

Spatial and temporal coordination of Duox/TrpA1/Dh31 and IMD pathways is required for the efficient elimination of pathogenic bacteria in the intestine of Drosophila larvae

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1 <u>TITLE</u>

- 2 Spatial and temporal coordination of Duox/TrpA1/Dh31 and IMD pathways is required for the
- 3 efficient elimination of pathogenic bacteria in the intestine of *Drosophila* larvae.

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18 ABSTRACT

Multiple gut antimicrobial mechanisms are coordinated in space and time to efficiently fight 19 foodborne pathogens. In Drosophila melanogaster, production of reactive oxygen species 20 21 (ROS) and antimicrobial peptides (AMPs) together with intestinal cell renewal play a key role 22 in eliminating gut microbes. An alternative protective mechanism would be to selectively prevent the penetration of the intestinal tract by pathogenic bacteria while allowing 23 24 colonization by commensals. Using real-time imaging to follow the fate of ingested bacteria, we demonstrate that while commensal *Lactiplantibacillus plantarum* freely enter and cross 25 26 the larval midgut, pathogenic strains such as. Erwinia carotovora or Bacillus thuringiensis, are actively locked down in the anterior midgut where they are rapidly eliminated by antimicrobial 27 peptides. This sequestration of pathogenic bacteria in the anterior midgut requires the Duox 28 29 enzyme in enterocytes, and both TrpA1 and Dh31 in enteroendocrine cells. Supplementing 30 larval food with hCGRP, the human homolog of Dh31, is sufficient to trigger lockdown, suggesting the existence of a conserved mechanism. While the IMD pathway is essential for 31 32 eliminating the trapped bacteria, it is dispensable for the lockdown. Genetic manipulations impairing bacterial lockdown results in abnormal colonization of posterior midgut regions by 33 pathogenic bacteria. This ectopic colonization leads to bacterial proliferation and larval death, 34 35 demonstrating the critical role of bacteria anterior sequestration in larval defense. Our study 36 reveals a temporal orchestration during which pathogenic bacteria, but not innocuous, are compartimentalized in the anterior part of the midgut in which they are eliminated in an IMD 37 pathway dependent manner. 38

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41 AUTHOR SUMMARY

Typically, when considering the immune response of animals to infection, we focus on classical 42 immunity, encompassing both innate and adaptive aspects such as antimicrobials and 43 44 circulating immune cells. However, a broader perspective on immunity includes additional strategies that enhance host protection, such as behavioral avoidance and internal 45 mechanisms that restrict pathogen propagation. In our study using Drosophila larvae as a 46 47 model, we uncovered spatially and temporally interconnected events that are crucial for effectively combating intestinal infections. Our findings reveal a two-step defense mechanism: 48 first, the larvae rapidly discriminate between bacterial strains, effectively confining hazardous 49 ones in the anterior section of the intestine in a process we term 'lockdown'. These locked 50 down bacteria trigger the synthesis and release of antimicrobial peptides by the host, which 51 52 ultimately eradicate the entrapped pathogens. Our experiments show that larvae capable of 53 both initiating a lockdown and producing antimicrobial peptides withstand infections. In contrast, the absence of either one of these sequential defenses results in high mortality 54 55 among the larvae, emphasizing the importance of each step and the necessity of their precise coordination in the immune response. 56

58 **INTRODUCTION**

One of the key avenues by which bacterial pathogens infiltrate a host is through the ingestion 59 of contaminated food. If occurring, series of constitutive or inducible defense mechanisms 60 come into play to limit the infection and ideally eradicate the pathogens. These defenses 61 operate in a temporal manner, with mechanical and constitutive chemical barriers serving as 62 63 the first line of defense, followed by inducible mechanisms involving the production of 64 reactive oxygen species (ROS), the transcription, translation, and secretion of antimicrobial peptides (AMPs) as well as inter-organ signaling to cope with possible upcoming stages of 65 66 infection. This temporality is evident between innate and adaptive immunity, with the former considered the primary defense line that contains and combats the threat while preparing the 67 more subtle adaptive response. 68

69 To focus on deciphering innate immune processes, the insect *Drosophila melanogaster* 70 has been widely and successfully used (Neyen et al., 2014; Younes et al., 2020). This model has made it possible to establish the chronology of the events involved in the defense against 71 72 pathogenic bacteria. In Drosophila, as in all metazoans, a layer made of mucus, completed with a peritrophic membrane in insect midguts, protects the intestine lining from direct 73 contact with pathogens (Hegedus et al., 2009; Lemaitre and Miguel-Aliaga, 2013; Pelaseyed 74 75 et al., 2014). In adult Drosophila, a conserved immune response involving the production of 76 ROS by Duox (Dual oxidase) enzyme in enterocytes is triggered in the intestine as early as 30 minutes after ingesting pathogenic bacteria. ROS directly damage bacterial membranes 77 (Benguettat et al., 2018; Ha et al., 2009; Ha et al., 2005; Lee et al., 2013) but also exert an 78 indirect effect in adults by triggering visceral spasms through the host detection of ROS 79 mediated by the TrpA1 nociceptor and subsequent secretion of Diuretic Hormone 31 (Dh31) 80 81 by enteroendocrine cells (Benguettat et al., 2018; Du et al., 2016a). Dh31 then binds its receptor on visceral muscles, triggering contractions that expedite bacterial elimination (Benguettat et al., 2018). This pathway seems to be conserved during evolution as TrpA1 is a *Drosophila* homolog of TRP receptors that respond to noxious conditions (Ogawa et al., 2016) and Dh31 is the *Drosophila* homolog of the mammalian CGRP (Guo et al., 2021; Nässel and Zandawala, 2019). In parallel, the IMD innate immune pathway is activated following bacterial peptidoglycan detection, leading to the transcription AMP encoding genes and to the subsequent secretion of the peptides that kill bacteria (Capo et al., 2016).

89 In this work, using Drosophila larvae, we developed a real-time experimental system to trace the fate of pathogenic bacteria ingested with food. We characterized a new 90 mechanism implicated in the lockdown and elimination of pathogenic bacteria in the anterior 91 part of the midgut. We demonstrated that this lockdown is regulated by the ROS/TrpA1/Dh31 92 93 axis. Our results delineate a model in which bacterial trapping arises from ROS production in the intestinal lumen in response to pathogenic bacteria. These ROS compounds interact with 94 TrpA1 in Dh31-expressing enteroendocrine cells located between the anterior and middle 95 midgut, leading to Dh31 secretion and subsequent bacterial lockdown, suggesting the closure 96 97 of a pylorus-like structure. Interestingly, we found that human CGRP can replace Dh31 in inducing the trapping of bacteria or fluorescent particles. Our findings also highlight the 98 central role of this blockage, which acts first allowing sufficient time for the subsequent 99 100 eradication of trapped pathogens by the IMD pathway and its downstream effectors. 101 Collectively, our data unravel a finely tuned coordination between the ROS/TrpA1/Dh31 axis and the IMD pathway, enabling an effective bactericidal action of AMPs. 102

104 **RESULTS**

105 Bacterial lockdown in the anterior part of larval intestine

The translucency of Drosophila larvae allows for live studies of immune defense components 106 and their coordination in eradicating pathogenic bacteria. Previously, we reported a decrease 107 108 in food intake in larvae exposed to contaminated food with the Gram-negative opportunistic bacterium Erwinia carotovora carotovora (Ecc15), a process involving TrpA1 (Keita et al., 109 110 2017). Using blue food dye, we tracked food intake and observed that larvae remained blue without bacterial contaminants, while in the presence of Ecc15, they appeared clearer, 111 indicating reduced food intake (Keita et al., 2017). Such a strategy was already used to identify 112 a food-uptake cessation for larvae orally infected by Pseudomonas entomophila (Liehl et al., 113 2006). However, the assay with Ecc15 was limited to 1h post-ingestion and using a food dye, 114 not directly monitoring the fate of the ingested bacteria over the time. We therefore designed 115 116 a protocol allowing to film the fate of fluorescent bacteria once ingested by the larvae. We tested three different fluorescent bacteria: Ecc15-GFP (Ecc), Bacillus thuringiensis-GFP (Bt, an 117 opportunistic Gram-positive bacterium) and Lactiplantibacillus plantarum-GFP (Lp, a 118 commensal Gram-positive bacterium). After 1 hour of feeding on contaminated media, Ecc 119 and *Bt* were concentrated in the anterior midgut (Movies 1 and 2). The location of the bacteria 120 specifically in the anterior part of the intestine following 1h exposure was confirmed when 121 individuals from populations were imaged and counted (Fig 1A). Remarkably, tracking the GFP 122 signal over time revealed that it remained in the anterior part of the larva and began to fade 123 6 hours after ingestion (Movies1 and 2; SUPP1A and SUPP1B). This fading suggests the 124 elimination of the bacteria, while the larva continued to exhibit active movements. This 125 126 pattern was observed for both Ecc and Bt. However, unlike the opportunistic bacteria Ecc and

127 Bt, Lp was present in the posterior compartment of the larval midgut after 1 hour of feeding and remained there throughout the 16-hour duration of our observation (Movie 3, Fig 1A and 128 129 SUPP1C) (Storelli et al., 2018). To better characterize the lockdown phenomenon, we counted the ratio of larvae with trapped GFP-bacteria 1h post feeding. We found that more than 80% 130 of the larvae had *Ecc* and *Bt* bacteria localized in the anterior part of the midgut (Fig 1A and 131 132 **1B**). The portion of the intestine containing the fluorescent bacteria is delimited posteriorly 133 by an extensive turn. To confirm our findings, we dissected the intestines of larvae that had ingested the bacteria. Our analysis confirmed that *Ecc* and *Bt* were predominantly located in 134 the anterior part of the intestines, whereas *Lp* was not, supporting our initial observations 135 (SUPP2A). Our data collectively indicate that pathogenic bacteria, such as *Ecc* and *Bt*, are 136 spatially confined to the anterior part of the larval midgut before their disappearance. In 137 138 contrast, the commensal bacterium Lp is distributed throughout the midgut, persisting principally in the posterior part. This distinction underscores the different interactions and 139 140 survival strategies of pathogenic versus commensal bacteria within the larval midgut.

141 The anterior intestinal localization of pathogenic bacteria is dose-specific and occurs rapidly

We hypothesized that the bacteria lockdown in the anterior part of the larval intestine was an 142 active host response and might be dependent on the bacterial dose. To test this, we exposed 143 larvae to varying concentrations of Ecc and Bt and measured the lockdown ratio. We found 144 that a concentration of 2.10⁹ Ecc bacteria per ml was sufficient to induce lockdown, whereas 145 for Bt, a higher concentration of 4.10¹⁰ Bt bacteria per ml was required (Fig 2A). This dose-146 dependent result with Ecc eliciting the lockdown at a tenfold lower bacterial count than Bt, 147 aligns with our previous findings that Ecc is more virulent than Bt in the Drosophila adult 148 149 intestine (Loudhaief et al., 2017). In order to ascertain whether the bacterial concentrations

employed in our experiments could be representative of those encountered by larvae in the absence of human manipulation, we assessed bacterial concentrations within 1 mm-sized colony for both *Ecc* and *Bt* on LB agar plates. The average optical density at 600 nm (OD₆₀₀) for these colonies was 31 for *Ecc* and 19.3 for *Bt*, corresponding to approximately 15 10^{10} *Ecc* bacteria per mL and 2.8 10^{10} *Bt* bacteria per ml (data can be found in the source data file). These values are consistent with the doses required in our assays to induce the lockdown phenomenon (Fig 2A). For all subsequent experiments, we used 4.10¹⁰ bacteria per ml.

In previous intoxication assays, we arbitrary used a 1-hour time point to assess the 157 phenotype. However, observations of lockdown occurring within minutes suggested that this 158 159 response does not require *de novo* protein synthesis by the host. Shorter exposure times revealed that Ecc was blocked in the anterior part of the intestine within 15 minutes, while Bt 160 161 showed a similar pattern beginning at 15 minutes and completing by 30 minutes (Fig 2B and 162 2C). Again, although lockdown was observed with both Ecc and Bt, Ecc proved to be more 163 potent in inducing this response. Based on these results, we defined 1h as our standard 164 exposure time of larvae with bacterial contaminated food.

Our assays typically involved groups of approximately 50 larvae to observe populationlevel phenomena. Recent studies have suggested that larval behavior can be influenced by group dynamics (Dombrovski et al., 2019; Dombrovski et al., 2017; Louis and de Polavieja, 2017; Mast et al., 2014). To determine whether group size affected the lockdown response, we exposed groups of varying sizes to *Bt* or *Ecc* and measured the lockdown ratio. The phenomenon proved robust even with a single larva exposed to contaminated food, indicating that the response was not influenced by group size under our experimental conditions (Fig

172 **2D**). Based on these findings, for all subsequent experiments, we standardized the conditions

using 4.10¹⁰ bacteria per ml, a 1-hour exposure time, and groups of at least 20 larvae.

