

# Target neuron prespecification in the olfactory map of *Drosophila*

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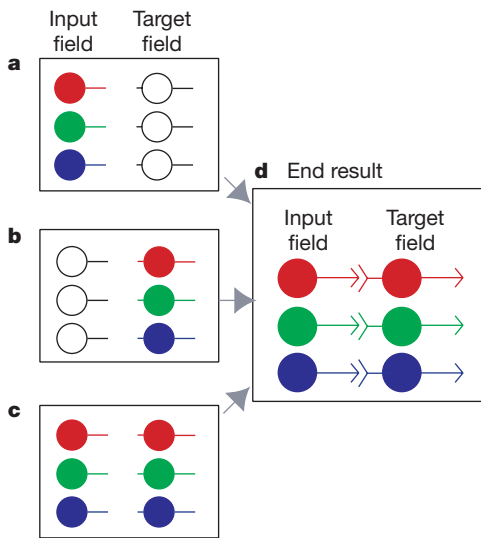
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In *Drosophila* and mice, olfactory receptor neurons (ORNs) expressing the same receptors have convergent axonal projections to specific glomerular targets in the antennal lobe/olfactory bulb, creating an odour map in this first olfactory structure of the central nervous system<sup>1-3</sup>. Projection neurons of the *Drosophila* antennal lobe send dendrites into glomeruli and axons to higher brain centres<sup>4</sup>, thereby transferring this odour map further into the brain. Here we use the MARCM method<sup>5</sup> to perform a systematic clonal analysis of projection neurons, allowing us to correlate lineage and birth time of projection neurons with their glomerular choice. We demonstrate that projection neurons are prespecified by lineage and birth order to form a synapse with specific incoming ORN axons, and therefore to carry specific olfactory information. This prespecification could be used to hardwire the fly's olfactory system, enabling stereotyped behavioural responses to odorants. Developmental studies lead us to hypothesize that recognition molecules ensure reciprocally specific connections of ORNs and projection neurons. These studies also imply a previously unanticipated role for precise dendritic targeting by postsynaptic neurons in determining connection specificity.

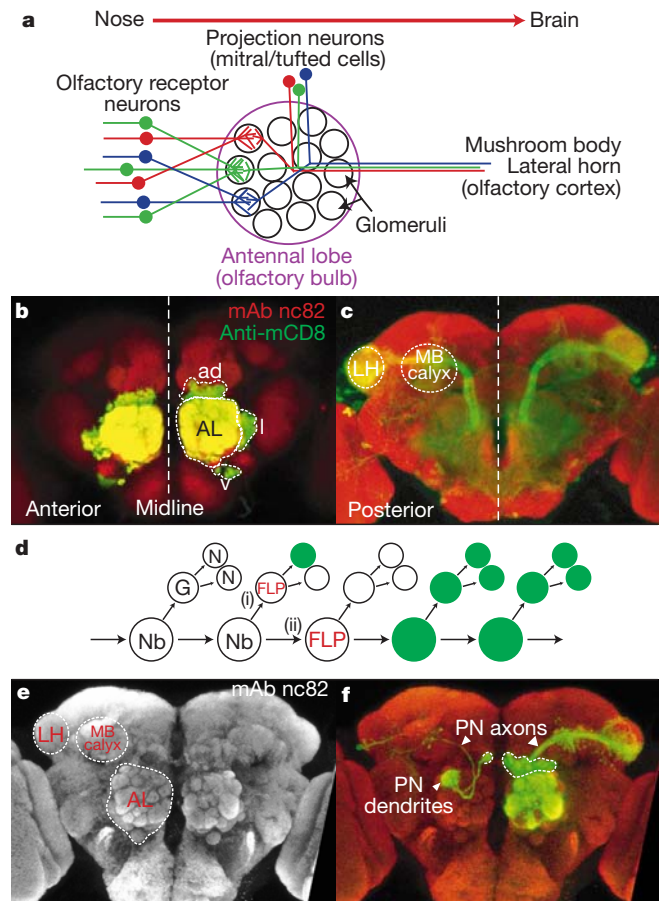
A common process in neural network formation is the establishment of one-to-one corresponding connections between two groups of neurons in two different locations, thereby generating a neural map (Fig. 1d). Three basic mechanisms for the formation of such neural maps can be proposed. In the first two mechanisms (Fig. 1a, b), either input or target neurons are genetically prespecified, whereas neurons of the remaining field are naive until specified by the identity of their partners during the connection process. In the third mechanism (Fig. 1c), input and target neurons are independently specified. Here, we explore this problem in the wiring of the *Drosophila* olfactory system.

