

InsP₃ Receptor Is Essential for Growth and Differentiation but Not for Vision in *Drosophila*

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Summary

Phospholipase C (PLC) is the focal point for two major signal transduction pathways: one initiated by G protein-coupled receptors and the other by tyrosine kinase receptors. Active PLC hydrolyzes phosphatidylinositol bisphosphate (PIP₂) into the two second messengers inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate (InsP₃) and diacyl glycerol (DAG). DAG activates protein kinase C, and InsP₃ mobilizes calcium from intracellular stores via the InsP₃ receptor. Changes in [Ca²⁺]_i regulate the function of a wide range of target proteins, including ion channels, kinases, phosphatases, proteases, and transcription factors (Berridge, 1993). In the mouse, there are three InsP₃R genes, and type 1 InsP₃R mutants display ataxia and epileptic seizures (Matsumoto et al., 1996). In *Drosophila*, only one InsP₃ receptor (InsP₃R) gene is known, and it is expressed ubiquitously throughout development (Hasan and Rosbash, 1992; Yoshikawa et al., 1992; Raghu and Hasan, 1995). Here, we characterize *Drosophila* InsP₃R mutants and demonstrate that the InsP₃R is essential for embryonic and larval development. Interestingly, maternal InsP₃R mRNA is sufficient for progression through the embryonic stages, but larval organs show asynchronous and defective cell divisions, and imaginal discs arrest early and fail to differentiate. We also generated adult mosaic animals and demonstrate that phototransduction, a model PLC pathway thought to require InsP₃R, does not require InsP₃R for signaling.

Introduction

Phosphoinositide-mediated signaling pathways are a ubiquitous mode of intracellular signal transduction in eukaryotic cells. The signals from many different receptors, including a variety of tyrosine kinase and G protein-coupled seven transmembrane receptors, converge on the activation of phospholipase C (PLC; Fain, 1990; Rhee and Choi, 1992; Berridge, 1993). PLC catalyzes the hydrolysis of the minor membrane phospholipid phosphatidylinositol-4,5-bisphosphate (PIP₂) into the second messengers inositol trisphosphate (InsP₃) and diacylglycerol (DAG; Fain, 1990; Rhee and Choi, 1992; Berridge, 1993). DAG activates members of the protein kinase C (PKC) family of proteins (Nishizuka, 1992), and InsP₃ mobilizes calcium from internal stores, which affect and modulate many cellular processes (Tsien and

Tsien, 1990), including fertilization, development, and basic physiological signaling events. The molecular mechanisms of Ca²⁺ action are very diverse, and include the regulation of kinases and phosphatases to control protein phosphorylation; the formation of Ca²⁺-calmodulin complexes, which regulate the activity of many proteins; and direct binding to calcium sensitive cellular targets. In many cases, Ca²⁺ binding to specific regulatory sites triggers release of additional stored Ca²⁺, leading to regenerative waves and oscillations of Ca²⁺ (Cheng et al., 1993). Because of its fundamental role in cellular homeostasis, many aspects of Ca²⁺ regulation and spatiotemporal dynamics have been intensively studied. Of particular interest have been the mechanisms of Ca²⁺ release from internal stores via the InsP₃ receptor, which functions as the principal gate for the release of intracellular Ca²⁺ in excitable and nonexcitable cells (Berridge, 1993). In mammals, there are at least three different InsP₃R genes, each of which, in turn, is spliced into a number of isoforms. Different cells express different combinations of receptors, with some expressing all three genes (Mikoshiba et al., 1994). In *Drosophila*, there is a single InsP₃ receptor. This provides an ideal system for the study of InsP₃ receptor function in processes as diverse as differentiation and cell physiology, without problems associated with functional redundancy or isoform-mediated compensation. We now demonstrate that the InsP₃R is essential for cell growth and differentiation, including the earliest events, like maturation of the oocyte. We also examined the role of InsP₃ receptor in phototransduction, a model phosphoinositide-mediated signaling cascade. We use genetic mosaic strategies to generate adult, viable animals lacking InsP₃R in photoreceptor cells and demonstrate, contrary to current models of photoreceptor cell function, that the InsP₃R does not play a role in the activation of the light response.