174 Host TrpA1 and Dh31 are crucial for the lock down phenotype

In our previous study on larval intake of food contaminated with Ecc (Keita et al., 2017), we 175 176 identified the gene TrpA1 as essential in the host. The TrpA1 protein, a member of the TRP 177 channel family, facilitates Ca2+ entry into cells at temperatures over 25°C or upon exposure 178 to chemicals such as ROS (Du et al., 2016b; Gu et al., 2019; Guntur et al., 2015). This channel, 179 recognized as a nociceptor (Lapointe and Altier, 2011), has been linked to intestinal muscle activity in adult Drosophila following Ecc exposure (Du et al., 2016a) and in response to ROS 180 production by the host (Benguettat et al., 2018). We examined the role of TrpA1 during the 181 larval response to contaminated food using *TrpA1*^[1] homozygous viable mutant in an 182 experimental setup with fluorescent Lp, Ecc or Bt bacteria. In this mutant larvae, while the 183 184 localization of Lp in the posterior midgut remained unchanged, Ecc and Bt failed to be confined into the anterior midgut and were instead found in the posterior midgut. (Fig 3A, 3B, movie 4 185 and SUPP3A). This observation underscores that TrpA1 is necessary for the lockdown of 186 pathogenic bacteria in the anterior midgut. Considering previous reports on visceral 187 contraction in adult Drosophila involving ROS production, detection by TrpA1, and Dh31 188 secretion to expel bacteria (Benguettat et al., 2018; Du et al., 2016a), we wondered whether 189 190 a similar ROS/TrpA1/Dh31 signaling axis is necessary in larvae to block pathogenic bacteria in 191 the anterior midgut. Indeed, though the bacterial lockdown we observed did not expel microorganisms, it might involve muscle contractions triggered by the food contamination. 192 Thus, we tested the lockdown ratio of Dh31^[KG09001] homozygous viable mutants (Dh31⁻) 193 194 exposed to Lp, Bt or Ecc bacteria. In contrast to control animals, where fewer than 20% of 195 larvae exhibited *Ecc* or *Bt* in the posterior section of the intestine, for more than 60% of *Dh31*⁻ mutant larvae, the pathogenic bacteria Bt or Ecc were localized in the posterior midgut 196 confirming Dh31's crucial role in this mechanism (Fig 3A and 3B, movie 5 and SUPP3B). The 197 localization of *Lp* was not affected (Fig 3B). The human Calcitonin Gene-Related Peptide 198 (hCGRP) is the functional homolog of Dh31. Indeed, hCGRP has been shown to promote 199 200 visceral muscle contractions in adult flies (Benguettat et al., 2018). To investigate whether the 201 lockdown could be triggered without pathogenic bacteria in response to a hormone, we 202 exposed larvae to either Lp or Dextran-FITC in the presence of hCGRP. While Lp and Dextran-FITC were normally distributed throughout the midgut, adding hCGRP to the food induced a 203 significant lockdown (Fig 3B and 3C and movie 6). Interestingly, *Lp* locked down in the anterior 204 midgut due to hCGRP began to be released after 6 hours (movie 6 and SUPP3), suggesting a 205 206 dynamic and reversible phenomenon, likely linked to Dh31/hCGRP hormone metabolization. 207 This demonstrates that the process could be triggered independently of the bacteria by a 208 hormone, highlighting it as an active host mechanism.

209 Duox in Enterocytes and Dh31 in Enteroendocrine cells control pathogenic bacteria

The activation of TrpA1, potentially leading to the release of Dh31, (Belinskaia et al., 2023; 210 Kondo et al., 2010; Kunst et al., 2014) could be a consequence of ROS production in the host 211 larval midgut in response to *Ecc* or *Bt*. The larval intestine comprises two main cell populations: 212 213 enterocytes (ECs) and enteroendocrine cells (EECs). In adult Drosophila, Dh31 is stored in EECs and is secreted in response to TrpA1 activation, a process well documented in literature 214 (Benguettat et al., 2018; Chen et al., 2016; Veenstra et al., 2008). The role of ROS in the 215 immunity of adult Drosophila intestine following infection has also been reported (Chakrabarti 216 et al., 2012; Ha et al., 2005; Lee et al., 2013; Ryu et al., 2006). To investigate the involvement 217

218 of ROS in the larval bacterial lockdown, we focused on Duox, the primary enzyme responsible for luminal ROS production. We spatially silenced Duox expression using RNA interference 219 220 (UAS-Duox IR) driven by an ubiquitous driver (Da-Gal4), a driver specific of ECs (Mex-Gal4) or an EECs specific driver (Pros-Gal4). In parallel, using the same set of drivers, we tested the 221 effects of cell-autonomous Dh31 silencing using RNAi (UAS-Dh31_IR). Upon exposing these 222 223 larvae to a food mixture contaminated with fluorescent *Ecc* or *Bt*, we assessed the lockdown ratio. Our results indicate that in larvae, Duox is essential in ECs for the lockdown of both Ecc 224 225 and Bt (Fig 3D). Furthermore, silencing Dh31 in EECs not only confirmed the mutant phenotype but also indicated that Dh31, necessary for the lockdown, is produced by EECs (Fig 3D). This 226 data underscores the pivotal roles of Duox in ECs and Dh31 in EECs for the entrapment of 227 pathogenic bacteria in the anterior part of the Drosophila larval midgut. 228

229 Absence of ROS prevents lockdown phenotype and leads to larval death

230 Our data demonstrating that Duox protein is necessary for the lockdown phenotype, implies that ROS generated by this enzyme are critical. The involvement of TrpA1, a known ROS 231 sensor, further highlights the significance of these compounds in the process. To corroborate 232 the necessity of ROS, we neutralized luminal ROS using DTT (Dithiothreitol), a potent reducing 233 agent known for its efficacy against ROS, mixing it with the larval food (Benguettat et al., 234 2018). In normal conditions, larvae fed with Bt exhibit a lockdown of the bacteria in the 235 anterior part of their intestine, as shown previously in FIG 1A, 1B and Fig 4A. However, when 236 237 the larvae were exposed to a mixture of *Bt* and DTT, the intestinal lockdown of bacteria in the anterior midgut was abolished (Fig 4A). The effect of DTT over the lockdown phenotype was 238 quantified using DTT mixed to Dextran-FITC in order to compare with a condition leading to 239 240 an almost full posterior localization (FIG 4B). Together our results strongly suggest that the role of Duox enzyme in producing ROS in the larval intestine is crucial, and these ROS act as

242 key signals initiating the lockdown mechanism.

243 The lockdown is crucial for bacterial elimination and larval survival

Our real-time observations showed that between 6 and 8 hours after the lockdown of Bt or 244 Ecc in the anterior midgut, the bacteria disappeared (movies 1 and movie 2, SUPP1A and 245 SUPP1B). This led us to investigate the relationship between pathogen localization and larval 246 247 survival. The hypothesis was that the disappearance of the GFP signal corresponded to the 248 bacterial death. We therefore assessed the Lp, Bt or Ecc load over time in dissected midguts of control larvae previously exposed to contaminated food. Consistent with our film data, 249 while the Lp load remained stable, the quantities of Ecc and Bt diminished rapidly in the 250 intestines of control larvae, with no bacteria detectable 8 hours post-ingestion and lockdown 251 (Fig 5A, 5B and 5C). However, in the intestines of *TrpA1*^[1] and *Dh31⁻* mutants, the amount of 252 253 Bt and Ecc increased overtime (Fig 5B and 5C). Unfortunately, we were unable to assess the 254 bacterial load beyond 6 hours due to the deterioration of the midguts. Supporting this, in movies 4 and 5 (SUPP3A and SUPP3B), we observed that Bt or Ecc bacteria which were not 255 locked down in the anterior part of the midgut did not disappear over time. More importantly, 256 *TrpA1*^[1] and *Dh31*⁻ mutant larvae containing *Bt* or *Ecc* stopped to move suggesting they were 257 dead. We confirmed the precocious death of the TrpA1^[1] and Dh31⁻ larvae fed with either Bt 258 or *Ecc* compared to control animals (Fig 5D and 5E). Importantly, these mutants exhibited 259 260 sustained viability overnight when fed with a mixture containing Lp or a bacteria-free diet (Fig 5E). Interestingly, control larvae fed a mixture of *Bt* and DTT, which neutralizes ROS and thus 261 inhibits the lockdown, also perished (Fig 5F). This mortality was not due to DTT, as larvae fed 262 Dextran-FITC plus DTT survived (FIG 5F). These findings suggest that, in larvae, the active 263

lockdown of *Bt* and *Ecc* in the anterior part of the midgut – involving a sequence of events
with ROS production by Duox, TrpA1 activation by ROS, and Dh31 secretion – is essential for
bacterial elimination by the host. Thus, failure to lock down pathogenic bacteria like *Ecc* or *Bt*results in their proliferation and consequent larval death.

268 The lockdown area is delimited by TRPA1+/Dh31+ cells and muscular structures

269 The above results suggest a working model involving the ROS/TrpA1/Dh31 axis in which Dh31 270 release from EECs leads to muscle contractions. However, unlike in adult Drosophila, where 271 bacteria are expelled from the gut, in larvae, we observed a blockade mechanism. To better understand the physiology of the process, we utilized confocal microscopy to thoroughly 272 examine larval midguts and explore the relationship between TrpA1-positive (TrpA1+) cells, 273 anterior lockdown of the bacteria, and muscular structures. In larval midguts, TrpA1+ cells 274 were also Dh31+, and these Dh31+ cells were identified as EECs (Pros+), typically located at 275 276 the end of the anterior midgut. With the reporter line we used (TrpA1-Gal4/UAS-RFP), we noted an average of 3 TrpA1+/Dh31+ cells per gut (ranging from 2 to 6 cells across 14 277 examined guts, see source data file) (Fig 6A-6F). This observation was in agreement with our 278 genetic and functional data linking Dh31 with EECs (FIG 3D) and suggested that TrpA1 and 279 Dh31 operate within the same cells (Fig 6C, 6C' and 6C''). The shape of these TrpA1+ Dh31+ 280 cells was characteristic of EECs (Fig 6A'). In agreement with a model involving an interaction 281 282 of secreted ROS with TrpA1 and a subsequent local Dh31 release to act on muscles, following exposure to food contaminated with fluorescent Bt or Ecc, the bacteria were locked down in 283 an area delimited by the anterior part of the gut and the TrpA1+ cells patch (Fig 6B). 284 Additionally, we observed that the amount of Dh31 within Pros+ cells of larvae blocking 285 bacteria was lower compared to those not exhibiting the lockdown, such as *TrpA1* mutant (Fig 286

287 6D and 6E). Then, we wondered whether specific muscle structures would exist close to the TrpA1+ cells in the anterior midgut. Actin labeling revealed fibrous structures on the basal side 288 of the gut and attached to it in a transversal position (Fig 6C'' and 6F-6H'). These structures, 289 typically lost during dissection, have been described in a report studying larval midgut 290 peristalsis (LaJeunesse et al., 2010). Notably, the attachment points of these filaments, or 291 292 tethers, corresponded with the locations of TrpA1+ cells and the boundary of the area where *Ecc* or *Bt* were confined (Fig 6C'' and 6F-H). These filaments have been described as 293 longitudinal muscles emanating from two out of the four gastric caeca, but this might be a 294 misinterpretation of the images generated by Lajeunesse et al. (2010). Indeed, a recent study 295 describes these muscular structures using in vivo observations without dissections. 296 297 Interestingly, they show that these muscles belong to a subgroup of alary muscles named 298 TARMs (Thoracic Alary Related Muscles) (Bataillé et al., 2020). Specifically, TARMsT1 connect the anterior of the larvae to the extremities of gastric caeca, while TARMsT2 link the anterior 299 part of the gut to the larval epidermis. Our findings support the hypothesis that the observed 300 301 muscular structures close to the TrpA1+ cells are TARMsT2 (Fig 6C'', 6F-6H', SUPP 4 and movie 7). These TARMsT2 are attached to the longitudinal gut muscles and the intestine forms a loop 302 303 at the attachment site (Fig 6H' and SUPP4)(Bataillé et al., 2020). The presence of Dh31+ EECs in this specific curved region of the gut close to the TARMsT2 attachment (Fig 6C'') along with 304 305 our genetic and functional data lead to the hypothesis that this region may display a pyloric-306 like activity triggered by Dh31 (and also hCGRP) following exposure to pathogenic bacteria.

307 IMD pathway is mandatory for eliminating trapped bacteria

In our study, we observed that control larvae were able to kill *Ecc* and *Bt* bacteria trapped in the anterior part of the gut within 6-8 hours (movies 1 and 2 and Fig 5A-C). This finding raised 310 questions about the mechanism of bacterial elimination and the potential role of the IMD 311 (Immune Deficiency) pathway in this process. While larval intestinal immunity is multifaceted, 312 a key defense mechanism against bacteria is the production and secretion of AMPs (Hanson and Lemaitre, 2020). Previous studies have reported the production of ROS in larval guts, but 313 this has not been directly linked to the killing of bacteria (Wu et al., 2012). In addition, we have 314 315 previously shown in adult Drosophila that ROS on their own are not sufficient to kill bacteria 316 (Benguettat et al., 2018). Thus, we focused our investigations on AMPs. Both Ecc and Bt 317 possess DAP-type peptidoglycans (PGN), known to activate the IMD signaling cascade, which leads to the production of AMPs like Diptericin (Kaneko et al., 2006; Leulier et al., 2003; 318 319 Stenbak et al., 2004). We used various mutants deficient in components of the IMD pathway, including PGRP-LC and PGRP-LE (PGN receptors), Dredd (an intracellular component), and 320 321 Relish (a NF- κ B transcription factor) (Zhai et al., 2018). Additionally, we studied a mutant, 322 **DAMP14**, lacking 14 different AMPs (Carboni et al., 2022). We first assayed whether the IMD pathway was required for the lockdown phenotype upon ingestion of Bt or Ecc. While Lp was 323 324 distributed throughout the gut of IMD pathway mutants, Ecc and Bt were confined to the anterior part of the intestine, akin to control larvae (movies 8-12, SUPP5 and SUPP6 and Fig 325 7A and 7B). Thus, the IMD pathway is not required for the lockdown of *Ecc* and *Bt* in larval 326 327 intestines. Nevertheless, the movies suggested a death of the IMD mutant larvae despite the lockdown of either *Bt* or *Ecc*. We therefore tested the survival of these IMD pathway mutants 328 following a 1h feeding with a mixture containing or not (water) fluorescent bacteria. While 329 neither control animals nor the IMD pathway mutants died following a 1h feeding period with 330 a Lp contaminated or non-contaminated food, all the IMD pathway mutants, including 331 AMP14, had a decreased survival after exposure to Ecc or Bt (Fig 7C and 7D). Thus, the IMD 332 333 pathway is central for the survival of these animals with locked down bacteria in the anterior

334 part of the intestine. As this increased lethality in IMD pathway mutants might be related to an uncontrolled growth of the locked down *Bt* and *Ecc* bacteria, we performed CFU counting. 335 With *Bt* and *Ecc*, while the initial inoculum was divided by 10³ in 8h in the control larvae, the 336 bacterial population was maintained and even increased 10-fold in IMD pathway mutants 337 including $\Delta AMP14$ (Fig 7E and 7F). Additional observations from filming the fate of Bt and Ecc 338 339 in IMD pathway mutant larvae confirmed these findings (movies 8-12). The GFP-bacteria, although locked down in the anterior part of the intestine, did not disappear, coinciding with 340 larval immobility and presumed death. In conclusion, our findings illustrate that although the 341 IMD pathway is dispensable for the initial sequestration of pathogenic bacteria, a process 342 contingent on the ROS/TrpA1/Dh31 axis, it plays a crucial role in their subsequent elimination. 343 Indeed, the AMPs produced following IMD pathway activation are essential for killing the 344 345 trapped bacteria and ensuring larval survival (Figure 8).