The organization of the *Drosophila* peripheral olfactory pathway is very similar to that of mammals (Fig. 2a). About 1,300 ORNs expressing 40–60 different receptors<sup>2,6,7</sup> project their axons to 40–50 individually identifiable glomeruli of the antennal lobe<sup>8</sup> (equivalent to the mammalian olfactory bulb<sup>9</sup>). Information leaves the antennal lobe through an estimated 150 projection neurons (equivalent to mammalian mitral/tufted cells), whose cell bodies are located at the periphery of the antennal lobe<sup>4,10</sup> (Fig. 2b). Projection neurons project their dendrites to glomeruli and their axons to higher brain centres, including the mushroom bodies and the lateral horn (Fig. 2a–c, see below). As in mice<sup>1</sup>, each ORN probably expresses one specific receptor<sup>2</sup>, and the axons of ORNs expressing the same receptors converge at the same morphologically and spatially distinct glomeruli<sup>2,3</sup>. In mice, ORNs seem to be genetically programmed to project to specific glomeruli, instructed by the receptors that they express<sup>11</sup>; indeed, this convergence seems to be independent of the presence of the target neurons of the olfactory bulb<sup>12</sup>. Although analogous experiments have not been reported in flies, ORNs expressing a particular receptor reside in stereotypic and discrete zones of the antennae and maxillary palps—the fly's olfactory appendages<sup>2,6,7</sup>.

**Figure 1** Three mechanisms of establishing a neural map between two classes of neurons in different fields (**d**). **a**, Neurons in the input field are prespecified. Neurons in the target field acquire their identity from incoming neurons of the input field. **b**, Target neurons are prespecified. Input neurons acquire their identity from the target neurons with which they connect. **c**, Input and target neurons are independently specified. Matching colours signify that two neurons will eventually carry the same information, such as activation of a specific odorant receptor. Although we use one-to-one connections for simplicity, a similar logic applies to many-to-one (convergent) or one-to-many (divergent) connections.



Assuming that ORN cell bodies do not relocate after their axons reach the antennal lobe, it seems probable that their glomerular targets are prespecified. Thus, of the three models for formation of the neural map (Fig. 1), the second



**Figure 2** Organization of the antennal lobe. **a**, Schematic of the *Drosophila* olfactory system, with mammalian counterparts in parentheses. Particular colours represent ORNs expressing particular receptors and the projection neurons that form synapses with these ORNs. **b**, **c**, GAL4-GH146 drives marker (mouse CD8-GFP, green) expression in most of the projection neurons, counterstained with a general neuropil marker nc82 (red). Anterior confocal sections (**b**) show anterodorsal (ad), lateral (l) and ventral (v) cell-body clusters and their dendrites in the antennal lobe (AL); posterior sections (**c**) show axon tracts and their branches in the mushroom body (MB) and lateral horn (LH). mAb, monoclonal antibody. **d**, With MARCM<sup>5</sup> one can generate positively labelled single-cell clones (i) or neuroblast clones containing all neurons from a neuroblast lineage born after the mitotic recombination event (ii). Nb, neuroblast; G, ganglion mother cell; N, (postmitotic) neuron. **e**, **f**, Single-cell (left hemisphere) and neuroblast (right) projection neuron clones visualized by mouse CD8-GFP marker (green) counterstained with nc82 (red, shown alone in **e**). The cell bodies of each clone are surrounded by dotted lines. These and all subsequent images are anterior views with dorsal side up. PN, projection neuron.

model seems unlikely in both mice and *Drosophila*. We wanted to distinguish whether *Drosophila* projection neurons are specified by virtue of their connection with ORNs (Fig. 1a) or are independently specified (Fig. 1c).

