

1 **Title: The Ionotropic Receptors IR21a and IR25a mediate cool sensing**  
2 **in *Drosophila***

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30

31 **Abstract:** Animals rely on highly sensitive thermoreceptors to seek out optimal  
32 temperatures, but the molecular mechanisms of thermosensing are not well  
33 understood. The Dorsal Organ Cool Cells (DOCCs) of the *Drosophila* larva are a  
34 set of exceptionally thermosensitive neurons critical for larval cool avoidance.  
35 Here we show that DOCC cool-sensing is mediated by Ionotropic Receptors (IRs),  
36 a family of sensory receptors widely studied in invertebrate chemical sensing. We  
37 find that two IRs, IR21a and IR25a, are required to mediate DOCC responses to  
38 cooling and are required for cool avoidance behavior. Furthermore, we find that  
39 ectopic expression of IR21a can confer cool-responsiveness in an *Ir25a*-  
40 dependent manner, suggesting an instructive role for IR21a in thermosensing.  
41 Together, these data show that IR family receptors can function together to  
42 mediate thermosensation of exquisite sensitivity.

43 **INTRODUCTION:**

44 Temperature is an omnipresent physical variable with a dramatic impact on  
45 all aspects of biochemistry and physiology(Sengupta and Garrity, 2013). To cope  
46 with the unavoidable spatial and temporal variations in temperature they  
47 encounter, animals rely on thermosensory systems of exceptional sensitivity  
48 (Barbagallo and Garrity, 2015; Dhaka et al., 2006). These systems are used to  
49 avoid harmful thermal extremes and to seek out and maintain body temperatures  
50 optimal for performance, survival and reproduction (Barbagallo and Garrity,  
51 2015; Flouris, 2011).

52 Among the most sensitive biological thermoreceptors described to date are  
53 the Dorsal Organ Cool Cells (DOCCs), a recently discovered trio of cool-  
54 responsive neurons found in each of the two dorsal organs at the anterior of the  
55 *Drosophila melanogaster* larva (Klein et al., 2015). The DOCCs robustly respond  
56 to decreases in temperature as small as a few milli-degrees C per second (Klein et  
57 al., 2015), a thermosensitivity similar to that of the rattlesnake pit organ (Goris,  
58 2011), a structure known for its extraordinary sensitivity. At the behavioral level,  
59 the DOCCs are critical for mediating larval avoidance of temperatures below  
60  $\sim 20^{\circ}\text{C}$ , with the thermosensitivity of this avoidance behavior paralleling the  
61 thermosensitivity of DOCC physiology (Klein et al., 2015). While the DOCCs are  
62 exceptionally responsive to temperature, the molecular mechanisms that underlie  
63 their thermosensitivity are unknown.

64 At the molecular level, several classes of transmembrane receptors have  
65 been shown to participate in thermosensation in animals. The most extensively  
66 studied are the highly thermosensitive members of the Transient Receptor

67 Potential (TRP) family of cation channels (Clapham and Miller, 2011; Dhaka et  
68 al., 2006). These TRPs function as temperature-activated ion channels and  
69 mediate many aspects of thermosensing from fruit flies to humans (Barbagallo  
70 and Garrity, 2015; Damann et al., 2008; Dhaka et al., 2006). In addition to TRPs,  
71 other classes of channels contribute to thermosensation in vertebrates, including  
72 the thermosensitive calcium-activated chloride channel Anoctamin 1 (Cho et al.,  
73 2012) and the two pore potassium channel TREK-1 (Alloui et al., 2006). Recent  
74 work in *Drosophila* has demonstrated that sensory receptors normally associated  
75 with other modalities, such as chemical sensing, can also make important  
76 contributions to thermotransduction. In particular, GR28B(D), a member of the  
77 invertebrate gustatory receptor (GR) family, was shown to function as a warmth  
78 receptor to mediate warmth avoidance in adult flies exposed to a steep thermal  
79 gradient (Ni et al., 2013). The photoreceptor Rhodopsin has also been reported  
80 to contribute to temperature responses, although its role in thermosensory  
81 neurons is unexamined (Shen et al., 2011).

82 Iontropic Receptors (IRs) are a family of invertebrate receptors that have  
83 been widely studied in insect chemosensation, frequently serving as receptors for  
84 diverse acids and amines (Silbering et al., 2011). The IRs belong to the ionotropic  
85 glutamate receptor (iGluR) family, an evolutionarily conserved family of  
86 heterotetrameric cation channels that includes critical regulators of synaptic  
87 transmission like the NMDA and AMPA receptors (Croset et al., 2010). In  
88 contrast to iGluRs, IRs have only been found in Protostomia and are implicated  
89 in sensory transduction rather than synaptic transmission (Rytz et al., 2013). In  
90 insects, the IR family has undergone significant expansion and diversification,

91 with the fruit fly *D. melanogaster* genome encoding 66 IRs (Croset et al., 2010).  
92 While the detailed structures of IR complexes are unknown, IRs are often  
93 thought to form heteromeric channels in which an IR “co-receptor” (such as  
94 IR25a, IR8a or IR76b) partners one or more “stimulus-specific” IRs (Abuin et al.,  
95 2011).

96       Among insect IRs, IR25a is the most highly conserved across species  
97 (Croset et al., 2010). In *Drosophila*, IR25a expression has been observed in  
98 multiple classes of chemosensory neurons with diverse chemical specificities, and  
99 IR25a has been shown to function as a “co-receptor” that forms chemoreceptors  
100 of diverse specificities in combination with other, stimulus-specific IRs (Abuin et  
101 al., 2011; Rytz et al., 2013). IR21a is conserved in mosquitoes and other insects,  
102 but has not been associated with a specific chemoreceptor function (Silbering et  
103 al., 2011), raising the possibility that it may contribute to other sensory  
104 modalities.

105       Here we show that the previously “orphan” IR, *Ir21a*, acts together with  
106 the co-receptor IR25a to mediate thermotransduction. We show that these  
107 receptors are required for larval cool avoidance behavior as well as the  
108 physiological responsiveness of the DOCC thermosensory neurons to cooling.  
109 Furthermore, we find that ectopic expression of IR21a can confer cool  
110 responsiveness in an *Ir25a*-dependent manner, indicating that IR21a can  
111 influence thermotransduction in an instructive fashion.