Results and Discussion

The *Drosophila* InsP₃R was previously cloned by homology to the mammalian genes (Hasan and Robash, 1992; Yoshikawa et al., 1992) and shown to function as an InsP₃R in tissue culture cells (Yokishawa et al., 1992). The *Drosophila* gene is expressed throughout development in all tissues and is especially enriched in the larval head region, the adult brain, and the adult sensory organs, including antennae and eyes (Hasan and Rosbash, 1992; Yokashawa et al., 1992; Raghu and Hasan, 1995).

We mapped the InsP₃R gene to the third chromosome at position 83A4–5. A 60 kb chromosomal walk in this interval detected two transcriptional units: InsP₃R (*InsP₃R*) and NMDA receptor (*Nmdar*; Ultsch et al., 1993; Figure 1). To generate mutants in the *InsP₃R*, we identified a larval lethal P-element insertion (j5B4) 5 kb upstream of the InsP₃R initiator methionine codon. Precise excision of this P-element reverted the lethality, indicating that P-insertion was responsible for the lethal phenotype (data not shown). To isolate mutants with deletions in

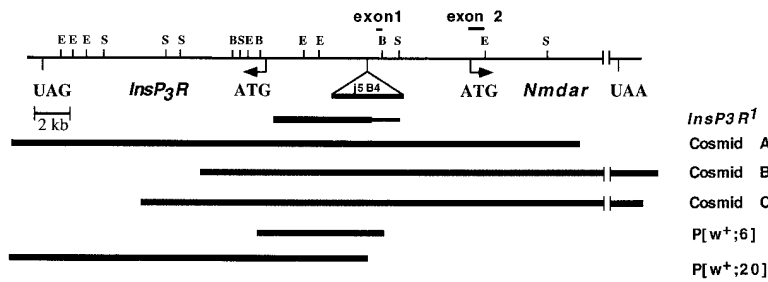


Figure 1. The *InsP₃R1* Flies Lack *InsP₃R* Function

Shown is a 60 kb genomic interval indicating the location of *InsP₃R*, *Nmdar*, and *j5B4* (P-element). *InsP₃R* and *Nmdar* refer to the Inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate receptor (Yoshikawa et al., 1992) and the N-methyl-D-aspartate R1 receptor (Ultsch et al., 1993), respectively. The genes were mapped by sequence analysis and PCR amplification. Our sequence analysis revealed that the first 670 of the 842-nucleotide untranslated leader of the

published *InsP₃R* cDNA sequence (Accession # D90403; Yoshikawa et al., 1992) codes for the *Drosophila* myosin light chain kinase, and likely reflects a cloning artifact in the original report. Instead, the *Drosophila InsP₃R* has a 327 bp untranslated leader. The *InsP₃R1* allele deletes all of the region between the P-insertion and position +139 of *InsP₃R*. This mutant was identified first by genomic Southern and subsequently confirmed by sequence analysis of the mutant chromosome. Cosmid-A, containing full-length *InsP₃R* and upstream elements (including partial coding sequence of *Nmdar*) rescues the lethality associated with *j5B4* and *InsP₃R¹*. Cosmids -B and -C, coding for the entire *Nmdar*, do not rescue the mutants. The 6 kb Bam H1 genomic fragment (P[w⁺; 6]), containing sequences between the *InsP₃R* and the *Nmdar*, also fails to rescue the mutants. However, a 20 kb construct, containing only the *InsP₃R* and 5 kb upstream sequences (P[w⁺; 20]), rescues the lethality of *InsP₃R1* mutants.

InsP₃R, we used a strategy that relied on the high frequency of imprecise excisions following transposase-mediated mobilization of P-elements (Ashburner, 1989). We generated 1000 independent P-element jump-out lines by scoring for the loss of eye color (the P-element was marked with the *white⁺* gene), and we screened by Southern blot analysis for imprecise excision events that deleted *InsP₃R* but not *Nmdar* sequences. We recovered 18 deletions that eliminated DNA from this region, one of which, *InsP₃R¹*, was specific for the *InsP₃R* gene. *InsP₃R¹* is a larval lethal, 4.8 kb deletion mutant missing all of the DNA between the original P-element insertion site and nucleotide +139 in the *InsP₃R* transcriptional unit (i.e., all of the promoter sequences and up to 139 nucleotides downstream of the transcription start site). To demonstrate the specificity of this mutation, we performed P-element-mediated germ line transformations with a variety of cosmid constructs from this genomic region. The *InsP₃R¹* deletion eliminates *InsP₃R* function, but not *Nmdar* or any other genes, because the lethality could be fully rescued with a cosmid clone containing the entire *InsP₃R* gene, but not with constructs containing the *Nmdar* gene or DNA sequences in between the two genes (Figure 1).

