

A peer-reviewed version of this preprint was published in PeerJ on 26 May 2016.

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Veenstra JA. 2016. Similarities between decapod and insect neuropeptidomes. PeerJ 4:e2043 <https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.2043>

Similarities between decapod and insect neuropeptidomes

Jan A Veenstra

Background. Neuropeptides are important regulators of physiological processes and behavior. Although they tend to be generally well conserved, recent results using transcriptome sequencing on decapod crustaceans give the impression of significant differences between species, raising the question whether such differences are real or artefacts.

Methods. The BLAST+ program was used to find short reads coding neuropeptides and neurohormons in publicly available short read archives. Such reads were then used to find similar reads in the same archives and the DNA assembly program Trinity was employed to construct contigs encoding the neuropeptide precursors as completely as possible.

Results. The seven decapod species analyzed in this fashion, the crabs *Eriocheir sinensis*, *Carcinus maenas* and *Scylla paramamosain*, the shrimp *Litopenaeus vannamei*, the lobster *Homarus americanus*, the fresh water prawn *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* and the crayfish *Procambarus clarkii* had remarkably similar neuropeptidomes. Although some neuropeptide precursors could not be assembled, in many cases individual reads pertaining to the missing precursors show unambiguously that these neuropeptides are present in these species. In other cases the tissues that express those neuropeptides were not used in the construction of the cDNA libraries. One novel neuropeptide was identified, elongated PDH (pigment dispersing hormone), a variation on PDH that has a two amino acid insertion in its core sequence. Hyrg is another peptide that is ubiquitously present in decapods and is likely a novel neuropeptide precursor.

Discussion. Many insect species have lost one or more neuropeptide genes, but apart from elongated PDH and hyrg all other decapod neuropeptides are present in at least some insect species and allatotropin is the only insect neuropeptide missing from decapods. This strong similarity between insect and decapod neuropeptidomes makes it possible to predict the receptors for decapod neuropeptides that have been deorphanized in insects. This includes the androgenic insulin like peptide that seems to be homologous to drosophila insulin-like peptide 8.

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Similarities between decapod and insect neuropeptidomes

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15 **Abstract**

16 **Background.** Neuropeptides are important regulators of physiological processes and behavior.
17 Although they tend to be generally well conserved, recent results using transcriptome sequencing
18 on decapod crustaceans give the impression of significant differences between species, raising
19 the question whether such differences are real or artefacts.

20 **Methods.** The BLAST+ programm was used to find short reads coding neuropeptides and
21 neurohormons in publicly available short read archives. Such reads were then used to find
22 similar reads in the same archives and the DNA assembly program Trinity was employed to
23 construct contigs encoding the neuropeptide precursors as completely as possible.

24 **Results.** The seven decapod species analyzed in this fashion, the crabs *Eriocheir sinensis*,
25 *Carcinus maenas* and *Scylla paramamosain*, the shrimp *Litopenaeus vannamei*, the lobster
26 *Homarus americanus*, the fresh water prawn *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* and the crayfish
27 *Procambarus clarkii* had remarkably similar neuropeptidomes. Although some neuropeptide
28 precursors could not be assembled, in many cases individual reads pertaining to the missing
29 precursors show unambiguously that these neuropeptides are present in these species. In other
30 cases the tissues that express those neuropeptides were not used in the construction of the cDNA
31 libraries. One novel neuropeptide was identified, elongated PDH (pigment dispersing hormone),
32 a variation on PDH that has a two amino acid insertion in its core sequence. Hyrg is another
33 peptide that is ubiquitously present in decapods and is likely a novel neuropeptide precursor.

34 **Discussion.** Many insect species have lost one or more neuropeptide genes, but apart from
35 elongated PDH and hyrg all other decapod neuropeptides are present in at least some insect
36 species and allatotropin is the only insect neuropeptide missing from decapods. This strong
37 similarity between insect and decapod neuropeptidomes makes it possible to predict the receptors
38 for decapod neuropeptides that have been deorphanized in insects. This includes the androgenic
39 insulin like peptide that seems to be homologous to drosophila insulin-like peptide 8.

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41 Introduction

42

43 Lobsters, crayfish, prawns, crabs and shrimps are all crustaceans belonging to the order of
44 the decapods. Many of these species are part of the human diet, are sometimes a major source of
45 protein and are often considered a delicacy. While some species are caught in the wild, others,
46 such as *e.g.* the freshwater prawn *Macrobrachium rosenbergii*, are mainly obtained from
47 commercially important cultures. Many of these species are also sufficiently large to allow
48 physiological experiments that are more difficult to perform on smaller arthropods. For these
49 reasons decapods probably constitute the second best studied group of arthropods after insects.
50 Neuropeptides have also been extensively researched in decapods and several neuropeptides
51 were initially identified in these crustaceans before they were found in other arthropods such as
52 insects (*e.g.* Kegel et al., 1989; Stangier et al., 1987, 1992).

53 The sizes of their genomes tend to be large (*e.g.* Yu et al., 2015; Song et al., 2016) and so far
54 no complete decapod genome is available. Initially sequences of crustacean neuropeptides were
55 determined by classical peptide isolation and Edman degradation (*e.g.* Kegel et al., 1989;
56 Stangier et al., 1987, 1992; Bungart et al., 1995; Duve et al., 1997), but in the last decade
57 numerous decapod peptides have been sequenced by mass spectrometry (*e.g.* Dickinson et al.,
58 2008, 2009a,b; Ma et al., 2008, 2009, 2010; Stemmler 2007a,b, 2010). In the last two years
59 identification of the decapod neuropeptidomes has further accelerated using next-generation
60 sequencing methodology. As a consequence we now have fairly long lists of neuropeptides for
61 several decapods. These include *Sagmariasus verreauxi* (Ventura et al., 2014), *Macrobrachium*
62 *rosenbergii* (Suwansa-Ard et al., 2015), *Procambarus clarkii* (Veenstra, 2015), *Scylla*
63 *paramamosain* (Bao et al., 2015) and *Homarus americanus* (Christie et al, 2015), while for other
64 decapods significant amounts of data are available to analyze their neuropeptidomes. This is for
65 the example the case for *Carcinus maenas*, *Litopenaeus vannamei* and *Eriocheir sinensis* (Li et
66 al., 2012; Ghaffari et al., 2014; Verbruggen et al., 2015; Xu et al., 2015). Some of the ESTs
67 (expressed sequence tags) present in the publicly available databases have been summarized by
68 Christie and his collaborators (Ma et al., 2009, 2010; Christie, 2014; Christie & Chi, 2015).

69 I have previously used the published short read archives for *Procambarus* to look for
70 neuropeptide transcripts and could deduce complete or partial sequences for a surprisingly large
71 number of neuropeptide precursors (Veenstra, 2015). When comparing the results obtained in

72 this species, with the lists of neuropeptide transcripts from other decapods, several differences
73 appear. While several neuropeptides are consistently found in all species, others are only
74 identified in some. The question is whether these differences are real or represent artefacts. For
75 example, some peptides may not have been searched for in the assembled reads, or there were
76 simply too few reads to allow assembly of a contig, while in other cases the tissue where the
77 particular gene is predominantly expressed was perhaps not included in the analysis. I here try to
78 answer these questions by reanalyzing published short sequence read archives for a number of
79 decapods.

80

81

82 **Materials & Methods**

83

84 DNA sequences

85 The following short read archives (SRAs) were downloaded from NCBI using the prefetch
86 command from the SRA Toolkit (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK158900/>) : for
87 *Carcinus maenas*: SRR1564428, SRR1572181, SRR1586326, SRR1589617, SRR1612556,
88 SRR1632279, SRR1632285, SRR1632289, SRR1632290, SRR1632291, SRR1632292 and
89 SRR1632293 (Verbruggen et al., 2015); for *Procambarus clarkii*: SRR1144630, SRR1144631,
90 SRR1265966, SRR1509456, SRR1509457, SRR1509458 and SRR870673 (Jiang et al., 2014;
91 Tom et al., 2014; Shen et al., 2014; Manfrin et al., 2015); for *Macrobrachium rosenbergii*:
92 DRR023219, SRR1559288, SRR345608, SRR572725, DRR023253, SRR1653452, SRR345609,
93 SRR896637, SRR1138560, SRR1653453, SRR345610, SRR896638, SRR1138561,
94 SRR1653454, SRR345611, SRR896645, SRR1138562, SRR567391, SRR896646, SRR1138563,
95 SRR572719, SRR896647, SRR1138564, SRR572720, SRR896649, SRR1138565, SRR572721,
96 SRR896650, SRR1138572, SRR2082768, SRR572722, SRR896651, SRR1138573,
97 SRR2082769, SRR572723, SRR1559287, SRR2082770, SRR572724 (Jung et al., 2011; Ventura
98 et al., 2013; Suwansa-Ard et al., 2015); for *Scylla paramamosain*: SRR1310332, SRR1310333,
99 SRR1205999, SRR3086589, SRR834579, SRR1206015, SRR3086590, SRR834580,
100 SRR1310331 and SRR3086592 (Gao et al., 2014; Ma et al., 2014; Bao et al., 2015); for
101 *Litopenaeus vanamei*: SRR1037362, SRR1407789, SRR1460505, SRR1952625, SRR2103853,
102 SRR2103860, SRR2895158, SRR1037363, SRR1104812, SRR1407790, SRR1609917,

103 SRR2060962, SRR2103854, SRR2103861, SRR346404, SRR1037364, SRR1105791,
104 SRR1407791, SRR1618514, SRR2060963, SRR2103855, SRR2103862, SRR554363,
105 SRR1037365, SRR114084, SRR114085, SRR1460493, SRR1951370, SRR2060964,
106 SRR2103856, SRR2103863, SRR554364, SRR1037366, SRR1184416, SRR1460494,
107 SRR1951371, SRR2060965, SRR2103857, SRR2103864, SRR554365, SRR1039534,
108 SRR1407787, SRR1460495, SRR1951372, SRR2103851, SRR2103858, SRR2103865,
109 SRR556131, SRR1104083, SRR1104080, SRR1104086, SRR1104087, SRR1407788,
110 SRR1460504, SRR1951373, SRR2103852, SRR2103859 and SRR2103866 (Li et al., 2012;
111 Chen et al., 2013; Wei et al., 2014; Gao et al., 2015; Peng et al., 2015); for *Eriocheir sinensis*:
112 ERR336998, SRR1555734, SRR2170964, SRR579530, SRR1199039, SRR1576649,
113 SRR2170970, SRR579531, SRR1199053, SRR1735503, SRR2180019, SRR579532,
114 SRR1199058, SRR1735536, SRR2180020, SRR769751, SRR1199228, SRR1735537,
115 SRR546086, SRR770582, SRR1205971, SRR2073826 and SRR579529 (He et al., 2012; Hui et
116 al., 2014; Li et al., 2014; Sun et al., 2014; Liu et al., 2015; Xu et al., 2015; Cui et al., 2015; Song
117 et al., 2015; Wang et al., 2016); and for *Homarus americanus*: SRR2889572 and SRR2891007
118 (Christie et al., 2015). From *Euphausia crystallorophias* I analyzed ERR264582 (Toullec et al.,
119 2013) for the presence of a novel putative neuropeptide that was found in the decapod
120 transcriptomes.

121 The *Eriocheir sinensis* genome was downloaded from <http://gigadb.org/dataset/100186>,
122 made into a BLAST database and searched for neuropeptide genes as described previously
123 (Veenstra, 2014).

124

125 Data analysis

126 The fasta files were extracted from the SRAs using the fastq command from the SRA
127 Toolkit from NCBI and then made into BLAST databases using BLAST+ (Camacho et al.,
128 2009). Using the *Procambarus* predicted neuropeptide precursors as well as a few other peptides
129 as queries those databases were then searched using the tblastn command. A few neuropeptide
130 receptors were also analyzed. Identified reads that appeared to belong to the orthologous gene
131 were extracted from the database and then used to identify similar reads using the blastn
132 command. The latter were used as input for the Trinity program (Grabherr et al., 2011) and
133 resulting transcripts were recursively used as input until either the transcript stopped increasing

134 in length or it was judged to be complete based on the location of in-frame stop codons and/or a
135 signal peptide at the N-terminal of the protein predicted from the transcript. Calculations were
136 run on a desktop computer with a AMD FX(tm)-6100 six-core processor and 15.4 Gb of memory
137 under Ubuntu Linux.

138 This method is very efficient for the extraction of transcripts from single copy genes.
139 However, when there are several paralog genes that have not evolved a lot since their separation,
140 some paralogs may be missed, particularly when their expression levels are low. In those cases, a
141 selection of the particular neuropeptide precursors from which the non-conserved regions (such
142 as the signal peptides) had been removed was used as a query in a tblastn command and all the
143 obtained reads were then fed as input to the Trinity program. It can not be excluded that some
144 less well expressed paralogs of those genes that exist in multiple copies (neuroparsin, CHH
145 (crustacean hyperglycemic hormone), PDH (pigment dispersing hormone) and possibly CFSH
146 (crustacean female sex hormone) have been missed.

147 Clustal Omega (Sievers et al., 2011) was used for sequence alignments and those were
148 inspected and when needed manually corrected using Seaview (Gouy, Guindon & Gascuel,
149 2010), which was also used to extract the regions for making phylogenetic trees with FastTree
150 (Price, Dehal & Arkin, 2010).

151

152 **Results**

153 Trinity is a fantastic tool to reconstruct large DNA sequences from very short reads.
154 However, not every sequence corresponds necessarily to a correct cDNA sequence or is
155 biologically interesting. One regularly finds more than one sequence derived from the same
156 gene. In the absence of a genomic sequence, as is the case here, it is not always possible to
157 determine which is the correct one. There are several common causes for the failure to produce a
158 single complete cDNA sequence. First, there may simply be insufficient reads available to
159 produce a complete contig. Secondly, there may be allelic variation that causes the elongation to
160 stop. Thirdly, alternative splicing, as is the case for genes encoding the agatoxin-like peptide,
161 Neuropeptide F 1, CNMamide, calcitonin and CHH, may have the same effect. Fourth,
162 recombining short sequences into a long one becomes very difficult in the case of repetitive
163 sequences. One or more reads containing a sequencing error can aggravate some of the other
164 problems, *i.e.* lack of sufficient reads, alternative splicing or allelic variants.