112

113 **RESULTS:**

114 **Dorsal organ cool cells express *Ir21a-Gal4***

115 To identify potential regulators of DOCC thermosensitivity, we sought  
116 sensory receptors specifically expressed in the dorsal organ housing these  
117 thermoreceptors (Fig. 1a). Examining a range of potential sensory receptors in  
118 the larva, we found that regulatory sequences from the Ionotropic Receptor *Ir21a*  
119 drove robust gene expression (via the Gal4/UAS system (Brand and Perrimon,  
120 1993)) in a subset of neurons in the dorsal organ ganglion (Fig. 1b, 1c). We  
121 observed *Ir21a-Gal4* drove gene expression in three neurons within each dorsal  
122 organ ganglion (Fig. 1b, 1c). These neurons exhibited the characteristic  
123 morphology of the DOCCs, which have unusual sensory processes that form a  
124 characteristic “dendritic bulb” inside the larva (Klein et al., 2015).

125 To confirm that the *Ir21a-Gal4*-positive neurons were indeed cool-  
126 responsive, their thermosensitivity was tested by cell-specific expression of the  
127 genetically encoded calcium indicator GCaMP6m under *Ir21a-Gal4* control.  
128 Consistent with previously characterized DOCC responses (Klein et al., 2015),  
129 when exposed to a sinusoidal temperature stimulus between ~14°C and ~20°C,  
130 GCaMP6m fluorescence in these neurons increased upon cooling and decreased  
131 upon warming (Fig. 1d, 1e and Supp. Fig. 1). The expression of *Ir21a-Gal4* was  
132 also compared with that of *R11F02-Gal4*, a promoter used in the initial  
133 characterization of the DOCCs (Klein et al., 2015). As expected, GCaMP6m  
134 expressed under the combined control of *Ir21a-Gal4* and *R11F02-Gal4* revealed  
135 their precise overlap in three cool-responsive neurons with DOCC morphology in

136 the dorsal organ, further confirming the identification of the *Ir21a-Gal4*-  
137 expressing cells as the cool-responsive DOCCs (Fig. 1f,g).

138

### 139 ***Ir21a* mediates larval thermotaxis**

140 To assess the potential importance of *Ir21a* in larval thermosensation, we  
141 tested the ability of animals to thermotax when *Ir21a* function has been  
142 eliminated. Two *Ir21a* alleles were generated, *Ir21a<sup>123</sup>* and *Ir21a<sup>Δ1</sup>*. *Ir21a<sup>123</sup>*  
143 deletes 23 nucleotides in the region encoding the first transmembrane domain of  
144 IR21a and creates a translational frameshift (Fig. 2a). *Ir21a<sup>Δ1</sup>* is an ~11 kb  
145 deletion removing all except the last 192 nucleotides of the *Ir21a* open reading  
146 frame, including all transmembrane and ion pore sequences (Fig. 2a). As the  
147 deletion in *Ir21a<sup>Δ1</sup>* could also disrupt the nearby *chitin deacetylase 5 (cda5)* gene  
148 (Supp. Fig. 2a), *Ir21a*-specific rescue experiments were performed to confirm all  
149 defects reflected the loss of *Ir21a* activity (see below).

150 Consistent with a critical role for *Ir21a* in larval thermotaxis, the loss of  
151 *Ir21a* function strongly disrupted larval thermotaxis. When exposed to a thermal  
152 gradient of ~0.36°C/cm, ranging from ~13.5°C to ~21.5°C, *Ir21a<sup>Δ1</sup>* null mutants  
153 as well as *Ir21a<sup>123</sup>/Ir21a<sup>Δ1</sup>* heterozygotes were unable to navigate away from  
154 cooler temperatures and toward warmer temperatures (Fig. 2b, 2c). These defects  
155 could be rescued by expression of a wild-type *Ir21a* transcript under *Ir21a-Gal4*  
156 control and by a wild-type *Ir21a* genomic transgene (Fig. 2c). Taken together,  
157 these results are consistent with a critical role for *Ir21a* in larval thermotaxis.

158

### 159 ***Ir25a* mediates larval thermotaxis and is expressed in DOCCs**

160 As IRs commonly act in conjunction with “co-receptor” IRs, we examined  
161 the possibility that larval thermotaxis involved such additional IRs. Animals  
162 homozygous for loss-of-function mutations in two previously reported IR co-  
163 receptors, *Ir8a* and *Ir76b*, exhibited robust avoidance of cool temperatures,  
164 indicating that these receptors are not essential for this behavior (Supp Fig. 2b).  
165 By contrast, *Ir25a<sup>2</sup>* null mutants failed to avoid cool temperatures, a defect that  
166 could be rescued by the introduction of a transgene containing a wild type copy of  
167 *Ir25a* (Fig. 2c). Thus, *Ir25a* also participates in cool avoidance. To assess IR25a  
168 expression, larvae were stained with antisera for IR25a. Robust IR25a protein  
169 expression was detected in multiple cells in the dorsal organ ganglion, including  
170 the three *Ir21a-Gal4*-expressing DOCCs (Fig. 3a). Within DOCCs, IR25a strongly  
171 labels the “dendritic bulbs”, consistent with a role in sensory transduction.  
172 Staining was absent in *Ir25a* null mutants demonstrating staining specificity  
173 (Fig. 3b). Thus *Ir25a* is required for thermotaxis and is expressed in the neurons  
174 that drive this behavior.

175

### 176 ***Ir21a* and *Ir25a* are required for cool detection by DOCCs**

177 To assess whether *Ir21a* and *Ir25a* contribute to cool detection by the  
178 DOCCs, DOCC cool-responsiveness was examined using the genetically encoded  
179 calcium sensor GCaMP6m. Consistent with a role for *Ir21a* in cool responses,  
180 DOCCs exhibited strongly reduced responses to cooling in *Ir21a<sup>Δ1</sup>* deletion  
181 mutants, and this defect was robustly rescued by expression of an *Ir21a*  
182 transcript in the DOCCs using *R11F02-Gal4* (Fig. 4a-e, 4h). Similarly, DOCC  
183 thermosensory responses were greatly reduced in *Ir25a* mutants, a defect that

184 was rescued by a wild type *Ir25a* transgene (Fig. 4f-h). Together these data  
185 demonstrate a critical role for *Ir21a* and *Ir25a* in the detection of cooling by the  
186 DOCCs.

187 Prior work has suggested that three TRP channels, Brivido-1, Brivido-2  
188 and Brivido-3, work together to mediate cool sensing in adult thermosensors  
189 (Gallio et al., 2011). Putative null mutations are available for two of these genes,  
190 *brv1* and *brv2*, and we used these alleles to test the potential role of Brivido  
191 function in DOCC cool sensing (Gallio et al., 2011). Although *brv1* mutant showed  
192 defects in thermotactic behavior, DOCC responses to cooling appeared unaffected  
193 in *brv1* mutants (Supp. Fig. 4a, 4b). *brv2* nulls exhibited no detectable  
194 thermotaxis defects (Supp. Fig. 4a). Thus we detect no role for these receptors in  
195 cool sensing by the DOCCs.

