

# AFOSR Annual Report: The Cronin Laboratory

RICKESH N PATEL

[rickp1@umbc.edu](mailto:rickp1@umbc.edu)

THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BALTIMORE COUNTY



UMBC

AN HONORS UNIVERSITY IN

# Mantis Shrimp



## Burrows

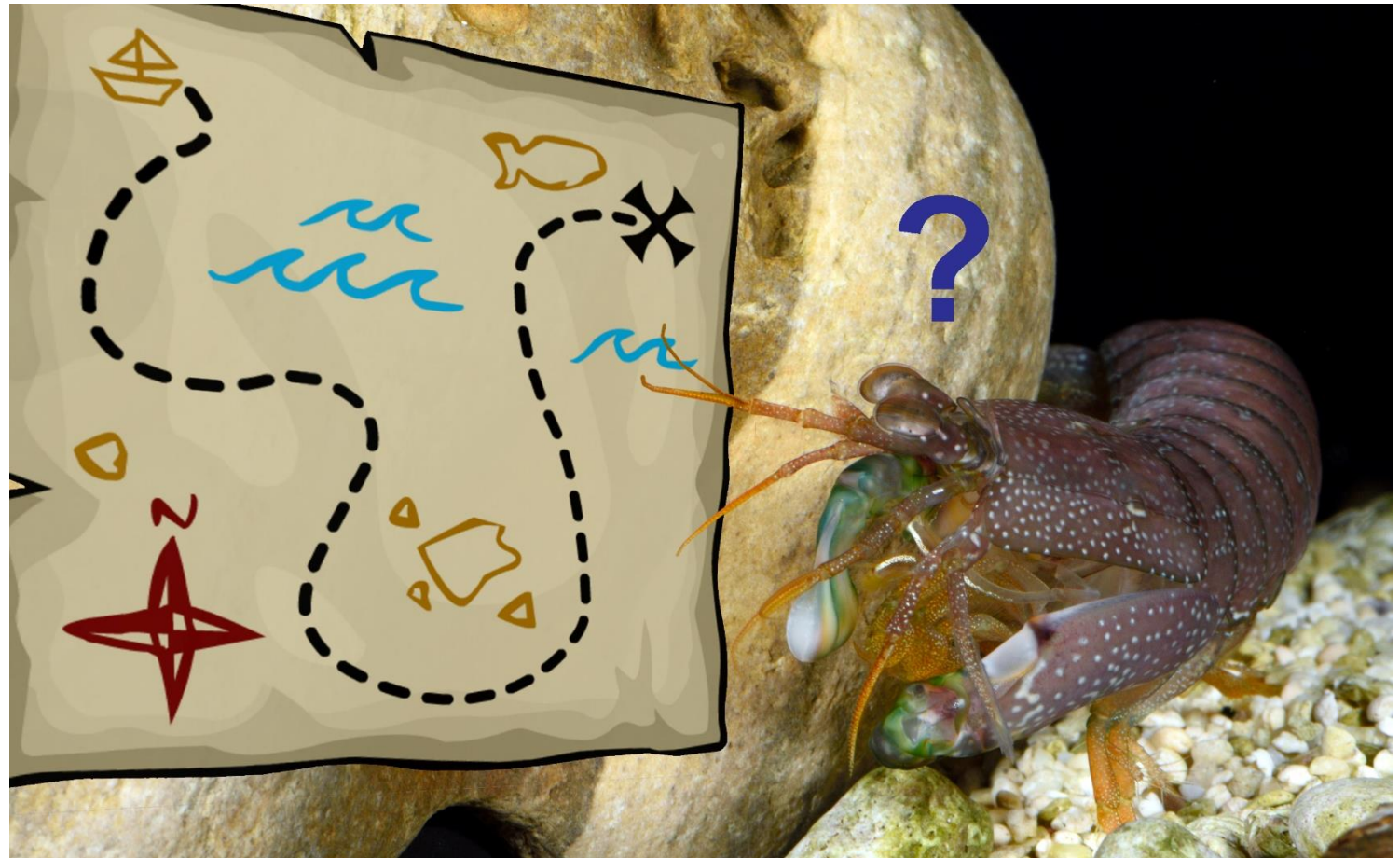


*Neogonodactylus oerstedii* travel up to 4m away from their burrows during foraging. (Animals 30-50 mm long)

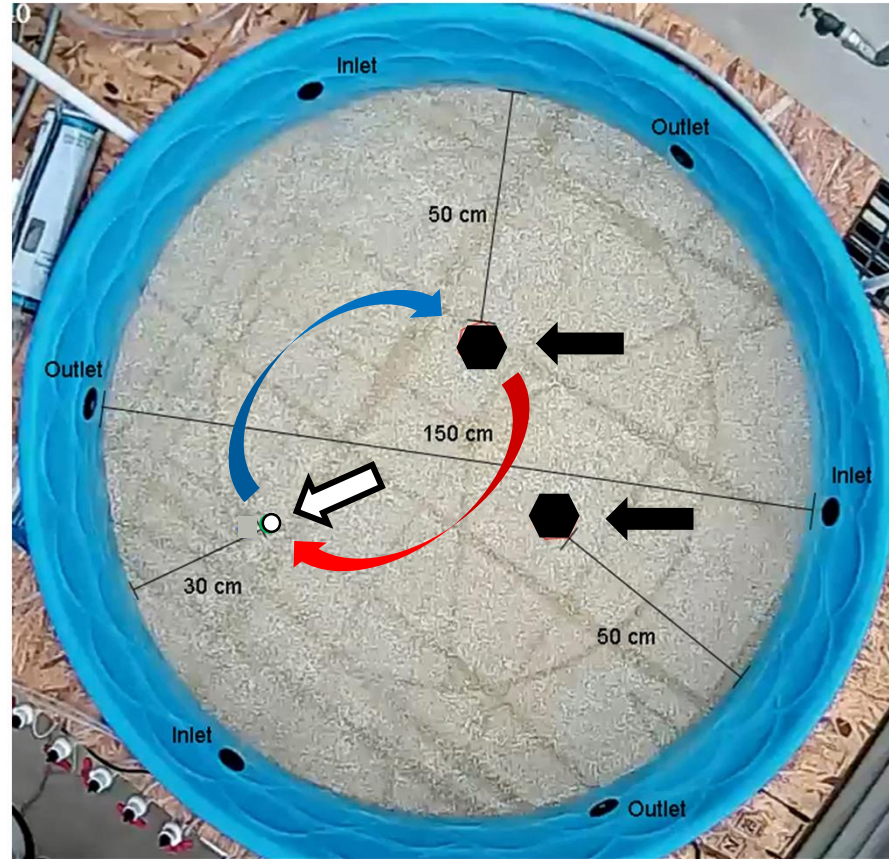


*Neogonodactylus oerstedii*  
defending burrow

How do Mantis Shrimp  
Navigate back to their  
burrows after foraging  
excursions ?



## Navigation Arenas



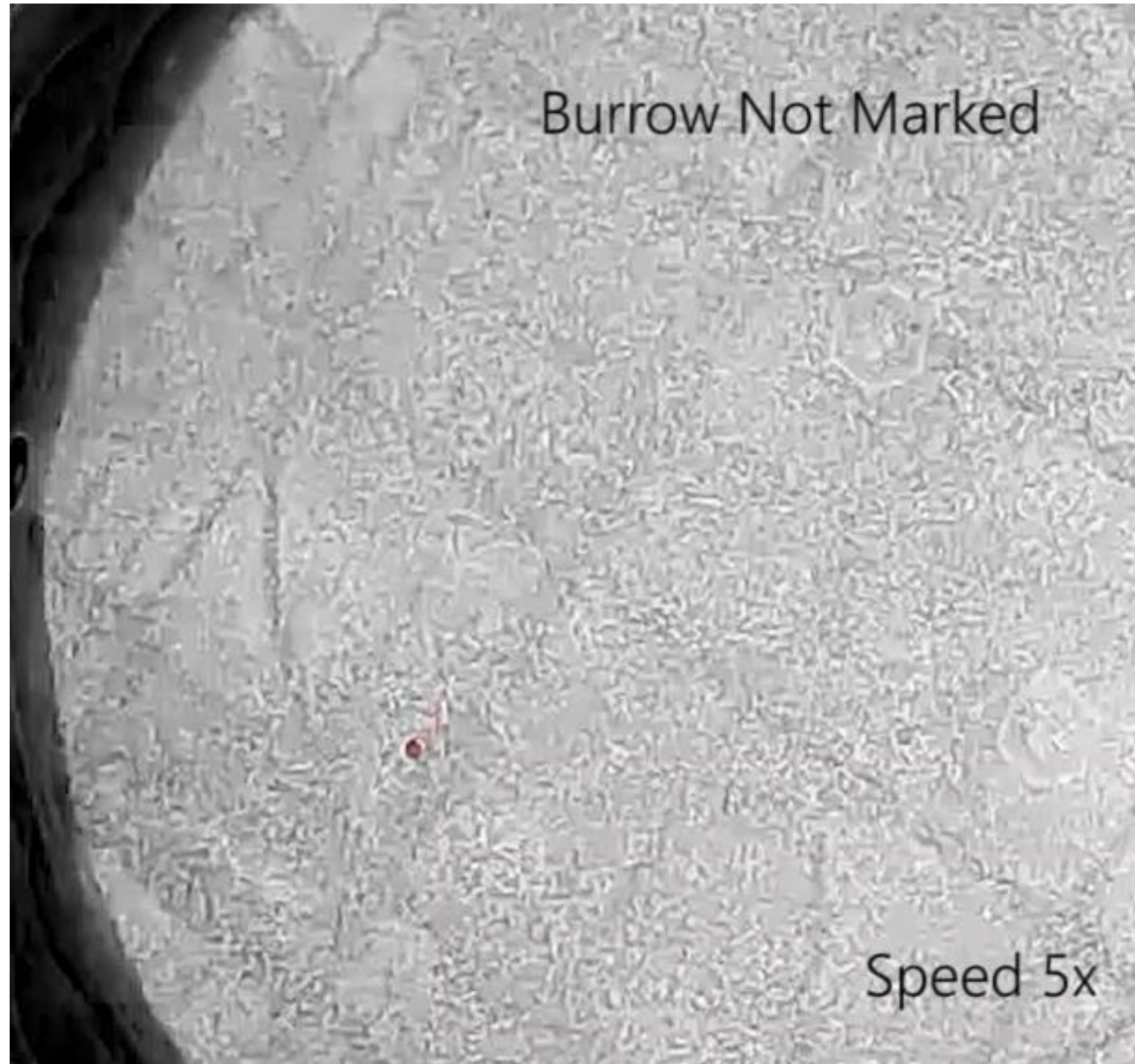
White: Burrow    Black: Food Placement

Arenas were filled with sand and salt water

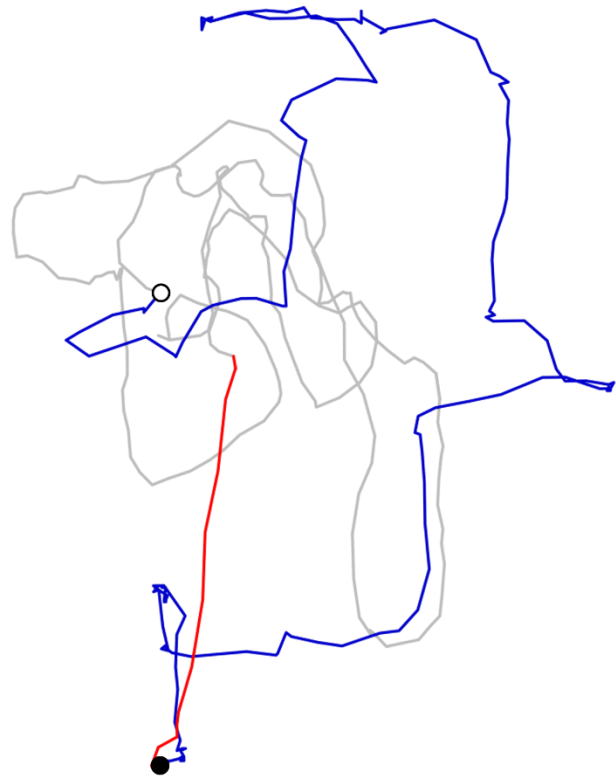
Burrows were visually unidentifiable at range.

Empty snail shells were stuffed with food pieces and placed at fixed locations

Outward and homeward paths between the burrow and these fixed locations were observed.