346

348 **DISCUSSION**

Leveraging the transparency of the Drosophila larvae, we have successfully developed 349 a novel real-time experimental system to monitor the fate of fluorescent bacteria ingested 350 along with food. This methodological advancement has enabled us to unveil a previously 351 352 uncharacterized physiological pathway necessary for the efficacy of the larval intestinal immune response, specifically involving enteroendocrine cells. Our research has uncovered a 353 354 unique defense mechanism centered around a pylorus-like structure located in the anterior midgut, regulated by the enteroendocrine peptide Dh31. Notably, we observed that 355 356 pathogenic bacteria, encompassing both Gram-positive and Gram-negative types, were 357 confined to the anterior section of the larval intestine as early as 15 minutes post-ingestion. We determined that this intestinal lockdown of pathogenic bacteria necessitates a 358 359 ROS/TrpA1/Dh31 axis initiated by Duox activity in enterocytes in response to pathogenic 360 bacteria. We suspect the secred ROS to interact with the TrpA1 ion channel receptor located in Dh31-expressing enteroendocrine cells adjacent to the pylorus-like structure (Figure 8). 361 362 Previous studies on the interaction between ROS and TrpA1 support our hypothesis (Ogawa et al., 2016). The confining of pathogenic bacteria to the anterior part of the larval intestine is a 363 mandatory step prior to their subsequent elimination by the IMD pathway. Intriguingly, 364 365 previous studies utilizing fluorescent bacteria have already highlighted a specific localization 366 of pathogenic bacteria in the larval gut. Bacteria such as *Ecc15*, *Pseudomonas entomophila*, Yersinia pestis, Salmonella enterica serovar Typhimurium, and Shigella flexneri were observed 367 predominantly in the anterior part of the larval gut 6 hours after oral infection (Basset et al., 368 2000; Bosco-Drayon et al., 2012; Earl et al., 2015; Ramond et al., 2021; Vodovar et al., 2005). 369 370 Our findings suggest that these bacteria can all induce ROS production by enterocytes, 371 providing a unifying mechanism for their containment and elimination in the larval gut.

372 Interestingly, it has been reported that the opportunistic pathogen *Staphylococcus aureus* 373 (strain USA300) predominantly colonizes the posterior midgut of Drosophila larvae, leading to 374 the death of 93% of the larvae (Ramond et al., 2021). This strain of S. aureus produces high levels of detoxifying enzymes, such as catalase and superoxide dismutases, which effectively 375 376 neutralize ROS. The authors suggested that the neutralization of ROS bactericidal activity by 377 these enzymes is directly responsible for the bacterial proliferation and consequent host 378 mortality (Ramond et al., 2021). However, considering our findings, we propose an alternative 379 interpretation: the neutralization of ROS by these detoxifying enzymes might prevent the closure of the pylorus, thereby allowing S. aureus to access and establish in the posterior 380 midgut. Our data also indicate that when pathogenic bacteria reach the posterior midgut, as 381 observed in larvae fed with DTT or in *TrpA1* or *Dh31* mutants, larval survival is significantly 382 383 jeopardized. This suggests that larval mortality could be attributed not to the inhibition of ROS in the posterior midgut but rather to the presence of bacteria in this region. In the study 384 Ramond and colleagues (2021) involving S. aureus, the observation of bacterial spread into the 385 386 posterior part was recorded 3 hours post-infection. It would be insightful to further investigate 387 the dynamics of bacterial diffusion to determine whether, like other pathogens we studied, S. 388 *aureus* is initially confined to the anterior part of the gut shortly after ingestion, specifically around 15 minutes post-infection. This could provide a broader understanding of the interplay 389 390 between pathogen-specific strategies and host defense mechanisms in Drosophila larvae.

Our study has focused on an elbow-shaped region in the *Drosophila* larval midgut, characterized by a narrowing of the lumen and surrounded by muscular fibers. This region, where we observed a halt in transit when food is contaminated, has been aptly termed a pylorus-like due to its functional similarity to the human pyloric region. Interestingly, Bataillé et al. (2020) reported the presence of muscular fibers in this area that are part of a subgroup 396 of alary muscles known as TARMs (Thoracic Alary Related Muscles). Specifically, TARMsT1 connect the anterior part of the larvae to the extremities of a pair of gastric caeca, whereas 397 TARMsT2 link the anterior part of the intestine to the larval epidermis. Our actin staining 398 corroborates the identification of these muscles as TARMsT2, which are attached to the 399 longitudinal muscles of the intestine, causing the intestine to form a loop at the site of 400 401 attachment (Bataillé et al., 2020). The presence of Dh31-positive enteroendocrine cells (EECs) 402 in this specific elbow-shaped region, close to the TARMsT2 attachment point, combined with 403 our genetic and functional data, supports the hypothesis that this region exhibits pyloric-like activity. This activity is likely triggered by Dh31 or human Calcitonin Gene-Related Peptide 404 (hCGRP) following bacterial exposure. Notably, our previous research in adult Drosophila 405 showed that Dh31/hCGRP secretion induces contractions of the visceral longitudinal muscle 406 407 fibers, expelling pathogenic bacteria rapidly (Benguettat et al., 2018). However, in larvae, while Dh31/hCGRP likely induces muscle contractions, the ensuing action may manifest as the 408 closure of a pylorus, as evidenced by the observed retention of pathogenic bacteria. 409 410 Importantly, in both larvae and adults, the same pathway and type of muscle fibers appear to be involved, as TARMsT2 are connected to longitudinal fibers (Figure 6H') (LaJeunesse et al., 411 412 2010). This finding is significant as it illustrates a conserved mechanism across developmental stages, albeit with different outcomes: expulsion of pathogens in adults and containment in 413 414 larvae. In both cases, the overarching objective is the effective elimination of pathogens, 415 demonstrating the versatility and adaptability of the *Drosophila* immune response.

Hence, our work shed lights on a yet to be anatomically characterized pylorus-like structure within the *Drosophila* larval gut, presenting a potential model for studying the functions and roles of mammalian pylori. Notably, CGRP (Calcitonin Gene-Related Peptide) secreting enteroendocrine cells have been identified in the mammalian pylorus, as highlighted 420 in research by (Kasacka, 2009) and (Bulc et al., 2018). Drawing parallels with mammalian 421 stomachs, the pylorus is typically closed, opening only when the stomach becomes full. In 422 exploring the functionality of the Drosophila pylorus-like, we considered two hypotheses: one, where it operates similarly to its mammalian counterpart, closing by default and opening in 423 424 response to a full stomach, and another, where it remains open by default and closes upon 425 detection of infected food in the intestine. Our observations with the commensal bacteria Lp 426 (movie 3) suggest an initial closure of the pylorus as food accumulates in the anterior part of 427 the intestine, followed by its opening to allow the passage of non-pathogen-contaminated food. This indicates a dynamic and responsive mechanism in the Drosophila gut. In contrast, 428 when *Drosophila* larvae encounter food contaminated with pathogenic bacteria, the pylorus 429 seems to contract, effectively blocking the passage of contaminated food into the anterior 430 431 part of the intestine. This finding is significant as it not only reveals a unique physiological response in Drosophila larvae but also provides a basis for comparative studies with the 432 mammalian gastrointestinal system, particularly in understanding the regulatory mechanisms 433 434 governing pyloric function.

An intriguing question is why animals without a functional IMD pathway die from *Ecc* 435 436 or Bt exposure while ROS production is still operating? Indeed, when the IMD pathway is disabled, bacteria are still confined in the anterior part of the gut, but are not effectively 437 438 eliminated, resulting in larval death. This outcome strongly suggests that ROS alone are insufficient for bacterial eradication, even though they have been shown to damage and 439 inhibit bacterial proliferation (Benguettat et al., 2018; Ha et al., 2005). However, the role of 440 441 ROS in the immune response remains crucial since their timing of expression before 442 antimicrobial peptides is likely a key factor for the efficiency of the immune response. Our findings, together with those from other studies, highlight the critical role of AMPs in fighting 443

444 off virulent intestinal bacteria, particularly in scenarios where ROS activity is compromised or 445 inadequate (Ramond et al., 2021; Ryu et al., 2006). Our findings emphasize the critical role of the ROS/TrpA1/Dh31 axis in effectively eradicating ingested pathogens. The rapid production 446 of ROS following bacterial ingestion plays a pivotal role in closing the pylorus and retaining 447 virulent bacteria in the anterior midgut. Notably, this process does not necessitate a 448 449 transcriptional/translation response. In contrast, the production of antimicrobial peptides is a 450 lengthier process, involving the transcriptional activation of AMP genes downstream of the 451 IMD pathway, followed by their translation and secretion. The initial confinement of bacteria in the anterior midgut allows time for AMPs to be produced to eliminate the trapped bacteria, 452 which is crucial for the organismal survival. This anterior lockdown is important since when 453 virulent bacteria reach the posterior midgut (in absence of ROS or in *TrpA1* or *Dh31* mutants) 454 455 the larvae die despite a functional IMD pathway. A key question arises: Is the posterior midgut less equipped to combat bacteria? Research by (Bosco-Drayon et al., 2012) suggests that while 456 the posterior midgut can produce AMPs, this portion of the gut is predominantly dedicated to 457 458 the dampening the immune response, particularly through the production of amidases. This 459 permits an immune tolerance likely fostering the establishment of the commensal flora. 460 Consistent with this, we observed that commensal bacteria like Lp transit from the anterior to the posterior midgut and persist there without compromising larval survival. Additionally, Lp 461 462 inherent resistance to AMPs (Arias-Rojas et al., 2023) further underscores the idea that the anterior midgut serves as a checkpoint where certain bacteria are detained and eliminated, 463 while others, like Lp, are permitted to pass through. When the lockdown mechanism is 464 465 compromised, pathogens or pathobionts can spread into the posterior midgut, potentially 466 eliciting an inadequate dampened immune response. Thus, the anterior midgut acts as a critical juncture in determining the fate of ingested bacteria, either leading to their elimination 467

468 or allowing their passage to the posterior midgut, where a more tolerant immune 469 environment prevails.

470 Understanding the practical application of this defense mechanism in the natural environment 471 of Drosophila melanogaster larvae is crucial. In the wild, Drosophila adults are typically drawn to rotting fruits on which they lay eggs, exposing them and their progeny to a plethora of fungi 472 473 and bacteria. Consequently, developing larvae feed and grow in these non-sterile conditions. In such environments, encountering pathogenic microbes is inevitable. Evasion or avoidance 474 475 behavior has been documented as a potential strategy for dealing with pathogens (Surendran 476 et al., 2017). This behavior might enable larvae to seek environments that will supposedly 477 better sustain their survival. However, given the larvae constant consumption of their 478 surrounding media in a race to reach pupation, ingestion of pathogen-contaminated food is a 479 common risk. Under these circumstances, larvae have limited options prior to the activation of their innate immune response. Discriminating innocuous from potentially deleterious 480 bacteria and then locking down the latter ones for subsequent elimination by AMPs, clearly 481 benefits the host. Nonetheless, the effectiveness of this lockdown strategy would be 482 483 maximized if it were coordinated with evasion behaviors. Such coordination could prevent 484 repeated engagement in this energy-intensive immune response, thus optimizing the larvae chances of reaching pupation successfully. This interplay between immune response and 485 486 behavioral adaptation underlines the sophisticated strategies employed by Drosophila larvae 487 to navigate their microbial-rich environment.

489 MATERIALS AND METHODS

490 **<u>1-Bacterial strain</u>**

We used the following strains: Bacillus-thuringiensis-GFP (Bt) (Hachfi et al., 2023) (the original 491 492 strain, 4D22, is from the Bacillus Genetics Stock Center - www.bgsc.org), Erwinia carotovora subsp. carotovora-GFP 15 (Ecc) (Basset et al., 2000) and Lactiplantibacillus plantarum-GFP (Lp) 493 (gift from Renata Matos and François Leulier) (Storelli et al., 2018). Bt and Ecc were grown on 494 495 standard LB agar plates at 30°C and Lp was grown in MRS medium in anaerobic conditions at 37°C for at least 18 hours. Each bacterium was plated from glycerol stocks for each 496 experiment. A single colony was used to prepare liquid cultures. Bacteria were inoculated in 497 the 500 ml of appropriate medium. After overnight growth, the cultures were centrifuged for 498 15 min at 7500 rpm. Bacterial infectious doses were adjusted by measuring culture turbidity 499 500 at an optical density of 600 nm. $OD_{600}=100$ for Lp and Ecc corresponds to 4.9.10⁷CFU/µl. 501 OD_{600} =100 for *Bt* corresponds to 1,5.10⁷CFU/µl.