196

### 197 **Ectopic IR21a expression confers cool-sensitivity in an *Ir25a*-** 198 **dependent fashion**

199 The requirement for *Ir21a* and *Ir25a* in DOCC-mediated cool sensing  
200 raised the question of whether ectopic expression of these receptors could confer  
201 cool-responsiveness upon a cell, as might be predicted for a cool receptor.  
202 Attempts to express IR21a and IR25a together or separately in heterologous cells,  
203 including S2 cells, *Xenopus* oocytes and HEK cells, failed to yield detectable cool-  
204 activated currents, as did attempts to ectopically express them separately and  
205 together in *Drosophila* chemosensory neurons (G.B., L.N. and P.G, unpublished).  
206 However, ectopic expression of IR21a in one set of neurons in the adult, Hot Cell

207 thermoreceptors in the arista that normally respond to warming rather than  
208 cooling, did confer cool-sensitivity.

209         The adult arista contains three warmth-activated thermosensory neurons,  
210 termed Hot Cells (or HC neurons) (Gallio et al., 2011). We found that forced  
211 expression of IR21a in the HC neurons could significantly alter their response to  
212 temperature. As previously reported (Gallio et al., 2011), wild-type HC neurons  
213 respond to warming with robust increases in intracellular calcium and to cooling  
214 with decreases in intracellular calcium, as reflected in temperature-dependent  
215 changes in GCaMP6m fluorescence (Fig. 5a, 5c). In contrast, HC neurons in  
216 which IR21a is expressed under the control of a pan-neuronal promoter (*N-*  
217 *syb>Ir21a* animals) frequently exhibited elevations in calcium not only in  
218 response to warming, but also at the coolest temperatures (Fig. 5b, 5d, 5f). Thus,  
219 ectopic IR21a expression causes HC neurons to respond to cooling as well as  
220 warming.

221         As *Ir21a*-dependent cool detection in the DOCCs relies upon *Ir25a*, we  
222 examined the requirement for *Ir25a* in IR21a-mediated cool activation of the HC  
223 neurons. Consistent with previously reported IR25a expression in the arista  
224 (Benton et al., 2009), we observed robust IR25a protein expression in the HC  
225 neurons (Supp. Fig. 5a, 5b). Consistent with a role for *Ir25a* in *Ir21a*-mediated  
226 cool-responsiveness, ectopic IR21a expression failed to drive significant HC  
227 neuron cool responses in *Ir25a* mutants (Fig. 5e, 5f). Thus, IR21a can confer  
228 cool-sensitivity upon an otherwise warmth-responsive neuron in an *Ir25a*-  
229 dependent fashion. Similar cool sensitivity is observed when IR21a is ectopically  
230 expressed under the control of an HC-specific promoter (*HC>Ir21a*, Supp. Fig.

231 5c, 5d). Together, these data demonstrate that IR21a expression can confer cool-  
232 sensitivity on the normally warmth-sensitive HC neurons in an *Ir25a*-dependent  
233 fashion.

234 **DISCUSSION:**

235         These data demonstrate that the Ionotropic Receptors IR21a and IR25a  
236 have critical roles in thermosensation in *Drosophila*, mediating cool detection by  
237 the larval dorsal organ cool cells (DOCCs) and the avoidance of cool  
238 temperatures. Combinations of IRs have been previously found to contribute to a  
239 wide range of chemosensory responses, including the detection of acids and  
240 amines (Rytz et al., 2013). These findings extend the range of sensory stimuli  
241 mediated by these receptor combinations to cool temperatures.

242         The precise nature of the molecular complexes that IRs form is not well  
243 understood. IR25a has been shown to act with other IRs in the formation of  
244 chemoreceptors, potentially as hetero-multimers (Rytz et al., 2013). This  
245 precedent raises the appealing possibility that IR25a might form heteromeric  
246 thermoreceptors in combination with IR21a. However, the inability to readily  
247 reconstitute cool-responsive receptor complexes in heterologous cells suggests  
248 that the mechanism by which these receptors contribute to cool responsiveness is  
249 likely to involve additional molecular co-factors. It is interesting to note that the  
250 range of cell types in which ectopic IR21a expression confers cool-sensitivity is so  
251 far restricted to neurons that are already respond to temperature. This  
252 observation suggests the existence of additional co-factors or structures in these  
253 thermosensory cells that are critical for IR21a and IR25a to function. Recently,  
254 IR25a was implicated in resetting of the circadian clock by increases in external

255 temperature (Chen et al., 2015). However, misexpression of IR25a in  
256 heterologous neurons on its own conferred only very low sensitivity responses to  
257 temperature changes (Chen et al., 2015), raising the intriguing possibility that –  
258 analogous to cool-sensing – IR25a acts with another IR to mediate detection of  
259 temperature increases.

260         While the present study focuses on the role of IR21a and IR25a in larval  
261 thermosensation, it is interesting to note that expression of both IR21a and IR25a  
262 has been detected in the thermoreceptors of the adult arista (Benton et al., 2009).  
263 Thus related mechanisms could contribute to thermosensory responses not only  
264 in the DOCCs, but also in other cellular contexts and life stages. Moreover, the  
265 presence of orthologs of IR21a and IR25a across a range of insects (Croset et al.,  
266 2010) raises the possibility that these IRs, along other members of the IR family,  
267 constitute a family of deeply-conserved thermosensors.

268

269

270 **Material and Methods:**

271 **Fly strains.** *Ir25a<sup>2</sup>* (Benton et al., 2009), *BAC{Ir25a<sup>+</sup>}* (Benton et al., 2009),  
272 *Ir8a<sup>1</sup>* (Benton et al., 2009), *Ir76b<sup>1</sup>* (Zhang et al., 2013), *Ir76b<sup>2</sup>* (Zhang et al.,  
273 2013), *R11FO2-Gal4* (Klein et al., 2015), *brv1<sup>L653stop</sup>* (Gallio et al., 2011),  
274 *brv2<sup>w205stop</sup>* (Gallio et al., 2011), *HC-Gal4* (Gallio et al., 2011), *UAS-GCaMP6m*  
275 (*P{20XUAS-IVS-GCaMP6m}attp2* and *P{20XUAS-IVS-GCaMP6m}attp2attP40*  
276 (Chen et al., 2013)), *UAS-GFP* (*p{10X UAS-IVS-Syn21-GFP-p10}attP2* (Pfeiffer et  
277 al., 2012)), *nSyb-Gal4* (*P{GMR57c10-Gal4}attP2*, (Pfeiffer et al., 2012)), and *y1*  
278 *P(act5c-cas9, w+) M(3xP3-RFP.attP)ZH-2A w\** (Port et al., 2014) were previously  
279 described.