165 Most of the data analyzed here come from natural or almost natural populations that show
166 much larger genetic variation than that found in the typical laboratory animals like mice or rats.
167 Furthermore, many neuropeptide genes code for a number of highly similar neuropeptide
168 paracopies and this makes it no doubt difficult to reconstruct the complete cDNA encoding such
169 precursors and when the various copies are only separated by convertase cleavage sites, the
170 problem may become acute. In one attempt to produce the *Eriocheir* FMRFamide precursor
171 mRNA Trinity produced a partial transcript that had a perfect internal repeat of 164 nucleotides
172 (Fig. S1), that must have been an artefact; a similar phenomenon is also present in the second
173 predicted orcokinin precursor from *Scylla* (Bao et al., 2015; Fig. S1). Furthermore, I have
174 previously shown that some neuropeptide genes have alleles that differ in the number of
175 neuropeptide paracopies that they encode (Veenstra, 2010a; Veenstra, 2015). It is therefore not
176 surprising that a relatively large number of transcripts for neuropeptide precursors containing
177 multiple paracopies, such as FMRFamide, tachykinin, leucokinin, EFLamide etc, are incomplete
178 even though significant numbers of individual reads are found in the various SRAs. Predictions
179 by Trinity of neuropeptide precursors containing various paracopies may, for the same reasons,
180 contain errors. For example, the allatostatin A precursor from *Carcinus* does not code for some
181 of the previously identified peptides from this species (Duve et al., 1997), while the Trinity
182 transcripts of several other neuropeptide precursor sequences from the same species that have
183 been obtained by screening of classical cDNA libraries are identical (Klein et al., 1992, 1993;
184 Linck et al., 1993; Chung et al., 2006; Wilcockson and Webster 2008). Other transcripts that are
185 incomplete are often due to low expression levels.

186 While this work was in progress a draft genome for *Eriocheir sinensis* was published (Song
187 et al., 2016). This sequence was prepared using short sequence reads and therefore suffers from
188 the problems associated with this methodology (Richards and Murali, 2015). It is estimated that
189 about 67% of total sequence is present in the current draft. Several of the transcripts identified
190 here are not at all or only partially present in this genome and different exons of the same
191 transcripts are regularly found on different contigs. Its usefulness was, therefore, limited.

192 The decapod neuropeptide genes that were found are indicated in Fig. 1, where for
193 comparison the presence of neuropeptide genes of *Daphnia pulex*, a crustacean, and two insects,
194 the termite *Zootermopsis nevadensis* and the fruit fly *Drosophila melanogaster*, is also shown.
195 Many of the neuropeptide precursor transcripts seem complete, at least as far as the coding region

196 is concerned, while for others very significant parts were found. Since one of the questions raised
197 here is the presence of a particular neuropeptide gene, I have also added neuropeptide genes for
198 which individual reads from an SRA provide evidence for its existence in the particular species,
199 even though Trinity produced no contigs for transcripts from these genes. All the sequences, both
200 DNA and deduced amino acids, are listed in Tables S1-S8 in the supplementary excel file.

201

202 Distribution.

203 Having all the SRAs it seemed interesting to look at where the various genes might be
204 expressed. Although it is possible to do this for all species involved, some are not very
205 interesting as there is a very limited number of tissues sampled, while in other species the
206 different tissues were sampled on different occasions and analyzed in different fashions, making
207 direct comparisons difficult. However, in the case of *Carcinus* a single publication reports SRAs
208 for a large variety of tissues (Verbruggen et al., 2015). Therefore, I used this species to look at
209 the expression of the various neuropeptide genes in different tissues. Those neuropeptide
210 receptors for which a contig of a significant size could be obtained and for which a likely ligand
211 could be deduced based on homology to a deorphanized protostomian GPCR (see Veenstra,
212 2016) were also include. Even though the actual number of individual reads is often small and
213 quantification of RNAseq reads is tricky due to the PCR amplification protocol used to create
214 these libraries, some interesting data are apparent (Table 1). Both the neuroparsins and the CHHs
215 are expressed in virtually every tissue. In the case of the neuroparsin it is the neuroparsin 1 gene
216 that is most abundantly expressed in all tissues, with the other two neuroparsin transcripts
217 present at much lower levels. However, the two identified CHH transcripts are differentially
218 expressed, one hormone is most abundant in the central nervous system and the eye (eyestalk),
219 and the other in the intestine. Other neuropeptides found in the intestine are tachykinin,
220 allatostatin C, the B transcript of the calcitonin gene, elevenin, orcokinin, the agatoxin-like
221 peptide and hyrg. The expression of CCHamide 2 and trissin in the hemolymph, presumably in
222 hemocytes, is interesting to note as is the relatively large number of neuropeptides found in the
223 SRA derived from the epidermis.

224

225 Paralogs

226 There are several neuropeptide genes that have one or more paralog genes. These are

227 allatostatin C, CHH, moult inhibiting hormone (MIH), CCHamide, eclosion hormone,
228 neuroparsin, PDH, insulin and CFSH. In some cases these are sufficiently different within the
229 same species and sufficient similar between different species, that they clearly derive from
230 different genes. This is the case for allatostatin C, CCHamide, insulin, neuropeptide F and
231 eclosion hormone.

232 In the case of PDH, it is a bit more complicated. Variable numbers of PDH precursors were
233 found in the seven decapod species. One group of precursors encoding PDH-like peptides
234 distinguishes itself by an insertion of two amino acid residues in the predicted mature PDH. Such
235 a predicted peptide was first found in *Procambarus* (Veenstra, 2015), but since it was based on a
236 single read in one species, it seemed premature to give a distinct name. Now that complete
237 precursor sequences are available and this peptide appears to be ubiquitously present in
238 decapods, I propose to call it elongated PDH, or ePDH, to distinguish it from the more classical
239 forms of these peptides (Fig. 2). The ePDH gene is one of the few genes that is present on a
240 single contig of the draft genome from *Eriocheir*. It consists of three exons of which the first one
241 is non-coding (Fig. 3). Partial sequence for one of the classical PDH genes show the intron
242 between the two coding exons to be conserved.

243 In the case of neuroparsin, PDH, CHHs and its homolog MIH it is not always as clear that
244 they represent different genes with unambiguous orthologs in different species. In some cases the
245 observed differences could reflect allelic variations of a single gene or recent local gene
246 duplications. Although no decapod genomes have been completely sequenced and the *Eriocheir*
247 CHH genes are mostly very fragmentary, such local gene duplications are well known for CHH
248 in decapods (Gu & Chan, 1998; Gu, Yu & Chan, 2000; Dirksen et al., 2001; Webster et al.,
249 2012) as well as Chelicerates (Veenstra, 2016) and particularly in decapods the number of CHH
250 genes can be quite large (Webster, Keller & Dirksen, 2012).

251

252 CCH/MIH

253 The CCH/MIH neuropeptide family is characterized by CHH, MIH, mandibular organ-
254 inhibiting hormone (MOIH), vitellogenesis-inhibiting hormone (VIH) and gonad-inhibiting
255 hormone (GIH). These hormones have been identified by different physiological assays, but are
256 in many cases pleiotropic. These peptides can be subdivided in two subfamilies, the CCHs
257 proper and the other peptides. The precursors from the two groups differ in that the CCHs are

258 produced together with a CCH-precursor related peptide, while the prepropeptides from the other
259 homornes consist exclusively of a signal peptide and the sequence of the mature hormone
260 (Webster, Keller & Dircksen 2012). Three of the CHH/MIH transcripts identified here defy those
261 rules as they do not have the CCH-precursor related peptide, yet on phylogenetic trees they form
262 a separate branch that is closer to the the CHH than to the MIH cluster (Fig. 4). Adding more
263 sequences to the tree does not change this (data not shown). In the *Eriocheir* draft genome many
264 sequences corresponding to these hormones are located on small scaffolds making it impossible
265 to ascertain whether or not these genes are clustered.

266

267 CFSH

268 The CFSH is a recent discovery (Zmora & Chung, 2014) and consequently we still know
269 very little of this very interesting hormone. In *Procambarus* three related proteins were
270 previously identified (Veenstra, 2015). In five of the other six decapod species two to four such
271 hormones were found, but not in *Homarus*, where there are no ovary transcriptomes. The
272 primary sequence of these different putative hormones is not very well conserved, but the
273 cysteine residues are (Fig. 5). The phylogenetic tree of these hormones suggests an initial gene
274 duplication giving rise to two types of CFSH, that I have arbitrarily called CFSH 1 and 2 (Fig.
275 6). In most species both CFSH 1 and 2 were found, but in in *Litopenaeus* only three CFSH 1
276 paralogs were found and no CFSH 2. In the draft genome of *Eriocheir* CFSH 1 and 2b genes
277 contain a single coding exon. The CFSH gene 2a transcript is incomplete and it is not clear from
278 the genomic sequence what it is. This hormone was initially isolated from the eyestalk of the
279 crab *Callinectes* (Zmora & Chung, 2014), while it in the crayfish *Procambarus* it seemed to be
280 strongly expressed in the ovary. It seemed therefore of interest to see whether these hormones
281 might be expressed in the ovary in other decapods also. No significant expression was found in
282 the ovaries of *Macrobrachium* and *Litopenaeus* [1 to 2 reads maximum for each hormone in an
283 SRA], but 9 reads corresponding to *Litopenaeus* CFSH 1c (as well as 1 each for 1a and 1b) are
284 present in SRR2060962 from the *Litopenaeus* testis. In *Eriocheir* expression is similar to that in
285 *Carcinus* (Table 1), high expression levels in the eyestalk and a few reads only in the ovary. For
286 *Scylla* and *Homarus* there are insufficient data to answer this question.

287

288 Neuroparsins and receptors

289 Three to four neuroparsin transcripts were identified in each of the seven decapod species.
290 Three of the *Eriocheir* genes were found in the draft genome, two of these (neuroparsins 3 and 4)
291 are on the same scaffold in a tail to tail configuration, where the start and stop codons of the two
292 genes are separated by 11 960 and 9 045 nucleotides respectively (Fig. 7). These are the two
293 *Eriocheir* genes that are most similar to one another, suggesting that they may reflect the most
294 recent neuroparsin gene duplication in this species. As both these genes seem to have direct
295 orthologs in *Scylla* and *Caracinus*, that particular gene duplication possibly occurred in a
296 common ancestor of the three crab species (Fig. 8). The neuroparsin receptor was recently
297 identified as a venus kinase receptor (Vogel et al., 2015); two such receptors are found in all
298 seven decapod species (Table S8). The phylogenetic tree made of the various venus kinase
299 receptors suggests that the other arthropods venus kinase receptors are equally similar to both
300 decapod receptors (Fig. 9).

301

302 Insulin-like peptides and receptors

303 Three different insulin-related peptides were identified. These are the well known
304 androgenic insulin-related peptide (Fig. 10), an insulin-like peptide (Fig. 11) that seems most
305 similar to the *Drosophila* insulin-like peptides 1-6 (Nässel & vanden Broeck, 2015), and a
306 peptide that is orthologous to *Drosophila* insulin-like peptide 7 and that has been called relaxin
307 (Fig. 12). The latter was previously identified in *Sagmariasius* and *Procambarus* (Chandler et
308 al., 2014; Veenstra, 2015). As can be seen from the figures, the androgenic insulin-like peptide is
309 the least conserved of those three (Figs. 10-12). Insulin-related peptides use two different types
310 of receptors, the typical tyrosine kinase receptor and GPCRs. Insects typical have one gene
311 coding an insulin tyrosine kinase receptor and have one or two GPCRs that are related to the
312 vertebrate relaxin receptors RXFP1 and RXFP2. Given the interest in the androgenic insulin-like
313 peptide both for its intriguing physiology as a peptidergic sex hormone and for its commercial
314 potential (Ventura & Sagi, 2012), I also analyzed the likely insulin receptors.

315 The typical insulin tyrosine kinase receptor, similar to the one recently described from
316 *Macrobrachium* (Sharabi et al., 2016), was also found in the other six decapods (Table S8). Two
317 receptors similar to the vertebrate relaxin receptors RXFP1 and RXFP2 were also identified.
318 Those two GPCRs are most similar to the *Drosophila* receptors CG31096 and CG34411, also
319 known as leucine-rich repeat containing GPCR- 3 and 4 (LGR3 and LGR4) respectively.