502 **2-FLY Stocks**

503 Flies were maintained at 25 °C on our standard fly medium (Nawrot-Esposito et al., 2020) 504 with12:12 light/dark cycle. Fly stocks used in this study and their origins are as follows: as a reference in our experiments and noted as ctrl, we used Canton S (Bloomington #64349), 505 TrpA1¹ (Bloomington #26504), Dh31^{KG09001} (Bloomington #16474), Dh31-Gal4 (Bloomington 506 #51988), *PGRP-LC*^{ΔE} (Bloomington #55713), *PGRP-LE*¹¹² (Bloomington #33055), *Dredd*^{F64} (Gift 507 from B. Charroux), *Relish^{E20}* (Bloomington #55714), ΔAMP14 (Gift from B. Lemaitre; (Carboni 508 et al., 2022), TrpA1-Gal4/UAS-RFP (Gal4 is Bloomington #527593, UAS is Bloomington 509 #27392), Da-Gal4 (Bloomington #55851), pros-Gal4 (gift form B. Charroux), Mex-Gal4 (gift 510 from B. Charroux), UAS-Duox IR (Bloomington #38907), UAS-Dh31_IR(Bloomington#25925). 511

512 **<u>3-Infection experiments</u>**

513 Oral infections were performed on mid-L3 larvae (3.5 days after egg laying). For each 514 experiment, between 20 and 50 non-wandering L3 larvae raised at 25°C were collected and 515 washed in PBS (1x). Bacterial pellets were mixed with yeast 40% in PBS (1x) and 500 µl of the 516 infected food were added at the bottom of an empty plastic fly vial (VWR) before adding the 517 larvae and sealing it with Parafilm. Then, the larvae were placed at 25°C in the dark. After 518 60min, the larvae were washed in PBS (1x) and then counted for the presence of GFP-bacteria 519 or for other analyses.

520 4-Larvae dissection

After 60 min, the infected larvae were washed in PBS (1x). Guts were dissected and fixed in formaldehyde 4% for 45 min, then washed twice in PBS (1x) for 10 min. Guts were mounted between poly-L-lysine (SIGMA P8920-100ML) coated slides and coverslips in Vectashield/DAPI (Vector Laboratories).

525 <u>5- Colony-forming unit (CFU) counting</u>

Infected animals were washed in ethanol 70% for 30s then rinsed in PBS (1x). Guts were dissected in PBS (1x) and homogenized with a micropestle in 200 µl of LB medium. Samples were serially diluted in LB medium and plated on LB agar plates overnight at 30 °C. The Colonies Forming Unit (CFU) were counted the following day. CFU counting has been performed at 5 time points: 1h, 2h, 4h, 6h and 8h after a 60 min intoxication (at least 20 larvae per point and 3 independent repeats).

532 <u>6-Mortality test</u>

533	Oral infection of the Larvae was performed as described above. Larvae of the different
534	genotypes fed 1h with <i>Bt</i> , <i>Lp</i> or <i>Ecc</i> were quickly washed in 70% ethanol and then PBS (1x).
535	Only the larvae that eaten (containing GFP bacteria in their intestine) were selected and put
536	in water for 18h at 25°C. Mortality was evaluated at this time-point.

537 7- DTT and CGRP feeding

- 538 Oral infection of the Larvae was performed as described above.
- 539 **DTT:** DTT was added to the food at a final concentration of 100 nM and larvae were fed during
- 540 60 min.

hCGRP: hCGRP (Sigma #C0167) was resuspended in distilled water. Larvae were fed 1h as
described above with a final hCGRP concentration of 400 μg/ml.

543 **<u>8-Immunostaining</u>**

Dissected intestines were washed twice with PBS (1x)-0.1% Triton X100 then incubated for 3h 544 in the blocking solution (10% of fetal calf serum, 0.1% Triton X100, PBS (1x)). The blocking 545 546 solution was removed and the primary antibodies added and incubated overnight à 4°C in blocking solution. The following antibodies were used: mouse anti-Prospero (MR1A-c, 547 Developmental Studies Hybridoma Bank (DSHB)) at 1:200 and rabbit anti-Dh31 (gift from Jan 548 Veenstra and Michael Nitabach; (Kunst et al., 2014; Park et al., 2008) at 1:500. Secondary 549 550 antibodies used were anti-mouse Alexa647 (Invitrogen Cat# A-21235), anti-rabbit Alexa546 551 (Invitrogen Cat# A-11010). All secondary antibodies were used at 1:1000. Guts were mounted 552 in Fluoroshield-DAPI mounting medium (Sigma F6057). Observations of GFP producing bacteria and of dTRPA1+ cells were done using the native fluorescence without 553 554 immunostaining.

555 **9-RNAi experiments**

All the tested animals were F1 obtained from a cross between parents possessing the Gal4 transgene and parents possessing the UAS-RNAi construction or from crosses between control flies and transgenic animals. The larvae were then fed with contaminated food as described above.

560 **10-Images and movie acquisition**

Images acquisition was performed at the microscopy platform of the Institut Sophia Agrobiotech (INRAE 1355-UCA-CNRS 7254-Sophia Antipolis) with the macroscope Zeiss AxioZoom V16 with an Apotome 2 or a Zeiss Axioplan Z1 with Apotome 2 microscope. Images were analyzed using ZEN and Photoshop softwares. Movie acquisitions were performed with the macroscope Zeiss AxioZoom V16 equipped with the Hamamatsu Flash 4LT Camera. Larvae were captured every 5 minutes. Dead larva images were acquired with a numeric Keyence VHX 2000 microscope.

568 **<u>11-Data representation and statistical analyses</u></u>**

569 The Graphpad Prism 8 software was used for statistical analyses.

570 <u>CFU data analysis:</u> the D'Agostino–Pearson test to assay whether the values are distributed 571 normally was applied. As not all the data sets were considered normal, non-parametric 572 statistical analysis such as non-parametric unpaired Mann–Whitney two-tailed tests was used 573 for all the data presented.

574 <u>Lockdown ratio and survival ratio datasets</u>: as the values obtained from one larva are 575 categorical data with a *Yes* or *No* value, we used the two-sided Fisher exact t-test and the 95% 576 confidence interval to test the statistical significance of a possible difference between a test 577 sample and the related control. For all the quantitative assays, at least 3 independent experiments were performed and some were done in two different laboratories by more than one experimenter. The results from all the experiments were gathered and the total amount of larvae tested is indicated in the source data file. In addition, we do not show the average response from one experiment representative of the different biological replicates, but an average from all the data generated during the independent experiments in one graph.

584 **12-Source data files: detailed lines, conditions and statistics for the figure section**

585 A file containing raw data, all the details about the experiments including the replicates, sample genotypes detailed available 586 size, and statistical analyzes is (https://figshare.com/articles/dataset/Tleiss et al lockdown Source Data File/25018352 587 DOI:10.6084/m9.figshare.25018352). 588

590 FIGURE LEGENDS

591 **FIGURE 1**

592 Contrary to *Lp*, *Ecc* or *Bt* bacteria are locked down in the anterior part of the gut.

A: Pictures to illustrate the position of the green fluorescence of control L3 stage larvae as a group (upper panel) or individual (lower panel) after having been fed 1h with a media containing yeast and GFP-producing bacteria (*Ecc* or *Bt* or *Lp*). The white asterisk indicates the anterior part of the animal. The white arrow indicates the posterior limit of the area containing the fluorescent bacteria. Below the pictures are schematics representing larvae, their gut, and the relative position of the GFP-producing bacteria in green. Scale bar is 1mm.

599 B: Graphic representing the lockdown ratio for L3 larvae exposed during 1h to a mixture 600 composed of yeast and fluorescent bacteria. The ratio of control larvae with a distinguishable green fluorescence only in the upper part of the intestine, considered as locked-down 601 bacteria, is represented. The ratio is calculated as: x larvae with bacteria locked down/ (x 602 603 larvae with bacteria locked down + y larvae with bacteria all along the gut). Larvae with no distinguishable fluorescence were considered as non-eaters and discarded from the 604 quantifications. The ratio of larvae with no distinguishable fluorescence was not influenced by 605 the different conditions we tested. Shown is the average lockdown ratio with a 95% 606 confidence interval from at least 3 independent assays with at least 30 animals per condition 607 and trial. **** indicates p<0,0001, Fischer exact t-test. See the source data file for details. 608

609

610

611 FIGURE 2

Bacterial lockdown is dose-dependent, occurs in less than 30 minutes, and does not involve a group effect.

A: Lockdown ratio for control L3 larvae fed 1h with a mixture combining yeast with different concentrations of fluorescent *Ecc* or *Bt*, concentrations are in number of bacteria per ml. Shown is the average lockdown ratio with a 95% confidence interval from at least 3 independent assays with at least 18 animals per condition and trial. **** indicates p<0,0001, Fischer exact t-test. See the source data file for details.

619 **B**: Representative images of control larvae fed during 30 min. with *Bt*. Scale bar is 1mm.

620 **C**: Lockdown ratio for control L3 larvae fed during various times with a mixture combining 621 yeast with *Ecc* or *Bt*. Shown is the average lockdown ratio with a 95% confidence interval from 622 at least 3 independent assays with at least 20 animals per condition and trial. ns indicates 623 values with differences not statistically significant, **** indicates p<0,0001, Fischer exact t-624 test. See the source data file for details.

D: Lockdown ratio for control L3 larvae fed 1h as individual animals or as groups of 10 or >40 with a mixture combining yeast with a constant concentration of *Ecc* or *Bt* (4.10¹⁰ bacteria per ml). Shown is the average lockdown ratio with a 95% confidence interval from at least 3 independent assays with the exact number of animals indicated per condition and trial. ns indicates values with differences not statistically significant, Fischer exact t-test. See the source data file for details.

631

633 **FIGURE 3**

The bacterial lockdown necessitates Duox in enterocytes, the TrpA1 nociceptor and Dh31 in enteroendocrine cells.

A: Pictures to illustrate the localization of the fluorescent bacteria within the intestine of
 control (ctrl), *Trpa1*^[1] or *Dh31⁻* L3 larvae after having been fed 1h with a mixture of yeast and
 Ecc. Scale bar is 1mm.

B: Lockdown ratio for control (ctrl) L3 larvae or mutants for *Trpa1*^[1] or *Dh31*⁻ fed 1h with a
mixture combining yeast and *Lp* or *Ecc* or *Bt* or fluorescent Dextran with or without hCGRP
hormone. Shown is the average lockdown ratio with a 95% confidence interval from at least 3
independent assays with at least 30 animals per condition and trial. 0 indicates an absence of
lockdown. **** indicates p<0,0001, Fischer exact t-test. See the source data file for details.

644 **C**: Pictures to illustrate the localization of the fluorescence within the intestine of control L3 645 larvae after having been fed 1h with a mixture of yeast and fluorescent Dextran with or 646 without hCGRP hormone. Below the pictures are schematics representing larvae, their gut, 647 and the relative position of the fluorescence in green. Scale bar is 1mm.

D: Lockdown ratio for animals expressing RNA interference constructions directed against *Duox* mRNA or *Dh31* mRNA, ubiquitously (Da-Gal4), in enterocytes (Mex-Gal4) or in enteroendocrine cells (Pros-Gal4) and then fed 1h with a mixture combining yeast and *Ecc* or *Bt*. Shown is the average lockdown ratio with a 95% confidence interval from at least 3 independent assays with at least 30 animals per condition and trial. ns indicates values with differences not statistically significant, **** indicates p<0,0001, Fischer exact t-test. See the source data file for details.

655 FIGURE 4

656 Blocking the ROS with DTT prevents the lockdown of *Bt* and the larvae with bacteria in the

657 **posterior part of the intestine die.**

- 658 A: Pictures to illustrate the localization of the fluorescence within the intestine of control
- 659 (ctrl) L3 larvae after having been fed 1h with a mixture of yeast and *Bt* with or without DTT.
- 660 Below the pictures are schematics representing larvae, their gut, and the relative position of
- the fluorescent bacteria in green. Scale bar is 1mm.
- 662 **B**: Lockdown ratio for control (ctrl) L3 larvae fed 1h with a mixture combining yeast, DTT and
- fluorescent Dextran or *Bt*. Shown is the average lockdown ratio with a 95% confidence interval
- 664 from at least 3 independent assays with at least 18 animals per condition and trial. ns indicates
- values with differences not statistically significant, Fischer exact t-test. See the source data file
- 666 for details.

668 **FIGURE 5**

In the absence of lockdown in *TrpA1*^[1] or *Dh31⁻* mutants, *Bt* and *Ecc* proliferate in the larval intestine and the larvae die.

A, B and C: quantification over time of the amount of *Lp*, (A), *Bt* (B) or *Ecc* (C) live bacteria within the larval intestine of control (ctrl) (A, B and C), *Dh31⁻* (B and C) and *TrpA1^[1]* (B and C) animals following a 1h feeding period with a solution containing yeast and bacteria. CFU stands for Colony Forming Units. Shown is the average \pm SEM of at least 3 independent experiments with at least 7 guts each. After 8h, either all the *TrpA1^[1]* or *Dh31⁻* larvae were dead or the intestines were severely damaged preventing the CFU counting. * Indicates p<0,05, Mann Whitney, two-tailed test. See the source data file for details.

D: Pictures of control (ctrl) or *TrpA1*^[1] or *Dh31*⁻ larvae after 8h in water following a 1h feeding
with a mixture of yeast and *Bt*. For control larvae, some animals made pupae that are visible
while for *TrpA1*^[1] and *Dh31*⁻mutants, the dark larvae are dead non-moving melanized animals.
Scale bar is 1mm.

E: Ratio of dead control or TrpA1^[1] or Dh31⁻ larvae after 8h in water following or not (water)
a 1h feeding period with yeast mixed with Lp or Ecc or Bt. Shown is the average with 95%
confidence interval of at least 3 independent experiments with at least 21 larvae per trial and
condition. The 0 symbol indicates an absence of lethality. **** indicates p<0,0001, Fischer
exact t-test. See the source data file for details.

F: Ratio of dead control (ctrl) larvae after 8h in water following a 1h feeding period with a
mixture combining yeast, DTT and Dextran fluorescent beads or *Bt*. Shown is the average with
95% confidence interval of at least 3 independent experiments with at least 18 larvae per trial

and condition. The 0 symbol indicates an absence of lethality. **** indicates p<0,0001, Fischer

691 exact t-test. See the source data file for details.