Multiple *InsP₃* receptors have been identified in mammals (Mignery et al., 1989; De-Camilli et al., 1990; Mignery and Sudhof, 1990; Sudhof et al., 1991; Fischer et al., 1994; Furuichi and Mikoshiba, 1995; Khan et al., 1996), but only one of these, *InsP₃R1* in mice, has been mutated to date. *InsP₃R1* is the major neuronal member, expressed primarily in cerebellar Purkinje cells. *InsP₃R1* mutants are viable and have no obvious electrophysiological deficiencies in Purkinje cell function, likely due to the presence of the other receptor isoforms (Matsumoto et al., 1996). In *Drosophila*, there is a single receptor gene; thus, an *InsP₃R* mutant may provide fundamental insight into the requirement of *InsP₃R* in processes as diverse as cell growth, differentiation, development, and cell physiology (although it is not possible to completely rule out the absence of a distantly related receptor until the characterization of the *Drosophila* genome is completed, repeated attempts to isolate other *InsP₃* receptors have consistently failed). Indeed, homozygous *InsP₃R¹* mutants display extraordinary growth defects. Larvae hatch normally and initially show healthy

behavior. However, *InsP₃R* mutants fail to grow beyond the second larval instar and never metamorphose (Figure 2). Heterozygous larvae (Figure 2, right column), like wild-type controls, grow through each of the larval stages and develop normally. In contrast, the mutant larvae remain halted at the second larval stage even though they live longer than 7 days, leading to dramatic growth differences between control and mutant animals.

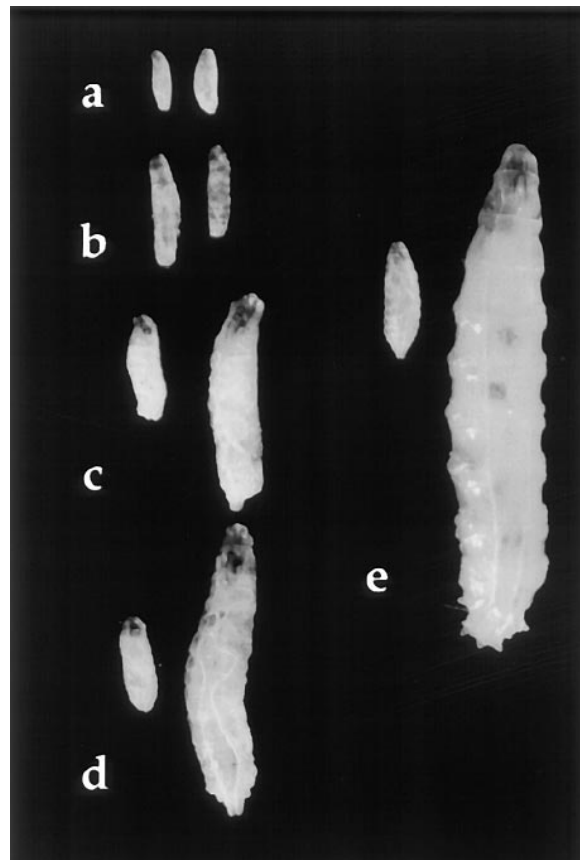


Figure 2. *InsP₃R1* Mutants Are Arrested at Second Instar
The figure shows *InsP₃R1/InsP₃R1* on the left and heterozygous *InsP₃R1/+* larvae on the right at (a) first, (b) second, (c) early-, (d) mid-, and (e) late third instar stages.