Not Manipulated



outward path

homeward path before  
search behavior



n=13

25 cm

burrow location

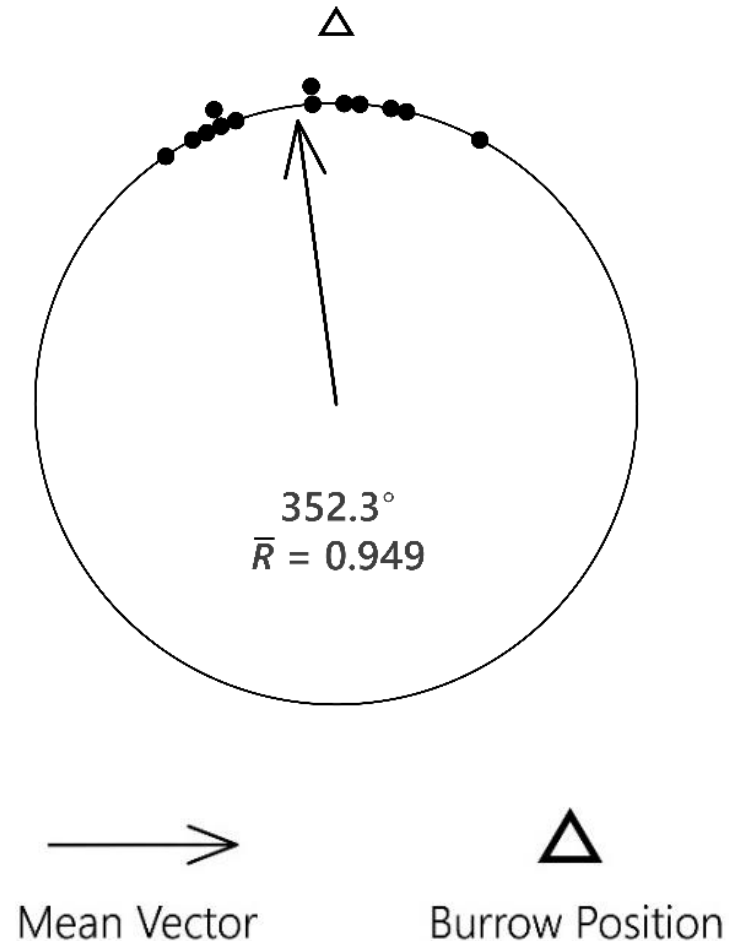
food location

## Not Manipulated

Homeward paths were generally oriented towards the burrow.

Initial Homeward  
Path Orientations  
(1/3 beeline distance)

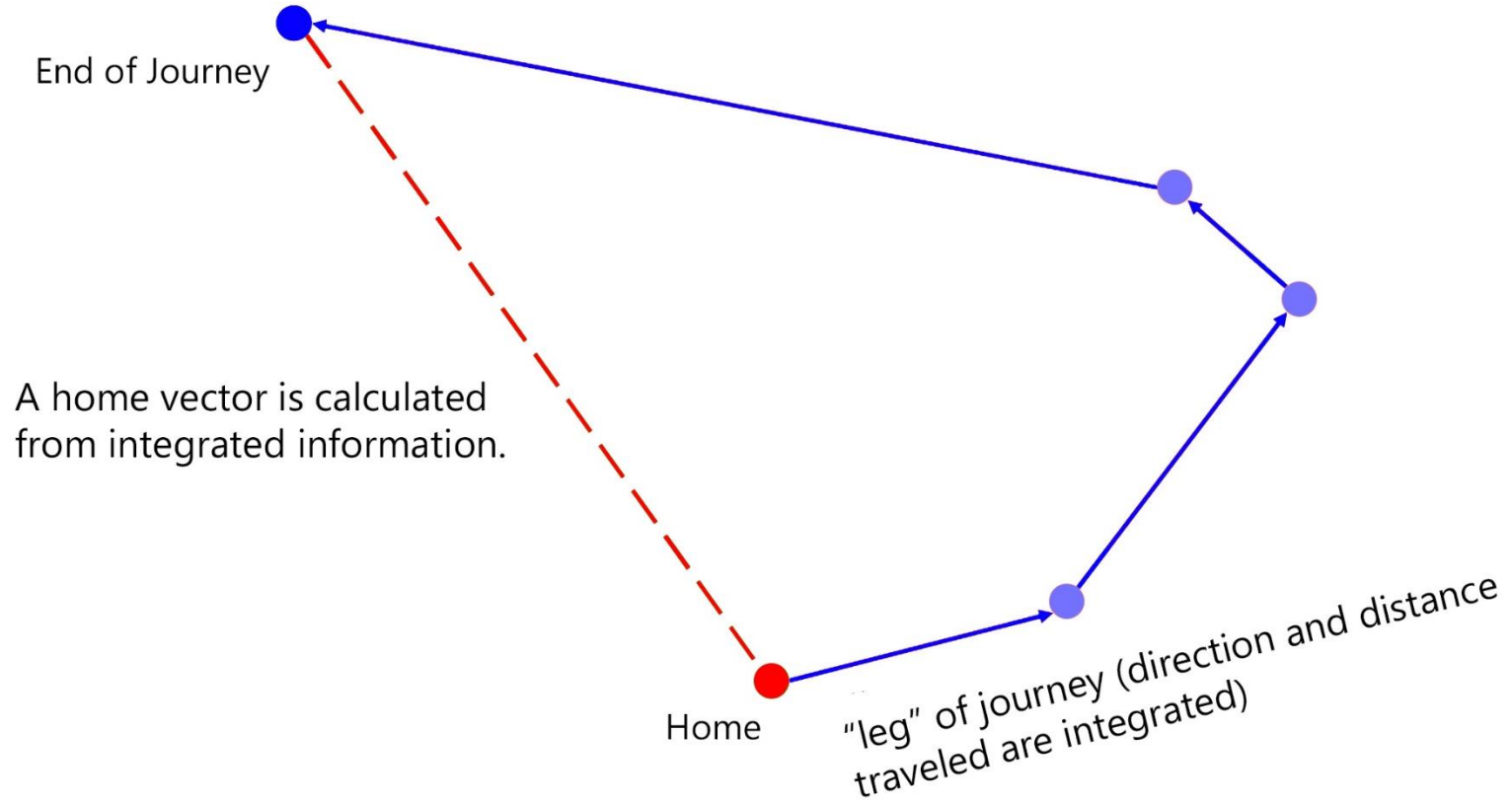
$p < 0.001$





# Path Integration

( Dead Reckoning )



## Experimental Conditions

Not Manipulated

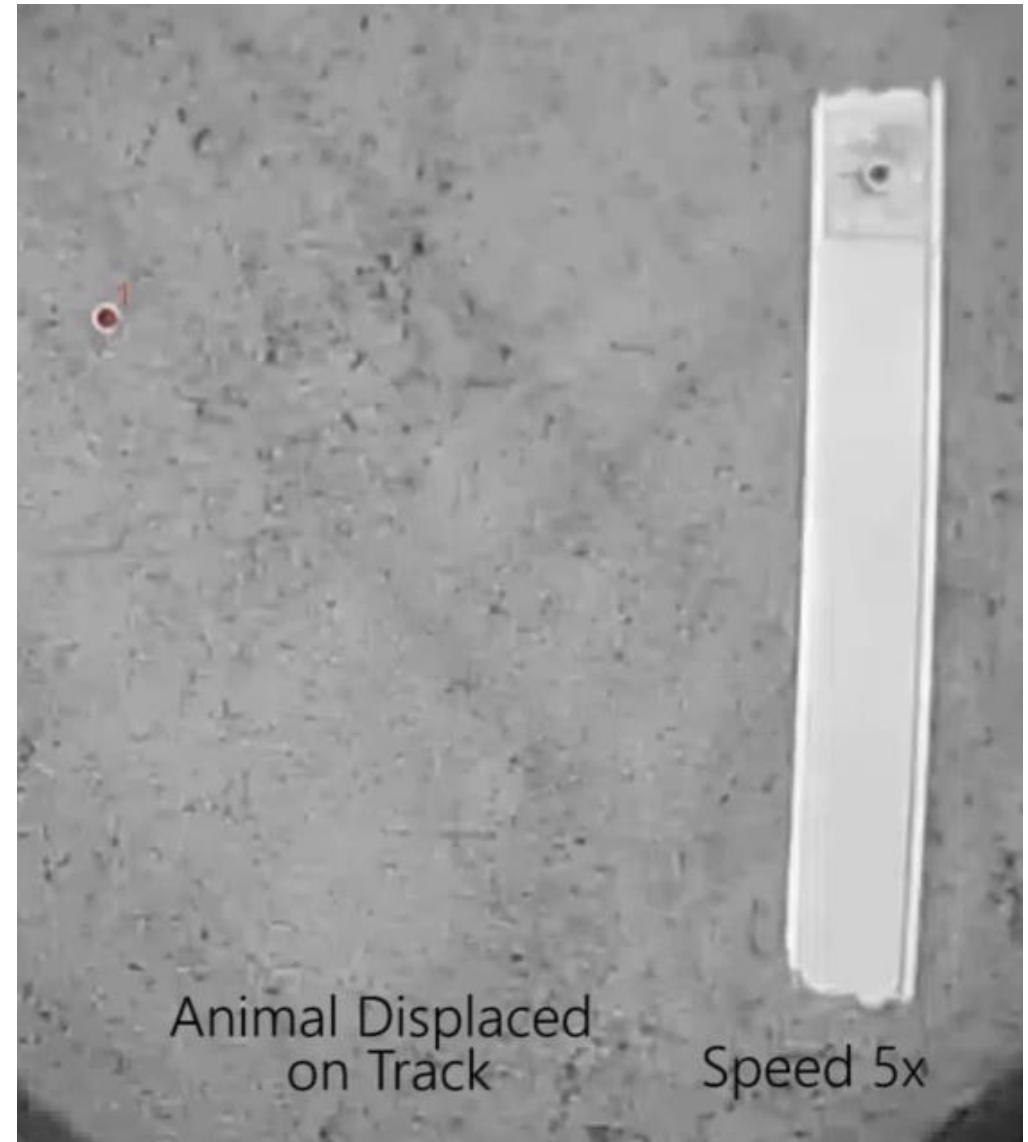
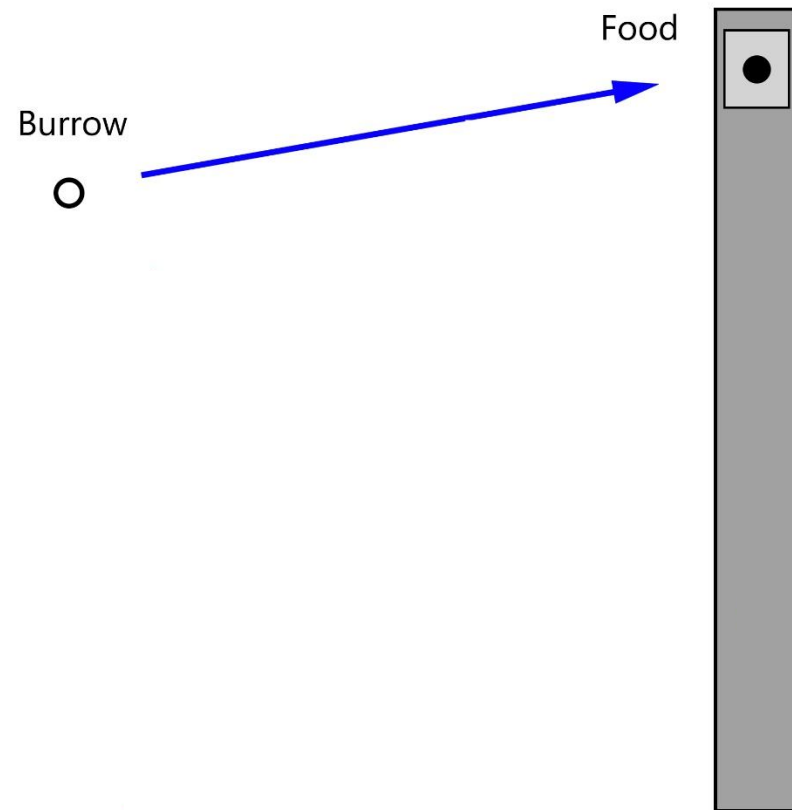