692 **FIGURE 6**

TrpA1+ cells are enteroendocrine cells concentrated in a portion of the intestine bordering the locked-down bacteria.

- 695 Confocal fluorescent pictures of the anterior portions of L3 larval intestines to detect;
- 697 producing RFP (A, A', B, C, C'' and F), GFP-bacteria (B, G and H), Dh31+ cells (C', C'', D and E),

longitudinal and transversal muscles concentrated in actin (F, G, H and H'), TrpA1+ cells

- 698 Pros+ cells (D and E) and nuclei with DNA staining (A, A', B, C'', D, E and G).
- In B, D, E, G, H and H'; animals were previously fed for 1h with a mixture containing bacteria
- and yeast with *Bt* (B, D and E) or *Ecc* (G, H and H'). When present, the white star indicates the
- anterior part of the intestinal portion shown, the arrows point to TARMs and the > symbols
- point to TrpA1+ cells. The empty squares in A and H with dashed lines correspond to the
- portion of the image magnified in A' and H', respectively. Scale bar in A, B, F, G and H
- represents 500μm, in A', C, D, E and H' represents 100 μm.

705

706 **FIGURE 7**

707 IMD pathway is not required for the lockdown but essential for larvae survival and *Bt* or *Ecc* 708 clearance

- 709 A: Pictures to illustrate the localization of the fluorescence within the intestine of PGRP-
- 710 $LC^{[\Delta E]}$ L3 larvae after having been fed 1h with a mixture of Lp or Ecc or Bt. Scale bar is 1mm.
- 711 B: Lockdown ratio for control L3 larvae or mutants of the IMD pathway fed 1h with a mixture
- combining yeast and Lp or Ecc or Bt. Shown is the average with 95% confidence interval of at
- 713 least 3 independent experiments with at least 20 larvae per trial and condition. ns indicates
- values with differences not statistically significant, Fischer exact t-test. See the source data file
- 715 for details.
- 716 **C**: Pictures of *PGRP-LC*^[ΔE], *Rel*^[E20] or $\Delta AMP14$ mutant larvae after 18h in water following a 1h 717 feeding with a mixture of yeast and *Bt*. The dark larvae are dead non-moving melanized 718 animals. $\Delta AMP14$ is a mutant deleted for 14 antimicrobial-encoding genes.

D: Ratio of dead control or *TrpA1*^[1] or *Dh31*⁻ larvae after 18h in water following or not (water) a 1h feeding period with yeast mixed with *Lp* or *Ecc* or *Bt*. Shown is the average with 95% confidence interval of at least 3 independent experiments with at least 20 larvae per trial and condition. The 0 symbol indicates an absence of lethality. **** indicates p<0,0001, Fischer exact t-test. See the source data file for details.

E and **F**: quantification over time of the amount of *Bt* (A) and *Ecc* (B) live bacteria within the larval intestine of control or IMD pathway mutant animals including $\Delta AMP14$ following a 1h feeding period with a solution containing yeast and bacteria. CFU stands for Colony Forming Units. $\Delta AMP14$ is a mutant deleted for 14 antimicrobial-encoding genes. Shown is the average

- t SEM of at least 3 independent experiments with at least 7 guts each. After 8h, either all the
- 729 mutants were dead or the intestines were severely damaged preventing the CFU counting. *
- 730 Indicates p<0,05, Mann Whitney, two-tailed test. See the source data file for details.

731

733 **FIGURE 8**

Chronological coordination of ROS/TrpA1/Dh31 and IMD pathways for an efficient microbial elimination

t0: larvae ingest bacteria from the food mixture (anterior on the left, only bacteria similar to 736 Ecc or Bt are illustrated). This initial phase necessitates a discrimination between commensal 737 738 and pathogenic bacteria, not elucidated in this study (symbolized by '?'). The presence of 739 pathogenic bacteria induces the production of ROS by enterocytes (EC) in a Duox-dependent 740 manner. Then ROS activates TrpA1 in enteroendocrine cells (EEC). t15 minutes: Dh31 741 secretion by EEC is responsible for the lockdown of bacteria likely by promoting visceral 742 muscle contractions leading to a closure of a pylorus-like structure. This phenomenon 743 concentrates the bacteria in the anterior part of the gut. The bacterial concentration in this part of the intestinal lumen may facilitate the triggering of the IMD signaling cascade that 744 745 controls the transcription of the genes (AMPs) encoding the antimicrobial peptides (AMPs). t6 746 hours: the pylorus-like structure is still closed. The bactericidal activity of AMPs has eliminated 747 most of the bacteria accumulated in the anterior part of the intestine. Importantly, if confinement is prevented, the larvae die; if the response by antimicrobial peptides is 748 hindered, the larvae die. 749

750

752 **SUPP1**

- 753 Ecc and Bt are locked down in the anterior part of the intestine and disappear while Lp
- 754 transits to the posterior part and remains.
- 755 A: Timelapse from the movies of L3 Larvae fed 1h with a mixture of yeast and *Ecc* then
- transferred on a glass slide to be imaged overnight. Refers to Movie 1.
- 757 **B**: Timelapse from the movies of L3 Larvae fed 1h with a mixture of yeast and *Bt* then
- transferred on a glass slide to be imaged overnight. Refers to Movie 2.
- 759 **C**: Timelapse from the movies of L3 Larvae fed 1h with a mixture of yeast and *Lp* then
- transferred on a glass slide to be imaged overnight. Refers to Movie 3.
- For A-C, the frames are separated by 5 minutes.

762 **SUPP2**

763 Contrary to *Lp*, *Ecc* or *Bt* bacteria are locked down in the anterior part of the gut.

- 764 A: Graphic representing the lockdown ratio for dissected intestines of L3 larvae exposed
- during 1h to a mixture composed of yeast and fluorescent bacteria. Shown is the average
- 766 lockdown ratio with a 95% confidence interval from at least 3 independent assays with at least
- 767 8 organs per condition and trial. **** indicates p<0,0001, Fischer exact t-test. See the source
- 768 data file for details.

770 **SUPP3**

771	Ecc is not locked down anteriorly in TrpA1 ^[1] and Dh31 ⁻ mutants, persists in the posterior
772	part of the intestine and disappear while Lp can be locked down following exogenous
773	addition of hCGRP.
774	A : Timelapse from the movies of <i>TrpA1</i> ^[1] L3 Larvae fed 1h with a mixture of yeast and <i>Ecc</i>
775	then transferred on a glass slide to be imaged overnight. Refers to Movie 4.

- **B**: Timelapse from the movies of *Dh31⁻* L3 Larvae fed 1h with a mixture of yeast and *Ecc* then
- transferred on a glass slide to be imaged overnight. Refers to Movie 5.
- 778 **C**: Timelapse from the movies of w⁻L3 Larvae fed 1h with a mixture of yeast and Lp + hCGRP
- then transferred on a glass slide to be imaged overnight. Refers to Movie 6.
- 780 For A-C, the frames are separated by 5 minutes.

782 **SUPP4**

- Confocal fluorescent pictures of different TARMsT2 in the anterior portions of L3 larval
 intestines to detect longitudinal and transversal muscles concentrated in actin The white star
- indicates the anterior part of the intestinal portion shown. The empty square with dashed
- 786 lines in A corresponds to the portion of the image magnified in A'. Scale bar represents $500\mu m$.

788 **SUPP5**

789 Bt and Ecc are locked down anteriorly and persist in PGRP-LC^[ΔE] and PGRP-LE^[112] mutants,

790 respectively.

- 791 **A**: Timelapse from the movies of *PGRP-LC*^[ΔE] L3 Larvae fed 1h with a mixture of yeast and *Bt*
- then transferred on a glass slide to be imaged overnight. Refers to Movie 8.
- 793 **B**: Timelapse from the movies of *PGRP-LE*^[112] L3 Larvae fed 1h with a mixture of yeast and *Ecc*
- then transferred on a glass slide to be imaged overnight. Refers to Movie 9.
- For A and B, the frames are separated by 5 minutes.

797 SUPP6

- 798 Bt and Ecc are locked down and persist anteriorly in Dredd^[F64] and Rel^[E20] mutants.
- 799 A: Timelapse from the movies of *Dredd*^[F64] L3 Larvae fed 1h with a mixture of yeast and *Ecc*
- 800 then transferred on a glass slide to be imaged overnight. Refers to Movie 10.
- 801 **B**: Timelapse from the movies of *Rel*^[E20] L3 Larvae fed 1h with a mixture of yeast and *Bt* then
- transferred on a glass slide to be imaged overnight. Refers to Movie 11.
- 803 **C**: Timelapse from the movies of *Rel^[E20]* L3 Larvae fed 1h with a mixture of yeast and *Ecc* then
- transferred on a glass slide to be imaged overnight. Refers to Movie 12.
- 805 For A-C, the frames are separated by 5 minutes.
- 806

808 <u>MOVIES</u>

- 809 Movie 1
- 810 https://figshare.com/articles/media/ctrl_vs_Ecc-gfp/25018385
- 811 DOI: 10.6084/m9.figshare.25018385
- 812 Fluorescent *Ecc* is locked down in the anterior part of the larval intestine then vanishes.
- Live imaging during 12h of a L3 control larva previously fed 1h with a food containing Ecc
- 814 fluorescent bacteria then transferred on a glass slide in a wet chamber.

- 816 Movie 2
- 817 <u>https://figshare.com/articles/media/2-ctrl_vs_Bt-GFP/25018427</u>
- 818 DOI: 10.6084/m9.figshare.25018427
- 819 Fluorescent *Bt* is locked down in the anterior part of the larval intestine then vanishes.
- Live imaging during 12h of a L3 control larva previously fed 1h with a food containing Bt
- 821 fluorescent bacteria then transferred on a glass slide in a wet chamber.
- 822
- 823 Movie 3
- 824 https://figshare.com/articles/media/Tleiss_et_al_Movie_3-ctrl_vs_Lp_avi/25018442
- 825 DOI: 10.6084/m9.figshare.25018442
- 826 Fluorescent *Lp* is not locked down in the anterior part of the larval intestine and persists in
- 827 the posterior midgut.

- Live imaging during 10h of a L3 control larva previously fed 1h with a food containing *Lp*
- 829 fluorescent bacteria then transferred on a glass slide in a wet chamber.
- 830
- 831 Movie 4
- 832 https://figshare.com/articles/media/Tleiss_et_al_Movie_4_TrpA1_vs_Ecc-gfp/25018463
- 833 DOI :10.6084/m9.figshare.25018463
- 834 Fluorescent Ecc is not locked down in the anterior part of the TrpA1 mutant larval intestine
- 835 and persists in the posterior midgut.
- Live imaging during 10h of a L3 *TrpA1* mutant larva previously fed 1h with a food containing
- 837 *Ecc* fluorescent bacteria then transferred on a glass slide in a wet chamber.
- 838
- 839 Movie 5
- 840 https://figshare.com/articles/media/Tleiss_et_al_Movie_5_Dh31_vs_Ecc/25018472
- 841 DOI: 10.6084/m9.figshare.25018472
- 842 Fluorescent *Ecc* is not locked down in the anterior part of the *Dh31* mutant larval intestine
- 843 and persists in the posterior midgut.
- Live imaging during 10h of a L3 *Dh31* mutant larva previously fed 1h with a food containing
- 845 *Ecc* fluorescent bacteria then transferred on a glass slide in a wet chamber.

846

848 Movie 6

- 849 https://figshare.com/articles/media/Tleiss et al Movie 6 ctrl vs Lp vs hCGRP/250184
- 850 <u>81</u>
- 851 DOI: 10.6084/m9.figshare.25018481
- 852 Fluorescent Lp is locked down in the anterior part of the larval intestine following treatment
- 853 with hCGRP.
- Live imaging during 12h of a control L3 larva previously fed 1h with a food containing Lp
- 855 fluorescent bacteria and hCGRP then transferred on a glass slide in a wet chamber.

856

- 857 Movie 7
- 858 <u>https://figshare.com/articles/media/Tleiss_et_al_Movie_7_TARM_T2_3D/25018496</u>
- 859 DOI: 10.6084/m9.figshare.25018496
- 860 TARMsT2 are attached to the longitudinal gut muscles.
- 861 Confocal imaging of the intestine from a control animal stained with fluorescent phalloidin
- and animated 3D-reconstruction of the anterior portion containing the attached TARMs.

- 864 **Movie 8**
- 865 <u>https://figshare.com/articles/media/Tleiss_et_al_Movie_8_pgrp-lc_vs_Bt/25018499</u>
- 866 DOI :10.6084/m9.figshare.25018499

867	Fluorescent Bt is locked down in the anterior part of the PGRP-LC mutant larval intestine
868	and persists.
869	Live imaging during 12h of a L3 PGRP-LC mutant larva previously fed 1h with a food containing
870	Bt fluorescent bacteria then transferred on a glass slide in a wet chamber.
871	
872	Movie 9
873	https://figshare.com/articles/media/Tleiss_et_al_Movie_9_pgrp-le_vs_Ecc/25018505
874	DOI: 10.6084/m9.figshare.25018505
875	Fluorescent Ecc is locked down in the anterior part of the PGRP-LE mutant larval intestine
876	and persists.
877	Live imaging during 12h of a L3 PGRP-LE mutant larva previously fed 1h with a food containing
878	Ecc fluorescent bacteria then transferred on a glass slide in a wet chamber.
879	
880	Movie 10
881	https://figshare.com/articles/media/Tleiss_et_al_Movie_10_Dredd_vs_Ecc/25018517
882	DOI: 10.6084/m9.figshare.25018517
883	Fluorescent Ecc is locked down in the anterior part of the Dredd mutant larval intestine and
884	persists.
885	Live imaging during 12h of a L3 Dredd mutant larva previously fed 1h with a food containing
886	<i>Ecc</i> fluorescent bacteria then transferred on a glass slide in a wet chamber.

