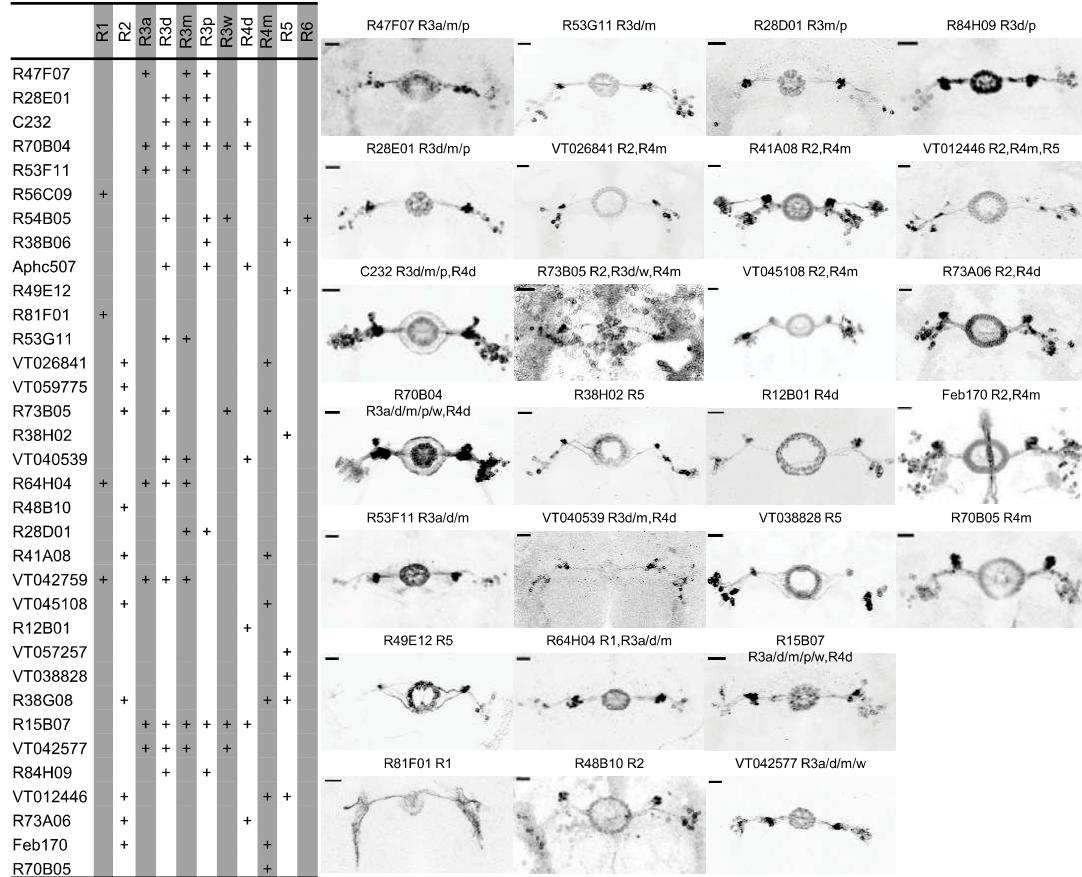


Figure 2

A



B

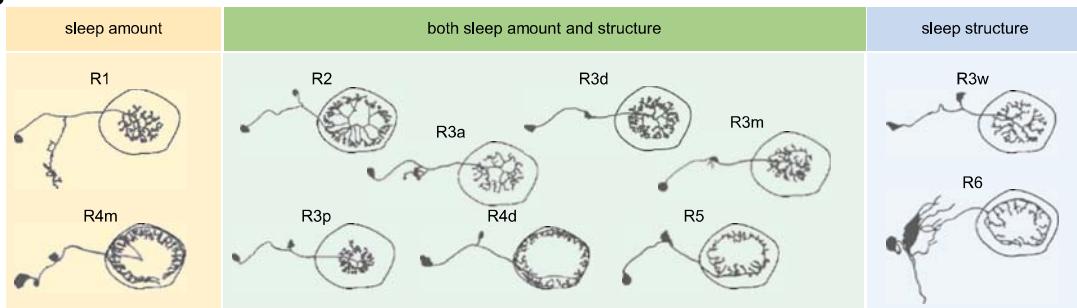


Figure 3

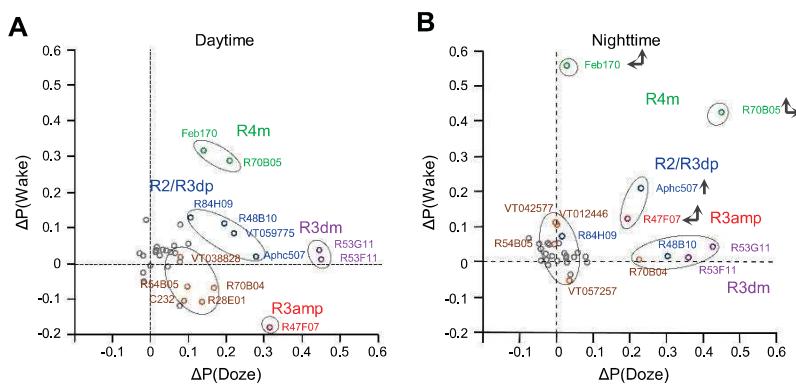