Animal Displaced

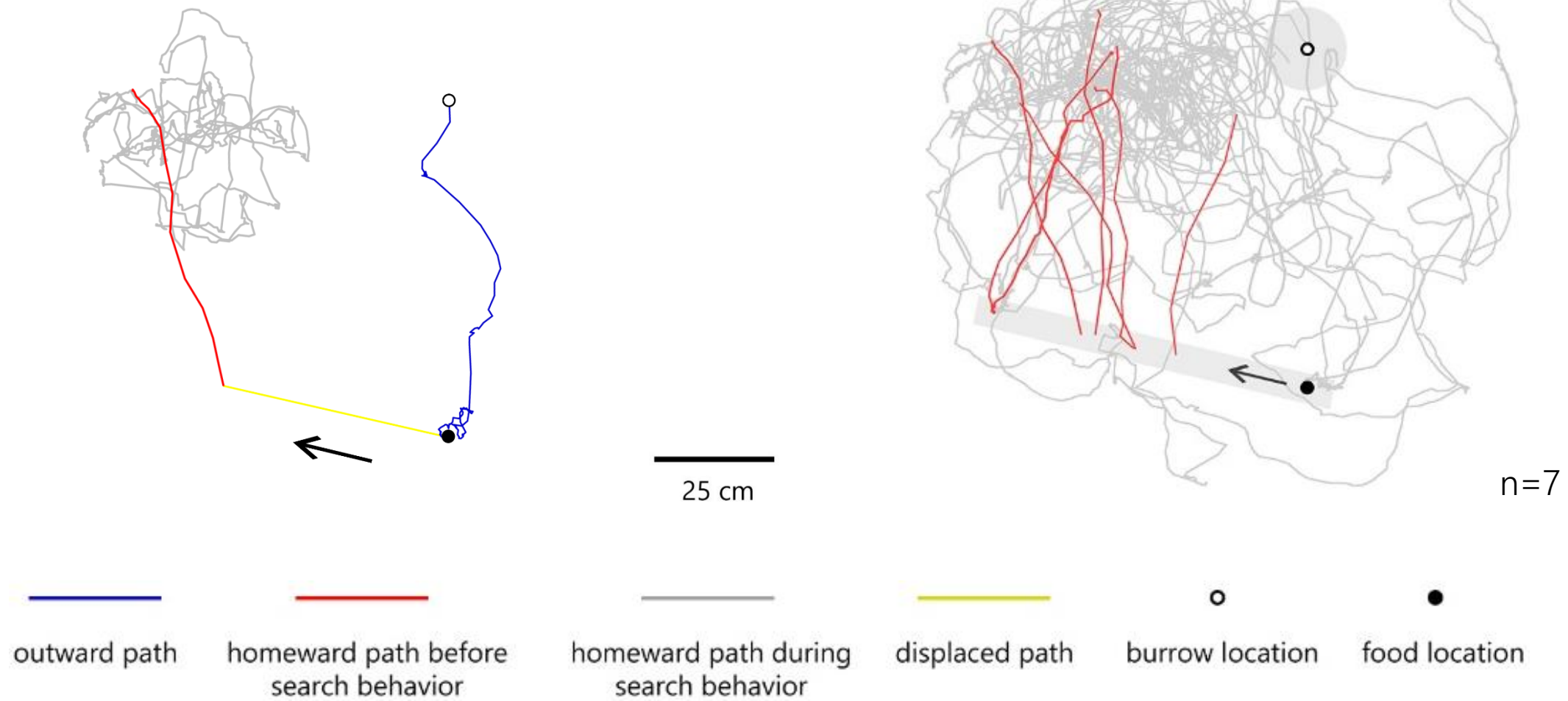


During displacement experiments, animals were displaced on a platform along a track.

# Animal Displaced

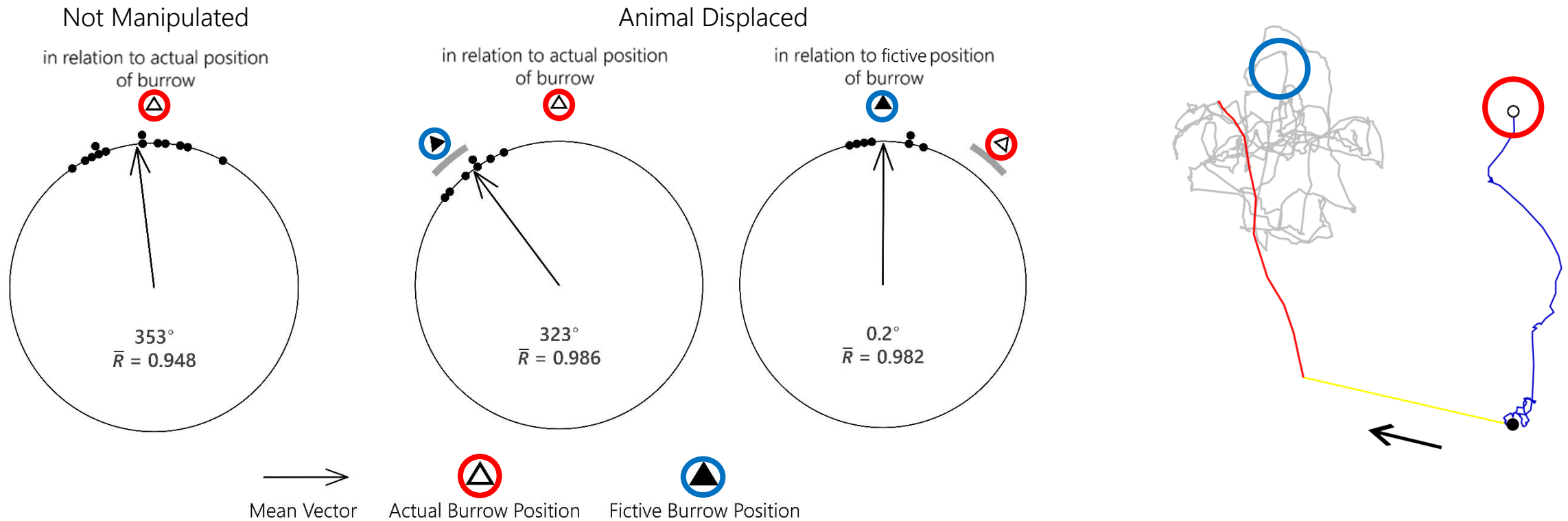


## Animal Displaced



# RESULTS

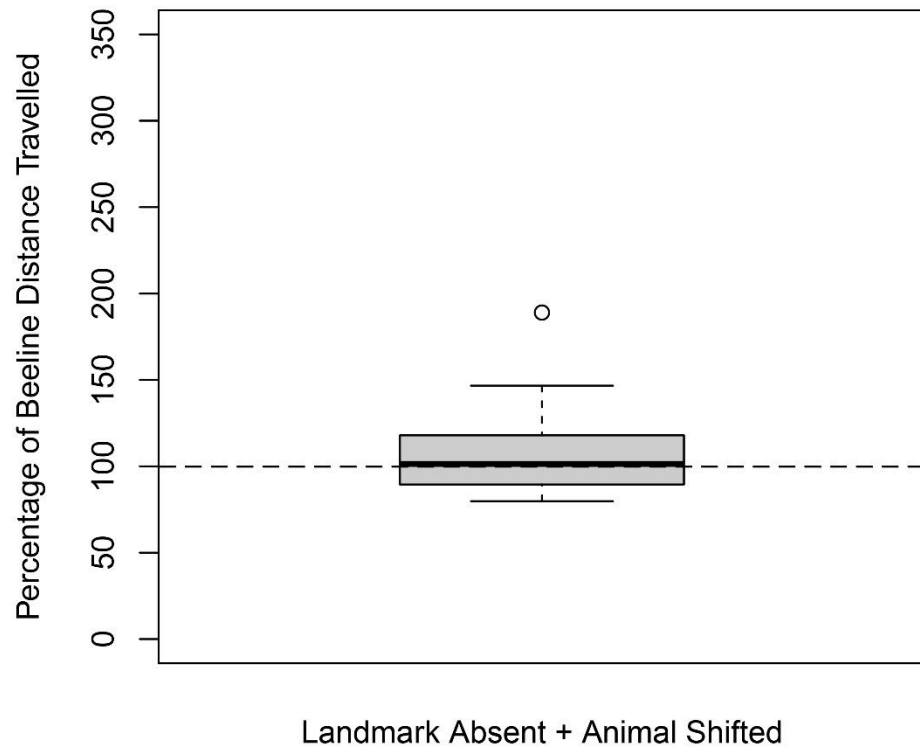
When animals were displaced, homeward paths were oriented in the direction of the fictive burrow's position rather than towards the actual direction of the burrow.



Not Manipulated vs. Animal Displaced (actual burrow):  $p < 0.001$   
Not Manipulated vs. Animal Displaced (fictive burrow):  $p > 0.3$

# RESULTS

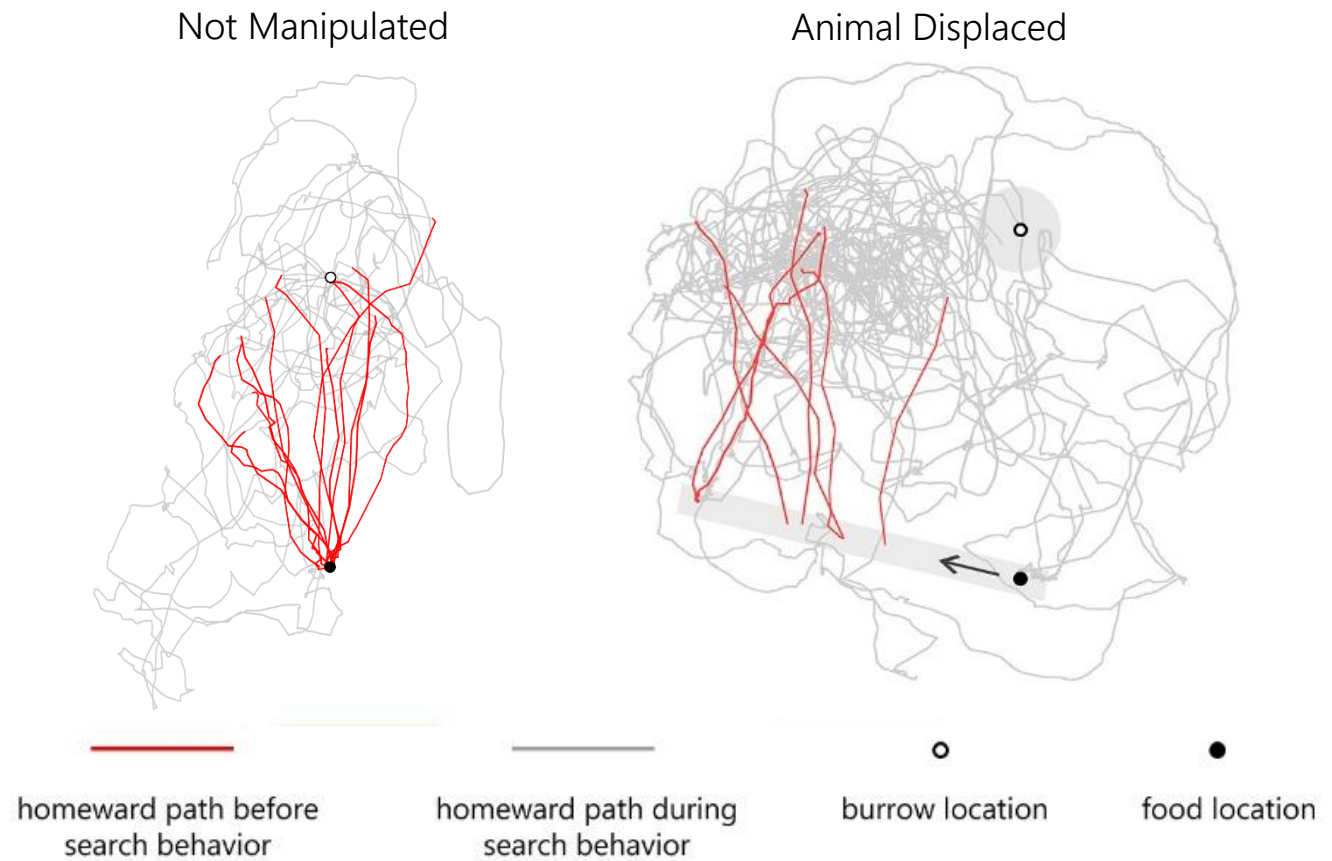
Homeward path lengths were similar in length to the beeline distance to the burrow before search behaviors were initiated.