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- 888 Movie 11
- 889 https://figshare.com/articles/media/Tleiss_et_al_Movie_11_Rel_vs_Bt/25018529
- 890 DOI: 10.6084/m9.figshare.25018529
- 891 Fluorescent *Bt* is locked down in the anterior part of the *Rel* mutant larval intestine and
- 892 persists.
- Live imaging during 12h of a L3 *Rel* mutant larva previously fed 1h with a food containing *Bt*
- 894 fluorescent bacteria then transferred on a glass slide in a wet chamber.

895

- 896 Movie 12
- 897 <u>https://figshare.com/articles/media/tleiss_et_al_Movie_12_Rel_vs_Ecc/25018538</u>
- 898 DOI: 10.6084/m9.figshare.25018538
- 899 Fluorescent *Ecc* is locked down in the anterior part of the *Rel* mutant larval intestine and
- 900 persists.
- 901 Live imaging during 12h of a L3 *Rel* mutant larva previously fed 1h with a food containing *Ecc*
- 902 fluorescent bacteria then transferred on a glass slide in a wet chamber.

903

904

906 AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

907 L.K., A.G., F.T., M.M., O.P., D.O. and J.R. conceived the experiments. F.T., M.M., O.P.
908 performed the experiments. L.K., A.G., F.T., D.O. and J.R. wrote the manuscript. A.G., D.O. and
909 J.R. secured funding.

910 **COMPETING INTERESTS**

911 The authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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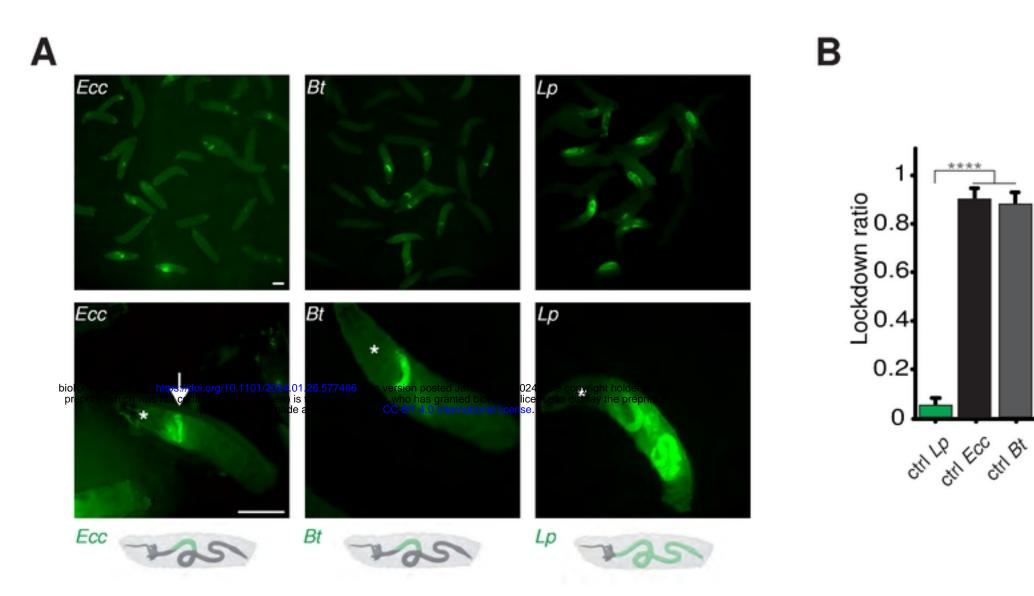
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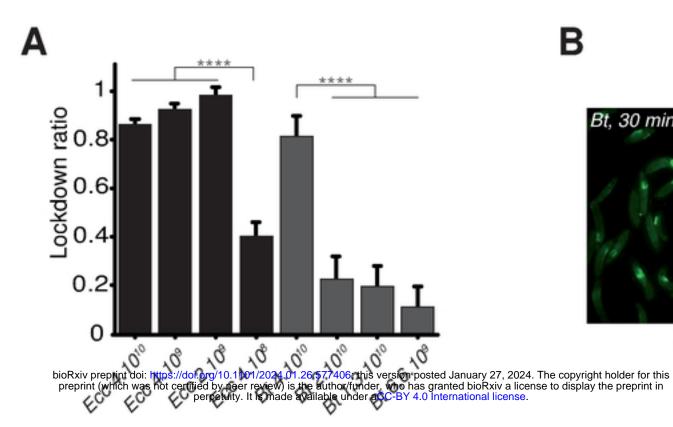
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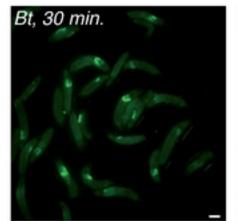
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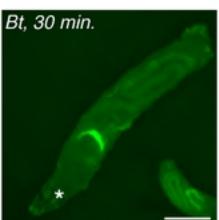
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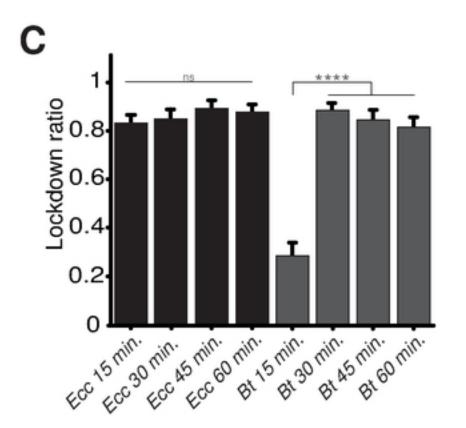
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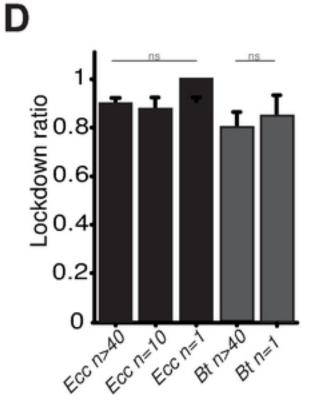


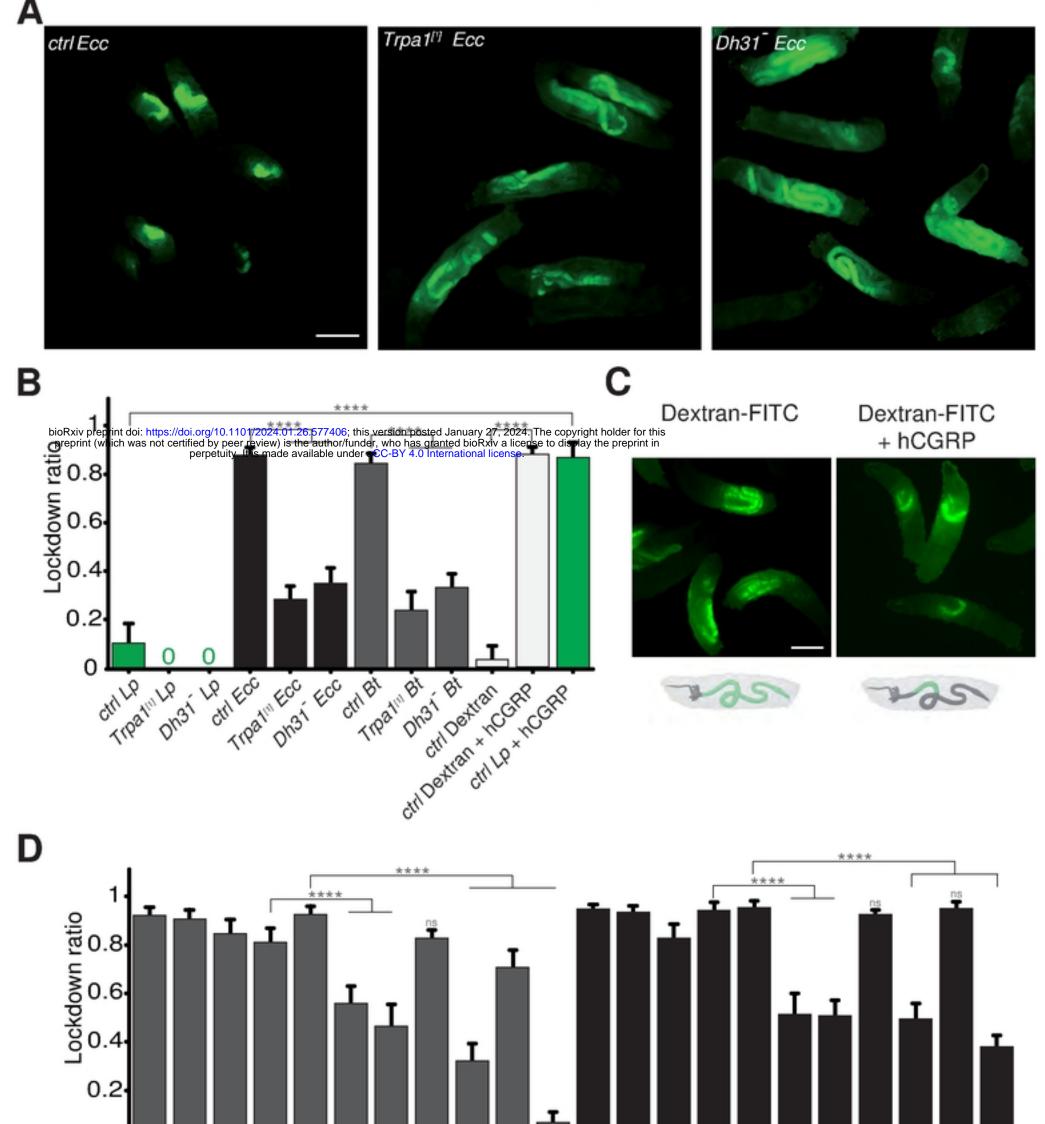


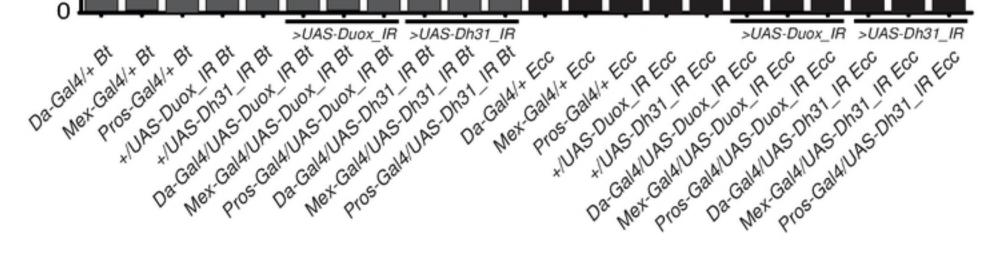
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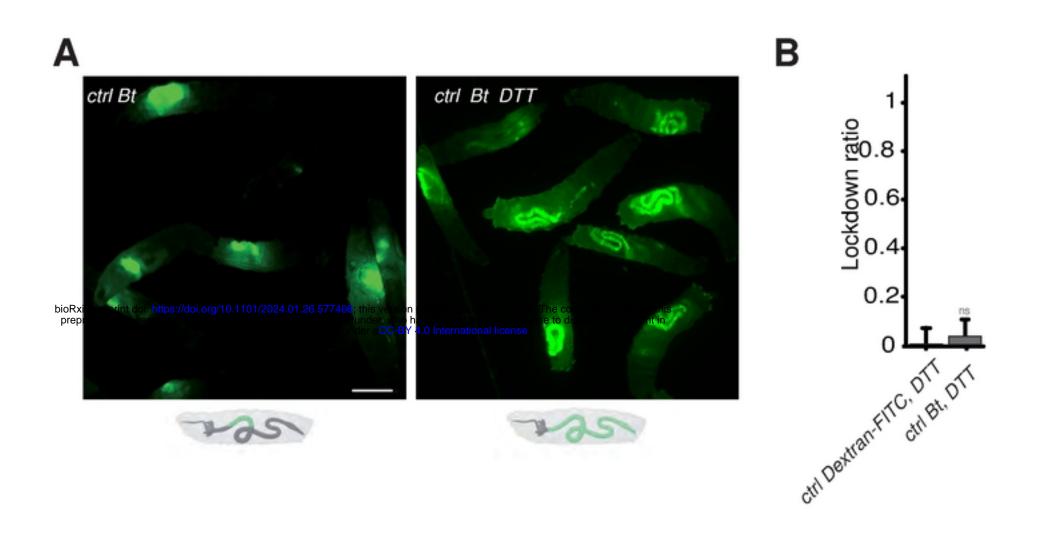