Figure 4

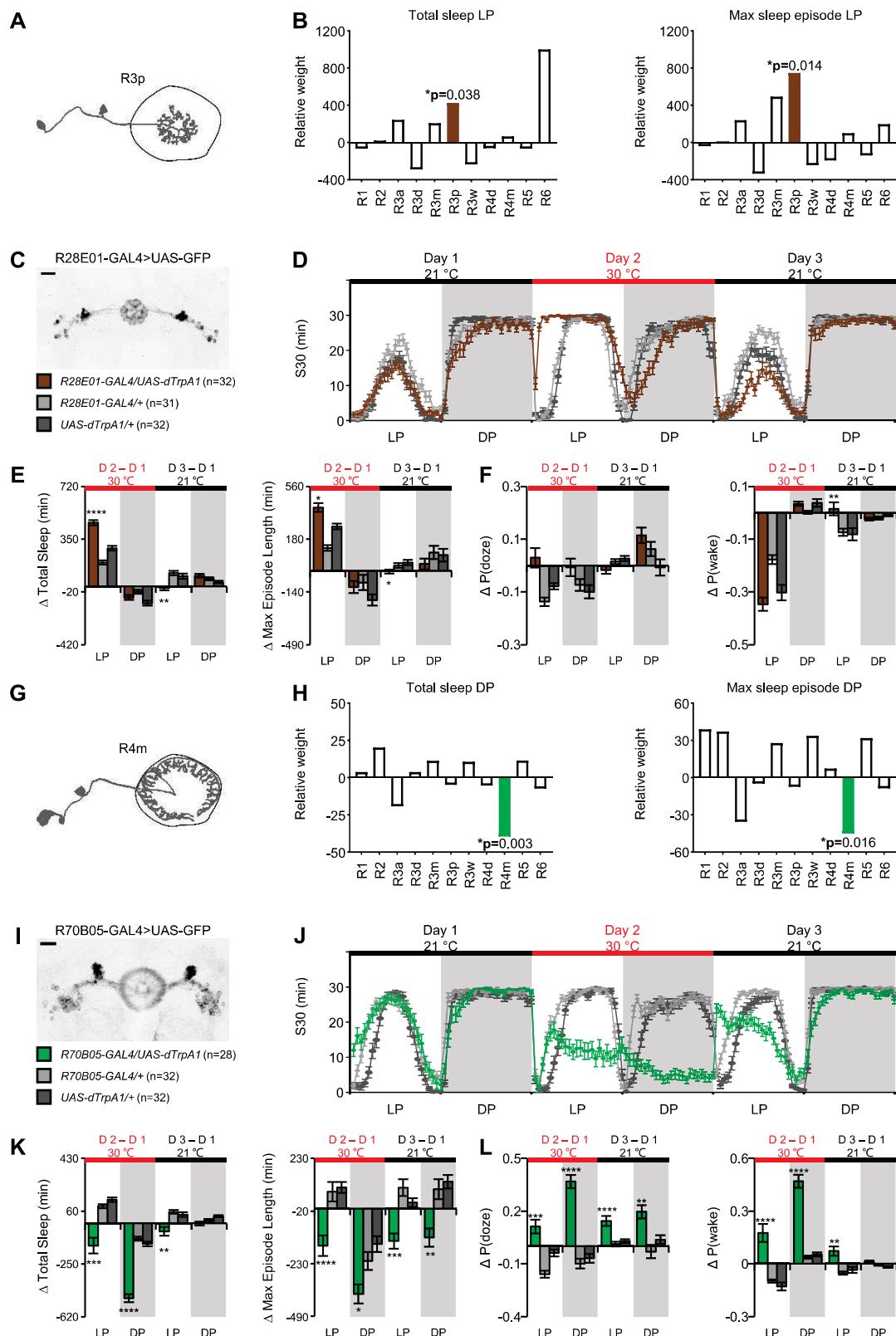


Figure 5

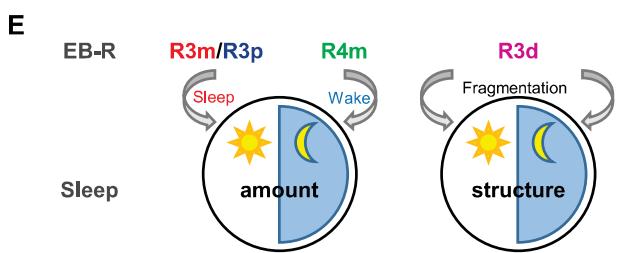
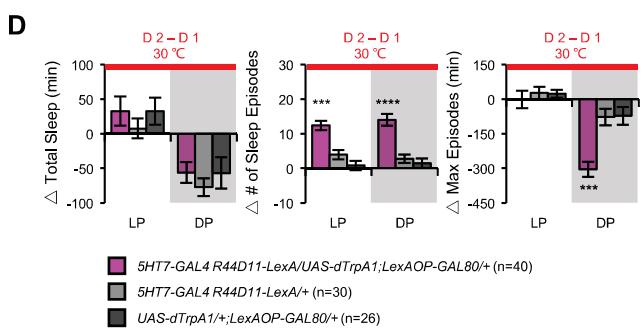