Indistinguishable from  
 $\pm 15\%$  Beeline Distance

$p < 0.05$

$n = 20$



---

How are mantis shrimp orienting during path  
integration ?

## Path Integration



Compass

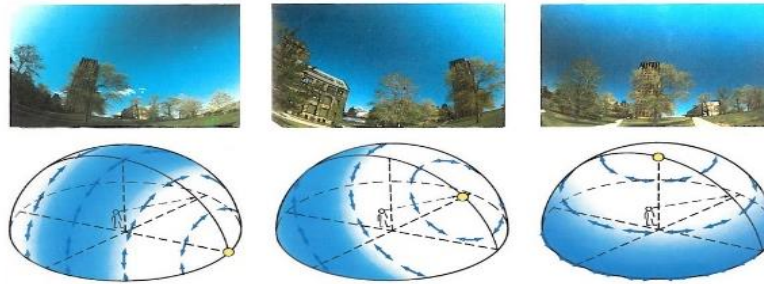


Odometer

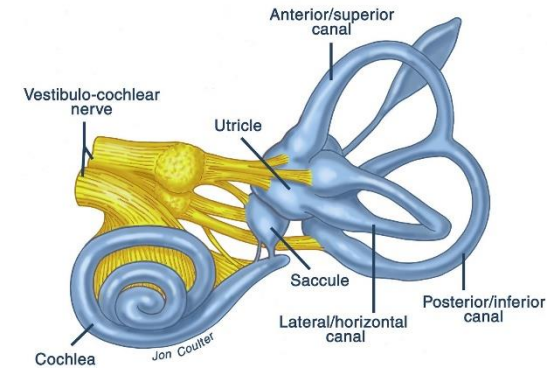
Sun Compass

Celestial Polarization Compass

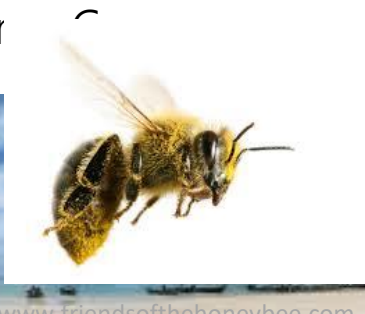
Inertial Compass



Adapted from Waterman, 1989



Panorax



www.nature.com

www.friendsofthehoneybee.com

Wikimedia Commons



Compass



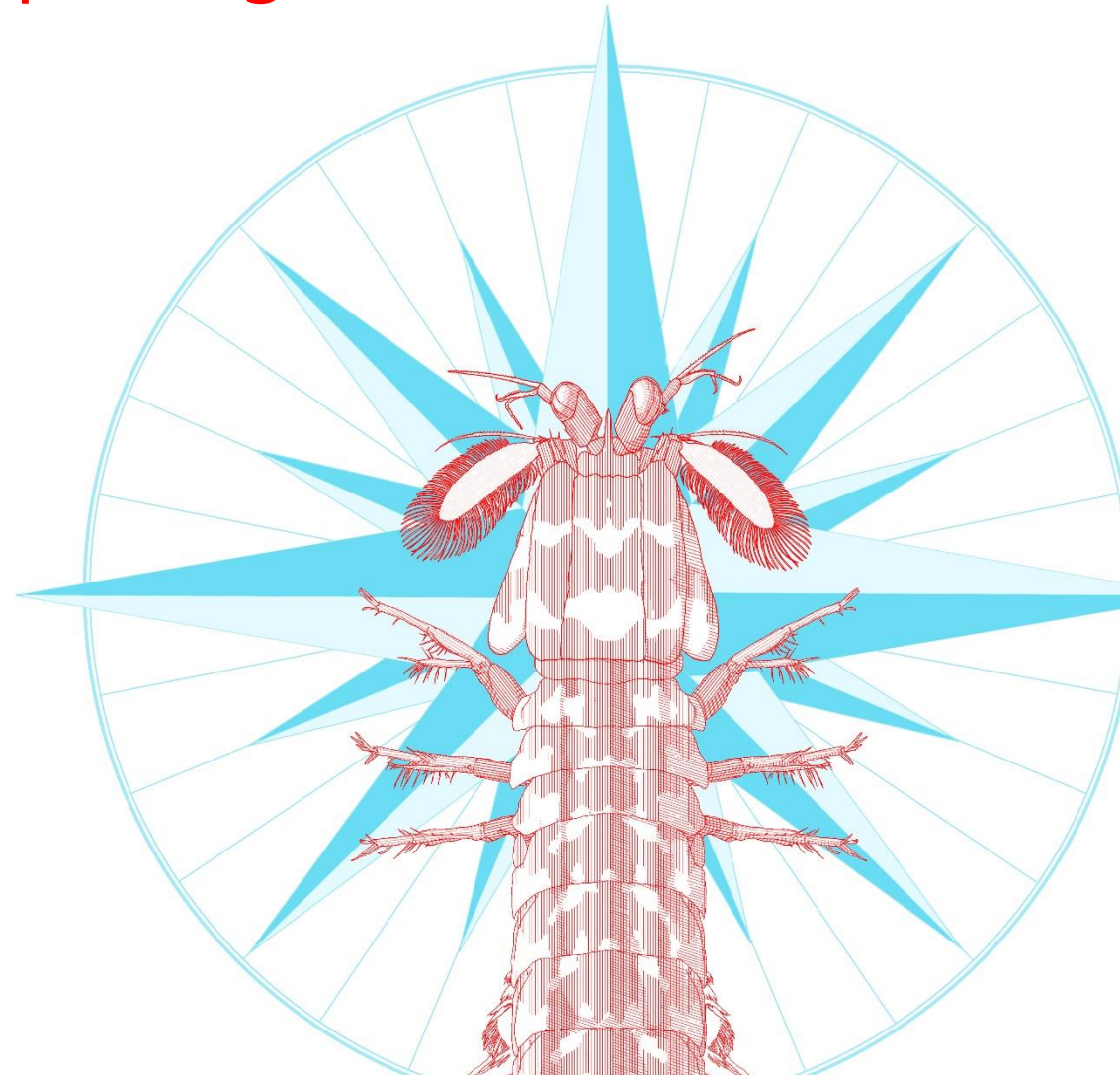
Online Science Mail



## What Compasses are Mantis shrimp using for orientation ?

**Allothetic (External) Compass:** informed by externally anchored stimuli (ex. celestial compasses, magnetic compass)

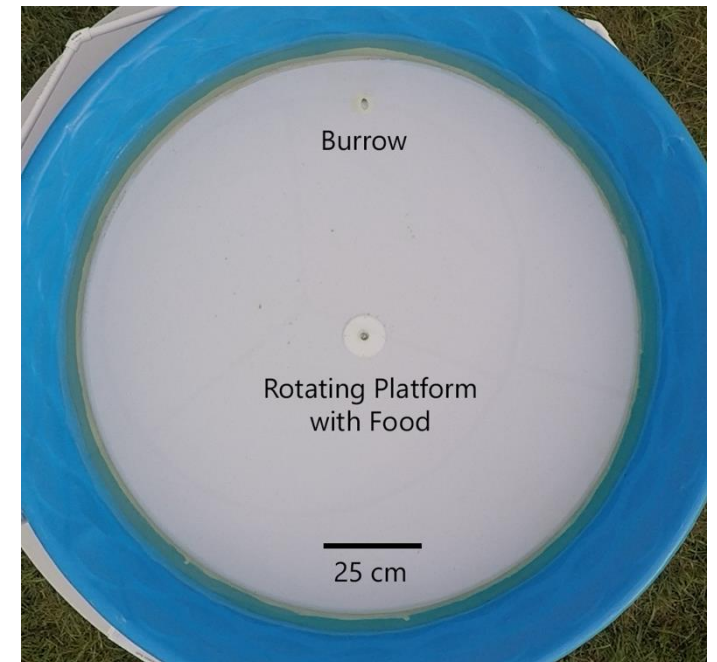
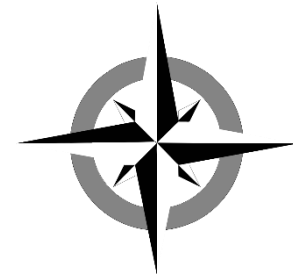
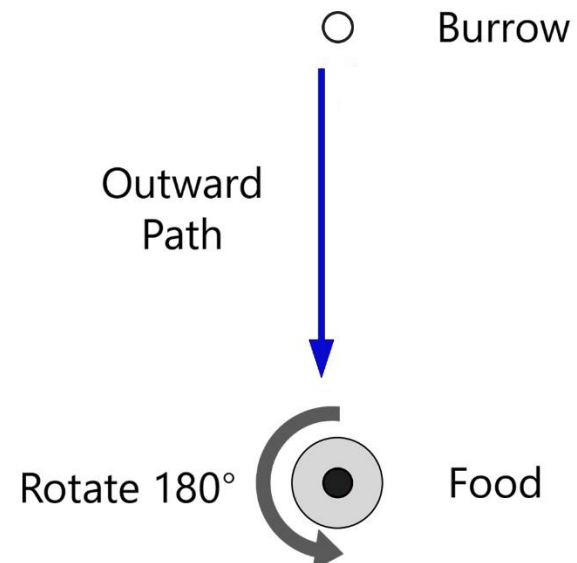
**Idiothetic (Internal) Compass:** informed by stimuli anchored in the body (ex. proprioceptive compass informed by the vestibular system in mammals)



# Navigation Arenas



## COMPASS- allothetic or idiothetic?



# Environmental Conditions

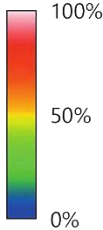
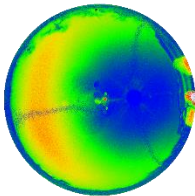


Clear Skies

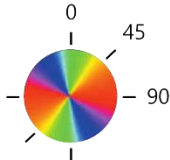
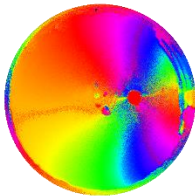
Photograph with Polarizer



