# Neural mechanisms of Cricket song

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http://blog.goo.ne.jp/fusami7/e/7dac8af6247c689f01564a5e3792066c

# Calling song



Gryllus pennsylvanicus (Thomas Walker @ U. Florida)

### Courtship song



Gryllus pennsylvanicus (Thomas Walker @ U. Florida)

# Cricket auditory system





http://www.wfu.edu/biology/batsandbugs/bug\_ears.htm

Huber ... Thorson (Sci Am, 1985)

#### **Pressure-gradient receivers**



Webb (Sci Am, 1996)



Stabel ... Scharstein (J Comp Physiol A, 1989)

# Cricket trackball



Huber ... Thorson (Sci Am, 1985)

#### Females prefer syllable rate of 30/s



Hedwig (J Comp Physiol A, 2006)

#### Cricket nervous system



## The Omega neuron (ON1)





### Auditory response of the omega neuron



## Paired recording shows IPSP

#### ON/1 PAIR





## Photoinactivation of a neuron



#### Killing the other Omega neuron removes inhibition



# Ascending neuron 1 (AN1)



Figure from Huber & Thorson (Sci Am, 1985)

### Effect of AN1 on phonotaxis



Huber (1990)

#### Trackball with high spatial, temporal resolution



### The track ball can detect individual steps



#### Rapid reactive steering to sound



### Even a single pulse can trigger steering!



### Species-specific song increases the gain



Poulet & Hedwig (PNAS, 2005)

#### Species-specific song increases the gain



Poulet & Hedwig (PNAS, 2005)

# Male song production

#### Song production mechanism





Bentley & Hoy (Sci Am, 1974)

#### From motor neuron to song output



Bentley & Hoy (Sci Am, 1974)

# Fictive singing is produced by rhythmic activity of wing opener and closer motor neurons



#### A3-A0 is rhythmically active during fictive singing



#### A3-A0 passes the reset test!



#### Is activity of these neurons necessary for fictive singing?



#### Post-inhibitory rebound was observed







#### Interneurons important for singing



Figure 10. Overlay drawing of dendritic and axonal arborizations of singing interneurons in the metathoracic ganglion complex and abdominal ganglion A3. The conspicuous concentration of arborizations in the dorsal midline neuropiles of the metathoracic and first three abdominal neuromeres point toward these neuropiles as the location for singing pattern generation.

#### Command neuron for singing



Hedwig (J Neurophysiol, 2000)

#### Activation of this neuron is sufficient to elicit singing



Hedwig (J Neurophysiol, 2000)

#### Hyperpolarization of this neuron stops the song



Hedwig (J Neurophysiol, 2000)

#### During singing, ON1 responds to syllables



### During silent singing, ON1 shows IPSPs



#### Auditory response is inhibited during singing



# The inhibition is not coming from sensory FB nor from the ears



#### Desensitization after singing



## Inhibition protects from desensitization



# The corollary discharge neuron!





#### CDI is rhythmically active during fictive singing



## CDI does not pass the reset test



## CDI is not active during flight

#### Е

#### CDI

# 



#### CDI is not auditory

# CDI



#### Paired recording between CDI and auditory afferent



#### CDI causes PAD in the auditory afferent



## Paired recording between CDI and ON1





## CDI causes an IPSP in the ON1



Activation of CDI inhibits auditory response in ON1



#### Activity of CDI is <u>necessary</u> for inhibition



# Cricket robot





Webb (Sci Am, 1996)