320 However, the much weaker expression of those receptors made it impossible to deduce their
321 complete cDNA sequences and in some cases no contigs could be obtained. Interestingly the
322 SRA from the *Eriocheir* accessory gland (SRR2170964) not only shows very large number of
323 reads for the androgenic Insulin-like peptide, but also very significant expression of the insulin
324 tyrosine kinase receptor and a somewhat lower expression of the ortholog of *Drosophila* LGR3.
325

326 Splice variants

327 There were a number of neuropeptide encoding cDNAs that revealed splice variants. Those
328 that concerned the untranslated regions were ignored, but there are five neuropeptide genes that
329 have alternative transcripts producing different precursors: the CHHs, CNMamide, neuropeptide
330 F 1, calcitonin and the agatoxin-like peptide. In the case of neuropeptide F 1, there is an extra
331 exon sliced into the sequence of the peptide, as described previously from insects (Roller et al.,
332 2008; Nuss et al., 2010; Dircksen et al., 2011). The CNMamide gene in the termite *Zootermopsis*
333 contains five coding exons, the last two of which are alternatively added to the first three and
334 then produces a different CNMamide-like peptide. In four of the seven decapods similar
335 alternative splice products were found for the CNMamide precursor. However, while the mature
336 peptide derived from the major splice form is well conserved, the second is much less so (Fig.
337 13). Two to four splice variants (Fig. S2) were found for the recently discovered μ -agatoxin-like
338 peptide (Sturm et al., 2015). As in some insects (Veenstra, 2014), the calcitonin gene produces
339 two different transcripts, encoding different types of calcitonin, that are similar to the insect
340 calcitonins (Fig. S3). In *Litopenaeus*, *Macrobrachium*, *Homarus* and *Procambarus* the second
341 transcripts are predicted to produce a calcitonin-like peptide that does not have one but two
342 cysteine bridges at its N-terminus (Fig. 14). The calcitonin gene is absent from the *Eriocheir* draft
343 genome, and hence it is impossible to compare the insect and decapod calcitonin gene structures.
344

345 Other peptides.

346 In several cases novel neuropeptides have been detected by mass spectrometry. These are
347 often structural variants of well known neuropeptides such as the RFamides, tachykinins and
348 allatostatins A or B (e.g. Ma et al., 2008, 2009, 2010). However, not all peptide sequences
349 identified this way belong to known neuropeptides. From *Homarus*, *Carcinus* and *Litopenaeus*
350 other peptide sequences have been reported. The ones from *Carcinus* have previously been

351 suggested to represent fragments of cryptocyanin (Ma et al., 2009), and this was confirmed (Fig.
352 S4). Several of the peptides from *Homarus* are shown here to represent fragments of thymosin,
353 actin or histone 2A, however the origins of others remain unclear (Fig. S4). The one peptide
354 reported from *Litopenaeus*, L/IPEPEDPMAEAGHEL/I (Ma et al., 2010), is more interesting, as
355 it could potentially be part of a novel neuropeptide (precursor). This sequence is part of a small
356 protein that has a signal peptide followed by a peptide containing a small piece that is very well
357 conserved (Fig. 15). However, it lacks the classical convertase cleavage sites that one usually
358 finds in neuropeptide precursors and hence its status as a neuropeptide is unclear. Such proteins
359 are also found in the other decapods. Although it was not possible for Trinity to produce a
360 complete contig for *Scylla paramosain*, a similar sequence is present in the databanks for *S.*
361 *olivacea*. I was unable to find similar proteins in insects, but an orthologous protein was detected
362 in the SRA from *Euphausia crystallorophias*. The latter sequence shows that the only conserved
363 part is the same as in the decapods (Fig. 15). This peptide was called hyrg (pronounced hirg), for
364 four of the conserved amino acids. Interestingly, the eyestalk seems to be the tissue where
365 expression of hyrg is the highest (Table 1), thus suggesting that it is likely a neurohormone.

366

367 Discussion

368 Insects and decapods are estimated to have had their last common ancestor about 596 Mya,
369 while similar estimates for the common ancestor of crabs and lobsters on the one hand and that
370 for termites and flies on the other are 322 and 348 Mya respectively (Hedges et al., 2015). The
371 gross morphology of decapods has changed a lot less than that of insects and when one compares
372 the respective neuropeptidomes of those two groups, it is clear that those are similarly much
373 better conserved in decapods than in insects (Fig. 1). Most of the changes in insects are losses of
374 neuropeptides that are particularly pronounced in flies, and perhaps even more so in *D.*
375 *melanogaster*.

376 Whenever in this study a particular gene has not been identified from a decapod species,
377 either one of the following is true: (1), the gene is not expressed at high levels and there are
378 relatively small amounts of RNAseq reads, (2) the gene is expressed predominantly in tissues
379 that have not been sampled in the species in question or (3) the gene has several paralog genes
380 (PDH, CHH, neuroparsin) and it may not have the same number of paralogs in all species and/or
381 some of those paralogs may be expressed in tissues that were not sampled. A combination of (1)

382 and (2) likely explains the absence of some of the neuropeptide genes in *Scylla*. From that
383 species the eyestalk was not analyzed, even though this tissue is by far the richest source of
384 neuropeptides. Nevertheless, the existence of several *Scylla* neuropeptide genes could be inferred
385 from individual RNAseq reads, while the few genes that are completely lacking are only weakly
386 expressed in the other species. The androgenic peptide was found neither in *Carcinus* nor
387 *Homarus*. As in *Homarus* only the nervous system was included in the analysis, this is to be
388 expected. In the case of *Carcinus*, it is plausible that the testis samples did not include the
389 accessory gland, or that the sample was taken at a moment in the life cycle of the animal that
390 expression of this peptide is low or non-existent. With one exception, in all other instances where
391 a transcript seems to be lacking it is either from a gene for which an alternative transcript was
392 found (*e.g.* in the case of the CNMamide and Neuropeptide F 1 genes), or the number of paralogs
393 may differ between the various species (neuroparsin, CHH, MIH, PDF). The only exception is
394 MIH in *Homarus*. Although this peptide has been reported by mass spectrometry from the
395 stomatogastric ganglion of *H. americanus* (Ma et al., 2008) and in spite of using this and the
396 MIH sequence of the closely related species *H. gammarus* (Ollivaux, 2006) as queries in the
397 BLAST program, no MIH transcript was found in the *H. americanus* SRAs.

398

399 Neuropeptide evolution

400 It thus appears that the neuropeptidome of decapods has been remarkably well conserved
401 during evolution. Differences that are found between the insect and decapod neuropeptidomes
402 are the loss or the gain of a neuropeptide. Although there possibly still remain arthropod
403 neuropeptides to be discovered, it appears that the loss of neuropeptides in decapods is limited to
404 a single neuropeptide, *i.e.* allatotropin. Allatotropin is present in mollusks, annelids as well as
405 chelicerates (Veenstra 2010a, 2011, 2016) and hence, it must have been present in the arthropod
406 ancestor. Small peptides are sometimes hard to find using the BLAST program and allatotropin
407 is no exception to this rule (Veenstra, Rodriguez & Weaver, 2012). Nevertheless, as I was
408 neither able to find even a single read corresponding to its receptor, including in the very
409 abundant number of transcriptome reads from *Homarus*, I conclude that this peptide was most
410 likely lost. In the termite and the fruit fly on the other hand, more neuropeptides are missing,
411 particularly in *Drosophila*. At first sight insects, as a group, lack EFLamide, the androgenic
412 insulin-like hormone, CFSH and ePDH. However, the recent identification of an EFLamide

413 receptor in *Platynereis dumerlii* as a TRH GPCR ortholog (Bauknecht & Jékely, 2015) and the
414 presence of such a GPCR in *Nilaparvata lugens* (Tanaka et al., 2014) suggests that some insects
415 may have such a gene. As described below, it is plausible that the androgenic peptide has an
416 insect ortholog. What seems really different is that many insect species, in particular
417 holometabolous species, have lost several neuropeptides (Derst et al., 2016). Thus *Drosophila* no
418 longer has genes for elevenin, vasopressin, allatotropin, allatostatin CCC, EFLamide,
419 neuroparsin, calcitonin, ACP, eclosion hormone 2, neuropeptide F 2 and it also lost the
420 possibility to produce alternative transcripts from the CNMamide and neuropeptide F1 genes.
421 The beetle *Tribolium castaneum* on the other hand still has most of those neuropeptides, but lost
422 allatostatin A, corazonin and leucokinin.

423

424 New neuropeptides

425 Since the last common ancestor of decapods and insects - estimated to have lived 596 Mya
426 (Hedges et al., 2015) - very few neuropeptides seem to have been added to either of the two
427 lineages. Novel neuropeptide genes that have appeared seem all to have originated by duplication
428 from existing ones and are easily recognized as the paralogs of the parent genes. Examples of
429 such genes are the various paralogs of CHH and MIH, PDH and neuroparsin in crustaceans and
430 in insects the typtopyrokinin and SIFamide paralogs as well as the great variety of adipokinetic
431 hormones (all orthologs of crustacean RPCH). The only exception may be hyrg, the precursor for
432 the peptide initially identified from *Litopenaeus* (Ma et al., 2010). This peptide, that is well
433 expressed in the eyestalk and the midgut, has a distribution typical of a neuroendocrine peptide.
434 As I was unable to find it outside of crustaceans, it could be a novel invention of this group. The
435 structure of this putative neuropeptide precursor is somewhat reminiscent of limostatin, a small
436 neuroendocrine protein discovered in *Drosophila* that interacts with a GPCR (Alfa et al., 2015)
437 previously identified as the receptor for neuropeptide pyrokinin 1 (Cazzamali et al., 2005). The
438 similarity between limostatin and hyrg resides in the apparent absence of conventional
439 convertase sites in these putative neuropeptide precursors [those postulated to function in the
440 limostatin precursor (Alfa et al., 2015) seem highly unusual (Veenstra, 2000)]. In the same
441 context the *Drosophila* sex peptide comes to mind, as it also acts on a neuropeptide receptor
442 without having neither a well conserved structure nor the typical neuropeptide convertase
443 cleavage sites (Kim et al., 2010). Perhaps one or more of these proteins represent newly evolved

444 ligands for existing neuropeptide receptors that could potentially become novel neuropeptides.

445

446 Missing neuropeptides

447 Many decapod neuropeptides have been identified by mass spectrometry over the years (*e.g.*
448 Stemmler et al., 2007a,b; 2010; Christie et al., 2008; Ma et al., 2008, 2009, 2010; Dickinson et
449 al., 2008, 2009a,b). Most of those were identified in the various SRAs, although not always in
450 exactly the same molecular form. In particular I was unable to find some of the analogs of
451 SIFamide that have been reported (*e.g.* Hui et al., 2012). I could neither find [Val¹]-SIFamide in
452 any species, however this peptide seems to be present in the stomatogastric nervous system
453 (Christie et al., 2006) and this might explain its absence from the various SRAs. Several of the
454 peptides previously described from these data that did not appear to be neuropeptides could be
455 identified as being part of well known proteins and it also allowed me to identify the hyrg
456 transcript. However, there are three neuropeptides that either have been reported or suggested to
457 be present in decapods that were not found in any of the SRAs from the seven decapod species
458 studied here. These are a pituitary adenylate cyclase activating polypeptide (PACAP) from
459 *Litopenaeus vannamei* (Lugo et al., 2013), a GnRH-like peptide from *Procambarus clarkii*
460 (Guan et al., 2014) and two kisspeptins from *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* (Thongbuakaew et al.,
461 2016). None of these peptides could be found in any of the SRAs, neither those from the species
462 from which they were reported, nor from any of the other species. In two cases (PACAP and
463 GnRH), the amino acid sequences of the peptides have been published from the same species
464 used here, so my inability to find these peptides is not due to significant sequence differences
465 between the species used for bioinformatic analysis and those from which the peptides were
466 identified. I was neither able to find evidence for the receptors for such peptides in any of
467 decapods. The GnRH receptor identified from the ovary of the oriental river prawn
468 *Macrobrachium nipponense* is the corazonin receptor (Du, Ma & Qiu, 2015), clearly suggesting
469 that corazonin is the decapod GnRH. Given the strong conservation of the decapod
470 neuropeptidome described here, I conclude that is highly unlikely that any of those three peptides
471 is present in decapods.

472

473 Functional aspects

474 Conservation of structure does not necessarily imply conservation of function. The function

475 of crustacean RPCH and its insect ortholog AKH are distinctly different. A neuropeptide
476 sequence does not reveal its function, but the distribution of its receptor give some clues.
477 FMRFamide is known to effect muscle contraction in decapods (Worden, Kravitz & Goy, 1995),
478 the expression of its putative receptor in muscle, heart and the epidermis (that contains muscle as
479 well) suggests that it has similar effects. The simultaneous expression of elevenin and a putative
480 elevenin receptor in the midgut suggests that it has a digestive function. The hormone
481 GPA2/GPB5 was suggested to be an antidiuretic hormone in *Drosophila* (Sellami, Agricola &
482 Veenstra, 2011) and was subsequently shown to stimulate sodium reabsorption in the mosquito
483 hindgut (Paluzzi, Vanderveken & O'Donnell, 2014). The very abundant expression of its receptor
484 in the gill suggests that its function in *Carcinus* may well be similar. An interesting difference
485 between insects and decapods is the presence of ecdysis triggering hormone in the decapod
486 nervous system and eye(stalk); in insects this peptide seems to be exclusively present in cells
487 associated with the tracheal system and absent from the central nervous system (Roller et al.,
488 2010). It will be interesting to know whether the function of ecdysis triggering hormone within
489 the decapod nervous system is related to ecdysis behavior.

490

491 Intestine

492 Neuropeptides in the intestine are typically produced by enteroendocrine cells. CHH (Chung,
493 Dirksen & Webster, 1999), SIFamide and tachykinin immunoreactive enteroendocrine cells
494 (Christie et al., 2007) have been previously described from decapods. No SIFamide reads were
495 found in the *Carcinus* intestine SRA, but allatostatin C, calcitonin-B, elevenin, orcokinin and
496 hyrg were all present in seemingly significant numbers of reads (Table 1). This ensemble of gut
497 neuropeptides differs significantly from what is known from the *Drosophila* midgut (Veenstra &
498 Ida, 2014), even though tachykinin, allatostatin C and orcokinins are present in both, while the
499 calcitonin B transcript is abundant in phasmid midgut SRAs (Veenstra, 2014).

500

501 CHH and MIH

502 The neuropeptides related to CHH are amongst the best known crustacean hormones
503 (excellent review by Webster, Keller & Dirksen, 2012). As was expected based on the
504 literature, several molecular forms were found. There are reasons to think there may be more of
505 these hormones than reported here. First of all, the few decapod CHH genes that have been

506 identified are typically present in clusters and in *Metapaeneus ensis* 16 such genes have been
507 found (Gu & Chan, 1998). Secondly, as shown here and elsewhere (e.g. Hsu et al., 2006; Li et
508 al., 2010; Ventura-López et al., 2016) some of these genes are differentially expressed. Thus, if a
509 gene is predominantly expressed in a tissue not included in the analysis, it may not be found.
510 Finally, since these hormones are similar in structure, it is possible that Trinity would have
511 problems producing all contigs. Indeed the number of different CHH cDNAs reported from
512 *Carcinus maenas* (Dirksen et al., 2001) is larger than found here.

513 The biological activities of these hormones vary widely and the hormones with very similar
514 sequences may have quite different physiological effects (e.g. Webster, Keller & Dirksen, 2012;
515 Luo et al., 2015). It is for this reason that is impossible to interpret the meaning of the three
516 predicted hormones that defy classification as either a CHH-like or MIH-like hormone (Figs. 5).