280 In *Ir21a-Gal4*, sequences from -606 to +978 with respect to the *Ir21a*  
281 translational start site (chromosome 2L: 24173 – 25757, reverse complement) lie  
282 upstream of Gal4 protein-coding sequences. *UAS-Ir21a* contains the *Ir21a*  
283 primary transcript including introns (chromosome 2L: 21823-25155, reverse  
284 complement) placed under UAS control. The *{Ir21a<sup>+</sup>}* genomic rescue construct  
285 contains sequences from -1002 to +4439 with respect to the *Ir21a* translational  
286 start site (chromosome 2L: 26153-20712).

287 *Ir21a<sup>Δ1</sup>* was generated by FLP-mediated recombination between two FRT-  
288 containing transposon insertions (*PBac{PB}c02720* and *PBac{PB}c04017*) as  
289 described (Parks et al., 2004). *Ir21a<sup>123</sup>* was generated by transgene-based  
290 CRISPR-mediated genome engineering as described (Port et al., 2014), with an  
291 *Ir21a*-targeting gRNA (5'-CTGATTTGCGTTTACCTCGG) expressed under U6-3  
292 promoter control (dU6-3:gRNA) in the presence of *act-cas9* (Port et al., 2014).

293

294 **Behaviour.** Thermotaxis of early 2<sup>nd</sup> instar larvae was assessed over a 15 min  
295 period on a temperature gradient extending from 13.5 to 21.5°C over 22 cm  
296 (~0.36 °C/cm) as described (Klein et al., 2015).

297

298 **Calcium imaging.** Calcium imaging was performed as previously described for  
299 larvae (Klein et al., 2015). Pseudocolor images were created using the 16\_colors  
300 lookup table in ImageJ 1.43r. Adult calcium imaging was performed as described  
301 for larvae (Klein et al., 2015), with modifications to the temperature stimulus and  
302 sample preparation approach. Adult temperature stimulus ranged from 14 °C to  
303 30°C. Intact adult antennae with aristae attached were dissected and placed in fly  
304 saline (110 mM NaCl, 5.4 mM KCl, 1.9 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 20 mM NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, 15 mM  
305 tris(hydroxymethyl)aminomethane (Tris), 13.9 mM glucose, 73.7 mM sucrose,  
306 and 23 mM fructose, pH 7.2, (Brotz and Borst, 1996)) on a large cover slip (24  
307 mm x 50 mm) and then covered by a small cover slip (18 mm x 18 mm). The  
308 large cover slip was placed on top of a drop of glycerol on the temperature control  
309 stage.

310

311 **Immunohistochemistry.** Immunostaining was performed as described (Kang  
312 et al., 2012) using rabbit anti-Ir25a (1:100; (Benton et al., 2009)), mouse anti-  
313 GFP (1:200; Roche), goat anti-rat Cy3 (1:100; Jackson ImmunoResearch),  
314 donkey anti-mouse FITC (1:100; Jackson ImmunoResearch).

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317

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326

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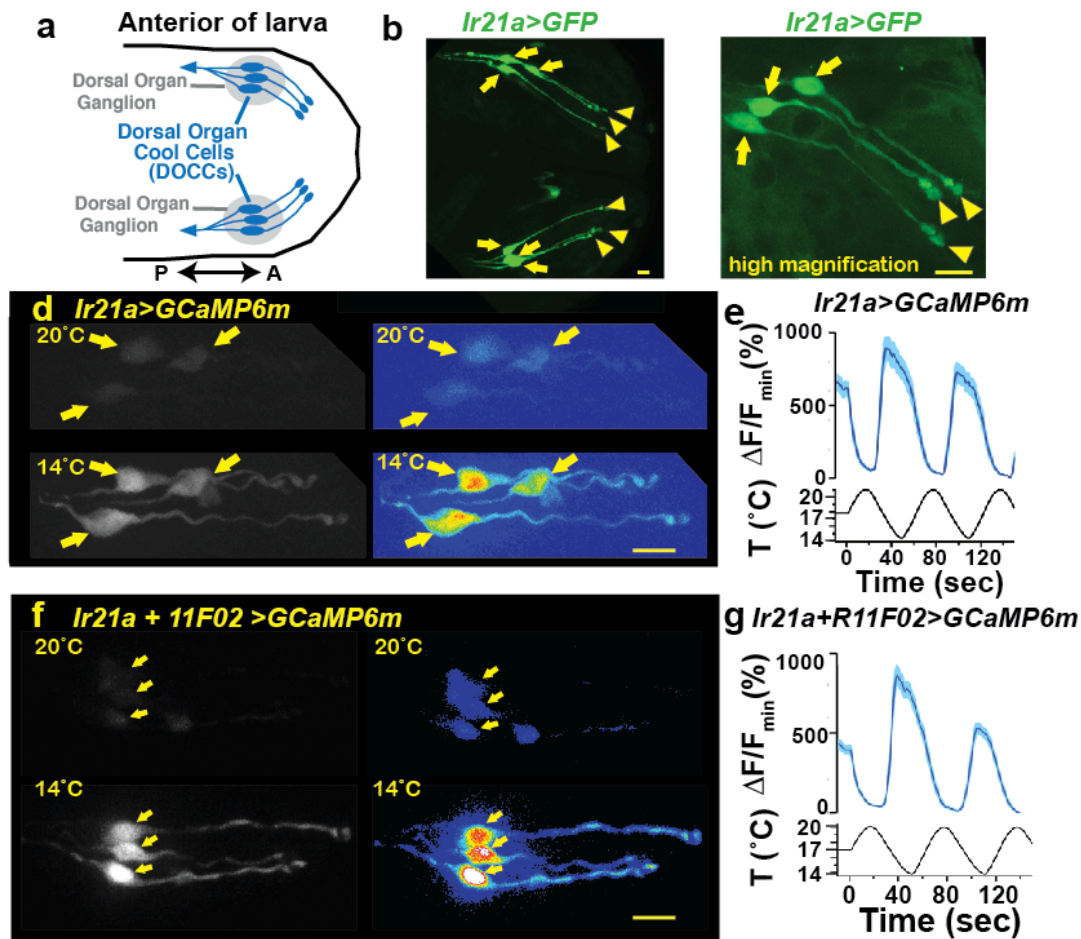
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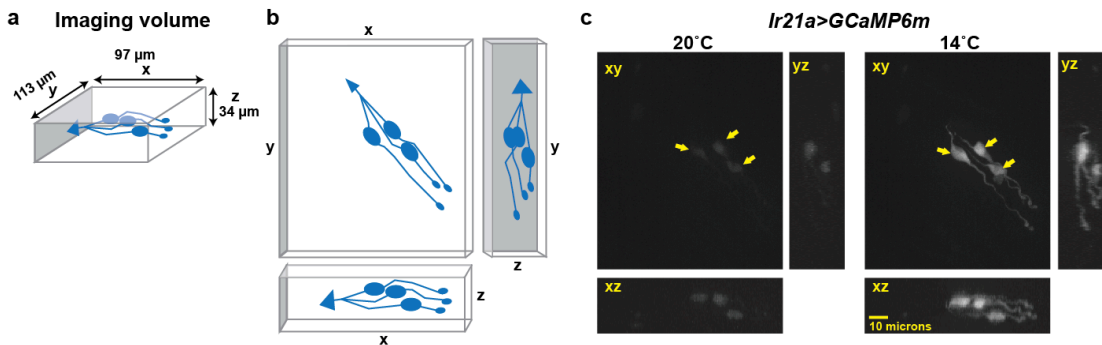
## Figure 1