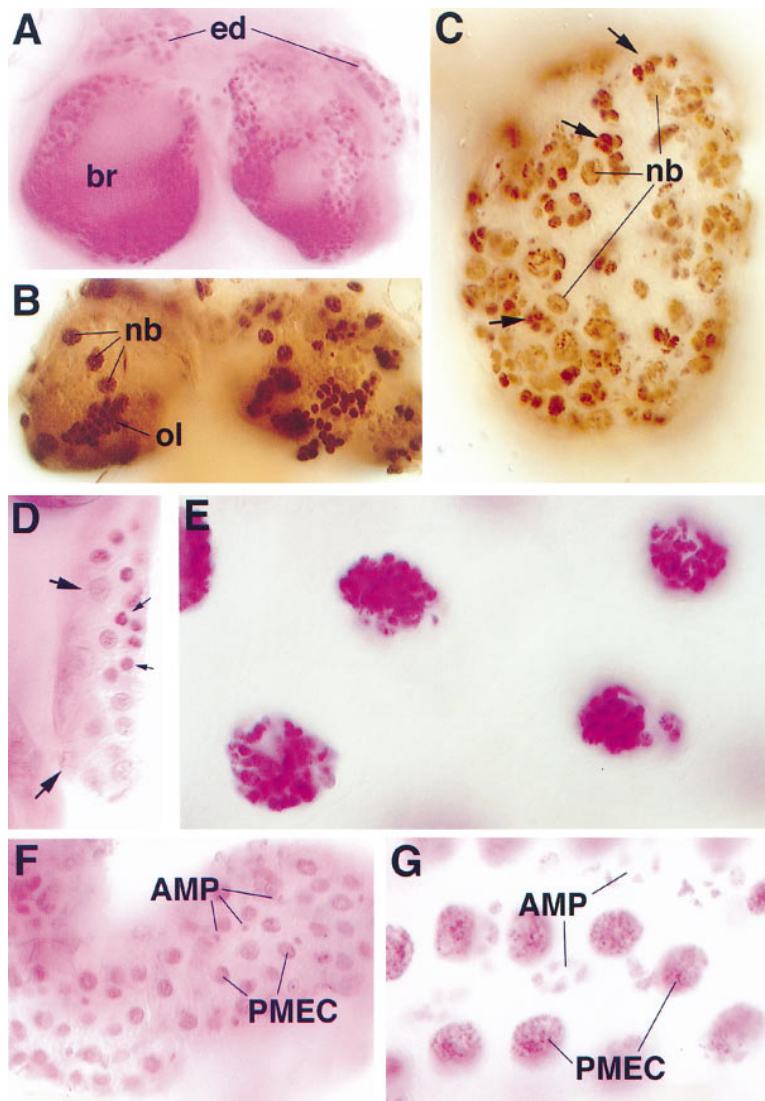


Figure 3. *InsP₃R*¹ Larvae Are Defective in Cell Division and Differentiation

Growth defects in 4-day-old *InsP₃R*¹ homozygous larvae (A, B, D, and F), compared with wild-type controls of the same stage (C, E, and G). All panels were taken at the same magnification (×500).

(A) shows a dorsal view of brain hemispheres (br) labeled with basic fuchsin. Eye imaginal discs (ed), each numbering less than 100 cells, are anteriorly attached to the brain.

(B) and (C) show brain neuroblasts (nb) of larvae labeled with anti-BrdU antibody. BrdU, which is incorporated into nuclei of proliferating neuroblasts, had been fed to the larva during day 2 (B) and day 3 (C) post hatching. In the control, clones of 4–8 labeled ganglion mother cells accompany each neuroblast (arrows in C). In *InsP₃R*¹ homozygote, many neuroblasts are labeled, demonstrating that they at least replicate once during the BrdU pulse. However, there are little, if any, ganglion mother cells, resulting in the reduced brain size compared to the control (ol = optic lobe cells).

(D) and (E) show part of salivary gland of *InsP₃R*¹ homozygote and heterozygous control, respectively. Control nuclei outmeasure, in volume, mutant nuclei by at least two orders of magnitude. Also note the variable nuclear size in mutants (arrows in D).

(F) and (G) compare larval midgut epithelial cells (PMECs) in mutant and control midgut, respectively. Adult midgut progenitors (AMPs) appear in the embryo as individual cells interspersed at regular intervals among the PMECs. During larval stages, they undergo 2–3 mitotic divisions, resulting in small “islands” of 4–8 AMPs (G). In *InsP₃R*¹ homozygotes, AMPs apparently fail to proliferate and impose as single, small cells scattered in between the PMECs.