517

518 PDH

519 There are generally within the same species several precursors coding the shorter, more
520 classical, PDHs, those different precursors code sometimes for the same mature peptide. It seems
521 plausible that some of these differences reflect either allelic variations of a single gene or recent
522 local gene duplications. Most of the species have two or more different predicted mature PDH
523 peptides. It has previously been shown that the two PDHs from the crab *Cancer productus* have
524 different functions, one is released as a hormone into the hemolymph, while others is used within
525 the central nervous system (Hsu et al., 2010). As the tissue used for the *Scylla* transcriptome did
526 not include the eyestalk it is thus not surprising that the hormonal PDH is lacking from the
527 deduced transcriptome in this species. ePDH is not expressed in the eyestalk and one might
528 therefore be tempted to think it is not released into the hemolymph. However it is present in the
529 *Litopenaeus* transcriptome that was produced from abdominal muscle, hepatopancreas, gills and
530 pleopods (Ghaffari et al., 2014) and thus is likely produced somewhere in the periphery (this
531 transcriptome contains relatively few neuropeptides as it includes neither the central nervous
532 system nor the intestine).

533

534 CFSH

535 CFSH was discovered very recently in the crab *Callinectes sapidus* (Zmora & Chung, 2014)
536 and consequently we know still very little of this extraordinarily interesting hormone. I

537 previously reported the presence of both CFSH and two homologous proteins in *Procambarus*
538 (Veenstra, 2015). Now that there are a few more sequences available, it appears that this gene
539 commonly has several paralogs. Some of these seem to have a relatively recent origin, as the
540 most closely related sequence comes from the same species (Fig. 6). The independent gene
541 duplications of these proteins as well the great sequence variability between and within species
542 may indicate that all these hormones act on the same receptor. Given the relatively large size of
543 these hormones one might expect a leucine rich repeat G-protein coupled receptor or a dimeric
544 protein kinase, perhaps one of the two Venus kinase receptors, but this remains speculation. The
545 primary structure of CFSH is not very well conserved and its receptor is unknown. Hence, we
546 don't know whether an orthologous hormonal regulatory system might be present in other
547 arthropods, like *e.g.* insects (given the great similarity in their neuropeptidomes this seems a
548 distinct possibility, at least in the more primitive insects). It seems that the expression of this
549 hormone in the ovary of *Procambarus* (Veenstra, 2015) is unusual, as it was not found in any of
550 the other decapods for which an ovary SRA is available.

551

552 Insulin and neuroparsin

553 Other intriguing neuropeptides are the neuroparsins and the insulin-related hormones. There
554 are three different insulin-like hormones. There are also three different insulin receptors, the
555 classical tyrosine kinase and two G-protein coupled receptors. What I have called insulin is the
556 hormone most similar to the *Drosophila* insulin-like peptides 1-6, which function as growth
557 hormones and are also important for reproduction and that signal through the classical tyrosine
558 kinase receptor (Nässel & vanden Broeck, 2015). The same receptor is also present in decapods
559 as shown here and elsewhere (Veenstra, 2015); it has recently been characterized in two
560 decapods (Aizen et al., 2016; Sharabi et al., 2016). Both insulin and neuroparsins activate
561 tyrosine kinase receptors. However, whereas the actions of insulin in insects are relatively well
562 understood due to very extensive research on these peptides in *Drosophila* (Nässel & vanden
563 Broeck, 2016), the function of neuroparsin is less clear, as it is absent from *Drosophila*
564 *melanogaster* (Veenstra, 2010b). It is interesting to note that some species have several insulin
565 genes and few if any neuroparsin genes (*Drosophila*, *Acyrtosiphon*, *Zootermopsis*), while
566 decapods and *Locusta* have several neuroparsin transcripts and only a single insulin gene,
567 suggesting some complementation between these two hormones. Indeed, in some cases, such as

568 vitellogenesis in the mosquito both hormones have synergistic effects (Brown et al., 1998; Dhara
569 et al., 2013), however in the migratory locust they act antagonistically (Badisco et al., 2011).
570 Initially isolated from the migratory locust *L. migratoria* (Girardie et al., 1989) neuroparsin was
571 shown to have strong anti-juvenile hormone effects, effecting both reproduction and
572 metamorphosis (Girardie et al., 1987). It has been shown that neuroparsin RNAi also inhibits
573 vitellogenesis, and hence reproduction, in the decapod *Metapenaeus ensis* (Yang et al., 2014).
574 The receptor for this hormone was recently identified in mosquitoes as a venus kinase receptor
575 (Vogel et al., 2015), a type of receptor that was lost in chordates during evolution (Dissous,
576 2015). Although orthologous venus kinase receptors are present in other arthropod genomes
577 (notably *Limulus*, *Strigamia* and *Stegodyphus*, Table S8) as well as mollusks (Vanderstraete et
578 al., 2013), no neuroparsin orthologs could be found in those species. The evolutionary origin of
579 neuroparsin is therefore unclear and it is not known whether species that seem to lack
580 neuroparsin need a hormone ligand to activate the venus kinase receptor (Dissous, 2015). The
581 presence of two such receptors in decapods is intriguing, but has also been found in Lepidoptera
582 and trematodes (Dissous, 2015).

583

584 The other insulin-like peptides

585 Insects and decapods share many neuropeptides and it is not surprising that the various
586 decapod insulin-related hormones also have insect orthologs. The insulin-like hormone I have
587 called relaxin is an ortholog of *Drosophila* insulin-like peptide 7. This hormone is not only
588 present in insects, but also in ticks, spider mites, mollusks and even acorn worms (Veenstra,
589 2010a; Veenstra, Rombouts & Grbić, 2012). As previously pointed out, this hormone is only
590 present in the genomes of those species that also have an ortholog of *Drosophila* gene CG34411,
591 that encodes LGR4 that is homologous to vertebrate relaxin GPCRs (Veenstra, Rombouts &
592 Grbić, 2012; Veenstra, 2014). This suggests that this GPCR functions as a receptor for the
593 arthropod relaxins. It must be noted that this does not exclude the possibility that arthropod
594 relaxins may also signal through the classical insulin tyrosine kinase receptor. In fact, there is
595 evidence from *Drosophila* that this is so (Linneweber et al., 2014).

596 *Drosophila* has an eighth insulin-like hormone that was initially discovered because it is
597 secreted by the imaginal discs (Colombani et al., 2015; Garelli et al., 2015). However, data from
598 fly atlas (Chintapalli, Wang & Dow, 2007) show that it is also expressed by the ovary. This

599 hormone was suggested to be acting through the GPCR encoded by *Drosophila* gene CG31096
600 encoding LGR3 (Veenstra, 2014) and this has now been confirmed (Vallejo et al., 2015; Garelli
601 et al., 2015). LGR3 is also related to vertebrate GPCRs binding relaxin. As reported previously it
602 has a *Procambarus* ortholog (Veenstra, 2016), and as shown here is generally present in
603 decapods. Combined these data suggest that LGR3 is the receptor for the androgenic insulin-like
604 peptide from the accessory gland. The absence of clear sequence homology between the
605 *Drosophila* and decapod peptides is not surprising, as the primary sequence of this hormone is
606 poorly conserved in both decapods (Fig. 10) and insects [other insects almost certainly have such
607 a peptide, since they have the receptor, but only within flies is it possible to find orthologs using
608 the BLAST program]. Interestingly, both these hormones are produced by gonads or associated
609 accessory glands. At first sight it seems that in crustaceans it is predominantly the male that
610 produces it, while in adult flies it is the female. However, work on the expression of LGR3 in
611 *Drosophila* shows it to be important for the development of both male and female specific sexual
612 characters (Meissner et al., 2016) and it is perhaps better considered a (sexual ?) maturation
613 hormone for both sexes. This would also make it easier to understand how during evolution it
614 was coopted by the imaginal discs. In decapods the male has two Z chromosomes and is the
615 default sex (Cui et al., 2015). Therefore, one would expect females to have a mechanism (not
616 necessarily hormonal) to escape becoming a male and might thus expect a gynogenic rather than
617 an androgenic hormone (this is one of the reasons why CFSH is so interesting). Even in
618 decapods there is now evidence that the androgenic insulin-like peptide is not specific for males.
619 Thus, in *Scylla paramosain* it is also expressed by the ovary and at higher levels at the end of
620 vitellogenesis (Huang et al, 2014). While the relative levels of expression may seem low as
621 compared to those of actin (Huang et al, 2014), the actual quantities of peptide produced may
622 well rival those made by the accessory gland, considering that the ovary is so much larger [could
623 the accessory gland be the remnants of an embryonic ovary anlage ?]. Given the effectiveness of
624 RNAi in crustaceans and the strong phenotypes obtained in the absence of androgenic peptide
625 (Ventura et al., 2009), the hypothesis that LGR3 is important in the transduction of the
626 androgenic peptide signal can be tested. As with relaxin, a GPCR specifically activated by the
627 androgenic insulin-like peptide does not exclude the possibility that it may also act on the
628 classical insulin tyrosine kinase receptor, as suggested by recent experiments in the decapod
629 *Sagmariasus* (Aizen et al., 2016). Possible relations between the decapod insulin-related peptides

630 and their receptors are illustrated in Figure 16.

631 It is of interest to note that the mammalian GPCR most similar to LGR3 is RXFP2, the
632 receptor for insulin-related peptide 3. The latter hormone was initially discovered from the testis
633 and is important not only to insure testicular descent (Adhama, Emmen & Engel, 2000) but also
634 in the female reproductive system (Satchell et al., 2013). Thus the data suggest that not only the
635 structures of the receptor and its ligand are recognizably similar, but so might be their function.
636 This is rather interesting, as most neuropeptides with orthologs in both proto- and deuterostomia
637 have quite different functions in these two groups.

638

639 **Conclusions**

640 Decapod neuropeptidomes are highly conserved and share many neuropeptides with insects.
641 Although a shared neuropeptide structure does not necessarily translate into a shared function, it
642 should allow for the rapid identification receptors in decapods in those cases where the
643 orthologous insect receptor is known.

644

645 **Acknowledgements**

646

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Figure 1(on next page)

Overview of the presence neuropeptide genes in seven decapods, *Daphnia pulex* and two insect species.

Dark blue: neuropeptide precursors that have been published previously; light blue, neuropeptide precursors (or significant parts therefore) that can be deduced directly from publicly available TSAs; red: precursors assembled here; yellow: precursors that could not be assembled, but for which individual reads in TSAs demonstrate their existence in the particular species. Asterisks indicate the existence of more than one gene.

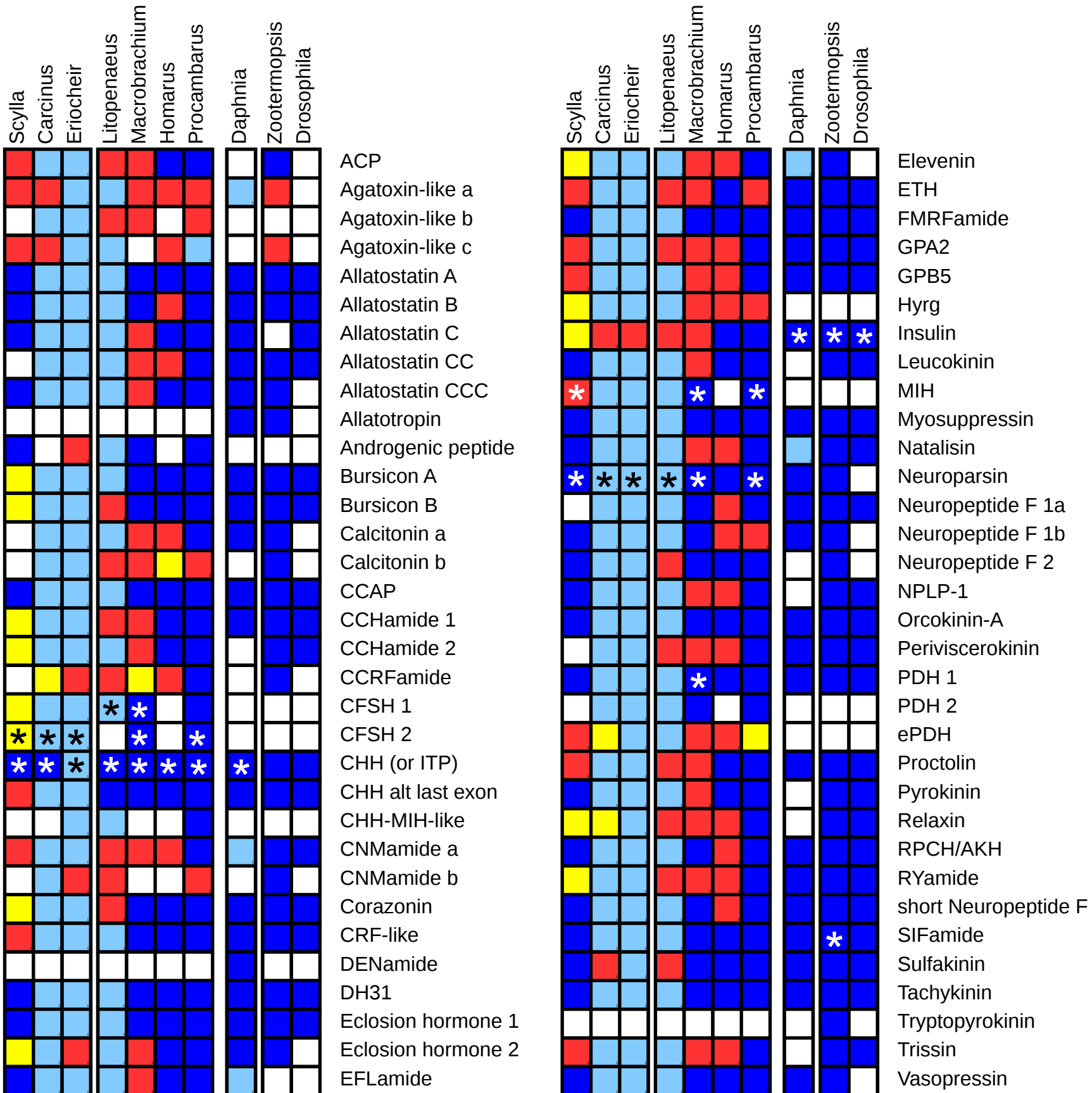


Figure 2 (on next page)

Sequence alignment of PDH and ePDH.

Parts of the various PDH precursors including the convertase cleavage sites of the various decapod species. Note that the ubiquitous presence of ePDH that has a two amino acid insertion.