418 **Figure 1: Dorsal Organ Cool Cells (DOCCs) express *Ir21a-Gal4*.** a)  
419 First/second instar larval anterior. Each Dorsal Organ Ganglion (grey) contains  
420 three DOCCs (blue). Anterior-Posterior axis denoted by double-headed arrow.  
421 b,c) *Ir21a-Gal4;UAS-GFP* (*Ir21a>GFP*) labels larval DOCCs. Arrows denote cell  
422 bodies and arrowheads dendritic bulbs. d) Temperature responses of *Ir21a-*  
423 *Gal4;UAS-GCaMP6m*-labeled DOCCs. Left panels, raw images; right panels,  
424 colors reflect fluorescence intensity. Arrows denote cell bodies. e) Fluorescence  
425 quantified as percent change in fluorescence intensity compared to minimum  
426 intensity. n=22 cells. f,g) Temperature-responses of *Ir21a-Gal4;R11F02-*  
427 *Gal4;UAS-GCaMP6m*-labeled DOCCs. n=26. Scale bars, 10 microns. Traces,  
428 average +/- SEM.

429

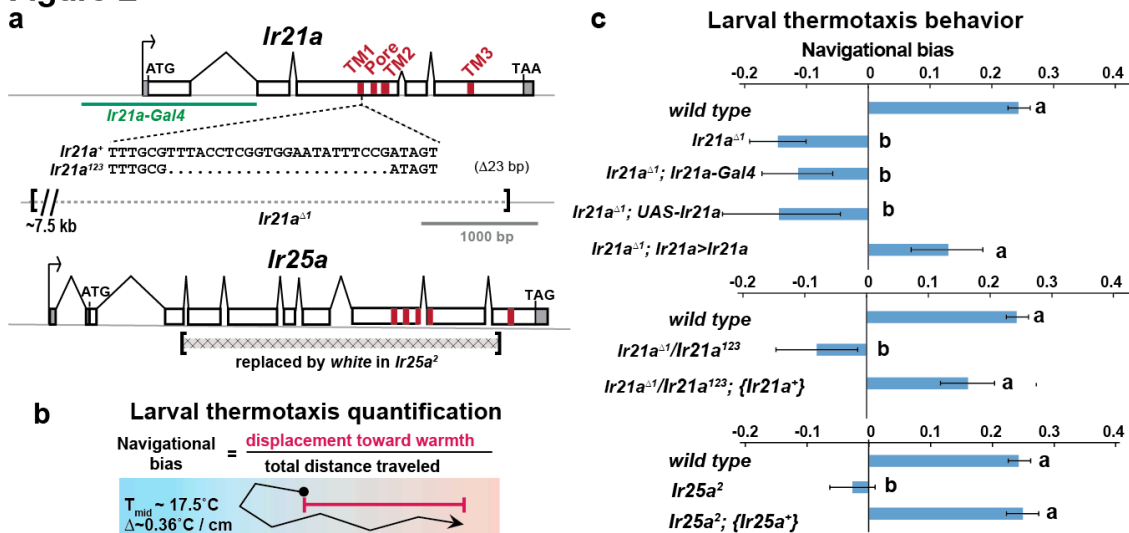
### Supplementary Figure 1



431 **Supplementary Figure 1: Calcium-imaging data are obtained as a**  
432 **three-dimensional imaging stack.** a) Dimensions of imaging volume.  
433 DOCCs depicted in blue. b, Maximum intensity projections used for visualizing  
434 fluorescence intensity. c, Representative image of maximum intensity projections  
435 of *Ir21a>GCaMP6m*-labeled DOCCs. DOCC cell bodies remain within imaging  
436 field throughout.  
437

438

**Figure 2**



439 **Figure 2: Larval cool avoidance requires *Ir21a* and *Ir25a*.** a) Sequences

440 alterations in *Ir21a* and *Ir25a* alleles. *Ir21a* regulatory sequences present in

441 *Ir21a-Gal4* are denoted in green and regions encoding transmembrane domains

442 (TMs) and pore region in red. b) Thermotaxis is quantified as navigational bias.

443 Larval cool avoidance was assessed on a  $\sim 0.36^\circ\text{C/cm}$  gradient extending from

444  $\sim 13.5^\circ\text{C}$  to  $\sim 21.5^\circ\text{C}$ , with a midpoint of  $\sim 17.5^\circ\text{C}$ . c) Cool avoidance requires *Ir21a*

445 and *Ir25a*. *Ir21a>Ir21a* denotes a wild type *Ir21a* transcript expressed under

446 *Ir21a-Gal4* control.  $\{Ir21a^+\}$  and  $\{Ir25a^+\}$  denote wild type genomic rescue

447 transgenes. Letters denote statistically distinct categories ( $\alpha=0.05$ ; Tukey