The larvae of holometabolous insects are composed of two types of tissues: the larval cells, which do not themselves proliferate but grow by enlargement and polytenization, and the imaginal discs, consisting of diploid cells that proliferate extensively and give rise to most of the adult structures. Histological examination of various tissues from 4-day-old *InsP₃R*¹ homozygous mutant larvae (corresponding to late third larval instar of control larvae) revealed a pronounced defect in the growth of larval tissues and imaginal progenitor cells. For instance, brain neuroblasts and midgut progenitor cells can be recognized but do not undergo any significant proliferation (Figures 3A, 3B, and 3F). As a result, the size of the brain corresponds to that of control late-first or early-second instar larvae. Also, salivary glands (Figure 3D) and principal midgut epithelial cells (Figure 3F) undergo little endoreplication of the DNA. During normal development, larval cells perform up to 10 rounds of endoreplication, resulting in large cells with highly polytenic chromosomes (see the salivary gland nuclei in Figure 3E). Nuclei in homozygous *InsP₃R*¹ larvae are exceptionally smaller, with at most 1–2 rounds of

endoreplication. *InsP₃R*¹ mutants also show dramatic defects in the development of imaginal discs; they are rudimentary at best, with little if any cell proliferation or differentiation (Figure 3A; data not shown).

Within some larval tissues, nuclei are of different sizes (e.g., Figure 3D), suggesting a variable number of endoreplications. This could be most easily explained by assuming that *InsP₃R* is essential for cell growth and proliferation, but some *InsP₃R* mRNA is provided maternally (the mothers are heterozygous for *InsP₃R*¹, and the ooplasm is largely provided by nurse cells). Therefore, different larval cells may have differences in the amount of *InsP₃R* message (or protein) they received from the egg during cleavage and would arrest growth at different times. If this is true, then making germ line clones lacking all *InsP₃R* should lead to early lethality. We generated zygotic clones homozygous for *InsP₃R*¹, using the dominant female sterile (DFS; Chou et al., 1993) technique in an *InsP₃R1/P[ovo^{D7}]^{c13X3}* female, and did not recover any viable eggs or embryos. In contrast, many clones heterozygous for *InsP₃R*^{1/+} were obtained and served as internal controls (number of *InsP₃R1/P[ovo^{D7}]^{c13X3}*

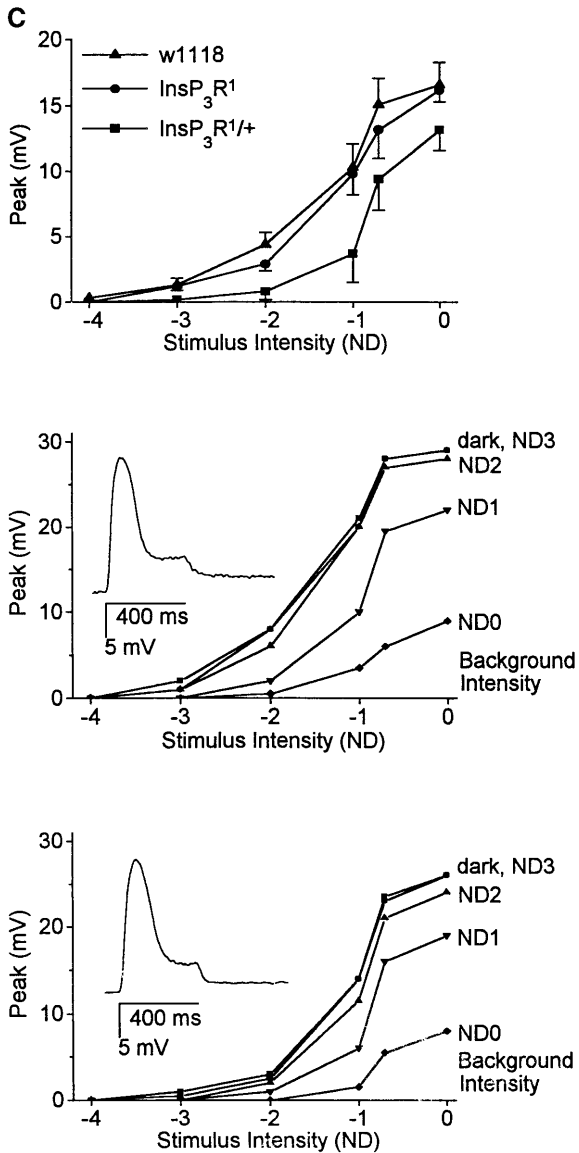
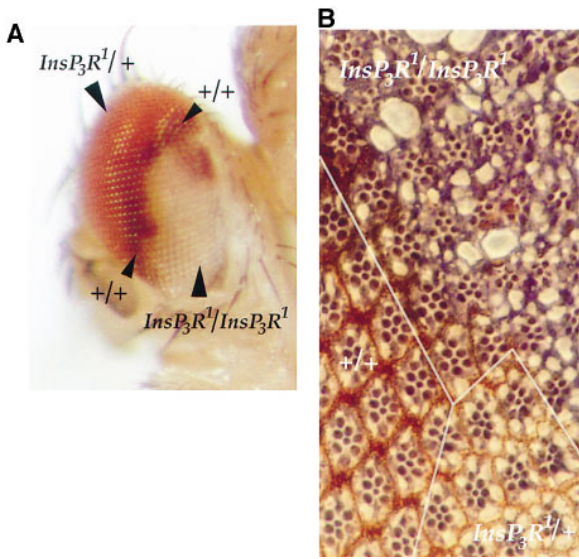