*Scylla**Carcinus-1**Carcinus-2**Eriocheir-1**Eriocheir-2**Litopenaeus-1a**Litopenaeus-1b**Litopenaeus-2**Macrobrachium-1**Macrobrachium-2**Macrobrachium-3**Homarus**Procambarus-1**Procambarus-2*

ePDH

*Scylla**Eriocheir**Carcinus**Homarus**Procambarus**Macrobrachium**Litopenaeus*

Figure 3(on next page)

Structure of the ePDH gene from *Eriocheir sinensis*.

The ePDH gene consists of three exons and two introns. DNA sequences coding the signal peptide in yellow, mature ePDH sequence in red and the remainder of the precursor in blue. Numbers indicate sizes of introns and exons in nucleotides. The DNA sequence containing the TATA box and a sequence that is recognizably similar to the *Drosophila* core promoter motif 1 (in blue, Ohler, 2006) and the start of the mRNA (in red) are also displayed; the red nucleotides at the end are part of the mRNA.

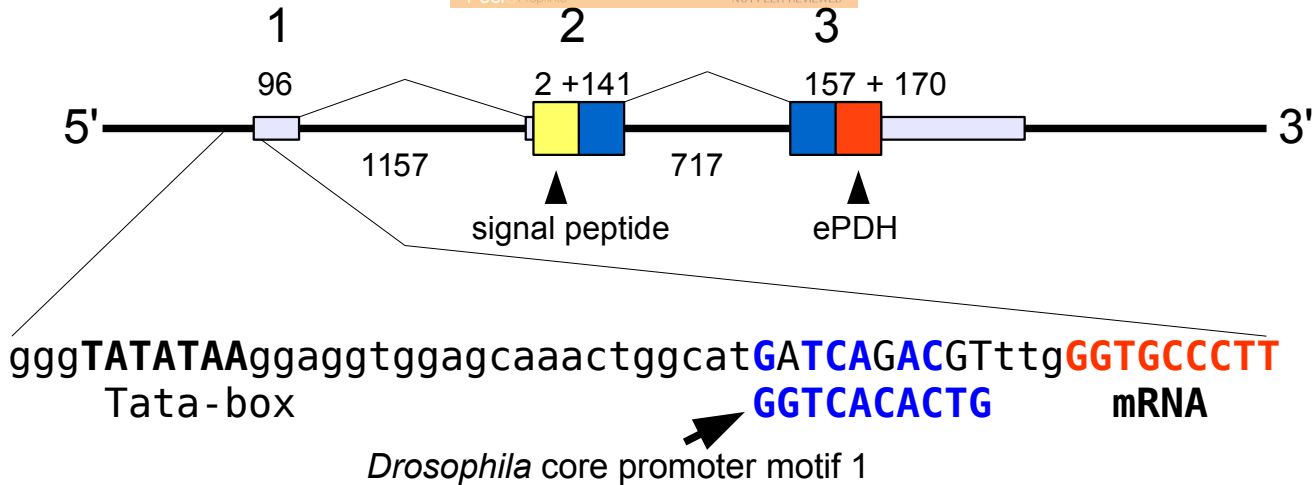


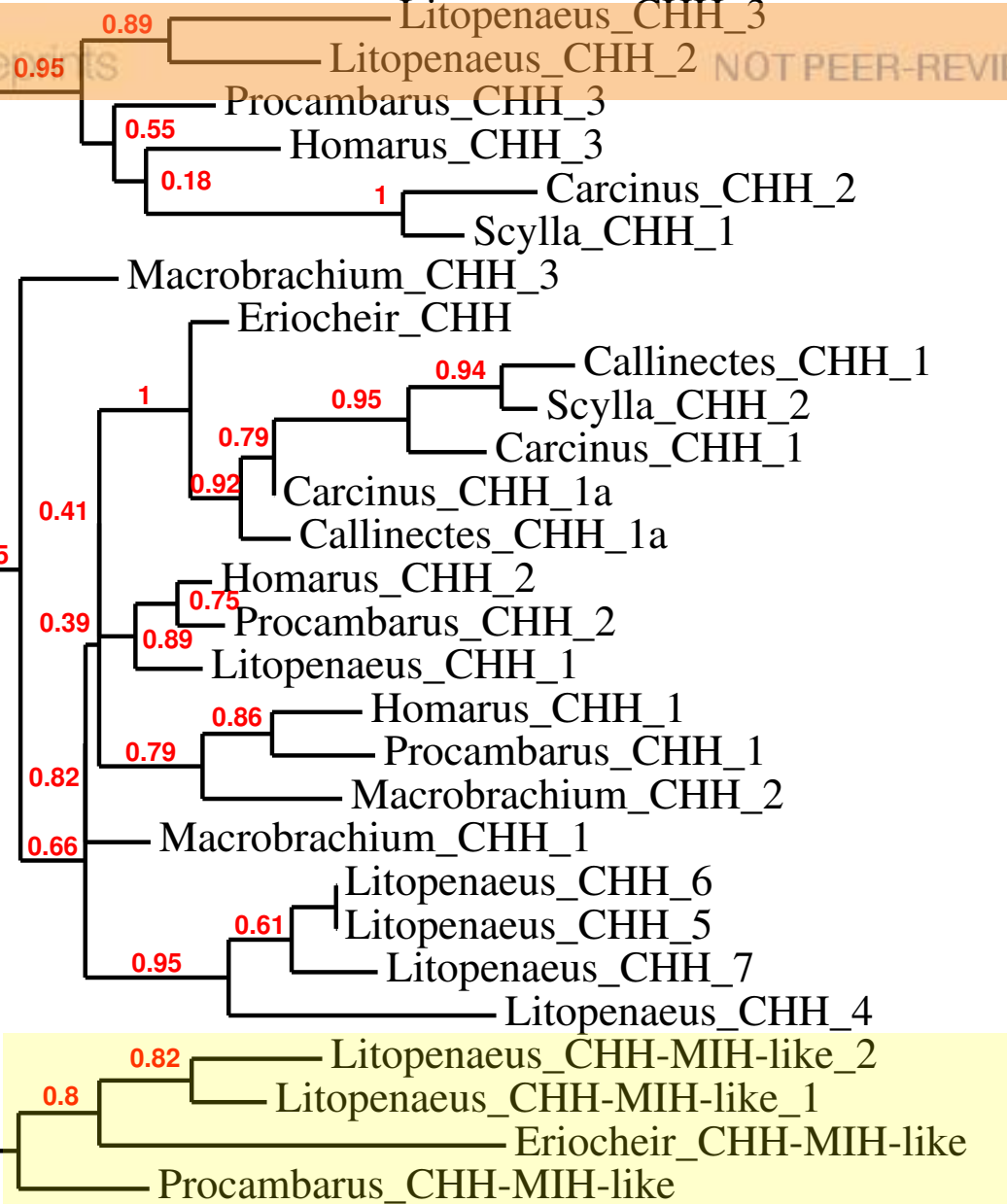
Figure 4(on next page)

Phylogenetic tree showing the evolutionary relationships between the CHH and MIH hormones.

Hormones are those identified from decapod SRAs as well as a few for which the biological activity has been described. Highlighted in yellow are the three sequences that on the tree are more similar to CHH, but lack the precursor-related peptide typically present in CHH

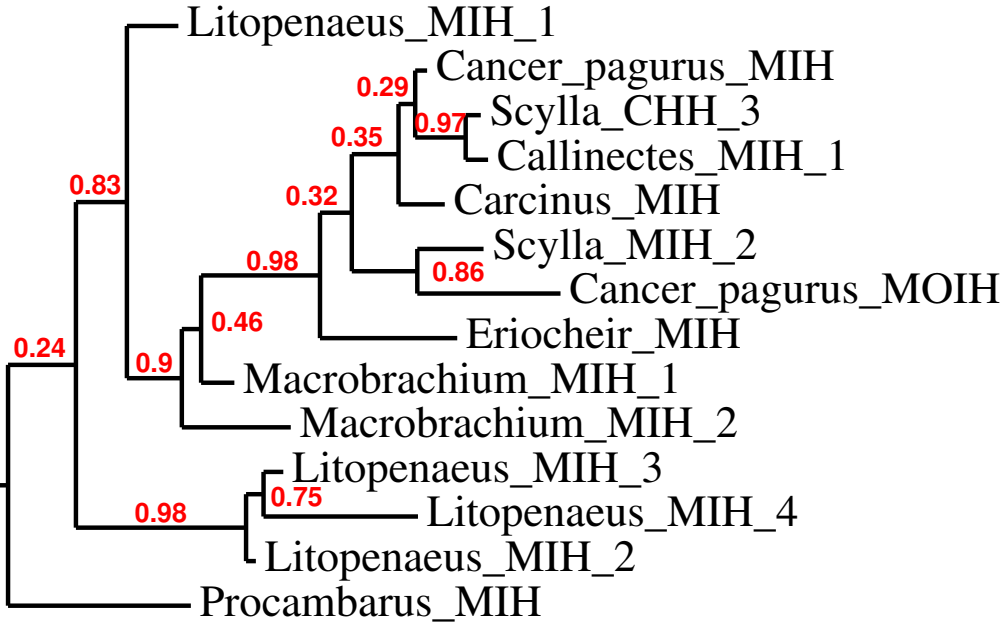
CHH

0.98



MIH

0.98



5

CFSH alignments.

The *S. paramosain* reads corresponding to the Scylla sequence in the tree are completely identical to *S. olivacea* sequence.

Callinectes KRS----S-----IIGHMNSIPYRTREQVMDGMMDTYVLVPRATISSTAKLHRGVNCSEYR
Portunus KRS----S-----IIGHMNPILYRSREQVMEGMMDTYILVPRATISSTAKLHRGVNCSEYR
Eriocheir_1 KRS----S-----IIGHMVPFFYRTREQVMKEFMDNYMLVPRATIGSTANLHHGVNCSEFR
Carcinus_1 KRS----S-----IIGHMNSIPYRTREQVMEGMMDTYVLVPRATISSTAKLHRGVNCSEYR
Procambarus-1 KRT-----S-----OPYRSTDMETSIRENYVYVPKTIIDTSTTLHQGVNCSAFR
Litopenaeus_1a KRS----R-----DDFASDLVQFFSEEQVQEQATKIQYKSVPEPVIYTSQVLOQGVSCSTLH
Litopenaeus_1b KRL----D-----NQFHMDILRFYSEREVQEQATQEEYTSIPHPITTYTTOQLLOQGVNCSLQ
Macrobrachium_1a KRK----Q-----EDLSTDELQYFSEEQVDEASRVEYKVVDPVIYTSQIHKGVNCSIK
Macrobrachium_1b KRN----Q-----DPAASDLVQYFTEEQVDAATRSEYKIVPHPTIYTSQILHKGVNCSIN
Litopenaeus_1c KRQ----L-----DELIPGLLQHYSEQVEAASRSEYKAVPLPIVHTSQMLHRGINCSALD
Marsupenaeus KRH----L-----DDFIPGLLQHYSEKEVEDASRSEYKAVPSPIVHTSQMLHQGINCSALA

Scylla_olivacea KRG----AVCRGAGRRACRRGELTPVPASKVTQSWEADYMSIPEGLVSLQSOMQOEEAVCRDLS
Carcinus_2a KRG----ALCRGAGRRACRRGAVTNIPVAEVTKNWEAEYLSIPESLVSFQOKQTEEAVCKDLS
Eriocheir_2a KRG----AGCRGGKAACRRGAVSTVSSSEVRDNWDADYLSIPQQLVTFSSQKQKEDVCKGLS
Macrobrachium-2a KRA----KTCANQNQSRCCRQVSMIPANQVKQGWEDYTSVDPVLIQFSQKQAEETVCKDLS
Procambarus_2a KRS----RLCKSSGNRCHRGVANMIPASEVQKQSWKNDYLSVPEALVQFSQEHSEETVCKDLS
Procambarus_2b LSK----GSCPLSGNSRCCRGMANMIPASEVQKQMWKEYSSVPEAMVHFSQOQADETVCKDLS
Macrobrachium_2b KRDLGLTVPLHLPSPLEPPGQWLQGEYCSFTEVILEHFRHYVSLPTTIFSN--LRGPNEVCDHLN
Erocheir_2b NNS-----S-----SSEPDSPPPHALLEALFREYTSVPRYFLTV--A--RHDA CRGLK
Carcinus_2b -----S-----CPPYSLFEDVFNQYTSVPRFLTLT--A--RHDA CQGLE

Callinectes EVSKVYGN GFEANYNLRPTWPHRSKTISTCPTQYVERQI-QGPLPIQPVTTILEAKCVCEGSQC
Portunus EVSKVYGN GFEANYNLRPTWPHRSKTISTCPTQYVERQI-QGPLPIQPVTTILEAKCVCEGSQC
Eriocheir_1 EGSKVYENRFQANFSMRPIWLHRSKTISTCPTQYVERQIQGSLPVQPVTTILEAKCVCEGSQC
Carcinus_1 EVNKIHNRFQANFNIRPTWPHRSKTISTCPTQYVERQI-QGPFPIQPVTTILEAKCVCEGSQC
Procambarus-1 --VTHHVNTFTEELHRSPTWPHRSKTISTCPTRYVKKNMNEP--IQYFPEILEAQCI CEDSQC
Litopenaeus_1a --SEMHENYIKPELRLRPEWIYESKLIGDCPTHYVTRLELP-S--IYSPSTVLEAVCAGGSSQC
Litopenaeus_1b --SELHENYIDPEVLLYPEWIYESKLIGDCPTHYVTRLELP-P--KYSPIVLEAVCACRESQC
Macrobrachium_1a --TDLHKNHITPELQLHPWIHTSOLIGDCPTHYVTRLELP-P--MYSPTVLEAVCAGGSSQC
Macrobrachium_1b --VDLHKNHVKPELQLRPNWIHTSOLIGDCPTHYVTRLELP-P--MYSPTVLEAVCAGGSSQC
Litopenaeus_1c --SNLHENHIKPELQLRPNWIHTSOLIGDCPTHYVTRLELP-P--MYSPTVLEAVCAGGSSQC
Marsupenaeus --SNLHENHIKPELQLRPNWIHTSOLIGDCPTHYVTRLELP-P--MYSPTVLEAVCAGGSSQC