The MARCM (mosaic analysis with a repressible cell marker) system<sup>5</sup> can be used to determine neuronal lineage and the projection patterns of individual neurons<sup>13</sup>. A typical neuroblast in the *Drosophila* brain undergoes asymmetric division to regenerate a new neuroblast and a ganglion mother cell, which divides once more to generate two postmitotic neurons. Using MARCM, one can generate positively-labelled single-cell clones as well as neuroblast clones (Fig. 2d). By controlling the timing of mitotic recombination using heat-shock-induced FLP recombinase, one can produce labelled clones of cells born at different developmental times. To study projection neurons of the antennal lobe, we made use of a GAL4 line, GAL4-GH146 (ref. 14), which drives marker expression in a large subset of projection neurons (approximately 90). By crossing GH146 with a membrane marker, UAS-mouse CD8-green fluorescent protein (GFP)<sup>5</sup>, we can visualize the cell body and dendrites of projection neurons in the antennal lobe in the anterior part of the brain (Fig. 2b), as well as their axonal projections in the posterior part of the brain (Fig. 2c). When we apply the MARCM technique using GAL4-GH146, we can selectively visualize subsets of these projection neurons as either neuroblast clones or single-cell clones (Fig. 2f).

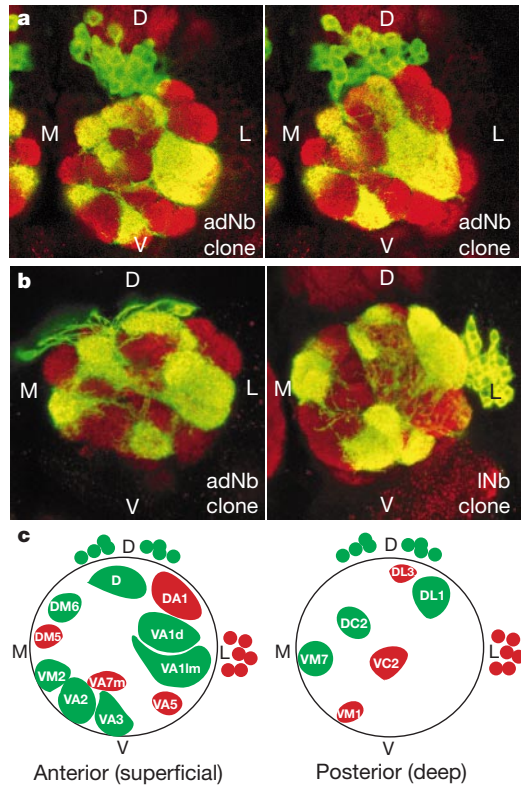
Systematic clonal analysis revealed that GH146-positive projection neurons (to which we refer hereafter as projection neurons) are derived from three neuroblasts: an anterodorsal, a lateral and a

ventral neuroblast, corresponding to the three groups of cell body outlined in Fig. 2b. When neuroblast clones are induced in the early embryo and then examined in adults, the anterodorsal, lateral and ventral neuroblasts give rise to approximately 50, 35 and 6 projection neurons, respectively. These three numbers correspond well to the number of projection neurons present in the three GH146-positive cell groups (Fig. 2b). As we cannot induce any clones by applying heat shock after puparium formation (APF), and neuroblast clones generated in late larvae contain 3–5 cells, we infer that all projection neurons are born well before the arrival of pioneering adult ORN axons in the antennal lobe around 20–24 h APF<sup>15</sup>. We focused our subsequent analyses on anterodorsal projection neurons and lateral projection neurons as most of these neurons have uniglomerular dendritic projections (see Fig. 2f, Fig. 4b), whereas some ventral projection neurons have diffuse dendritic arborizations, and all project by means of a different path to the higher brain centres, bypassing the mushroom bodies (our own unpublished data).