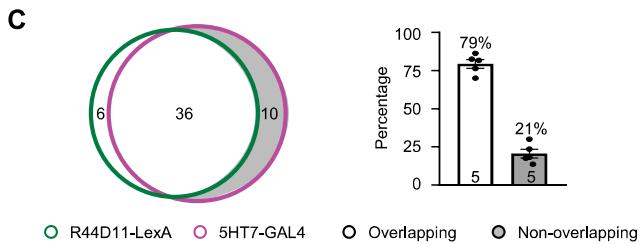
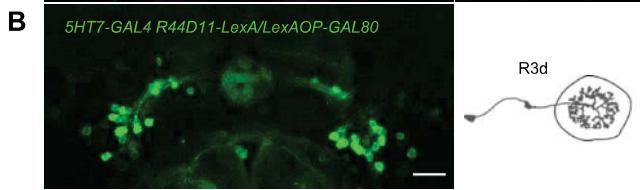
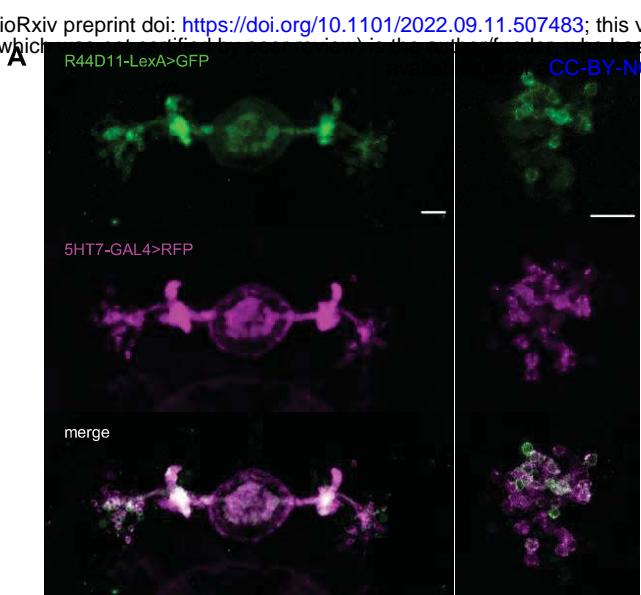