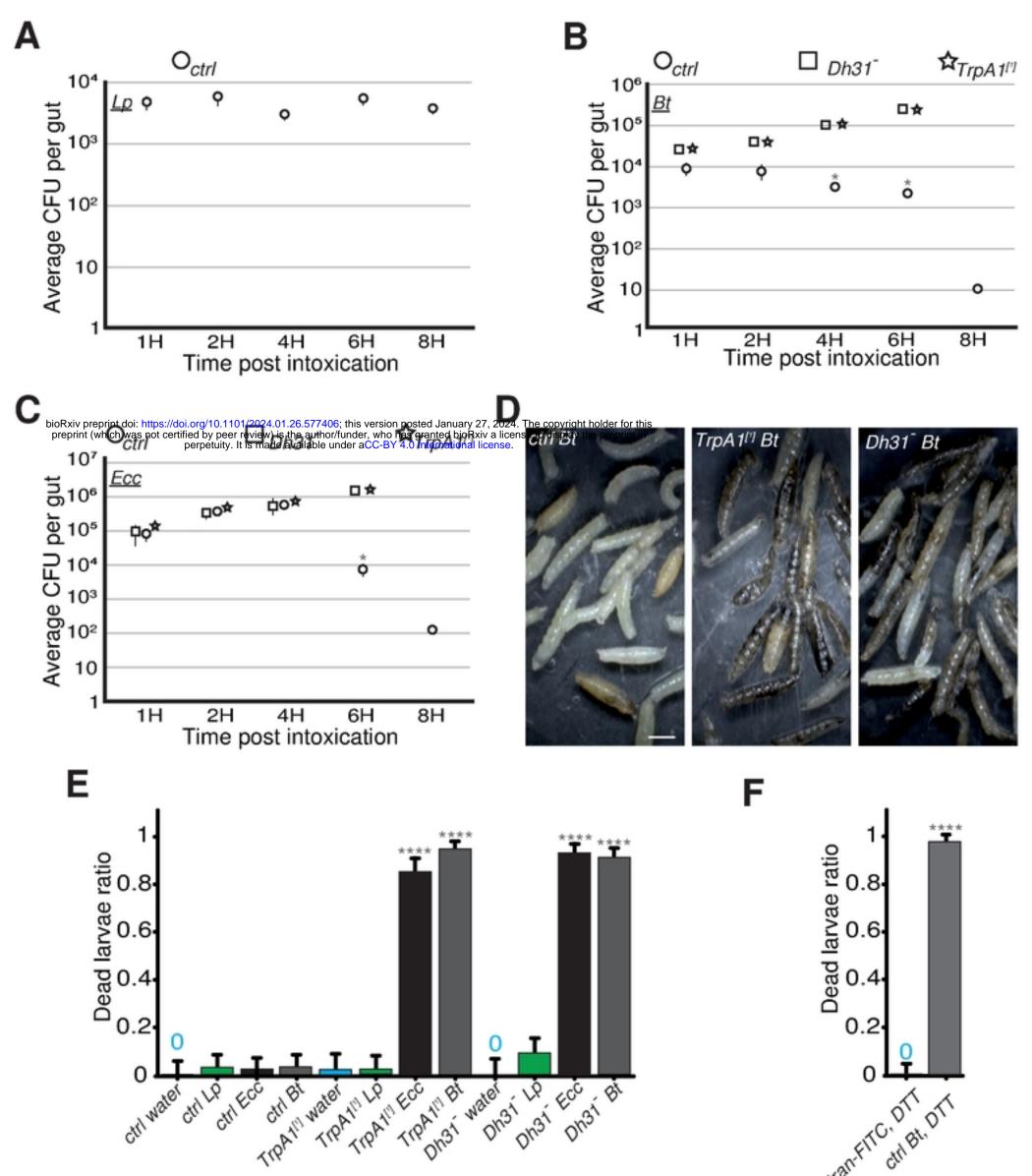




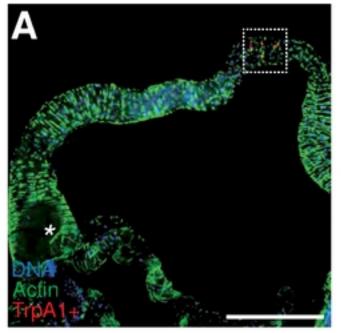


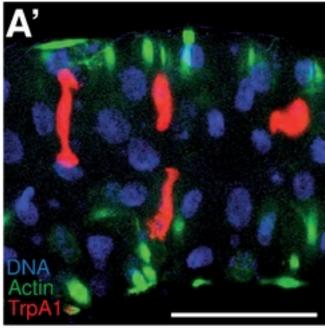


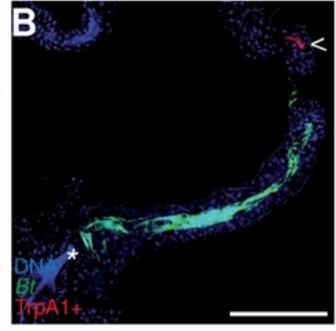


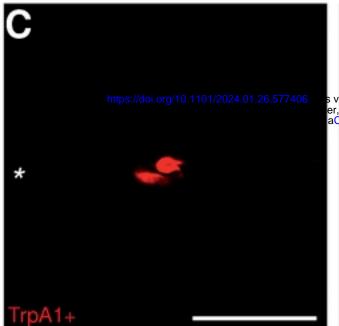


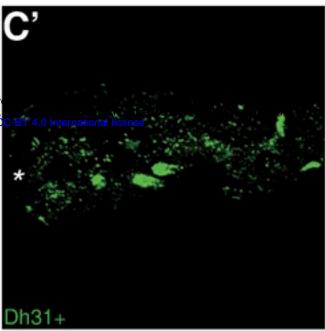


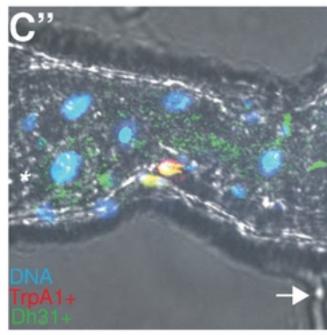


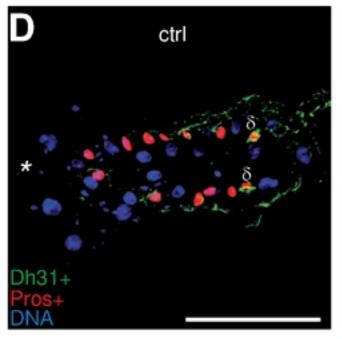


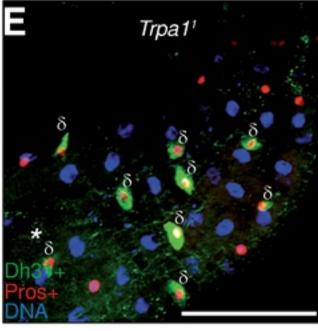


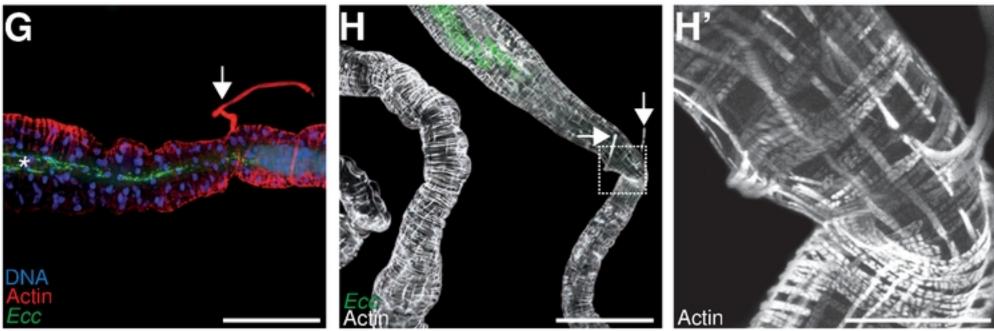


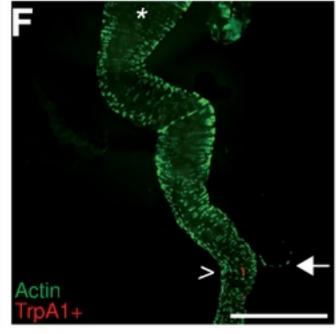


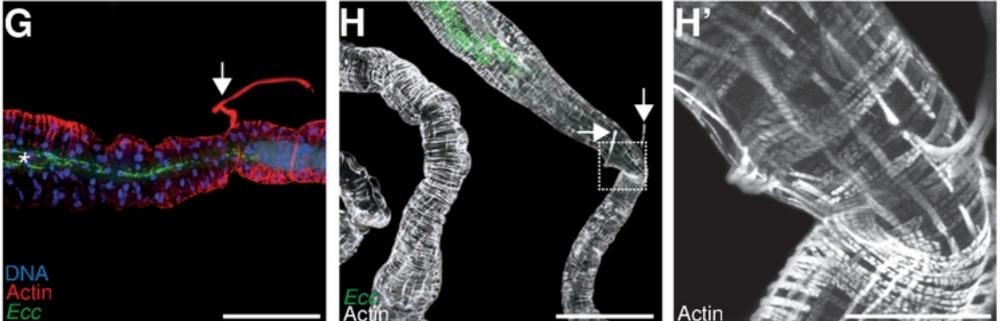




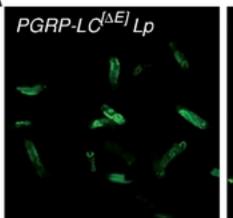




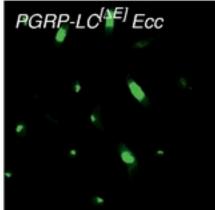


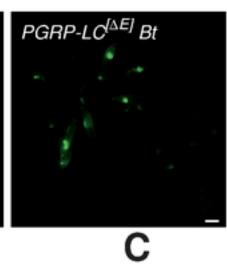


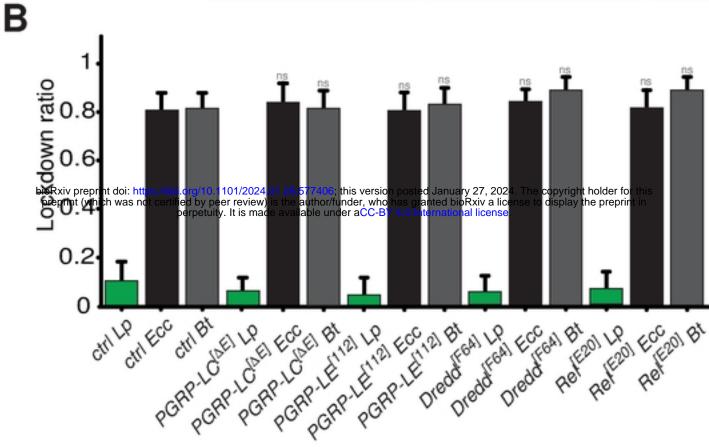




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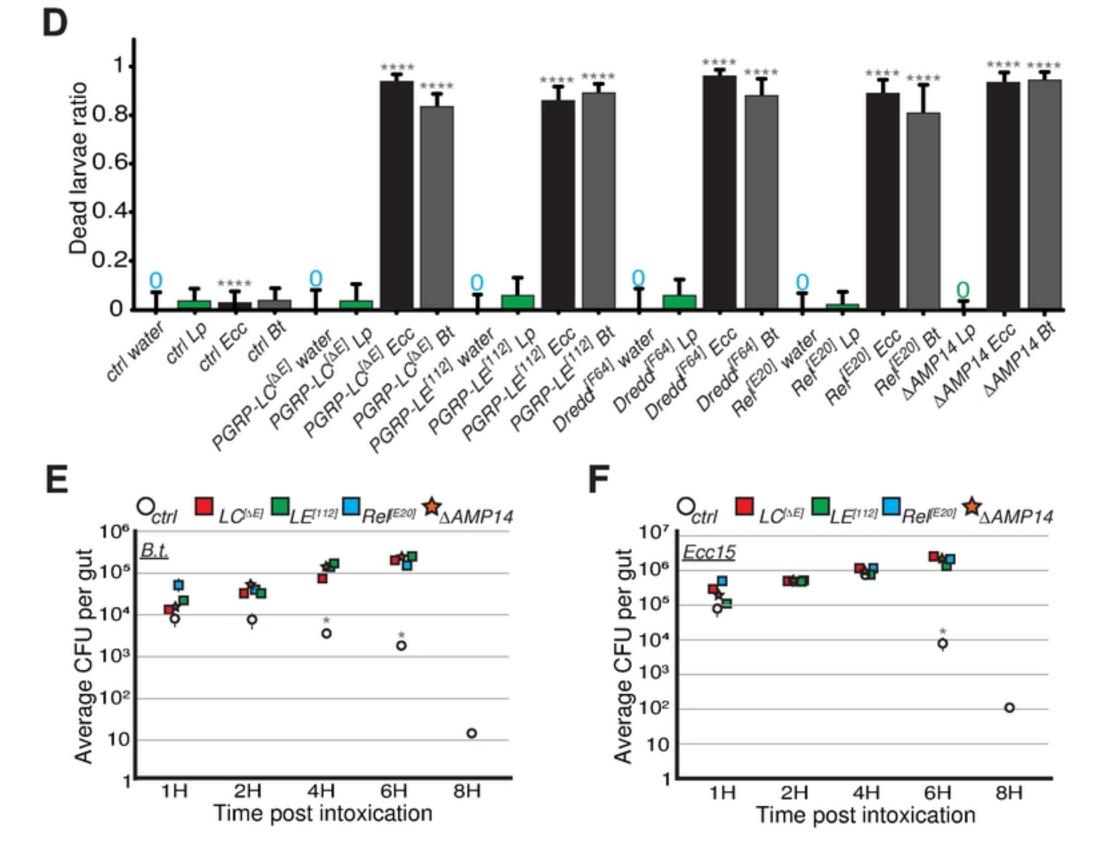