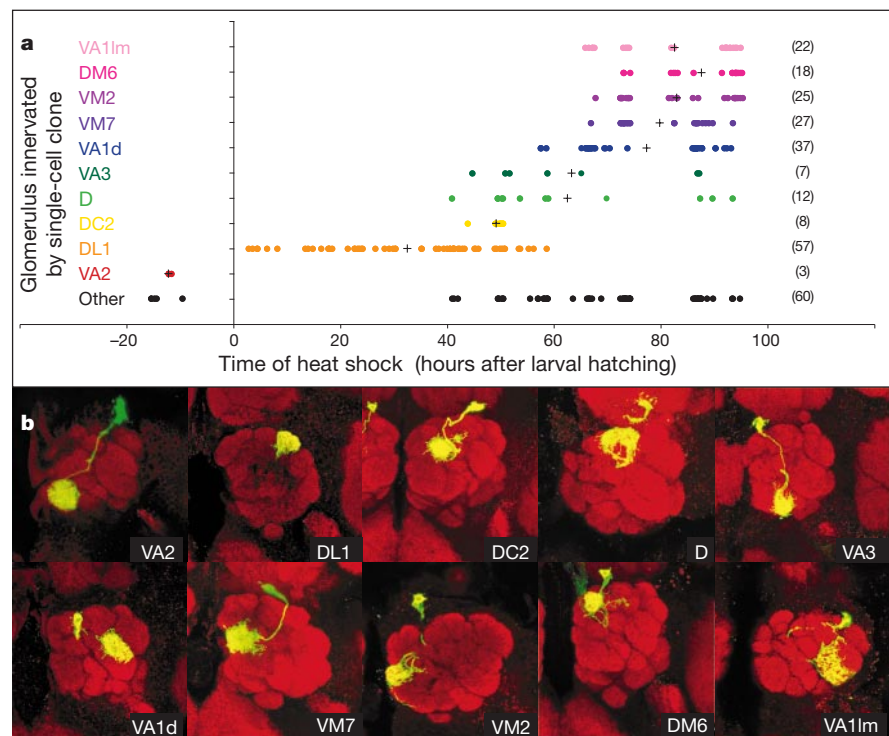
When glomerular projections of neuroblast clones generated in early larvae were examined, we found that anterodorsal and lateral neuroblast clones appear to innervate stereotypical, intercalated but non-overlapping glomeruli. Figure 3a shows a single confocal section of two independently generated anterodorsal neuroblast clones, revealing almost identical glomerular projections. By contrast, an anterodorsal neuroblast clone and a lateral neuroblast clone examined at the same depth project to complementary glomeruli (Fig. 3b). Figure 3c summarizes the ‘landmark’ glomeruli (see Methods) that are innervated by anterodorsal projection neurons (green) or lateral projection neurons (red). In the 54 anterodorsal neuroblast and 25 lateral neuroblast clones we examined, we found no exception to this rule, despite the fact that there is no obvious relationship between the positions of projection neuron cell bodies and their glomeruli<sup>4</sup>. These observations indicate that the neuroblast from which a projection neuron is derived restricts its glomerular choice and consequently the subset of olfactory information that it can carry further into the brain.

We next asked whether projection neurons are further specified within a neuroblast lineage. Because labelled, single-cell MARCM clones are born shortly after heat-shock induction of mitotic recombination<sup>13</sup>, we could test whether projection neurons born during specific developmental periods would project to specific glomeruli by using the time of heat shock as a variable (see Methods). We found that anterodorsal single-cell projection neuron clones with particular glomerular projections were generated within restricted and characteristic developmental windows (Fig. 4a, b). Notably, single-cell clones induced by early larval heat shock (0–36 h) exclusively produced projection neurons projecting to glomerulus DL1.

Because individual larvae develop at different rates, and FLP recombinase can persist for some time after heat-shock induction, single-cell clone analysis cannot distinguish unequivocally the birth order of projection neurons that are born immediately after each other (Fig. 4a). We therefore took a complementary approach in which we examined multicellular neuroblast clones generated at different developmental periods, and determined whether they included certain landmark glomeruli. If projection neurons innervating different glomeruli are produced in a defined sequence, then multicellular neuroblast clones (Fig. 2d) induced at progressively later times during development should innervate a subset of the glomeruli in neuroblast clones generated at earlier times. Eventually the last-born, smallest clones should contain projection neurons innervating only one glomerulus. Such a nested set is exactly what we observed when anterodorsal neuroblast clones were scored for the presence or absence of projection neurons innervating ten landmark glomeruli (Fig. 5). We could therefore infer an ordered birth sequence of projection neurons (VA2, DL1, DC2, D, VA3, VA1d, VM7, VM2, DM6, VA1lm) from the 54 clones analysed. We



**Figure 3** Dorsal and lateral neuroblast clones contain projection neurons with stereotypical and complementary glomerular projections. **a**, Single, confocal sections of two independent anterodorsal neuroblast (adNb) clones taken at similar depths. **b**, Single, confocal sections of an anterodorsal neuroblast and a lateral neuroblast (lNb) clone taken at similar depths. **c**, Schematic of landmark glomeruli derived from anterodorsal neuroblast (green) and lateral neuroblast (red) in the anterior (superficial) or posterior (deep) sections of the antennal lobe. D, dorsal; V, ventral; M, medial; L, lateral.