Percent Polarization

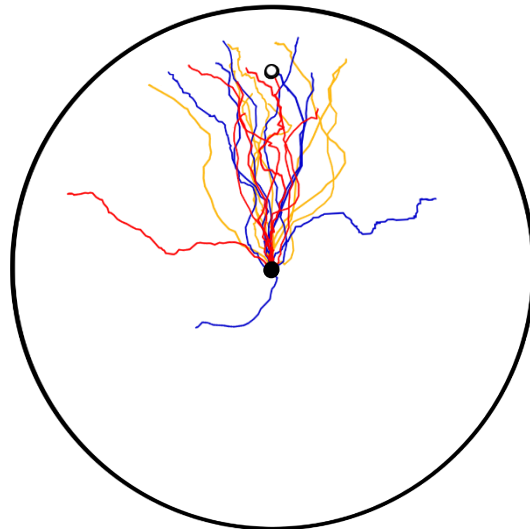


e-Vector Angle

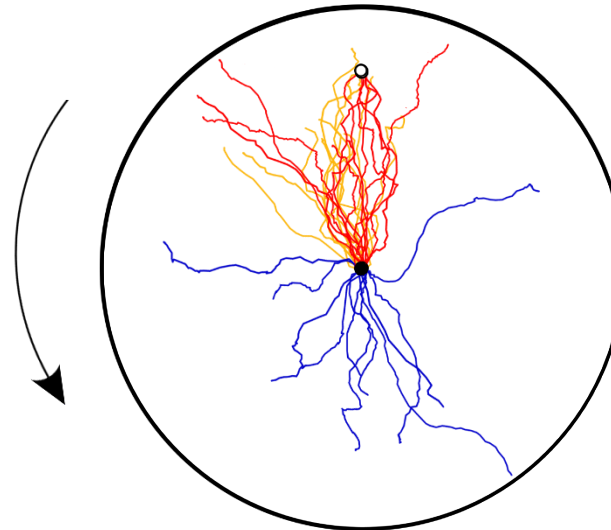


## Outdoor Compass Experiments: Homeward Path Tracings

Not Manipulated



Animal Rotated 180°



Clear Skies



Partly Cloudy Skies  
Sun Covered by Clouds



Overcast Skies



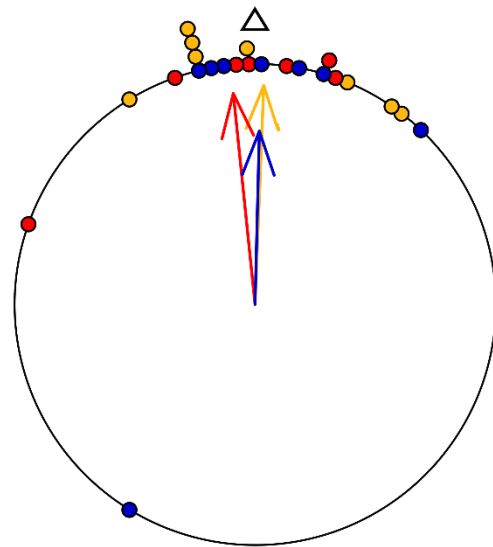
Burrow Location



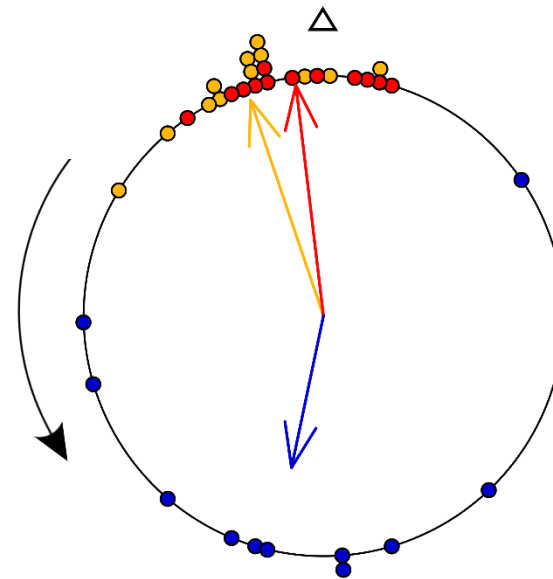
Food Location

# Outdoor Compass Experiments: Homeward Path Orientations

Not Manipulated



Animal Rotated 180°



All groups significantly oriented ( $p < 0.01$ )



Clear Skies



Partly Cloudy Skies  
Sun Covered by Clouds



Overcast Skies



Direction of Burrow

# Outdoor Compass Experiments

Allothetic Compasses are Celestial

Celestial Compass:

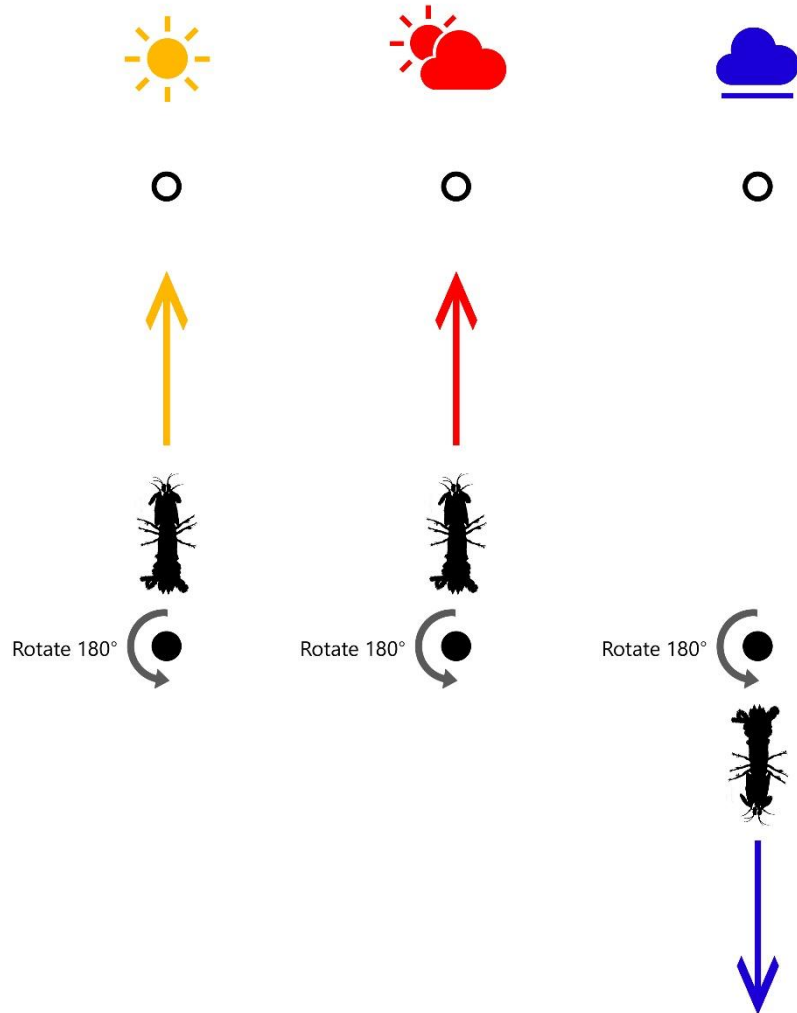
Solar azimuth?

Celestial Compass:

Celestial polarization patterns? Celestial gradients?

Idiothetic Compass:

Accelerometers? Optic flow?



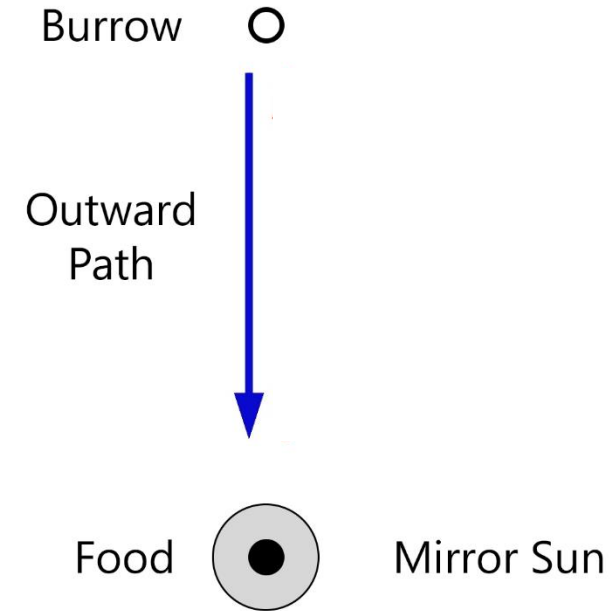
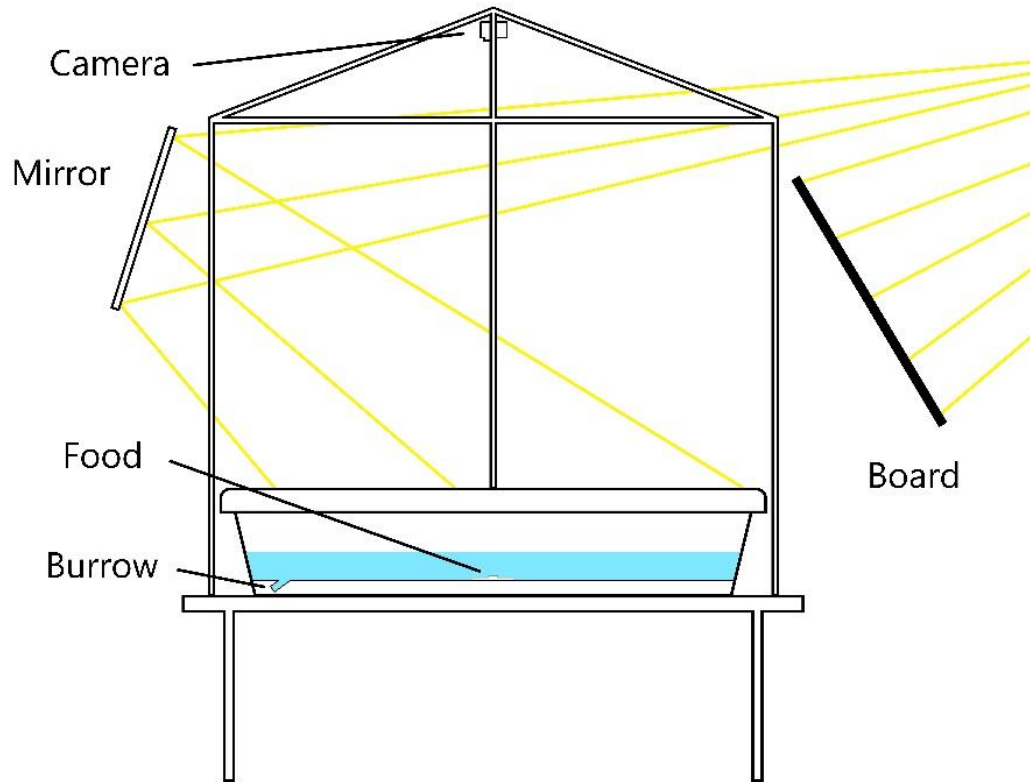
---

What Celestial Cues are being used for  
orientation ?

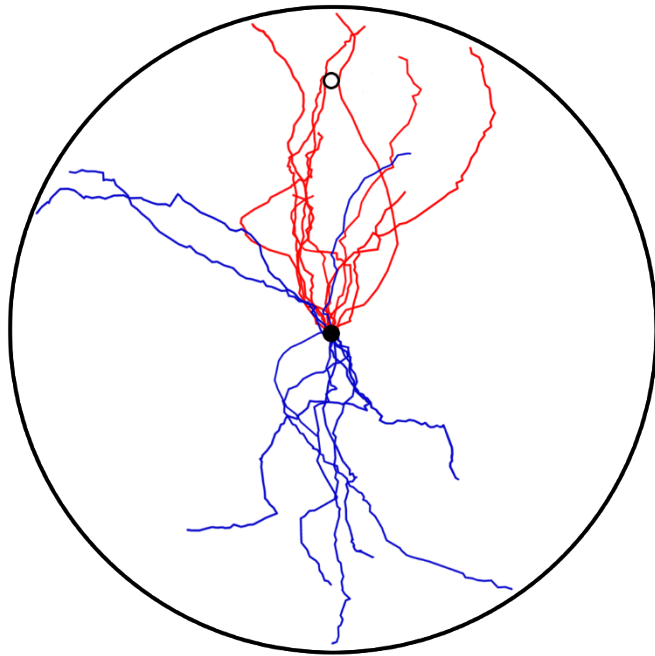


# Sun Compass

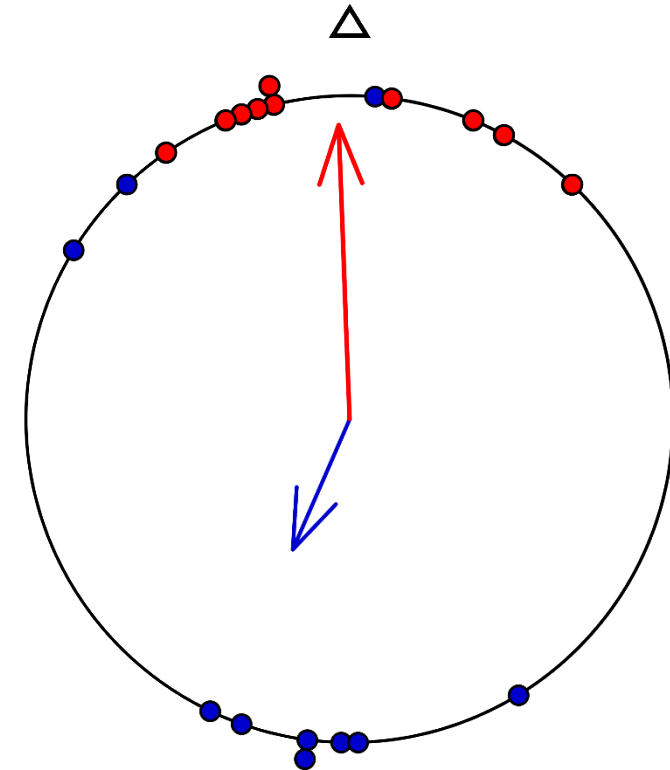
Displace Sun



## Sun Compass



○ Burrow Location    ● Food Location    — Board Blocking Sun    — Sun Mirrored



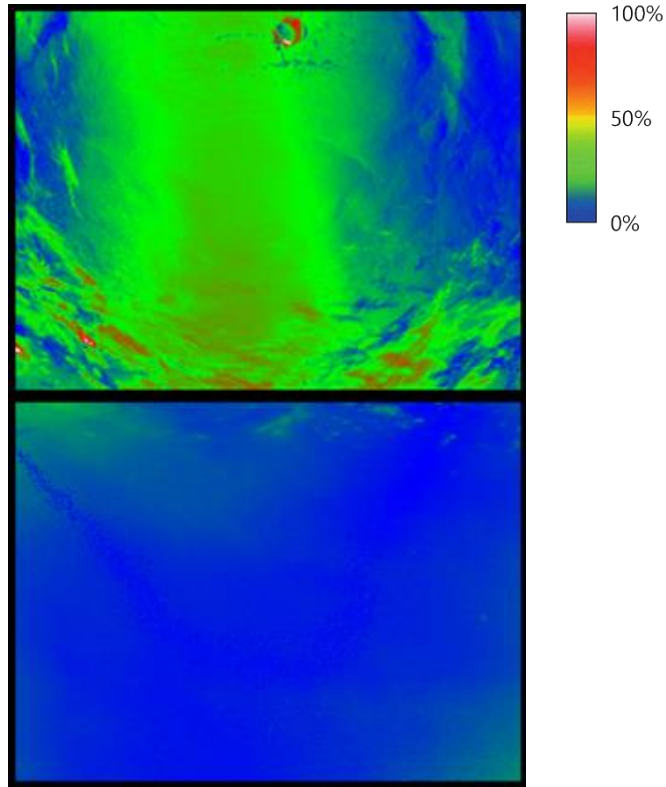
△ Direction of Burrow    ● Board Blocking Sun    ● Sun Mirrored