Scylla_olivacea --VPLFRVDMRHH-YVEPRWNRNTLDVGVCPISILQEKRLGE---NWVPPSVVEVKCLCQQQSC
Carcinus_2a --VQLFEVDLWEE-DLKPLWVRKTVHLGVCPISMLQERRLGN---DWPSPSVVEVKCLCQQQSC
Eriocheir_2a --VQLFAVDLREH-NLEPMWVRETVYLVGVCPISMLQERRLGE---HWVPPSVVEVKCLCQRASC
Macrobrachium-2a --VQLFRVDLSEH-YLEPLVWVKEIVHLGMCPSKQTRSFQK---DWPSPSTIVEAKCLCQNNQP
Procambarus_2a --VQLFRVDLSED-YLEPLVWVKGIVHLGMCPSKQTRHHLGE---NWVPPNLVETKCLCQGETC
Procambarus_2b --VQLFRVDLTEH-HLEPLVWVRSVHLGVCPISKQTRHHLGD---KWVPSKVVEVKCLCQRESQC
Macrobrachium_2b --VDKVSIELDASHQELIPTWLRDATLIGCPWQLVKKRKLDD---DMVPEILEVNCCLNGFRQC
Erocheir_2b --LDAQGMPQRDYSQYQPOWLEDATTAGCPWHLVRKEFMH---GTLPAAILVSCCLCDGLRC
Carcinus_2b --GSAQKVQLQDYSGFRPHWLVDATTAGCPWHMG-----

Callinectes SQD--GSIQVAVKYRLPVWISVD-SDG--YTDDTVELAVACACAKNPSRDGGYIDLSENK
Portunus SQD--GSIQVAVKYRLPVWISMD-SDG--YTDDTVELAVACACAKNPSRDGGYIDLSENK
Eriocheir_1 ADD--GSVQVAVKYRLPVWIKLD-SKD--YTDDTVELTVACACAKNPSREGGYTNIGENY
Carcinus_1 SQD--GSIQVAVKYRLPVWIRVD-SDG--YTDDTVELTVACACAKNPSRDGGYVDLSEN
Procambarus-1 SQD--GYRCEPLKYNMLVWKFDSFSNR--SFSEYELTVACVCARRPSSIAGSSETLGEPS
Litopenaeus_1a SED--GHQCVPVSRHVPVWVRRG-PNL--HVL DVEELTVACACARRPSAGGNFIFSAAVES
Litopenaeus_1b SRS--GHQCVPVSRHVPVWVRRG-PNL--HVL DVEELTVACACARRPSAGGNFIFSAAVES
Macrobrachium_1a SRD--GHQCLPVSRHIPVWVRRG-PNF--HVL DVEELTVACACVRRPSVGGNFIFASAVHSK
Macrobrachium_1b SRR--GHQCVPVSSRVPVWVRRG-PNF--LVL DVEELTVACACVRRPSGEGNFIFEAAVQS
Litopenaeus_1c SRD--GHQCVPVTRHIPVWVRRG-PNI--HVL DVEELAVACACVRRPSVGGNFVFPSPAVHS
Marsupenaeus SRD--GHQCVPVTXHIPVWVRRG-PNV--HVL DVEE-----

Scylla_olivacea SDRGWDFRCQAVQQTIMTWVRS-SQD--FMPSTEVVSVGCMCAQRTGTEGRVANMVES
Carcinus_2a SSFGGDFRCQAVRRSVRTWVRS-EKT--FVPSQETVSVGCVCPVRTSTP-----
Eriocheir_2a SKKGGDFRCQAVRRTVQTWVRHG-SQT--FVPSQETVSVGCVQVQRTGTEANHVSLRER
Macrobrachium-2a SNLGGDFRCQAVRKPRTWVRRHV-E-K--FMPVQEMVTVGCVQVQRTSPEGKYARPAIEA
Procambarus_2a SNLGGDFRCQAVRRPIRMWVRHL-D-Q--FIPTQEMVSVGCVQVQRTSPPGGNSANPSLQS
Procambarus_2b SNLGGGDFRCQAVRRPVRMWVRHQ-D-S--FIPTQEMVSVGCVQVQRTSPPGGKYISPSPQS
Macrobrachium_2b SE-GGLFKCTPVTOEVKMWRSST-SKSYLLQLDRIRVTIGCVCAQRHSPEAGFVDHVEID
Erocheir_2b SV-QGDFRCSTVTRQVTWVSSSEA-SGGAHYLPRYLEVTTACVCAQRHALQGGHVHPGP
Carcinus_2b -----

Figure 6(on next page)

CFSH phylogenetic tree.

Phylogenetic tree of the various CFSH orthologs identified here and elsewhere. The only *Scylla* sequence is from *S. olivacea* (GDRN01022056.1). *S. paramosain* has a very limited number of SRA reads that correspond to three orthologs found in *Carcinus* and *Eriocheir*. Note that *Macrobrachium*, *Litopenaeus* and *Procambarus* seem to have independently gone through relatively recent gene duplications.

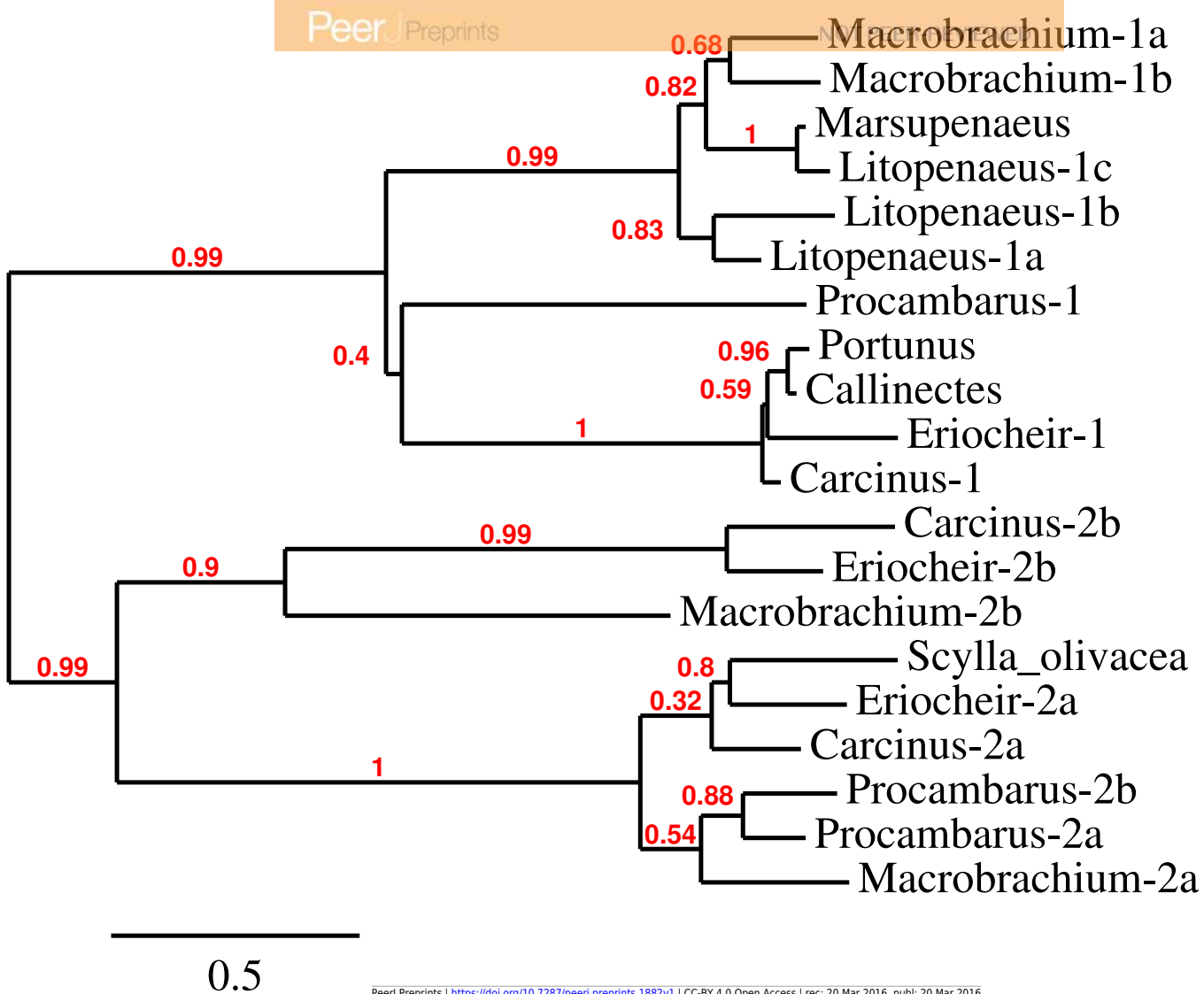
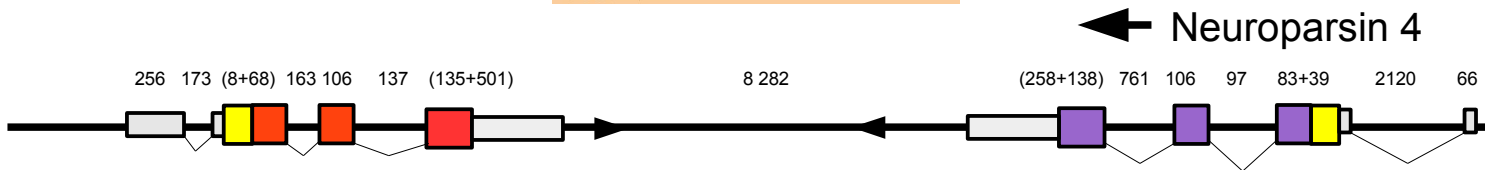


Table 1 (on next page)

Configuration of *Eriocheir* neuroparsin genes 3 and 4.

The relative organization of the two neuroparsin genes relative to one another is indicated. The two genes are located on opposite strands and each gene has four exons and three introns. Numbers indicated the lengths of the exons, introns and the intergenic distance in nucleotides.



Neuroparsin 3 →



Neuroparsin 3

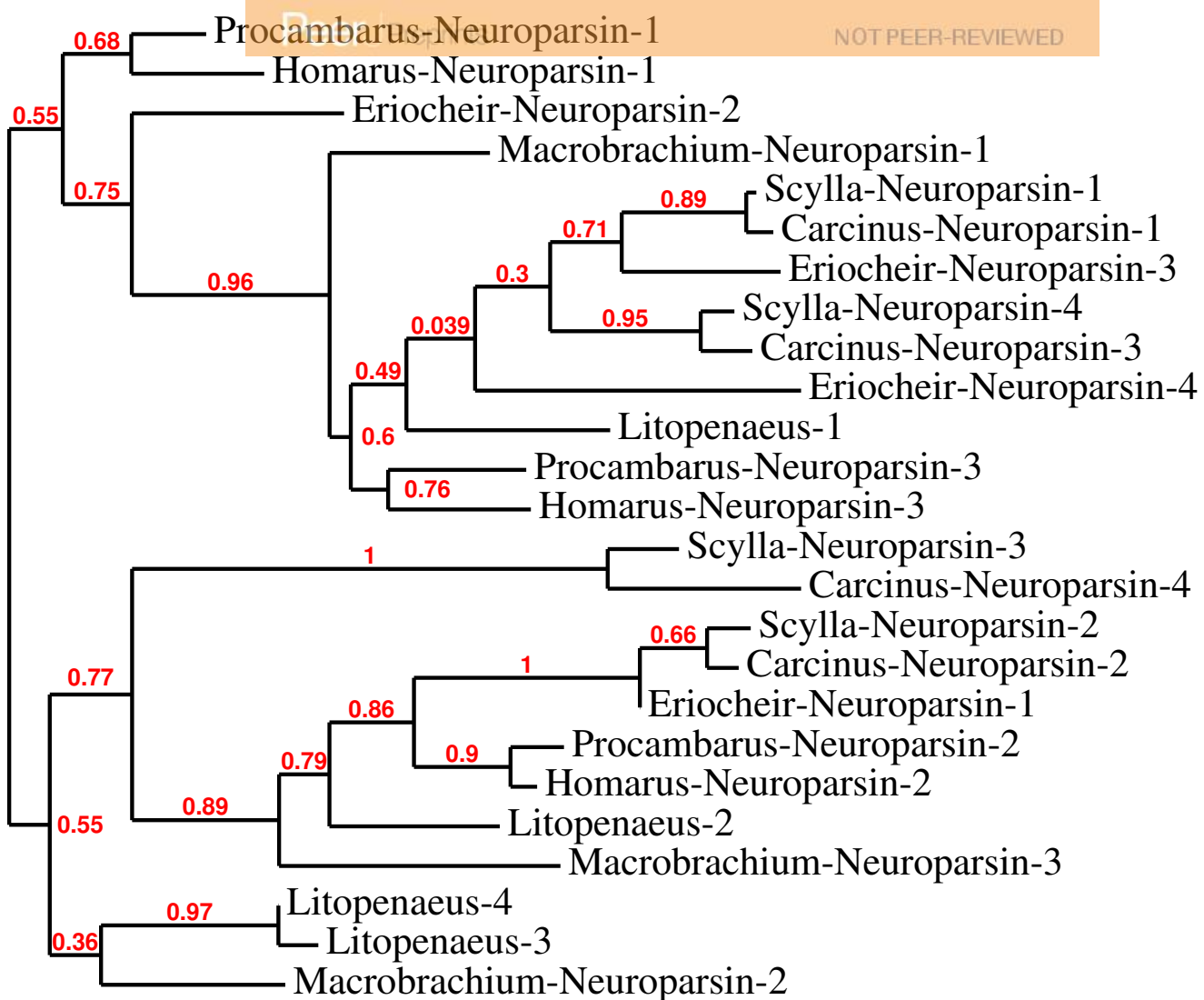


Neuroparsin 4

Figure 7 (on next page)

Neuroparsin phylogenetic tree.

The different decapod neuroparsin sequences found in the different species were used to make a phylogenetic tree. Note that the duplication of some neuroparsin likely occurred after the crabs separated from the other decapods.