448 HSD). *wild type*, n=836 animals. *Ir21a<sup>Δ1</sup>*, n=74. *Ir21a<sup>Δ1</sup>; Ir21a-Gal4*, n=48.

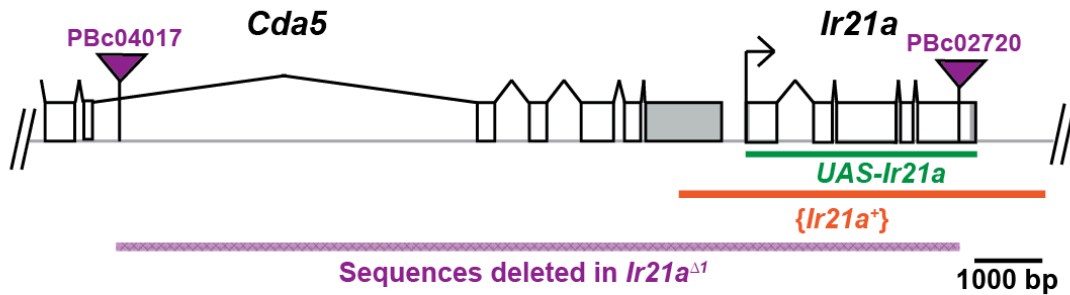
449 *Ir21a<sup>Δ1</sup>; UAS-Ir21a*, n=10. *Ir21a<sup>Δ1</sup>; Ir21a>Ir21a*, n= 88. *Ir21a<sup>Δ1</sup>/ Ir21a<sup>123</sup>*, n=71;

450 *Ir21a<sup>Δ1</sup>/ Ir21a<sup>123</sup>; {Ir21a<sup>+</sup>}* n=70; *Ir25a<sup>2</sup>*, n =100. *Ir25a<sup>2</sup>; {Ir25a<sup>+</sup>}* n= 247.

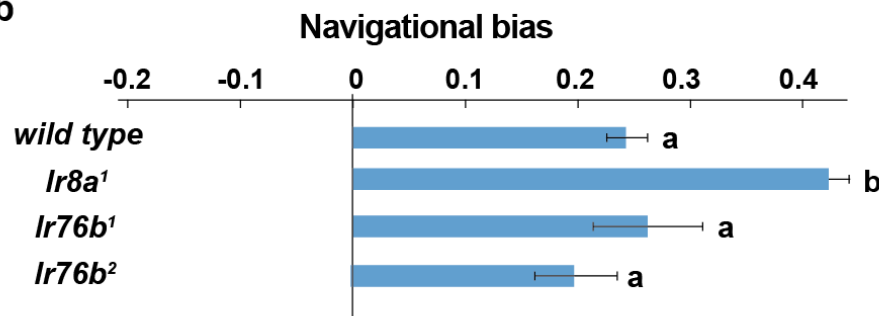
451

## Supplementary Figure 2

a



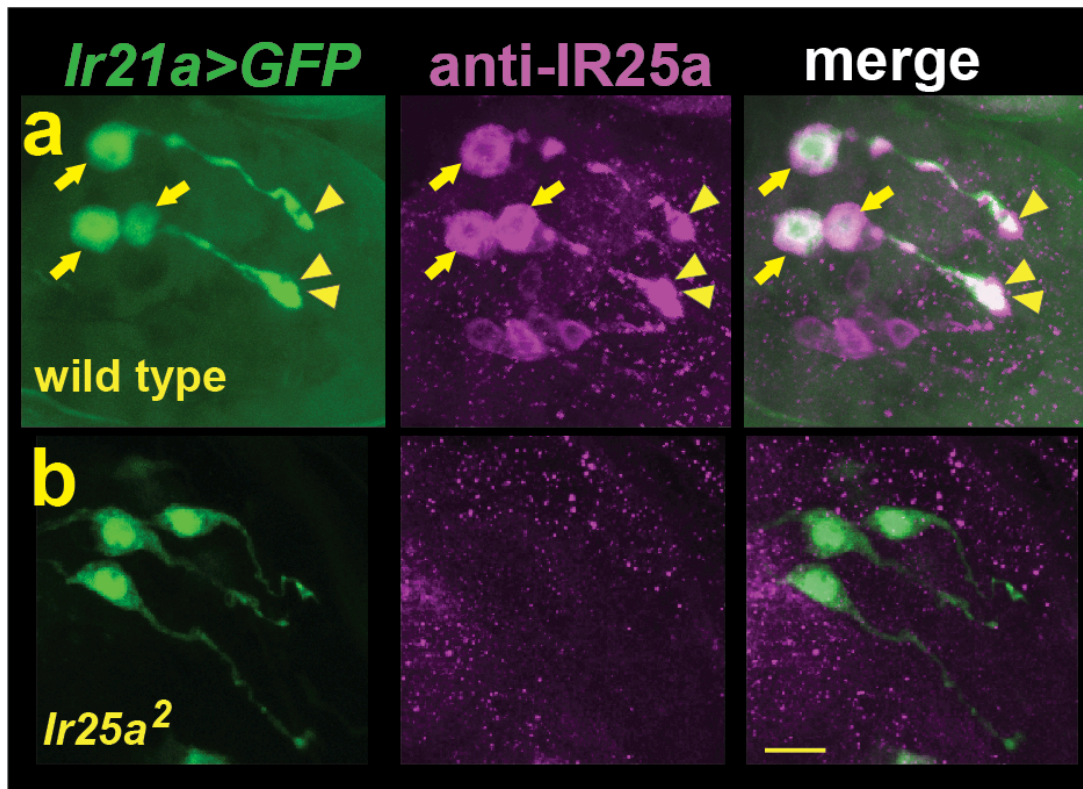
b



452

453 **Supplementary Figure 2: Structure of *Ir21a* locus and analysis of**  
454 **thermotaxis in *Ir8a* and *Ir76b* mutants.** a) *Cda5*/*Ir21a* genomic region,  
455 denoting positions of the FRT-containing transposon insertions used to generate  
456 *Ir21a*<sup>Δ1</sup> (PBc04017 and PBc02720), the sequences deleted in *Ir21a*<sup>Δ1</sup>, the *Ir21a*  
457 sequences present in the UAS-*Ir21a* rescue construct and the sequences present  
458 in the {*Ir21*<sup>+</sup>} genomic rescue construct. Untranslated regions are in gray. b)  
459 Larval thermotaxis of *Ir8a* and *Ir76b* mutants quantified as navigational bias.  
460 Neither *Ir8a* nor *Ir76b* is required for cool avoidance; *Ir8a* mutants show  
461 enhanced cool avoidance compared to *wild type*. Letters denote statistically  
462 distinct categories (alpha=0.05; Tukey HSD). *wild type*, n=836 animals. *Ir8a*,  
463 n=166; *Ir76b*<sup>1</sup>, n=96, *Ir76b*<sup>2</sup>, n= 100.