Sun Blocked:  $p < 0.001$     Sun Mirrored:  $p = 0.023$

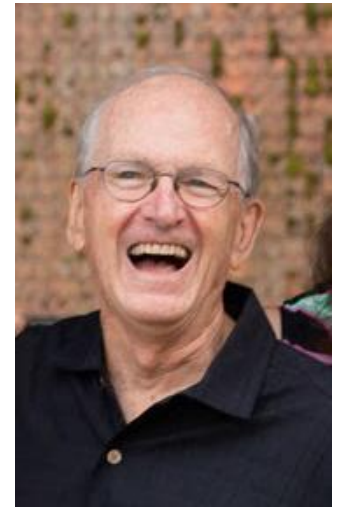
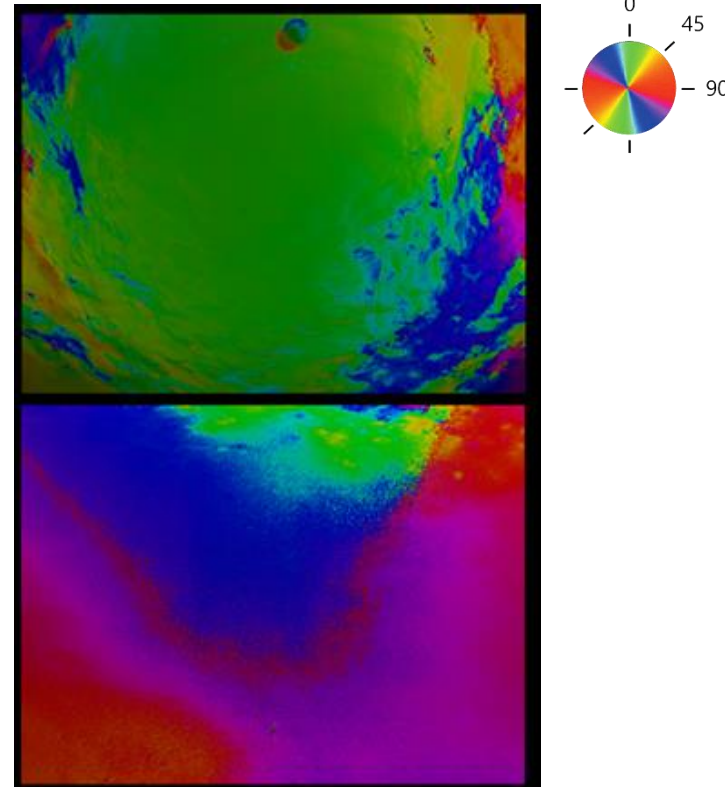
# SUBMARINE Polarization Patterns

Horseshoe Reef , Lizard Island at a 5 meter depth at sunset.

Degree of Polarization

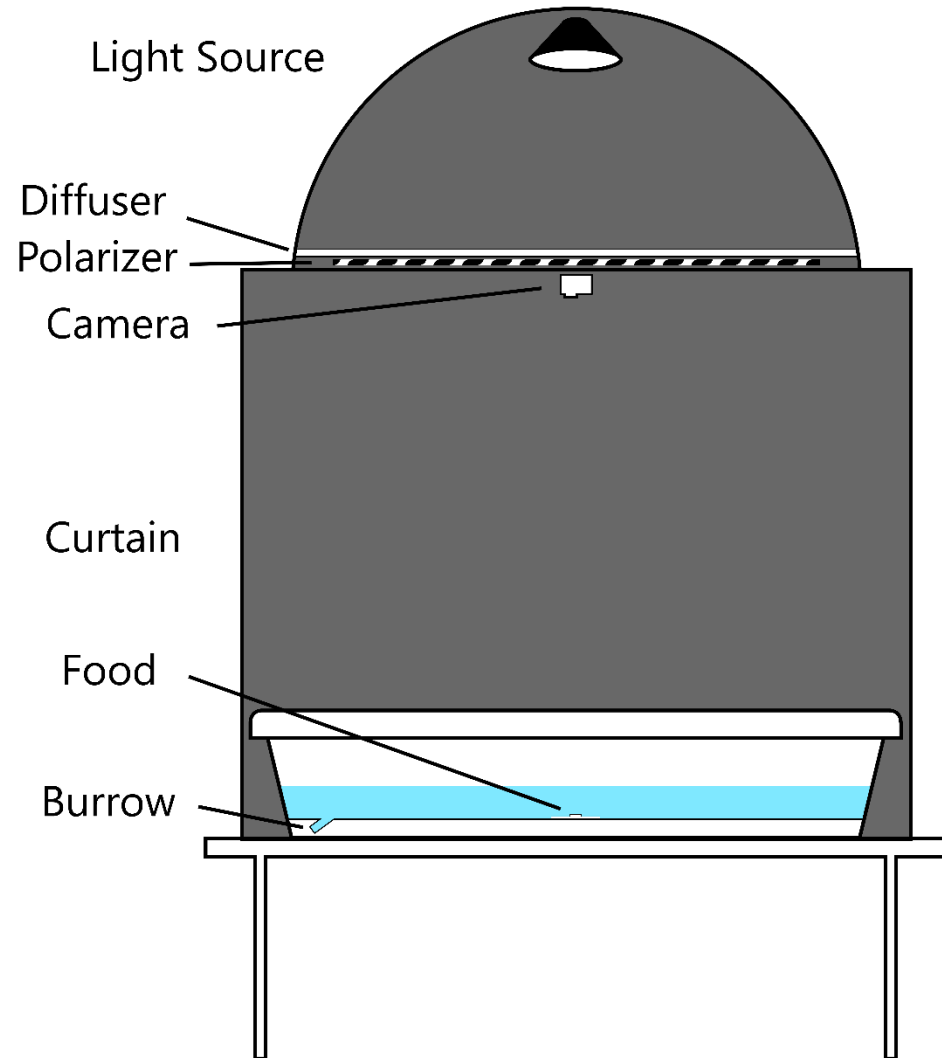
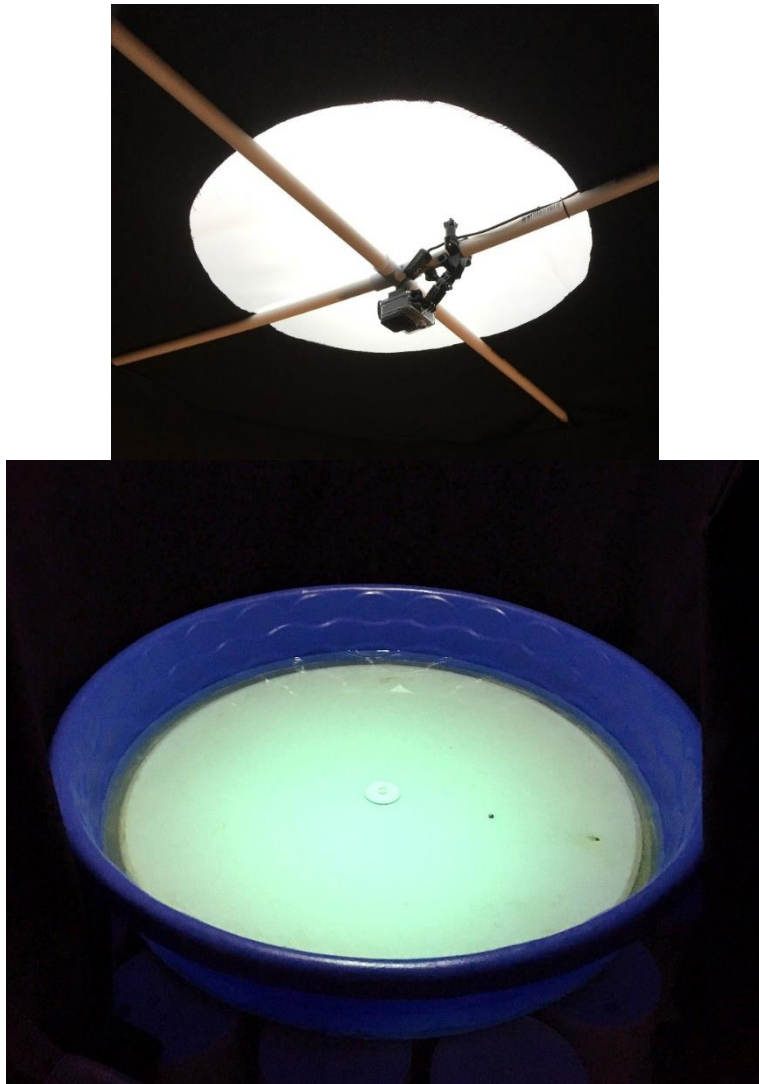