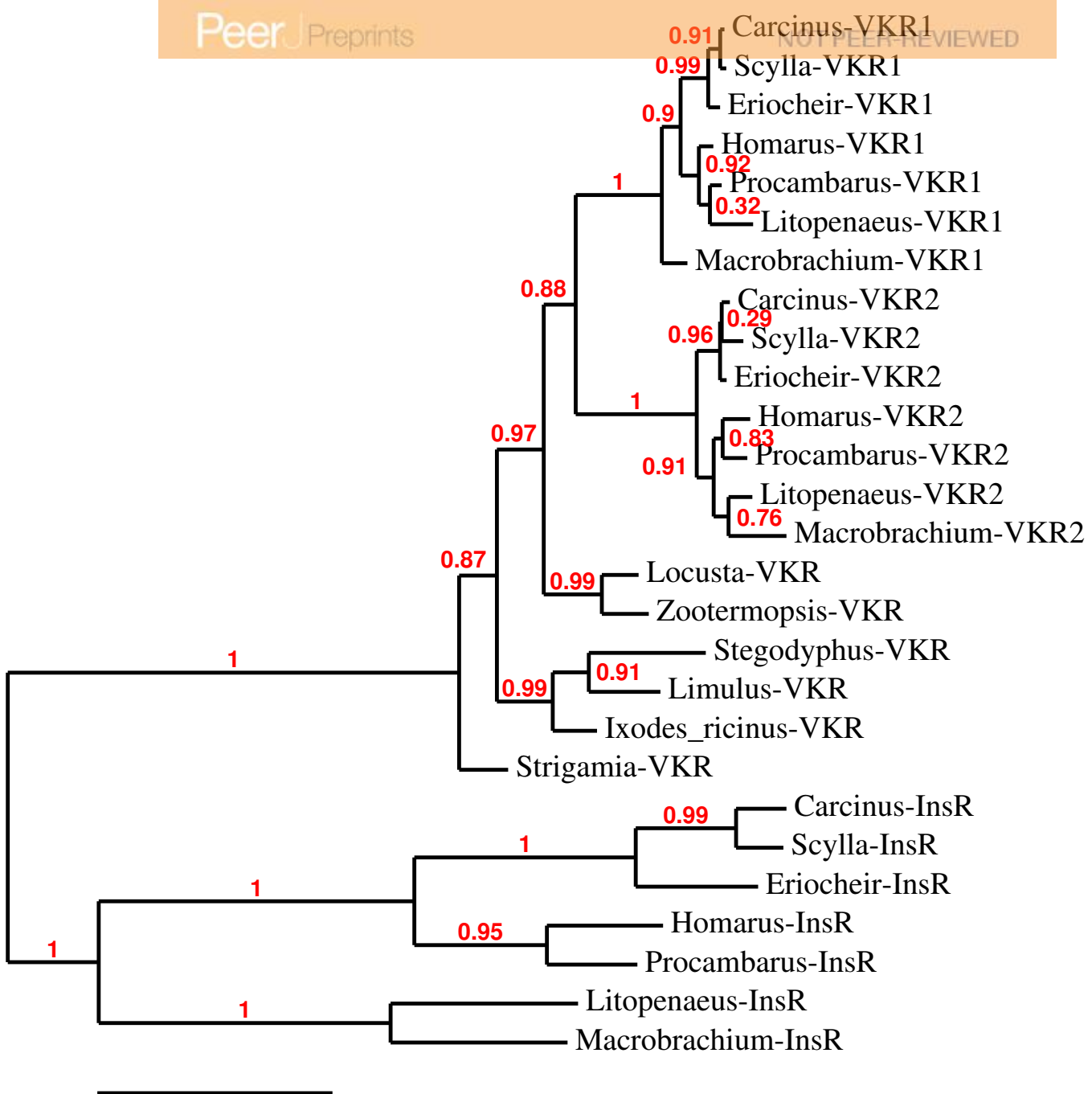


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Figure 8(on next page)

Phylogenetic tree of the tyrosine kinase domains of the decapod insulin and venus kinase receptors.

Venus kinase receptors from the following species were added for increased resolution: *Limulus polyphemus*, *Stegodyphus mimosarum*, *Locusta migratoria*, *Ixodes ricinus* and *Zootermopsis nevadensis*. Note that the duplication of the venus kinase receptor gene is not generally present in arthropods and could thus be specific to crustaceans.



9

Sequence alignment of the decapod adrogenic insulin-like peptides.

Note the relatively poor conservation of the primary sequences of these hormones.

Conserved residues indicated in black highlighting, and cysteine residues in red.

```

Eriocheir      MSLPSVL-----LLMLLTATATRA--QDCSFSVDCANLLDSMNTVCRSYKQHPGYRR
Callinectes   -----
Scylla        MCPRVIL-----ILVLLLTATQTKA-DLISDFSVDCGNLLRSFSSVCLTYKQSLSERY
Procambarus   MLTQTLLKLILQVLVAVLRSLPSSSYWVDNLLVDFDCGNLADTMDSICLTFNEYNDTHL
Litopenaeus   -----GDTMSQICKTFTARPHV-
Macrobrachium MGYWNAEIKCVLFCSLVASLLPQPSSSYEIECLSVDFDCGDITNTLASVCLRHNNYINPGP

Eriocheir      TRDTLSV-----GVIGNTS-----SAPA
Callinectes   -----M-----GVTSEFDD-----A
Scylla        KRGTETK-----GAASFDD-----A
Procambarus   HYAARAVRSASGEAPATVTILDPRSHAGLPHEQATHLSGEDQLYHAQVRHLAGLSQLYHA
Litopenaeus   -----RVSRSADTDDLWQDTGAGQTTPDLLPR
Macrobrachium TYVSKERRSADIY-----TVPSTKSPSLAHPRATHLTMADE-----

Eriocheir      YTALOP-----PAAAVEMLDEENPMLPPQVAARVFOMDRVGGRF-----RRSERTVDAYTO
Callinectes   NTDFRPQ-----PLHALSVEQEDPMLPPENAFOLFKTOWAGGRF-----RRSSRYVNGYDE
Scylla        TTEFRPR-----PLHVLLAEQEDPMLPEDAFOLVKTHWTRERF-----RRSHRYVNGYDE
Procambarus   QARHHPAEDITLVDQVSTD-EDRKMALLSRQAAHTFVKTQTRRHRRQANTDNHVRFNIQDE
Litopenaeus   RHRLHPRA---LNPTWNLERDLIKDILVSPEAAHALVRTPR-----SRAKRSYNVODE
Macrobrachium -----ET-QKVSKVEEIQHMTLSREEANNLHSKRRF-----RRDSVRRSPREE

Eriocheir      CCV---ENCTLHEVAGYCETFOPEYQFLATGNPCA
Callinectes   CCPQ-STKSCSVYEVAEYCDTLRPPYRELLASRNSQ
Scylla        CCPQ-STKNCTVYEVAEYCDSLRPPYRELLASRKRQ
Procambarus   CCNYMRPRTCVLEEITEYCVEPEDGALLTW
Litopenaeus   CCNHVSQRMCVAEEILEYCEDPVP
Macrobrachium CCNNASFRRCNFEEVAEYCIELRPGVNTCSSR

```

10

Sequence alignment of the decapod insulin-like peptides.

Note the much better conservation of the primary sequences of the A and B chains of these hormones. Conserved residues indicated in black highlighting, and cysteine residues in red.

The *Carcinus* sequence, although incomplete, is clearly part of an insulin precursor.

Conserved residues indicated in black highlighting, and cysteine residues in red.

```

Procambarus  MQAP-VVVVVVVALLDLGS SGASQD TYTTSHP EGEPRRL CGWRLANKLN RVCKGVYNNP
Homarus      MRAFVVVIAVVVVVLELGSSRASRR TYPTS--EEEP RRLCGWRLANKLN LVCKGVYNNP
Litopenaeus  -----MKIAIAVFLALVCLQSGCSWMTDLD T--SREPORRL CGWRLANKLN SVCKGVYNNP
Macrobrachium -----QVSSSDLGEEGKPLRRL CGWRLANKLN QVCKGTYNNP
Eriocheir    -MKVMVLLLVA AAAAAQPSKSRG PLKTLPGAGAVREAE RRLCGWRLANE LN RVCKGVYNNP
Scylla       MLRQVF--LLL VVTAMQTGRTRGSPRTL P VGGVLR EGERRL CGWRLANE LN RVCKGVYNNP
Carcinus     -----

Procambarus  RSTNNYLYYRGRVDERRTPEQ PANELL DVL PDELVDM RGPRLR---LPQPTV---P GPPY
Homarus      GSTGN YLFYRSRRDGESE-PGLPPEKYLDL LADPEEE-RGLRHHYLTSSQ QASEDT PSEEN
Litopenaeus  GPMSN SLYYRHRRAKTRP--RI-----S RDDDFRYHF-----PMTD-
Macrobrachium TVTNNDLFYRSVRGGGSLYDFGPQT--PEI-----SRDDDFRYHF-----PMTD-
Eriocheir    TVSTN ALFYRREREGESVDFEDPVDV-WPL-----MMELDFSPWT-----PAPP-
Scylla       TVSSN ALFYLRKARGGKR-----VDL-WPV-----GRELQFTSWT-----QAPV-
Carcinus     -----RS-

Procambarus  VSRGPAYDSRDPAYVSRGPPYVSRGPHPPPP--PGEQDSGAQRAF LTLKEAAQMLKTOPRH
Homarus      EAPGSFFGSLSP-----QDLPHQSAV--QEDEASSVHFPFLTEEEASQMV RVRPRS
Litopenaeus  ---G-----EFSAS--XXXXSSGVFPFLTEAEASQMLKEAPRR
Macrobrachium ---DSYYY---YYYYHSGGRES DVLP S-----GEYALEGKESPPFLSRQEA S QMFKAHPRS
Eriocheir    -----DVVRGVLP GPPVV---PASEDQRLPFLSGPQASQVVGRRSRV
Scylla       -----DDL RAGQLSEPRLLHRPVSSSEYQRLP LLTGAEASQVVGGS PRV
Carcinus     -----SDLRS DQISESHTSH-----IPKQLPFLAEAEASRVVGG LPRV

Procambarus  KRGLSAECCQKVCTVSELVGYCY
Homarus      KRGLSAECCRKVCTVSELVGYCY
Litopenaeus  KRGLSAECCRKACSVSELVDYCY
Macrobrachium KRGLSAECCRKACRVSELMGYCQ
Eriocheir    KRGLSAECCRKACTVSELVGYCY
Scylla       KRGLSAECCRKACSVSELVGYCY
Carcinus     KRGLSAECCRKACSVSELVGYCY

```


11

Sequence alignment of the decapod relaxins.

Note the relatively good sequences conservation between the different Decapod peptides and Dilp-7. Conserved residues indicated in black highlighting, and cysteine residues in red.

```

Dilp-7      MTRMIIQNSGSWTLGAVLLFVLPLIPTPEALQHTEEGLEMLFRERSOSDWENVWHQETHS
Litopenaeus      MVMSMMLAVFLLCSTSLALDPFVRQIESRTELEWQALWSERLA
Macrobrachium      -----FQLPLLQRIESRTASEWQAVWSERLA
Homarus      MVVVIAAILVVVSTSWALEPYLIRQLQSRTEAEWEVLWNKERLA
Cherax      MLALTAMFVLGSTSWALESDLIRQIESRTETEWQTLWSKERLS
Procambarus      MMALLLLAAMFVIAAISWALDPDLIRQIESRTEAEWQTLWSKERLA
Sagmariasus      MLADMVVLVLAAMLTLVTFSWALEPDLISQIESRTEKEWQELWTERLT

Dilp-7      RCRDKLVRQLYWACEKDIYRLTRRNKKRTGND-----
Litopenaeus      LCRAKLRONLDAICGKDVERRSSVERRRRRDKRD-----EGRDG
Macrobrachium      LCRARLRHNLDAICSKAVYRRSPGQ-----GRYKRRAPKCLRTQAGGTNNGED
Homarus      LCRARLRHNLEAICGKDVYRRSLTPPNH-H-----HIKRSTDTCLKVHDGDGER----
Cherax      LCRARLRHNLDTICGKDVYRRSLAPPRPAP-----YHHIFKRRTDICLOVHDTGGARRVEG
Procambarus      LCRARLRYNLDSICGKDVYRRSLKTPPSHHQHQHLVKRTDICVHVHEAGGESAEDN
Sagmariasus      LCRSRLRHNLDAICGKDVYRRSMLPPRTRHR-----RWSRAKRNTDIFLEVHDTDARGDSR

Dilp-7      E-----AWIKKTTE-----PDGSTWLHVNYANM
Litopenaeus      SKPLP-----AESDEVPRANPSTPDTGOAPD-----KRRSPFLSVQQANL
Macrobrachium      -----NRGTTNANAVMTYPPSSTDVRPSLPDTGONAE-----EGRSPFLSVQQANL
Homarus      -----DVRDKRAVSVNLPTATIEITPSSPDTGOHNI-----NTRSPFLSVHQANL
Cherax      EKHLSKSSNRVKRVEVLVNLSPDIIQTSP-ATDTGOPSVQDRHVHSRYRSPFLSVHQANL
Procambarus      T-----EKREKSLDGAESILPSTTIEINPSTPDTGOESV-----QARSPFLSVHQANL
Sagmariasus      -----KKEKRMKTMSVDLPTTRIEISPSVPDTGOHST-----HTRSPFLSVHQANL

Dilp-7      FLRSRR-----SDGNTPSISNECCTKAGCTWEEYAEYCPSNKRRNHY
Litopenaeus      FVTTWVHDQGRRRGRSHYRRRRQSPSITTECCTVAGCTWEEYAEYCPSSNRARFL
Macrobrachium      FVTTWVRGG-----GPVHGRRRRQSQSITSECCTAAGCTWEEYAEYCPTSSRVRPGVIPI
Homarus      FVTTWVGGR-----RGSHYRRRRQSSITAECCTTVGCTWEEYAEYCPTSSRLRPGVTPI
Cherax      FVTTWVRDH-----QGRHYRRRRQSSITAECCTTTGCTWEEYAEYCPTSSRLRAGVALI
Procambarus      FVTTWVGGRG---RRGPQHRLRRQSPSITAECCTAVGCTWEEYAEYCPTSSRLRAGVTLI
Sagmariasus      FVTTWVGGH-----HRHRRQSPSITSECCTTVGCTWEEYAEYCPTSSRLRPGVTLI

```

Table 2 (on next page)

Last parts of CNMamide precursors

Some arthropods produce alternatively spliced mRNA predicted to produce different CNMamides. Notice that the major splice variant produces a much better conserved neuropeptide than the alternative. Residues in red are predicted to be cleaved by convertase and removed by carboxypeptidase during processing; the green glycine residues will be transformed in C-terminal amides and the cysteine residues are orange. Residues conserved between the different species are in blue.