## Figure 3

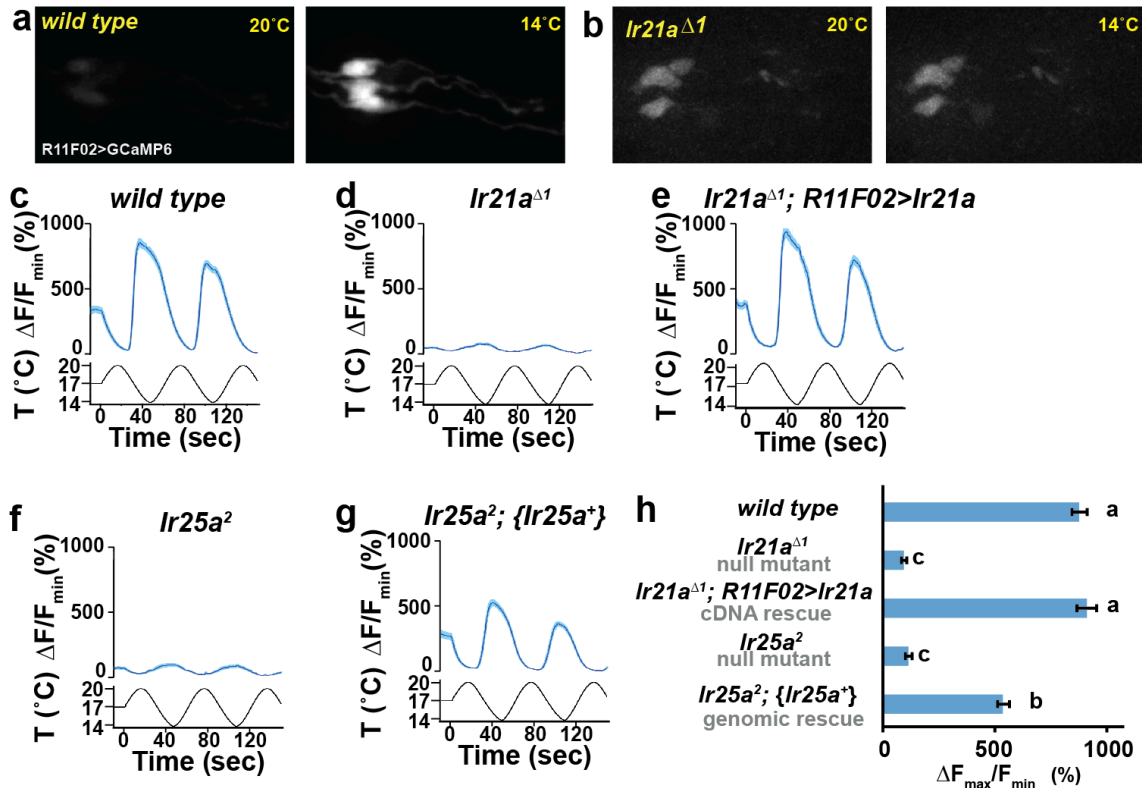


464

465 **Figure 3: DOCCs express IR25a.** a) Left panel, *Ir21a*>*GFP*-labeled DOCCs.  
466 Middle panel, IR25a protein expression in dorsal organ. Right panel, *Ir21a*>*GFP*-  
467 labeled DOCCs express IR25a protein. Arrows denote DOCC cell bodies and  
468 arrowheads DOCC dendritic bulbs. b) IR25a immunostaining is not detected in  
469 *Ir25a*<sup>2</sup> null mutants. Scale bar, 10 microns.

470

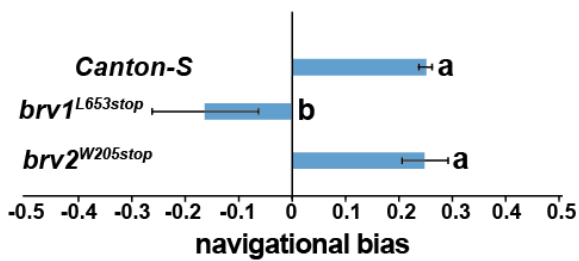
**Figure 4**



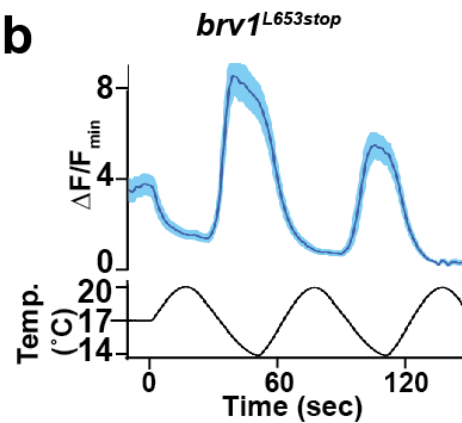
472 **Figure 4: DOCC cool responses require *Ir21a* and *Ir25a*.** DOCC  
 473 responses monitored using *R11F02>GCaMP6m*. DOCCs exhibit robust cool-  
 474 responsive increases in fluorescence (a,c), which are dramatically reduced in  
 475 *Ir21a* (b,d) and *Ir25a* (f) mutants. e) *Ir21a* transcript expression under *R11F02*-  
 476 *Gal4* control rescues the *Ir21a* mutant defect. g) Introduction of an *Ir25a*  
 477 genomic rescue transgene rescues the *Ir25a* mutant defect. h) Ratio of  
 478 fluorescence at 14°C versus 20°C. Letters denote statistically distinct categories,  
 479 alpha=0.01, Tukey HSD. Scale bars, 10 microns. Traces, average +/- SEM. *wild*  
 480 *type*, n=33 cells. *Ir21a $\Delta 1$* , n= 58. *Ir21a $\Delta 1$ ; R11F02>Ir21a*, n=32. *Ir25a<sup>2</sup>*, n=43.  
 481 *Ir25a<sup>2</sup>; {Ir25a<sup>+</sup>}*, n=30.  
 482