Figure 6

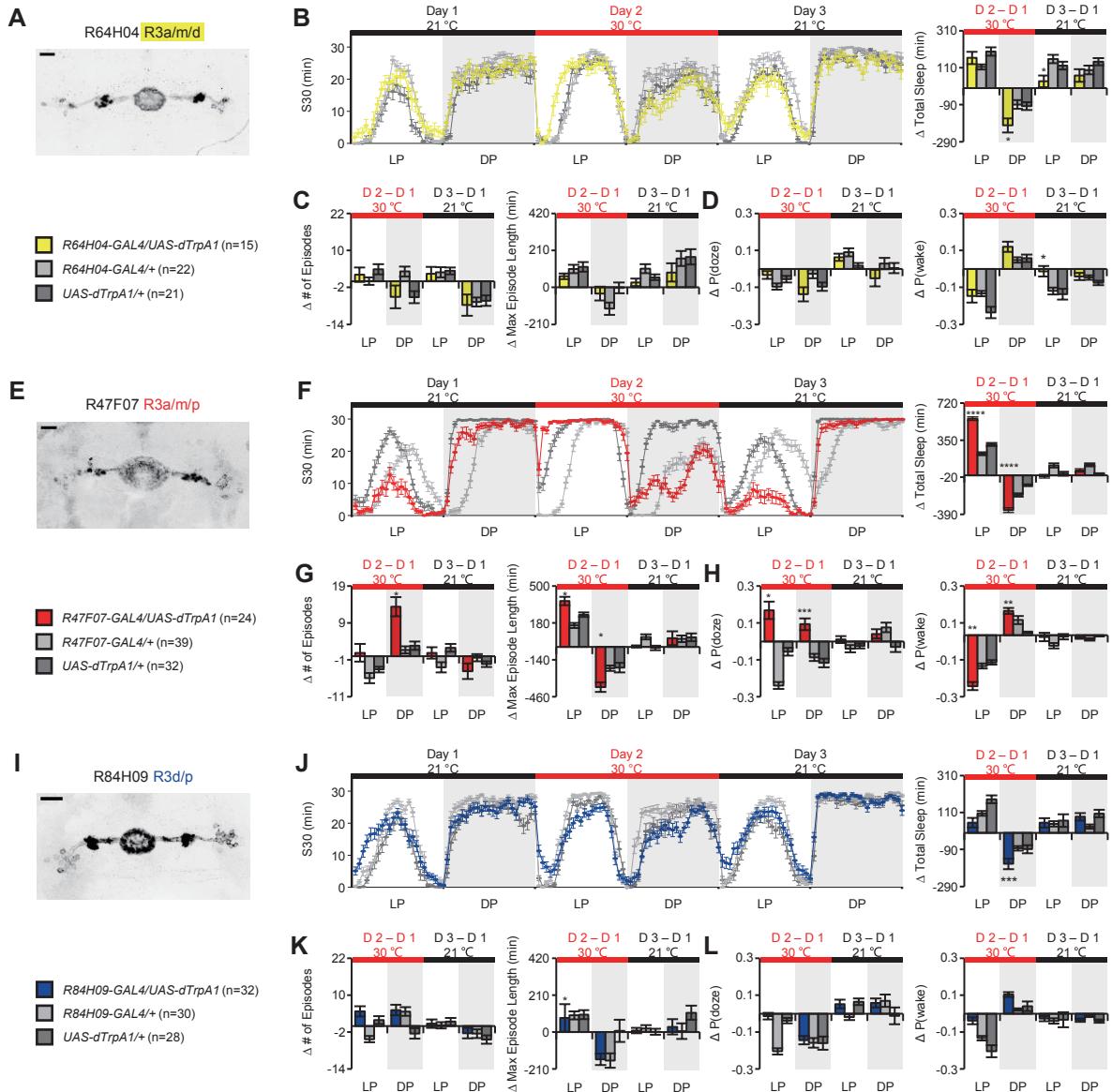


Figure 2-1

Figure 2-2. Power analysis for the sample size of drivers employed in Figure 2.