Species

splice variant 1

Peer Preprints

NOT PEER-REVIEWED

splice variant 2

Scylla

KRVMCHFKI CNMGRRRRARHSNPLQGWLS

Eriocheir

KRVMCHFKI CNMGRRRRARHSSPVQGWLS

Carcinus

KRVMCHFKI CNMGRRRRARHSNPLQGWLS

Homarus

KRVMCHFKI CNLGRRRRARQSSPLQGWLS

Litopenaeus

KRVMCHFKI CNLGRRRRARQSLPLQGWLS

Macrobrachium

KRVMCHFKI CNLGRRRRARMS

Procambarus

KRVMCHFKI CNLGRRRRARQSSPLQGWLS

Zootermopsis

KRGNYSMLCHFKI CNMGRKRNFRWNPWIRR

Drosophila

KKNVQYMSPCHFKI CNMGRKRNAGFNSY

KRERKWY CGLWMAICPFSG
KRGRKWH CGLWMPICPFSG

KREADAPSITQ KKRPCILYLRICPFRSLR

KREAIWPCVLWVKFCPLG
KRGNYPPLCY FKI CNMGRKRNPH

12

Sequence alignment of the decapod B-calcitonins.

Some of the decapod B-calcitonins are predicted to have two cysteine bridges in the N-terminal part of their sequence, rather than one.

```

Procambarus  MRMACCWLVCSAFLVLAAVAGPSLGOPIQ-DSLGDMPERLRELLLIRRLV
Macrobrachium MRQGCWVACFSLAMVAAAFSAHVQPVP-ESDVGEIPERLRELLLVRRLLI
Litopenaeus   MSRTANLMFTVLLGLIGLTLTSAHVQPIQ-ESELSSVPERLRELLLIRRLI
Eriocheir     MIVSVAMCVFLVCVGAG----AQPVHE--NENYLNDNLREYLLLKRLF
Carcinus      MRLVVIVLCLMLLWCVGVG----AQPTHHESQEAYLSEKMRREYLLLRLL

Procambarus  SNLNSAEAAIPD--AL--PGIRGQSYLEHELEQLAKASAAAIIDFRGLRVSRR
Macrobrachium SSLNPAAELPEL--QAQPAQAISHYNLKKDLETLSKAAAADIDFRALRVSKR
Litopenaeus  >NNLKVVEAGHEIPAAVEDPSRI---RLEHELEQLAKALEADMDFEDLHVSTR
Eriocheir     VNIFGRESELAP---IP-----
Carcinus      ISVLS-ERQPPP---ME-----

Procambarus  AIRSYCSTN-PDRQCRSFCFNLGDAACAEGDIGNGEDSHFLASGNTPGK
Macrobrachium SIRSFCSSNNSNRQCRSFCFNLGDSACADGDLGGNGEDSKFLSGGLTPGK
Litopenaeus   AVRSEFCAGN-GSRQCRSFCFNLGDRACSDGDIGNGEDSHFIESGMNPGK
Eriocheir     -----APSKKMCLNLGDPSCYHG NVNNGEDSNYLSGYNPGK
Carcinus      -----APRKRLCLNLGDPSCYEGNMAANGDDNNYLIGQNNPGK

```

13

Hyrg sequence alignment.

Note that only a small part of the sequence of this puative neuropeptide is conserved in both decapods as well as in *Euphasia crystallorophias*.

```

Euphasia_1      MNTVQVVGLMVMAL-VAFSGALPTPDEDMTYVPTFPYISP
Euphasia_2      MNTVQVVGLMVMAL-VAFSGALPTPDEDMTYVPTFPYISP
Eriocheir       MKILHLLLMVAAA-VGRVVAQQKPGVLDDP-----
Scylla          MNILSILLIVAAA-AASVMAQQKPTILLEDP-----
Carcinus        MNIFNILLLV-IAA-VVSVMAQQKPRILLEDP-----
Homarus         MNLVSMVLVMAAL-LAPVSSLPEPDVLLDRA-----
Pontastacus     MNLVSVLVLMMALLWAPALSLPDAEVLMEAE-----
Procambarus    MNLVSVLMLVMAALLLAPSHSLPDAEVLMEVA-----
Macrobrachium  MNLFSLIIVIVAAI-IGITQGLPEPAVIVDGR-----
Marsupenaesus  VDHASGYDISTSGRSVAAM-FGTAHSLPEPDLAEAG-----
Litopenaeus    MNLLHLLLVVVAAM-IGSSHALPEPDPMAEAG-----
Penaeus        -----AHALPEPDPMADAG-----

Euphasia_1      EQDLRSYVEEYAPPRLIRSGGQKAPPARFHYRGEFQRAG--NDWGQ
Euphasia_2      EQDLRSYVE-YA-----PPRFHYRGEFQRAG--NTWGQ
Eriocheir       -----SDLQDPSWVQ---PPRFHYRGEFHRPQVGAGWP
Scylla          -----STLQNRMWVQ---PPRFHYRGEFNRPQMAAGWP
Carcinus        -----TNLQNPVWQ---PPRFHYRGEFNRPQVGAGWP
Homarus         -----TDLQDQGWVQ---PPRFHYRGEFORPNPRTNWL
Pontastacus     -----PDLRNQEWVQPP-PPRFHYRGEGRPNPRTNWL
Procambarus    -----PDLRRQEWVQPPP-PPRFHYRGEGRPNPRTNWL
Macrobrachium  -----PNMIPDAYVQ---PPRFHYRGEFORSYPKYDWS
Marsupenaesus  -----TT-RSPGVRQ---PPRFHYRGEFHRPYPKFDWE
Litopenaeus    -----HDLVVRGYVQ---PPRFHYRGEFHRPYPKYDWE

```

Table 3 (on next page)

Ligand-receptor interactions of insulin-related peptides.

Figure indicates the postulated major interactions of the three decapod insulin-like peptides with three receptors. Secondary interactions are indicated by broken lines. Drosophila gene numbers for orthologous genes are indicated in red. LRR-GPCRs: Leucine-riche repeat GPCRs.

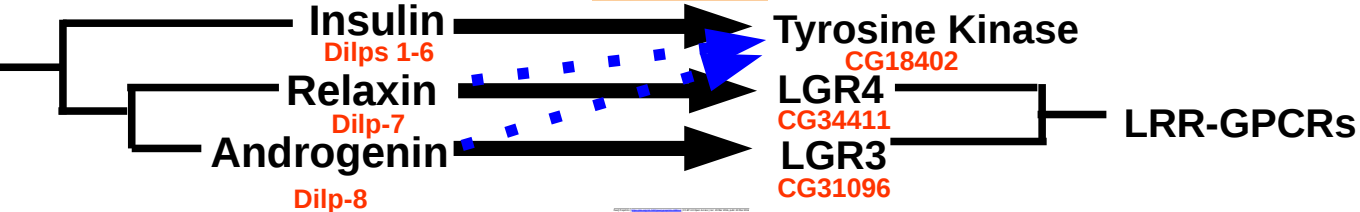


Table 4(on next page)

Tissue distribution of neuropeptides and neuropeptide GPCRs in various tissues. Part 1.

The number of individual reads found in different SRAs from eggs and eleven tissues or *Carcinus maenas*.

Eggs	Eye	Nerve	Intestine	Ovary	Testis	Epidermis	Muscle	Heart	Hepatopancreas	Gill	Haemolymph	
17	87	1	0	24	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	ACP
6	11	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	ACP-GPCR
119	823	1376	2	2	0	1	0	6	2	0	0	Agatoxin-like peptide
35	138	1093	1	1	3	4	1	0	2	1	83	Allatostatin A
14	45	115	12	11	1	42	143	25	2	1	0	AstA-GPCR
85	272	387	0	165	1	8	1	2	0	2	0	Allatostatin B (= mip)
8	5	37	8	27	3	27	3	0	29	7	4	AstB-GPCR
31	41	331	246	7	0	26	0	3	3	0	0	Allatostatin C
19	1	155	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	Allatostatin CC
7	46	76	0	53	0	3	0	0	0	1	1	Allatostatin CCC
19	17	10	2	105	4	86	1	0	0	0	0	AstC-GPCR
16	12	10	2	104	4	88	1	0	0	0	0	AstC-GPCR, splice variant
14	0	550	0	16	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	Bursicon-A
10	0	444	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Bursicon-B
202	59	98	46	31	20	49	91	51	3	65	0	Bursicon-GPCR
24	12	11	178	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Calcitonin
17	10	10	112	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Calcitonin common exon
2	1	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Calcitonin A-specific
18	10	1	121	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Calcitonin B-specific
3	8	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	CCHamide 1
3	12	13	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	17	CCHamide 2
3	3	4	8	22	3	9	0	0	0	0	0	CCHamide-GPCR-1
7	2	9	0	25	126	7	0	0	0	0	0	CCHamide-GPCR-2
2	23	34	0	112	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	CNMamide
0	5	6	0	40	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	CNMa a specific
0	0	0	0	17	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	CNMa b specific
20	153	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Corazonin
26	89	208	0	0	1	0	0	106	0	0	0	CRF-like diuretic hormone
10	6	9	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	CRF-like DH-GPCR
34	31	823	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	CCAP
22	3	23	6	25	1	11	14	9	2	1	0	CCAP-GPCRa
15	3	25	5	18	0	11	15	9	2	2	0	CCAP-GPCRB
1	353	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	CFSH 1
1	23	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	CFSH 2a
0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	CFSH 2b
83	3418	476	101	78	25	46	26	28	14	61	4	CHH 1
111	4969	663	141	125	35	59	47	33	18	80	7	CHH 1 alternative splice product
24	366	330	2757	44	49	41	4	20	45	18	2	CHH 2
43	173	735	1	2	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	DH31
11	161	28	0	0	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	Eclosion hormone 1
10	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	Eclosion hormone 2
103	48	120	1	3	5	50	0	1	0	0	0	ETH
11	30	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	EFLamide
15	7	10	0	0	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	EFLamide-GPCR
5	12	32	156	0	4	3	0	0	2	0	1	Elevenin
5	8	6	81	1	0	4	0	1	3	4	4	Elevenin-GPCR-1
14	75	84	36	78	57	92	67	43	28	24	25	Elevenin-GPCR-2
33	233	191	0	1	1	34	0	1	0	0	0	FMRamide
3	19	51	2	4	2	81	41	49	3	25	0	FMRFa-GPCR

Table 5 (on next page)

Tissue distribution of neuropeptides and neuropeptide GPCRs in various tissues. Part 2.

The number of individual reads found in different SRAs from eggs and eleven tissues or *Carcinus maenas*.

Eggs	Eye	Nerve	Intestine	Ovary	Testis	Epidermis	Muscle	Heart	Hepatopancreas	Gill	Haemolymph	
12	46	43	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	GPA2
20	48	75	2	5	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	GPB5
80	216	788	45	41	7	64	36	80	0	1065	2	GPA2/GPB5-GPCR
1	571	3	30	0	12	1	1	0	2	0	1	Hyrg
3	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	Insulin
26	29	22	16	150	13	57	4	3	2	3	0	Insulin tyrosine kinase receptor
11	71	141	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	Leucokinin-a
11	120	228	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	Leucokinin-b
2	8	16	1	9	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	Leucokinin-GPCR
4	189	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	MIH
26	149	298	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	Myosuppressin
39	13	45	133	18	0	7	6	2	0	4	0	Myosuppressin-GPCR ?
28	87	81	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	Natalisin
130	952	4536	635	324	491	365	331	1444	161	1935	0	Neuroparsin 1
73	182	478	13	22	0	6	4	8	0	6	0	Neuroparsin 2
2	83	160	94	52	6	5	22	12	0	81	0	Neuroparsin 3
308	94	877	108	402	124	665	2910	986	928	727	5	Venus kinase receptor 1
357	258	1211	233	233	115	257	1119	519	131	199	17	Venus kinase receptor 2
5	28	15	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	1	1	Neuropeptide F 1a
3	22	12	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	1	1	Neuropeptide F 1b
1	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NPF 1b specific
20	62	45	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	Neuropeptide F 2
50	603	449	8	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	1	Neuropeptide-like precursor 1
40	223	661	26	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	Orcokinin-A
8	5	20	1	1	2	3	0	0	0	1	0	Periviscerokinin
112	446	2	1	2	4	5	3	3	0	4	2	PDH 1
25	101	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	PDH 2
26	7	3	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	PDH-GPCR-1
16	18	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	PDH-GPCR-2
17	91	411	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	Proctolin
6	20	107	6	13	2	19	94	43	3	15	0	Proctolin-GPCR-1
12	18	119	0	7	1	10	0	3	0	0	0	Proctolin-GPCR-2
25	70	94	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Pyrokinin
2	2	6	0	2	0	28	0	0	0	0	0	Pyrokinin-1-GPCR-2
42	182	65	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	RPCH
93	2	103	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	RYamide
4	5	5	8	2	0	2	0	0	8	0	0	Ryamide-GPCR-1
5	8	7	9	3	0	35	0	0	146	0	0	Ryamide-GPCR-2
3	26	19	2	10	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	sNPF
5	1	20	1	0	3	79	0	0	2	0	0	sNPF-GPCR-1
1	0	7	0	0	0	6	0	1	1	0	0	sNPF-GPCR-2
44	410	395	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	SIFamide
3	6	5	4	0	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	Sulfakinin
30	296	124	246	3	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	Tachykinin
8	12	31	9	18	1	45	4	4	5	8	169	Trissin
10	36	42	0	4	1	5	0	0	0	0	2	Vasopressin
4	3	2	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	1	0	Vasopressin-GPCR
9	10	7	2	52	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	CG31096 ortholog
1	2	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	CG34411 ortholog