## Supplementary Figure 4

a

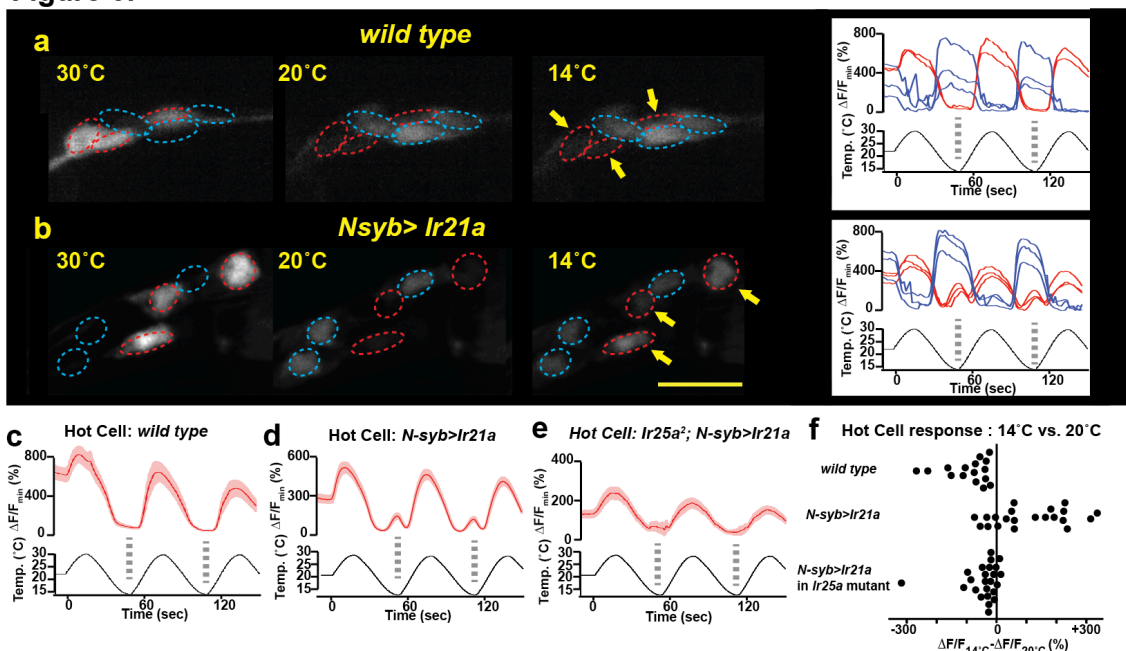


b



485 **Supplementary Figure 4: Analysis of putative null mutants of *brv1***  
486 **and *brv2*.** a) *brv1* but not *brv2* mutants exhibit defects in larval cool avoidance.  
487 Thermotaxis quantified as navigational bias. Letters denote statistically distinct  
488 categories (alpha=0.05; Tukey HSD). *wild type*, n=836 animals. *brv1<sup>L653stop</sup>*, n  
489 =43. *brv2<sup>W205stop</sup>*, n =99. b) *Ir21a>GCaMP6m*-labelled DOCCs respond to cooling  
490 in *brv1<sup>L653stop</sup>* mutants. n= 35 cells.  
491

**Figure 5:**



492

493 **Figure 5: IR21a expression confers cool-sensitivity upon warmth-**

494 **responsive Hot Cell neurons.** a,b) Temperature responses of *wild type* (a) or

495 *N-syb>Ir21a*-expressing (b) thermoreceptors in the adult arista, monitored with

496 *N-syb>GCaMP6m*. Cell bodies of warmth-responsive Hot Cells outlined in red

497 and cool-responsive Cold Cells in blue. Arrows highlight Hot Cells at 14°C. Traces

498 of individual Hot Cell and Cold Cell responses shown at right. c-e) Fluorescence

499 of Hot Cells in response to sinusoidal 14°C to 30°C temperature stimulus,

500 quantified as percent  $\Delta F/F_{\min}$ . Dotted lines denote temperature minima. Traces,

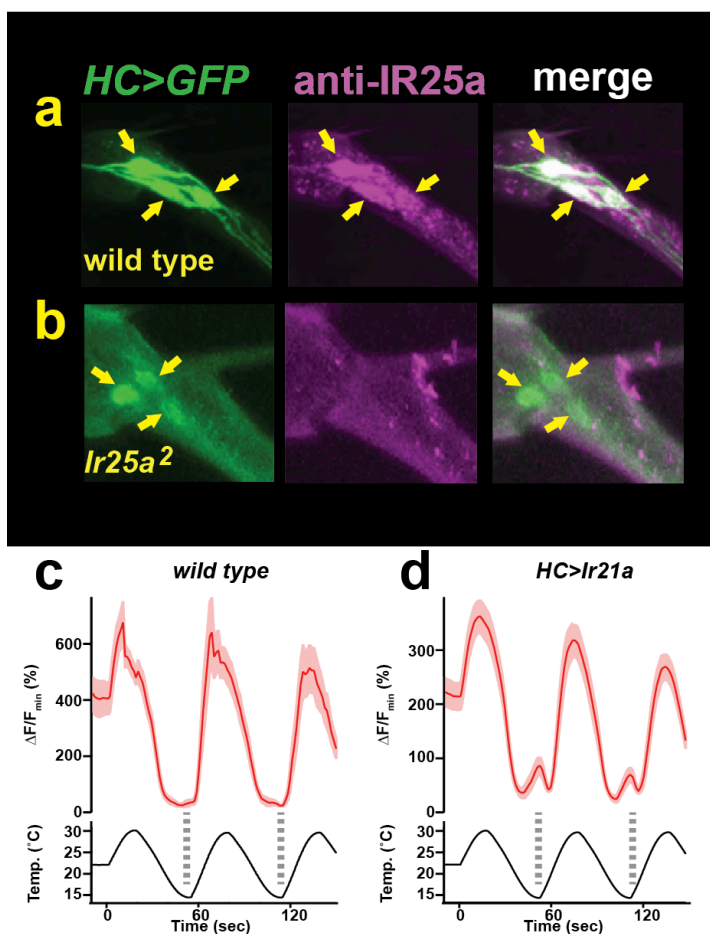
501 average  $\pm$  SEM. f) Difference between  $\Delta F/F_{\min}$  at 14°C and  $\Delta F/F_{\min}$  at 20°C for

502 each cell imaged. Responses of *N-syb>Ir21a* cells were statistically distinct from

503 both *wild type* and *Ir25a<sup>2</sup>; N-syb>Ir21a* ( $p < 0.01$ , Steel-Dwass test). Scale bar, 10

504 microns. *wild type*,  $n = 16$  cells. *N-syb>Ir21a*,  $n = 16$ . *Ir25a<sup>2</sup>; N-syb>Ir21a*,  $n = 20$ .

## Supplementary Figure 5



505

506 **Supplementary Figure 5: Hot Cell neurons express Ir25a protein. a,b)**

507 Left panel, HC>GFP-labeled Hot Cell neurons. Middle panel, IR25a

508 immunostaining. Right panel, HC>GFP and Ir25a are co-expressed in the Hot

509 Cell neurons. Arrows indicate Hot Cell neuron cell bodies. Specific IR25a

510 immunostaining is observed in wild type HC neurons, but is absent in *Ir25a* null

511 mutants (b). c, d) Temperature responses of *wild type* (c) or *HC>Ir21a*-

512 expressing (d) thermoreceptors in the adult arista, monitored using

513 *HC>GCaMP6m*. Dotted lines denote temperature minima. Traces, average +/-

514 SEM. n=4 wild type cells, n=25 cells *HC>IR21a*.