Angle of Polarization

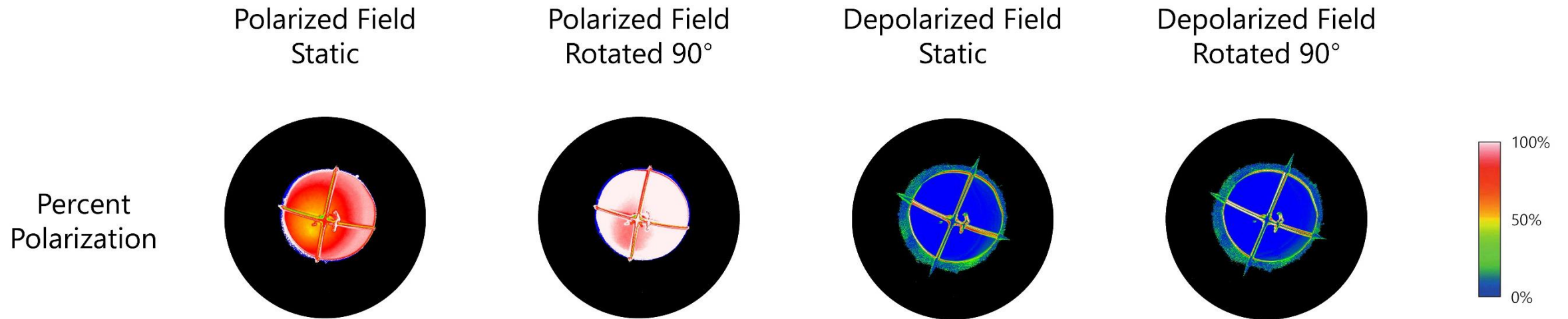


Tom Cronin

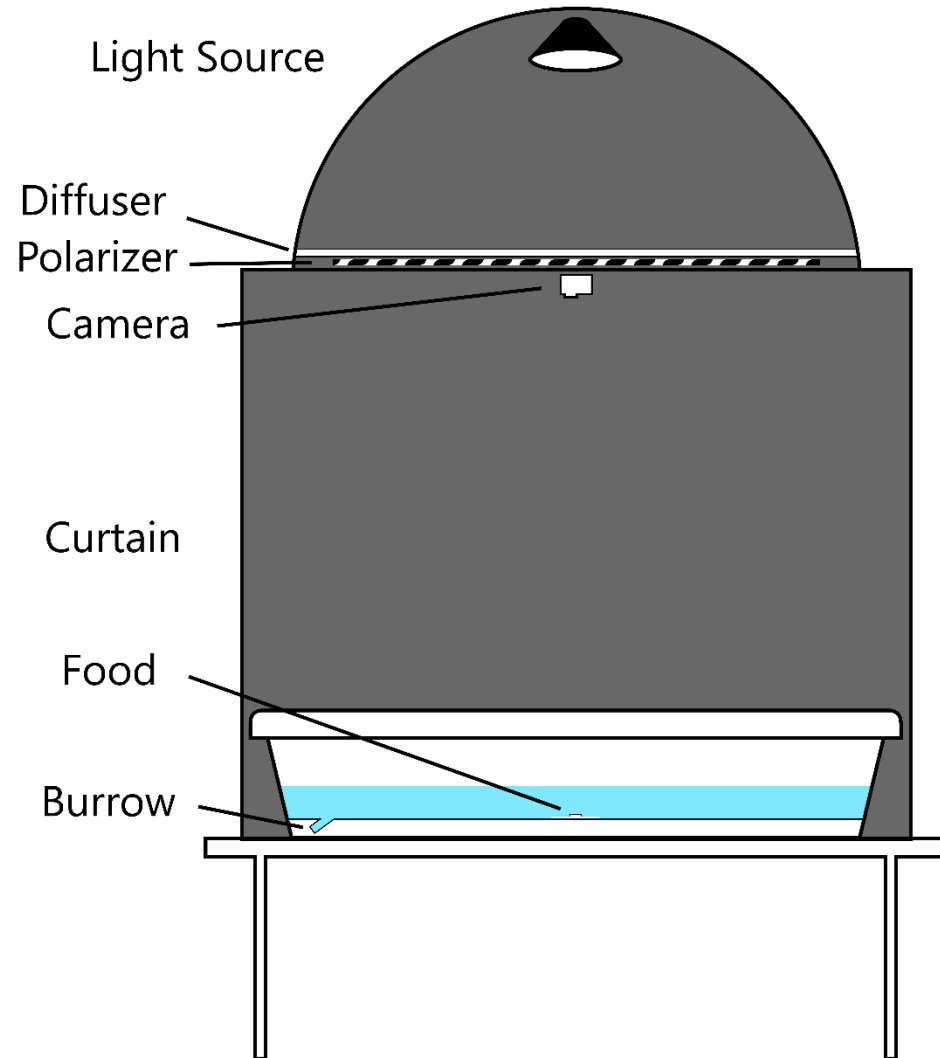
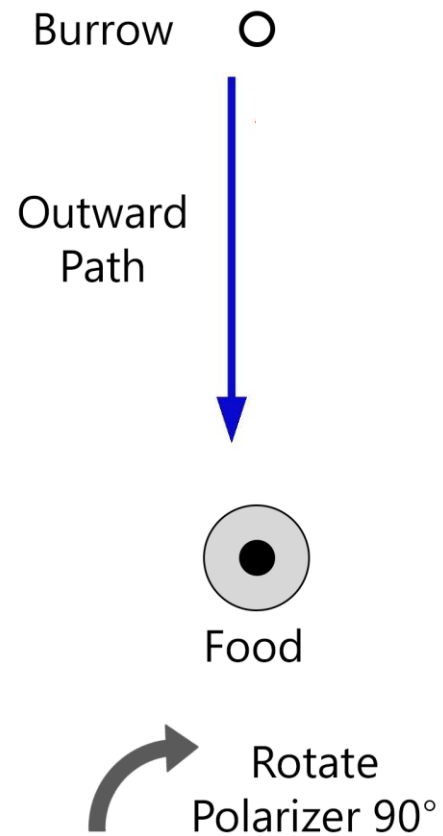
# Polarization Compass



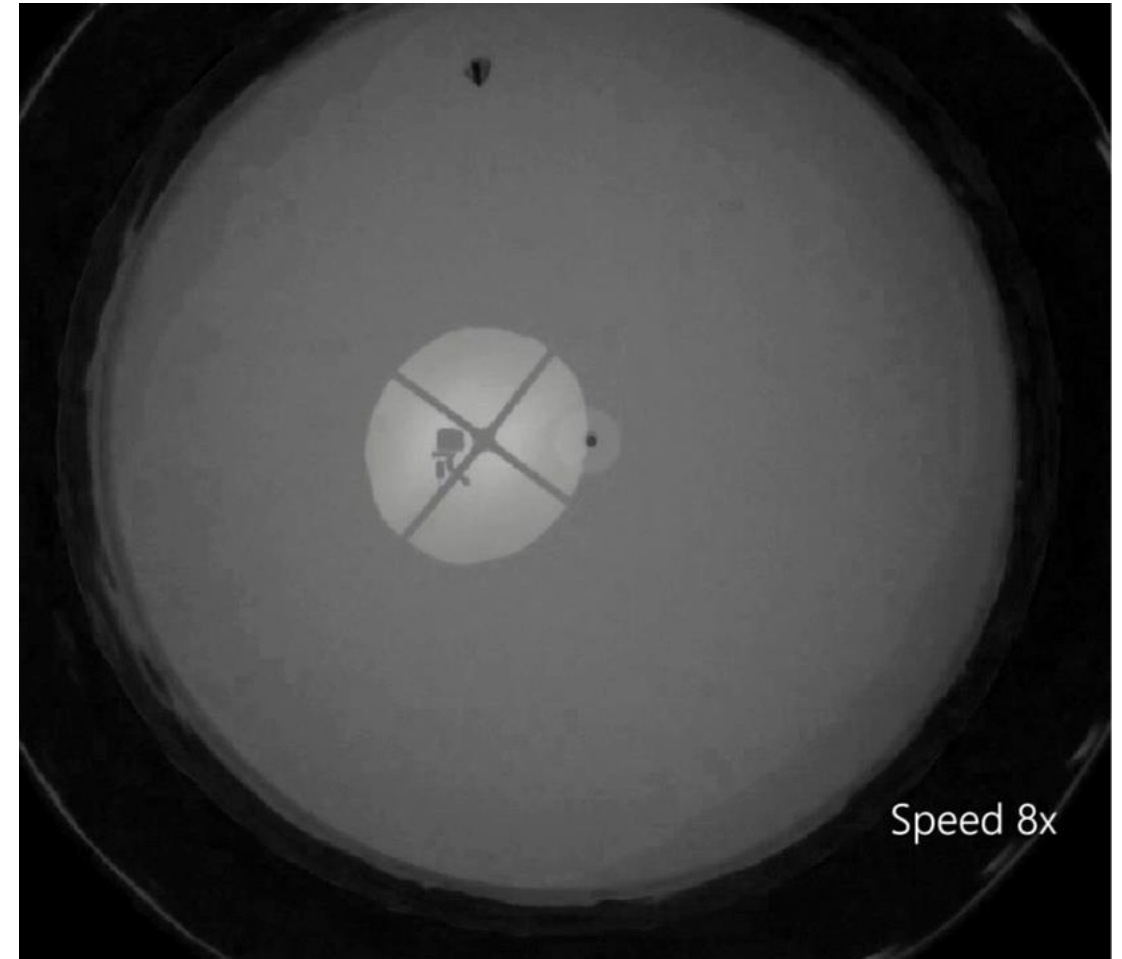
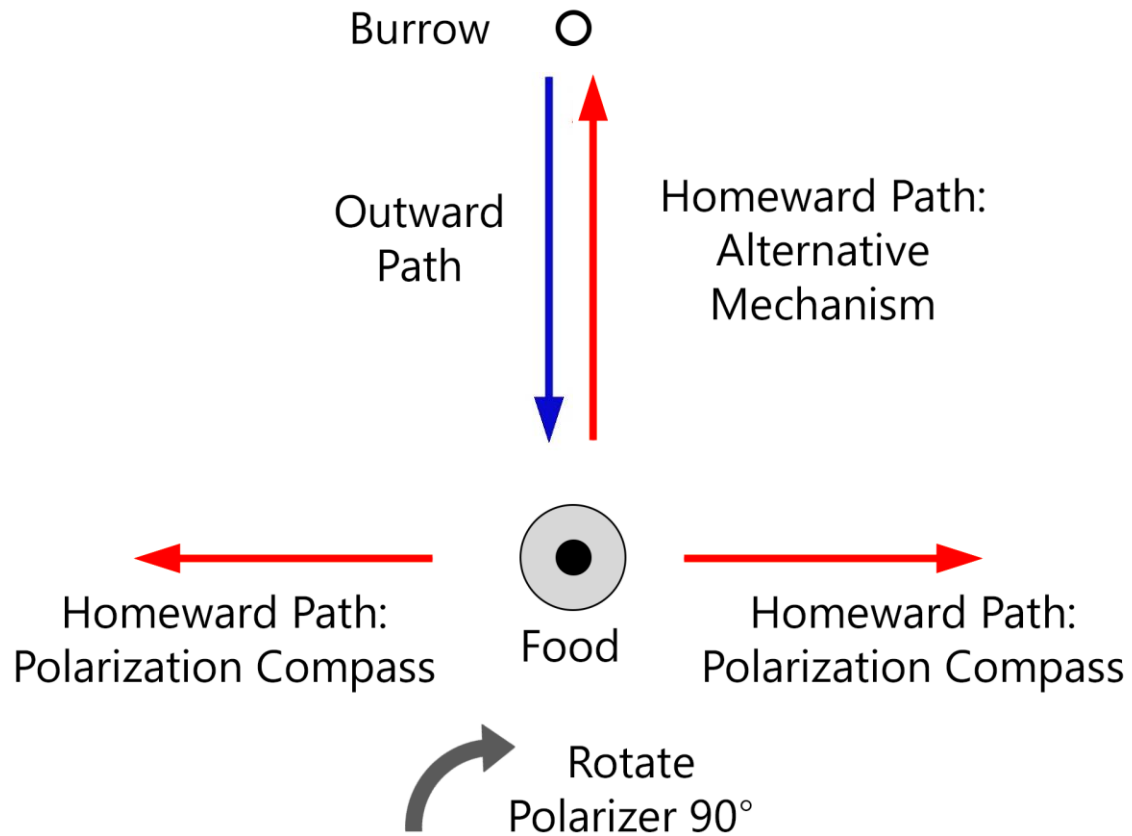
# Celestial Polarization Compass