Figure 4. *InsP₃R* Is Not Required for Phototransduction

(A) *InsP₃R¹* somatic clone in the eye. The *InsP₃R¹/InsP₃R¹* mutant patch is white, the control *P[w⁺]/P[w⁺]* homozygous patch is red, and the heterozygous *P[w⁺]/InsP₃R¹* background is orange.

(B) The *InsP₃R¹* mutant clones undergo degeneration. Shown is a 1 μ m section through a mosaic similar to the one shown in (A). The mutant *InsP₃R¹* photoreceptors are *w* and hence do not have the red pigment granules in the supporting cells. The *InsP₃R¹* mutant ommatidia show retinal degeneration with disruptions in the ommatidial architecture. However, note the nearly intact rhabdomeric structure in the mutant ommatidia. The adjacent heterozygous and the homozygous wild-type tissue are morphologically intact.

(C) The upper panel shows electrophysiological responses to pulses of light in control and *InsP₃R¹* mutant photoreceptor cells. Shown are the intensity-response relationships of dark-adapted cells (mean \pm SEM; $n \geq 6$) for green test stimuli of the indicated intensities. The *InsP₃R¹* mutant photoreceptors display normal light responses. The middle (*w¹¹¹⁸*) and lower (*InsP₃R¹*) panels demonstrate that adaptation to background light is similar in wild-type and mutant flies. For each cell, intensity-response relations to green test pulses were recorded in the presence of different intensities of 570 nm background illumination at ND 3 (circles), ND 2 (triangles), ND 1 (inverted triangles), and ND 0 (diamonds). Insets show responses to 530 nm, 400 ms light pulses at ND 0, demonstrating that the kinetics of activation and deactivation are similar between the wild type and mutant cells.

tested = 226; see Experimental Procedures). Thus, we conclude that *InsP₃R* is required zygotically and *InsP₃R¹* larval lethality is a maternal-effect phenotype due to maternally contributed message. Taken together, these results demonstrate that *InsP₃R* is essential for cell proliferation, growth, and differentiation (Figure 2). The availability of this *InsP₃R* mutant, together with the use of tissue specific mosaicism (i.e., FLP/FRT), allows now for a comprehensive study of *InsP₃R* function and regulation in a wide variety of tissues and developmental stages.

In addition to our work on *InsP₃R* function during embryonic and larval development, we also examined the role of *InsP₃R* in a well-studied PLC-based signaling pathway (Zuker, 1996). In particular, we addressed one of the outstanding questions in the field of invertebrate photoreceptor biology, namely the gating mechanism of the light-activated channels. In *Drosophila* photoreceptor neurons, light activation of rhodopsin activates a Gq_{α} , which in turn activates a PLC encoded by the *norpA* gene. PLC catalyzes the breakdown of PIP_2 into $InsP_3$ and DAG; these are thought to lead to the eventual opening (and modulation) of the TRP and TRPL membrane channels and the generation of a receptor potential (Pak, 1991; Hardie and Minke, 1995; Ranganathan et al., 1995; Zuker, 1996). Because the principal light-activated channel (TRP) is highly permeable to calcium, and because TRP mutants display only a transient response to light, several investigators have proposed that this channel functions as a store-operated channel that responds to a capacitative calcium entry signal (Hardie and Minke, 1993; Vaca et al., 1994; Hardie and Minke, 1995; Hu and Schilling, 1995; Wes et al., 1995). According to this model, light-activation of rhodopsin results in the production of IP_3 , which would lead to the emptying of $InsP_3$ -sensitive internal calcium stores and the subsequent gating of plasma membrane channels, via either conformational coupling (Irvine, 1990; Berridge, 1995) or a diffusible signal (Putney, 1986; Randriamampita and Tsien, 1993; Berridge, 1995). Several in-