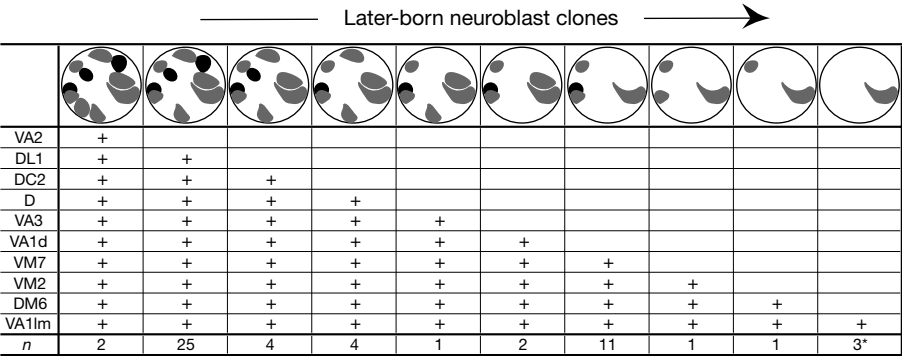


**Figure 4** Single-cell clone analysis. **a**, Glomerular identity plotted against time of heat-shock induction for 276 single-cell clones from the anterodorsal neuroblast lineage. Each dot represents a single clone, and crosses represent the mean heat-shock time for a

particular glomerular class. Numbers in parentheses represent the total single-cell clones per glomerular class. **b**, Representative images of the ten landmark single-cell clone classes.

did not find a neuroblast clone in which projection neurons projecting to a particular glomerulus were altered from this order; for example, neuroblast clones containing projection neurons projecting to VM7 always additionally contained all three of the later-born types of projection neuron, VM2, DM6 and VA1lm. As, on average, about three projection neurons innervate each glomerulus, the fact that we can infer an order implies that projection neurons innervating a common glomerulus are likely to be born at a similar time. Together with the single-cell clone analysis (Fig. 4), we conclude that, at least for these ten glomeruli, there is a strict order of generation of projection neurons that can predict future glomerular targets.

How can the birth time of a projection neuron predict which glomerulus it will eventually innervate? One possibility is that the ordered generation of projection neurons could result in the ordered differentiation of their dendrites, and that temporally ordered availability of proto-glomeruli for innervation restricts projection neurons born at a certain time to a particular glomerulus. However, we found that at around 22 h APF, when pioneering ORN axons just start to invade the antennal lobe<sup>15</sup>, projection neurons born at different times had similar dendritic differentiation statuses, having already initiated their dendritic branches in the vicinity of the antennal lobe region. The axons of the projection neurons had already reached the mushroom body and the lateral



**Figure 5** Ordered generation of projection neurons derived from neuroblast clone analysis. Anterodorsal neuroblast clones were scored for the presence (+) or absence of landmark glomeruli; all 54 clones fell into one of ten classes (top). Although we did not use the time of clone induction to deduce order, larger clones were generated from earlier

heat shocks (as represented by the arrow) with few exceptions. Darker glomeruli represent those in deeper sections. Asterisk, these clones are neuroblast rather than single-cell clones because they contain 3–5 projection neuron cell bodies.

horn (see Supplementary Information Fig. 1). These observations argue against the hypothesis of differentiation timing. We instead favour the hypothesis that individual projection neurons and ORNs are independently specified to carry molecular signals that allow them to recognize either each other or a common set of cues located at the developing antennal lobe (Fig. 1c). Although it is assumed that stereotyped ORN axon projections<sup>2,3</sup> depend on a guidance map in the developing antennal lobe, our results imply that such cues may also be used for precise dendritic targeting of projection neurons, or that projection neuron dendrites actively participate in creating the guidance map.