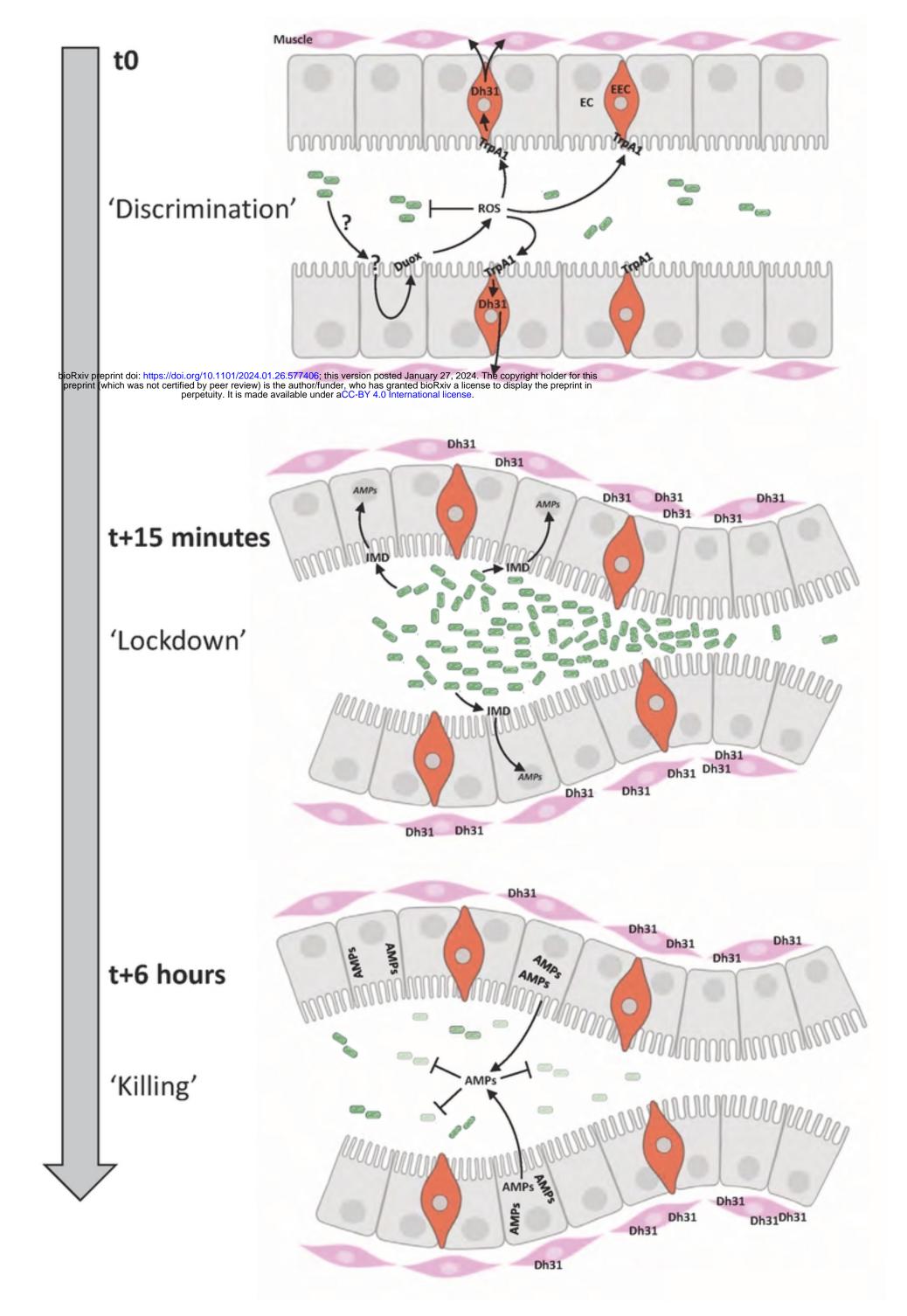


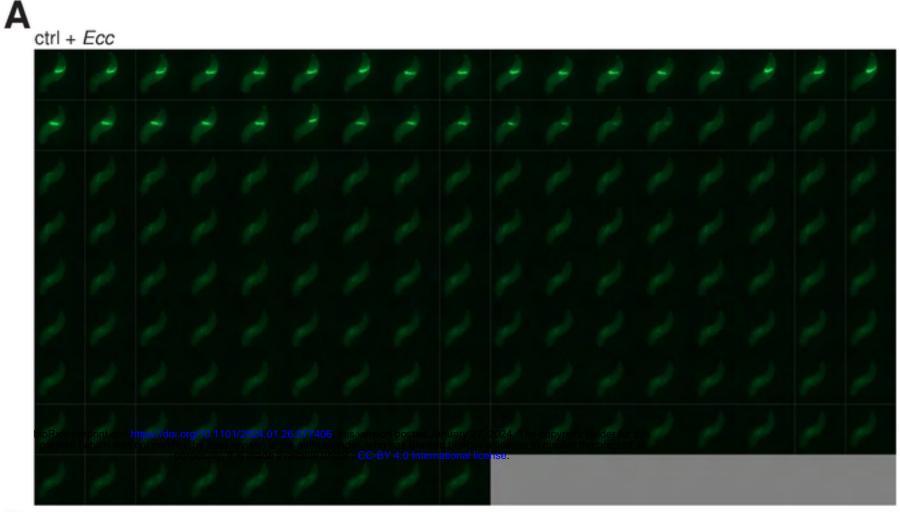








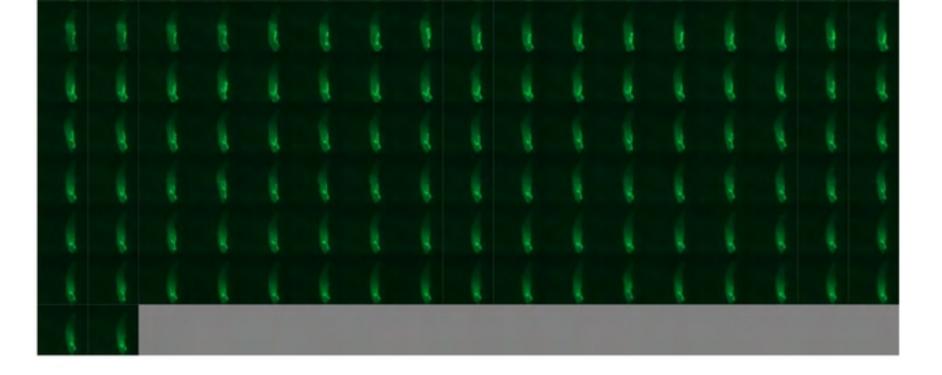


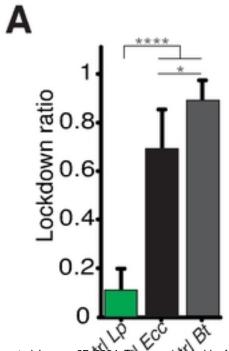


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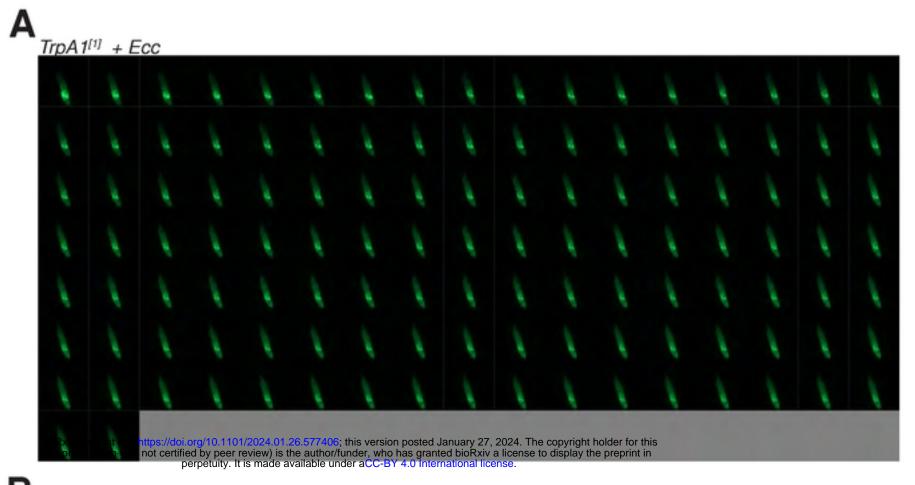
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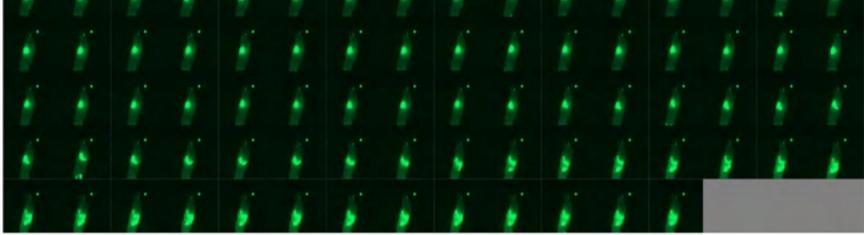
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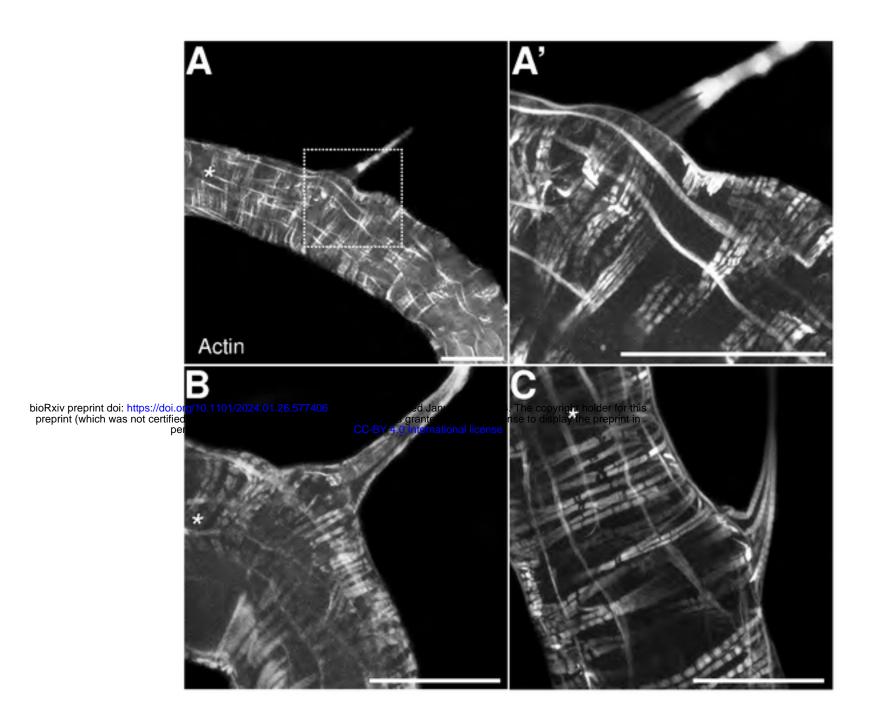
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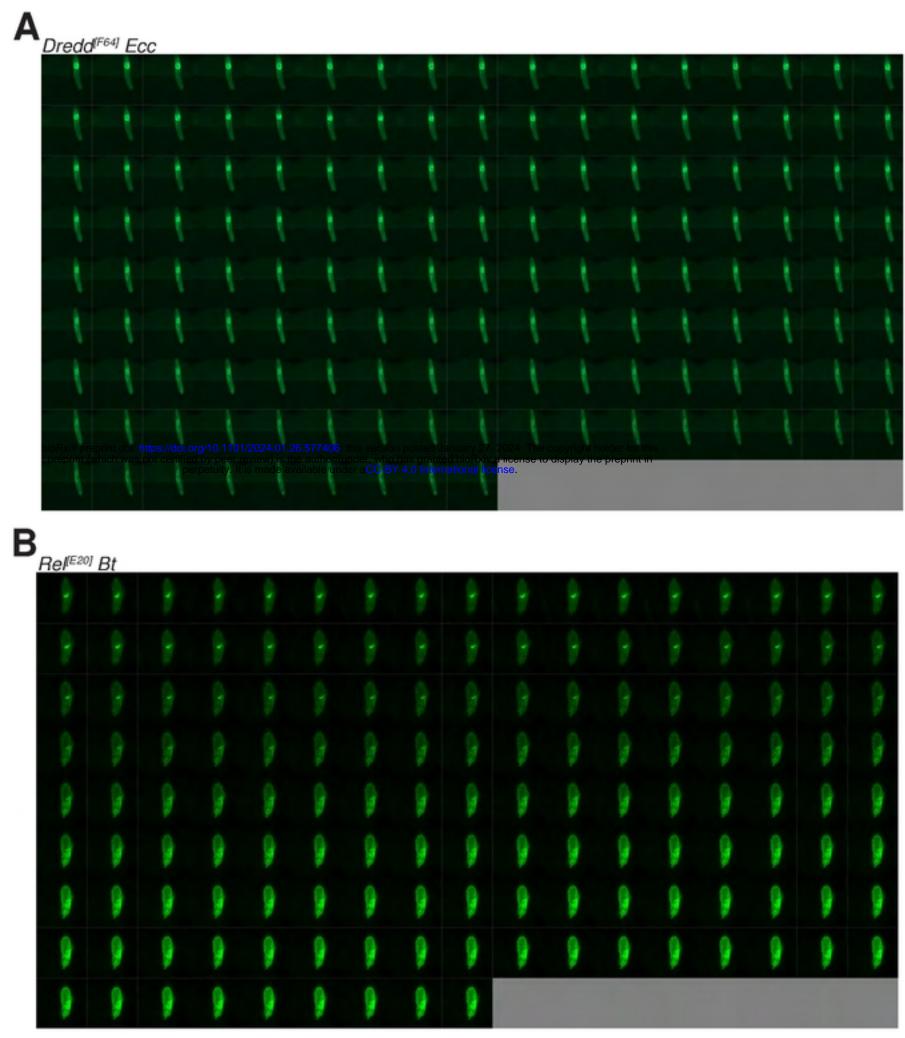
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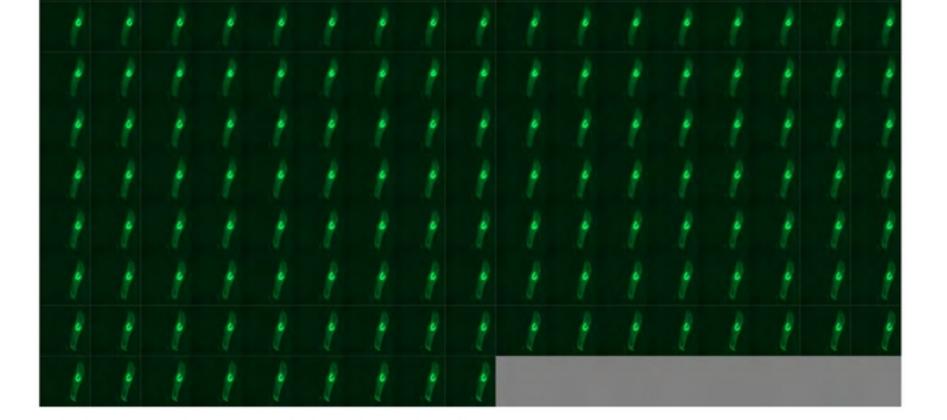


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