| Total Sleep | | expt vs GAL4 ctrl | | | | expt vs UAS ctrl | | | |
|-------------|--|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | 30°C | | 21°C | | 30°C | | 21°C | |
| Drivers | | LP | DP | LP | DP | LP | DP | LP | DP |
| c232 | | 1.000 | 0.167 | 0.377 | 0.639 | 1.000 | 0.563 | 0.533 | 0.907 |
| Feb170 | | 1.000 | 1.000 | 0.946 | 0.209 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 0.996 | 0.190 |
| R48B10 | | 0.151 | 0.530 | 0.934 | 0.077 | 1.000 | 0.998 | 0.975 | 0.999 |
| R53F11 | | 1.000 | 0.052 | 0.999 | 0.858 | 0.108 | 0.996 | 0.850 | 0.928 |

| Number of Episodes | | expt vs GAL4 ctrl | | | | expt vs UAS ctrl | | | |
|--------------------|--|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | 30°C | | 21°C | | 30°C | | 21°C | |
| Drivers | | LP | DP | LP | DP | LP | DP | LP | DP |
| c232 | | 0.057 | 0.090 | 0.497 | 0.268 | 0.102 | 0.347 | 0.561 | 0.186 |
| Feb170 | | 0.929 | 0.990 | 0.234 | 0.083 | 0.819 | 0.060 | 0.989 | 0.860 |
| R48B10 | | 1.000 | 0.977 | 0.985 | 0.286 | 1.000 | 0.948 | 0.521 | 0.287 |
| R53F11 | | 0.816 | 1.000 | 0.948 | 0.149 | 0.705 | 0.992 | 0.323 | 0.078 |

| Max Episode Length | | expt vs GAL4 ctrl | | | | expt vs UAS ctrl | | | |
|--------------------|--|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | 30°C | | 21°C | | 30°C | | 21°C | |
| Drivers | | LP | DP | LP | DP | LP | DP | LP | DP |
| c232 | | 0.999 | 0.182 | 0.075 | 0.050 | 0.975 | 0.460 | 0.159 | 0.057 |
| Feb170 | | 1.000 | 0.795 | 0.053 | 0.050 | 0.993 | 0.859 | 0.673 | 0.121 |
| R48B10 | | 0.814 | 0.051 | 0.244 | 0.061 | 1.000 | 0.210 | 0.502 | 0.086 |
| R53F11 | | 0.815 | 0.188 | 0.275 | 0.219 | 0.413 | 0.091 | 0.190 | 0.054 |

Figure 2-2

Figure 5-1. Statistical table of the weight of the effect of subclasses of ring neurons on the sleep using a generalized linear model. * p<0.05