Independent pre-patterning of input and target fields has been demonstrated in the formation of vertebrate retinotectal projections along the anterior–posterior axis<sup>16,17</sup>, and even implicated in the development of ocular dominance columns<sup>18</sup>. In both systems, activity-dependent processes have important roles in refining the coarse map at the level of the single cell<sup>19,20</sup>. We show here the independent specification of projection neurons at the single-cell level—matching the precision of the ORN identities. These experiments support the importance of independent specification (Fig. 1c) in formation of the neural map. Moreover, as no obvious logic correlates cell body position of the projection neuron, birth time and the location of the glomerular projection, simple molecular gradient/counter-gradient models as used for axon guidance in the retinotectal system<sup>16,17</sup> are unlikely to suffice. Instead, we propose that dendrites of projection neurons use a combination of recognition molecules specific to each eventual glomerulus; mechanisms that generate a complex repertoire of cell-surface molecules have recently been described<sup>21,22</sup>. Furthermore, our study uncovers an elegant mechanism for specifying different projection neurons: the precisely ordered generation by a single neuroblast of a large number of distinct neurons. We are in the process of determining whether a timer mechanism intrinsic to the neuroblast, cues from neighbouring cells at the time of birth, or a combination of such mechanisms<sup>23–25</sup> are used, perhaps to specify the expression of recognition molecules.

Given the similarities in organization of the *Drosophila* and mammalian peripheral olfactory systems, it will be of great interest to test whether and to what extent the mitral/tufted cells in the mammalian olfactory system are independently specified. It is conceivable that the information used to pattern the olfactory bulb for ORN axon targeting could be used to prespecify mitral/tufted cells, thereby coordinating their dendritic targets in the olfactory bulb and axonal projections in higher brain centres. Such prespecification mechanisms may also be used in neural map formation in other parts of the developing brain. □

## Methods

### Clonal analysis

In the MARCM strategy, a cell marker is under the control of a GAL4-UAS promoter, which is activated by GAL4 and repressed by GAL80 (ref. 5). The GAL80 transgene is driven by a ubiquitous promoter and placed distal to an FLP-mediated recombination site. Flies heterozygous for the GAL80 transgene and carrying appropriate GAL4 and UAS-marker transgenes do not normally express the marker owing to inhibition by GAL80. Only after FLP-mediated mitotic recombination will the marker be expressed in cells that have lost the GAL80 transgene and express the GAL4 transgene. We maintained flies on standard medium at 25 °C. Larvae of the genotype *y w hs-FLP UAS-mCD8-GFP* (+ or Y); *FRT<sup>G13</sup> tubP-GAL80/FRT<sup>G13</sup> GAL4-GH146 UAS-mCD8-GFP* were collected over a 2-h period. After appropriate aging, they were given a 1-h heat shock at 37 °C. To verify that clones homozygous for the *FRT<sup>G13</sup>* and *GAL4-GH146* insertions (both located on chromosome arm 2R) exhibit no abnormalities, we performed control experiments with larvae of the genotype *y w hs-FLP UAS-mCD8-GFP/Y; tubP-GAL80 FRT<sup>40A</sup>/FRT<sup>40A</sup> GAL4-GH146 UAS-mCD8-GFP*, and observed no difference in clone composition or neuronal structure.

### Immunocytochemistry and imaging

Adult brains were dissected out at least 48-h after eclosion. Fixation and immunocytochemistry were carried out as described<sup>13</sup> using the following antibodies: rat monoclonal anti-mouse CD8  $\alpha$ -subunit (Caltag), 1:100; mouse monoclonal nc82 (a gift of E. Buchner and

A. Hofbauer), 1:20; mouse monoclonal 1D4 (gift of C. Goodman), 1:20; Alexa-488 conjugated goat anti-rat immunoglobulin- $\gamma$  (IgG), 1:200; and Alexa-568 conjugated goat anti-mouse IgG, 1:200 (Molecular Probes). Stacks of optical sections, usually at 0.5- $\mu$ m spacing, were obtained with a Bio-Rad MRC 1024 laser-scanning confocal microscope, using the LaserSharp image-collection program, then processed with NIH Image and Adobe Photoshop.

### Glomerular analysis

A subset of the previously recognized glomeruli<sup>8</sup> were selected as landmark glomeruli because we were unambiguously able to recognize them in neuroblast clones. In the anterodorsal neuroblast lineage, projection neurons born in embryonic and larval stages innervate approximately 5 and 13 glomeruli, respectively. For the lateral neuroblast all GH146-positive projection neurons are probably born later than 24 h after larval hatching and innervate approximately 12 glomeruli. We were unable to generate sufficient partial lateral neuroblast clones to determine the order of lateral projection neuron generation, so we restricted the birth order analysis to the anterodorsal neuroblast. Figures 3–5 tabulate information from more than 4,000 brains examined.

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