Table 1. Response Kinetics of Control *w¹¹¹⁸* and *InsP₃R¹* Photoreceptors

	Latency (ms)	Time-to-Peak (ms)	50% Decay from Peak (ms)	50% Decay from Steady-State (ms)	Steady-State Level (% of Peak)
<i>w¹¹¹⁸</i>	18.6 ± 0.6	50.0 ± 2.4	36.2 ± 2.2	23.1 ± 2.9	27.6 ± 2.6
<i>IP₃R¹</i>	17.2 ± 0.9	53.5 ± 2.6	42.9 ± 3.3	19.6 ± 2.3	25.6 ± 3.0

Shown are the mean values (±SEM) for latency (defined as the time from the light stimulus to onset of the response), time-to-peak (time from onset of the stimulus to peak amplitude), 50% decay from the peak (time from peak to 50% of transient response), 50% decay from steady-state (time to 50% deactivation), and the steady-state level (expressed as a percentage of the peak value). Values for *InsP₃R¹* cells do not show statistically significant differences from *w¹¹¹⁸* control values when tested with the t test.

investigators have further proposed that the TRP channel and its vertebrate homologs represent examples of the elusive store-operated channels (i.e., *Icrac* = calcium-release-activated-channel; see, for example, Vaca et al., 1994; Berridge, 1995; Hardie and Minke, 1995; Hu and Schilling, 1995; Wes et al., 1995). Recently, we showed that the TRP and TRPL light-activated channels do not localize in close proximity to the internal calcium stores (Niemeyer et al., 1996), thus eliminating the possibility of gating by protein-protein interaction via conformational coupling (Hardie and Minke, 1995; Pollock et al., 1995). In addition, we used fluorescent calcium indicators to study the dynamics of [Ca²⁺]_i in intact photoreceptors and showed that all light-induced increases in [Ca²⁺]_i are entirely dependent on the influx of extracellular Ca²⁺ (Ranganathan et al., 1994; see also Peretz et al., 1994). These results suggested that internal InsP₃-sensitive stores are not involved in activation of the light response; however, because small, highly localized changes may not have been detected, this study could not rigorously eliminate an involvement of InsP₃-mediated calcium release in the activation of the light response. To categorically define the requirement of the InsP₃R in this pathway, we have now taken advantage of *InsP₃R¹* mutants and generated viable, adult mosaic animals containing homozygous *InsP₃R¹* mutant photoreceptors in an otherwise wild-type genetic background. The experiment was designed so that the *InsP₃R⁺* cells were *white⁺* and pigmented (e.g., *white⁺ InsP₃R⁺ / white⁺ InsP₃R⁺* or *white⁺ / InsP₃R¹*), while the *InsP₃R¹* cells were *white⁻* and unpigmented, thus allowing for the unambiguous identification of mutant cells (see Experimental Procedures; Figure 4A). Structural analysis of the mutant patches revealed that photoreceptors and surrounding tissues undergo retinal degeneration, consistent with the phenotypes observed in the larvae (Figure 4B). We used in situ intracellular recordings to study light responses in control and mutant photoreceptor cells. Using this strategy, we could reliably identify the genotype of the cells and perform high-resolution electrophysiological recordings of light-induced photoreceptor activity. In *Drosophila* photoreceptor cells, the response to a pulse of light is characterized by a short latency, followed by a fast initial transient depolarization that rapidly reaches a sustained adapted state. Upon termination of the stimulus, the response decays exponentially back to baseline (see insets of Figure 4). We measured sensitivity by examining light responses over a 5 log range of light intensities (Figure 4C). To compensate for differences in eye color between wild type and mutant patches (Figure 4A), we also recorded from control *w¹¹¹⁸* flies. Possible

defects in response kinetics were examined by comparing latencies, time-to-peak, steady-state levels, and decay time in control and *InsP₃R¹* mutant cells (Table 1). In addition, we studied adaptation by recording responses to test stimuli in the presence of background light of various intensities (Figure 4C). Remarkably, *InsP₃R¹* homozygous mutant photoreceptors are indistinguishable from wild-type controls in sensitivity, kinetics of activation and deactivation, and adaptation. Thus, we find no evidence for a role of the InsP₃R in *Drosophila* phototransduction, and models invoking InsP₃-induced calcium release in the activation of this pathway must be seriously reexamined.