| subtype | Total Sleep | | | | Number of Episodes | | | | Max Episode Length | | | |
|---------|-------------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|---------|----------|---------|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| | LP | | DP | | LP | | DP | | LP | | DP | |
| | weight | p value | weight | p value | weight | p value | weight | p value | weight | p value | weight | p value |
| R1 | -66.963 | 0.806 | 3.710 | 0.789 | -78.081 | 0.218 | -289.982 | 0.025* | -40.711 | 0.918 | 39.093 | 0.058 |
| R2 | -4.430 | 0.986 | 20.206 | 0.117 | -53.171 | 0.351 | -287.956 | 0.015* | 10.987 | 0.976 | 37.288 | 0.047* |
| R3a | 243.881 | 0.394 | -19.084 | 0.192 | 0.156 | 0.998 | 100.720 | 0.430 | 239.529 | 0.562 | -35.538 | 0.095 |
| R3d | -290.368 | 0.202 | 3.727 | 0.742 | 72.222 | 0.166 | -99.637 | 0.323 | -335.803 | 0.306 | -4.780 | 0.769 |
| R3m | 207.085 | 0.450 | 11.389 | 0.413 | -110.330 | 0.086 | 97.250 | 0.428 | 490.865 | 0.222 | 27.874 | 0.168 |
| R3p | 424.718 | 0.038* | -4.800 | 0.628 | 12.879 | 0.772 | -24.945 | 0.775 | 747.409 | 0.014* | -7.290 | 0.608 |
| R3w | -235.362 | 0.422 | 10.664 | 0.472 | -77.070 | 0.253 | -118.224 | 0.367 | -244.843 | 0.563 | 33.605 | 0.122 |
| R4d | -60.809 | 0.768 | -5.332 | 0.610 | -23.994 | 0.611 | -104.199 | 0.264 | -192.100 | 0.522 | 7.413 | 0.621 |
| R4m | 63.512 | 0.793 | -39.476 | 0.003* | -3.416 | 0.951 | 97.465 | 0.371 | 100.607 | 0.774 | -45.005 | 0.016* |
| R5 | -67.360 | 0.751 | 11.467 | 0.292 | -49.769 | 0.310 | -168.218 | 0.086 | -140.881 | 0.648 | 31.922 | 0.048* |
| R6 | 999.282 | 0.069 | -7.214 | 0.788 | 81.007 | 0.505 | 103.387 | 0.663 | 196.977 | 0.798 | -8.583 | 0.823 |

Figure 5-1

Figure 5-2. Power analysis for the sample size of drivers employed in Figure 5.

| Total Sleep | | expt vs GAL4 ctrl | | | | expt vs UAS ctrl | | | |
|-------------|--|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | 30°C | | 21°C | | 30°C | | 21°C | |
| Drivers | | LP | DP | LP | DP | LP | DP | LP | DP |
| R28E01 | | 1.000 | 0.511 | 0.999 | 0.280 | 1.000 | 0.313 | 0.900 | 0.951 |
| R70B05 | | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 0.667 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 0.994 | 0.985 |

| Number of Episodes | | expt vs GAL4 ctrl | | | | expt vs UAS ctrl | | | |
|--------------------|--|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | 30°C | | 21°C | | 30°C | | 21°C | |
| Drivers | | LP | DP | LP | DP | LP | DP | LP | DP |
| R28E01 | | 0.116 | 0.101 | 0.198 | 0.233 | 0.425 | 0.074 | 0.214 | 0.121 |
| R70B05 | | 0.992 | 0.888 | 1.000 | 0.994 | 0.470 | 0.878 | 1.000 | 0.997 |

| Max Episode Length | | expt vs GAL4 ctrl | | | | expt vs UAS ctrl | | | |
|--------------------|--|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | 30°C | | 21°C | | 30°C | | 21°C | |
| Drivers | | LP | DP | LP | DP | LP | DP | LP | DP |
| R28E01 | | 1.000 | 0.070 | 0.425 | 0.222 | 0.995 | 0.354 | 0.659 | 0.161 |
| R70B05 | | 0.947 | 0.652 | 0.981 | 0.873 | 1.000 | 0.983 | 1.000 | 1.000 |

Figure 5-2

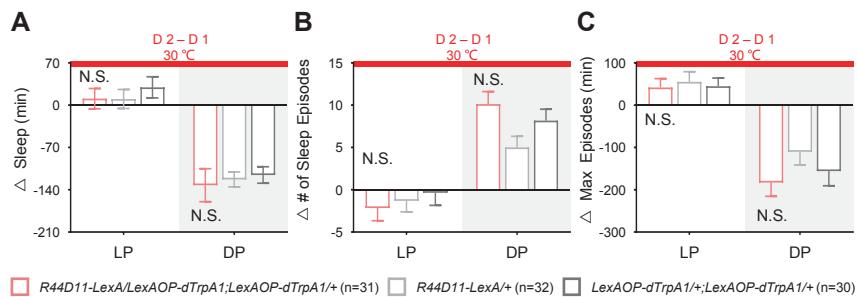


Figure 6-1