Experimental Procedures

Identification, Isolation, and Rescue of InsP₃R Mutants

A 3 kb cDNA clone consisting of the 3' end of the InsP₃R was used to initiate a 60 kb genomic walk. The genomic organization of the *InsP₃R* and *Nmdar* genes within this interval was determined by sequence analysis and restriction mapping. The precise site of insertion of the 5jB4 P-element (Bier et al., 1989) was determined by plasmid rescue and direct sequencing of the junction with genomic DNA. Imprecise excision lines were generated by mobilizing the P-element using a stable source of a transposase, Δ2-3, exactly as previously described (Robertson, 1988). Jump-out lines were analyzed for deletions between +6 kb and -1 kb of *InsP₃R* by Southern blot analysis using DNA probes from the +6000 to -1000 position (Yoshikawa et al., 1992). The cosmids used for the P-element mediated germ line transformations were isolated from a cosmid library kindly provided by the Tamkun laboratory (Tamkun et al., 1992). P-element transformations were performed as previously described (Spradling and Rubin, 1982).

Histological Examination of the Larva and Mosaic Retinas

Larvae from control and heterozygous mutant animals were hand dissected, fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde, and stained with basic fuchsin as previously described (Wieschaus, 1986). BrdU staining of dividing neuroblasts was performed as previously described (Truman, 1988).

Heads from mosaic flies were fixed in phosphate buffer containing 4% formaldehyde, 1% glutaraldehyde, and 2% sucrose. Postfixation was done in 1% osmium tetroxide containing 3% sucrose; after rapid dehydration, the heads were embedded in spurs, and 1 μm thick sections were cut, stained with 1% methylene blue, and photographed under phase contrast.

Somatic Recombination Experiments

To generate germ line clones of *InsP₃R¹* mutants, P[*ovo^{D1}*]^{c13X3}/Balancer males were crossed to *InsP₃R¹*/Balancer virgins, and the first instar larval progeny were exposed to 1 krad of X-rays (Chou et al., 1993). The heterozygous P[*ovo^{D1}*]^{c13X3}/*InsP₃R¹* females were crossed to *InsP₃R¹*/Balancer male flies, and the vials were examined during the next twenty days for eggs, embryos, and larvae. As controls, we scored the same flies for +/*InsP₃R¹* progeny resulting from germ

line clones derived from recombination events occurring between the *InsP₃R* and the P[*ovo*^{D1}]^{13X3} insertion. We recovered five such lines from 226 individual crosses.

To generate homozygous clones of *InsP₃R*¹ cells in the retina, *InsP₃R*¹/AT64 heterozygous first instar larvae were subjected to 1 krad of X-rays, and the adult eye was examined for white patches in an orange background. AT64 is a P[w⁺] insertion located at 82F12.

Electrophysiology

For intracellular recordings, we used mosaic flies containing mutant patches that ranged from a few ommatidia up to 50% of the compound eye. Heads were cut coronally, adjacent to the mutant patch, and photoreceptor cells were penetrated with sharp microelectrodes (70–150 MΩ) filled with 2 M KCl. Responses were low-pass filtered at 1 kHz. For stimulation, light from a 75W Xenon lamp was passed through a 530 nm bandpass filter (Oriol 53875) and attenuated with neutral density filters as indicated. All other manipulations were done exactly as previously described (Niemeyer et al., 1996). In all animals, we recorded from homozygous wild-type, heterozygous, and homozygous mutant cells. As controls for the specificity and cell-autonomy of the intracellular recordings, we also generated *norpA* mutants patches in an otherwise wild-type background and recorded from the normal and the mutant patches. As expected, mutant cells did not respond, while normal cells produced robust responses (data not shown).

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