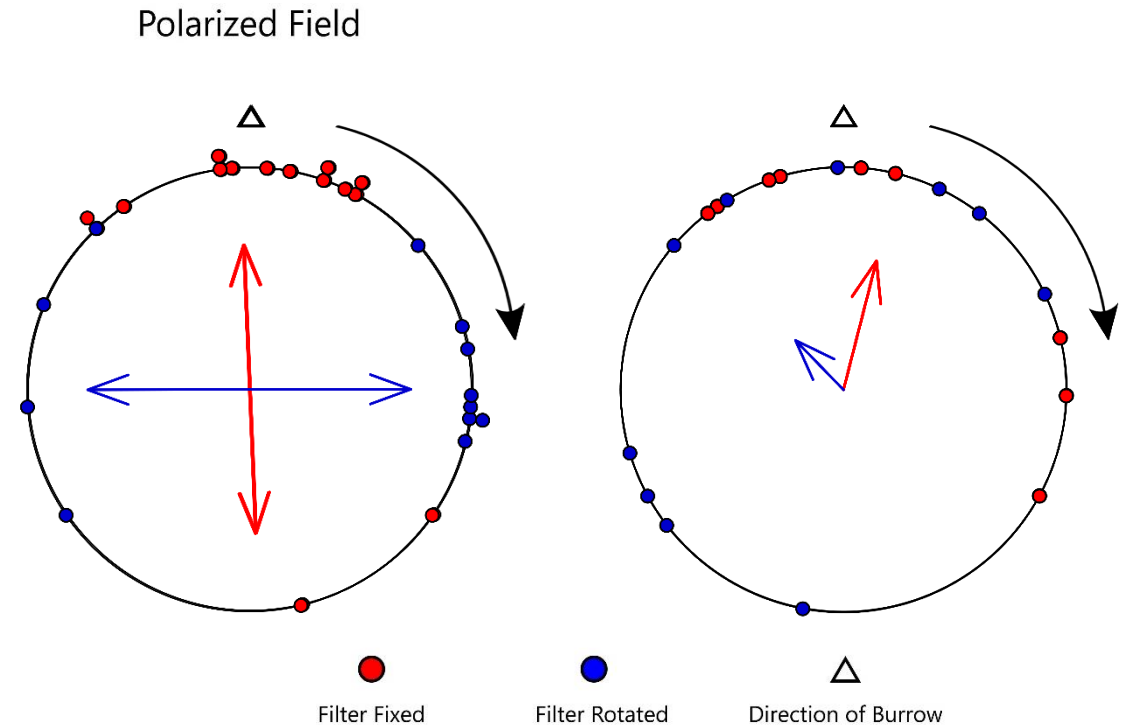
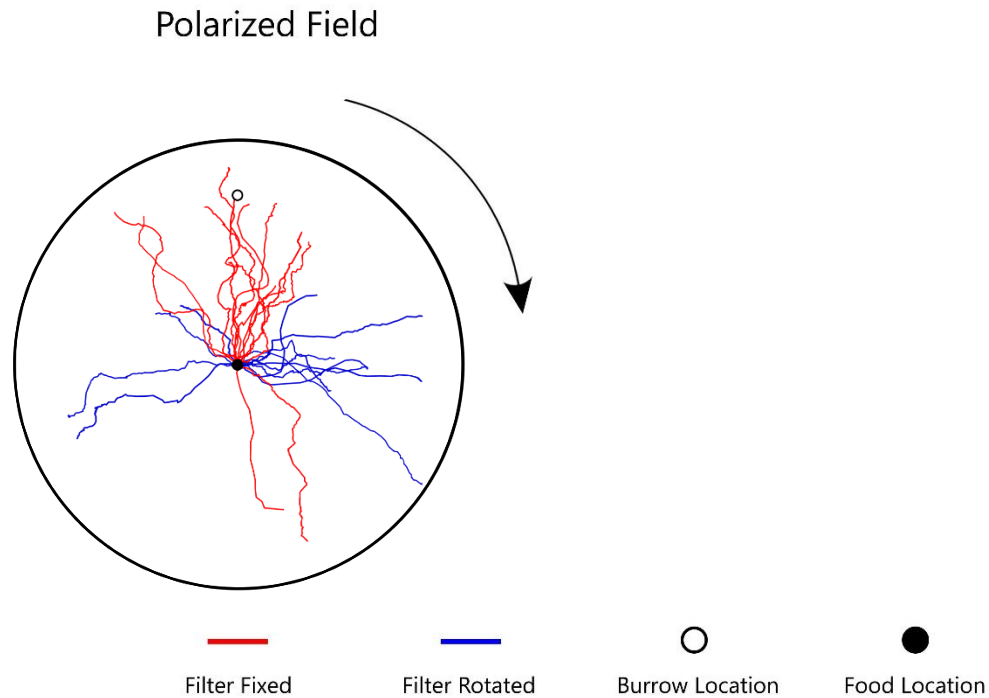
# Polarization Compass



# Celestial Polarization Compass



# Celestial Polarization Compass



Polarized Field:  $p < 0.01$  both; different  $p < 0.001$

Depolarized Field: fixed  $p = 0.12$ , rotated  $p = 0.39$



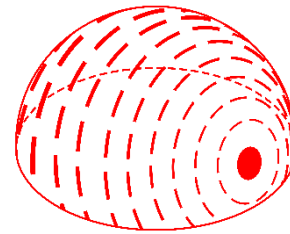
## Hierarchy of Compass Cues



Clear Skies



Partly Cloudy Skies  
Sun Covered by Clouds



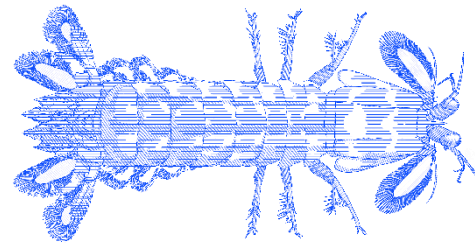
Solar Azimuth  
(for the majority of individuals)

↓

Celestial Polarization Patterns



Overcast Skies

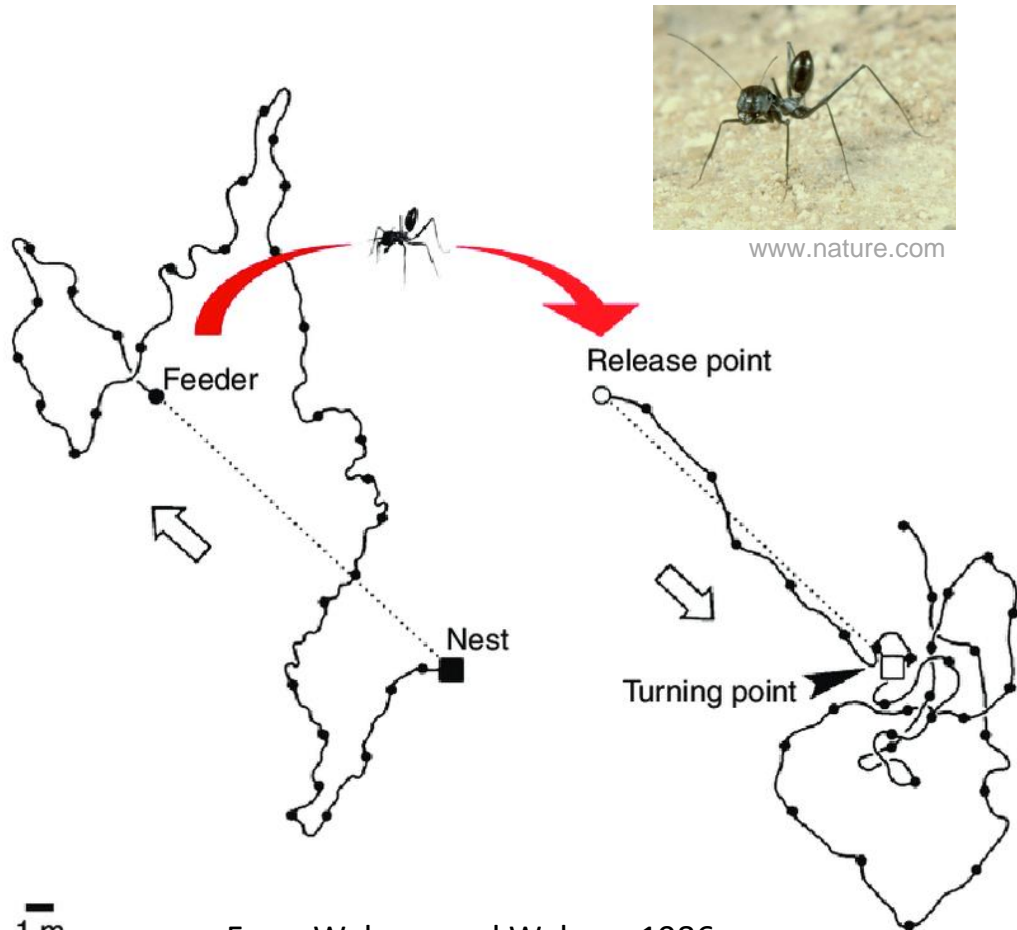


↓

Idiothetic Cues

# CONCLUSIONS

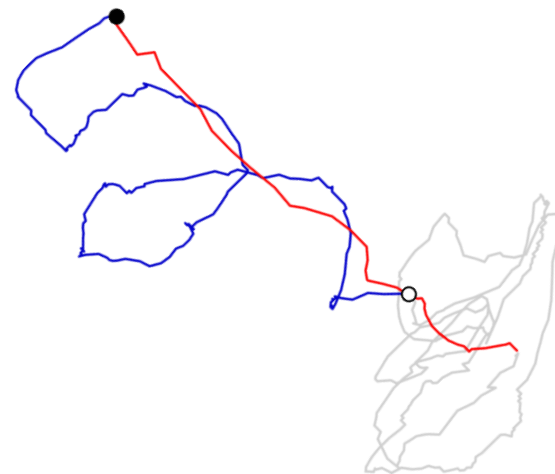
Desert Ant



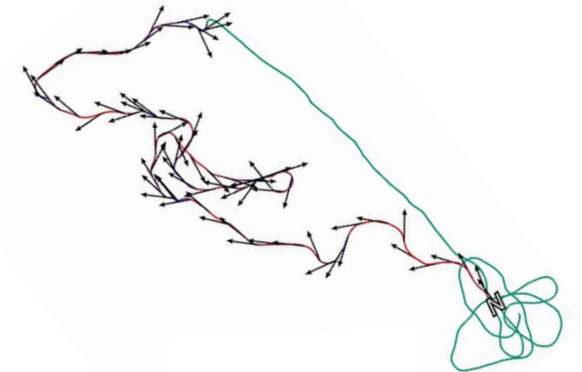
From Wehner and Wehner 1986



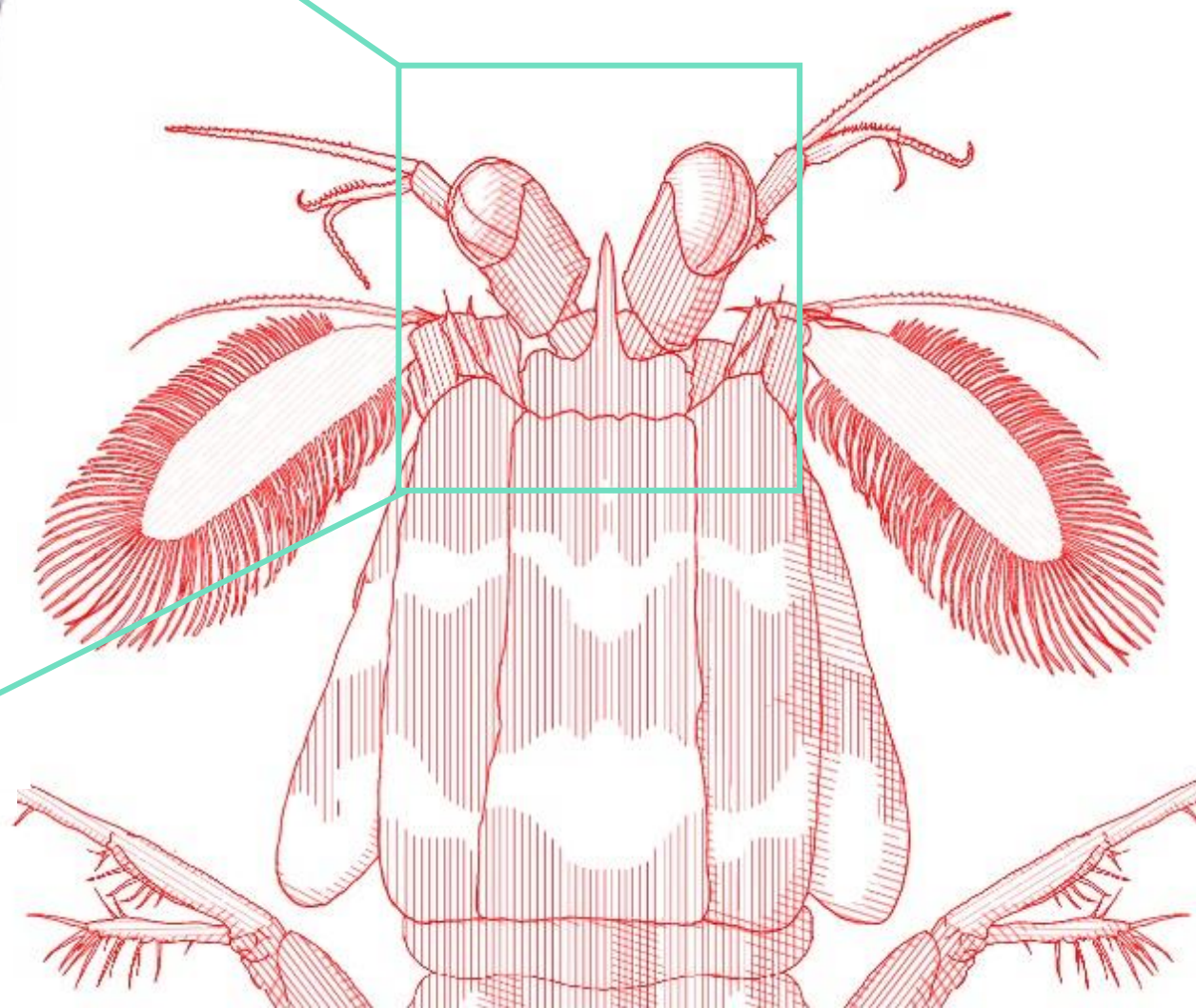
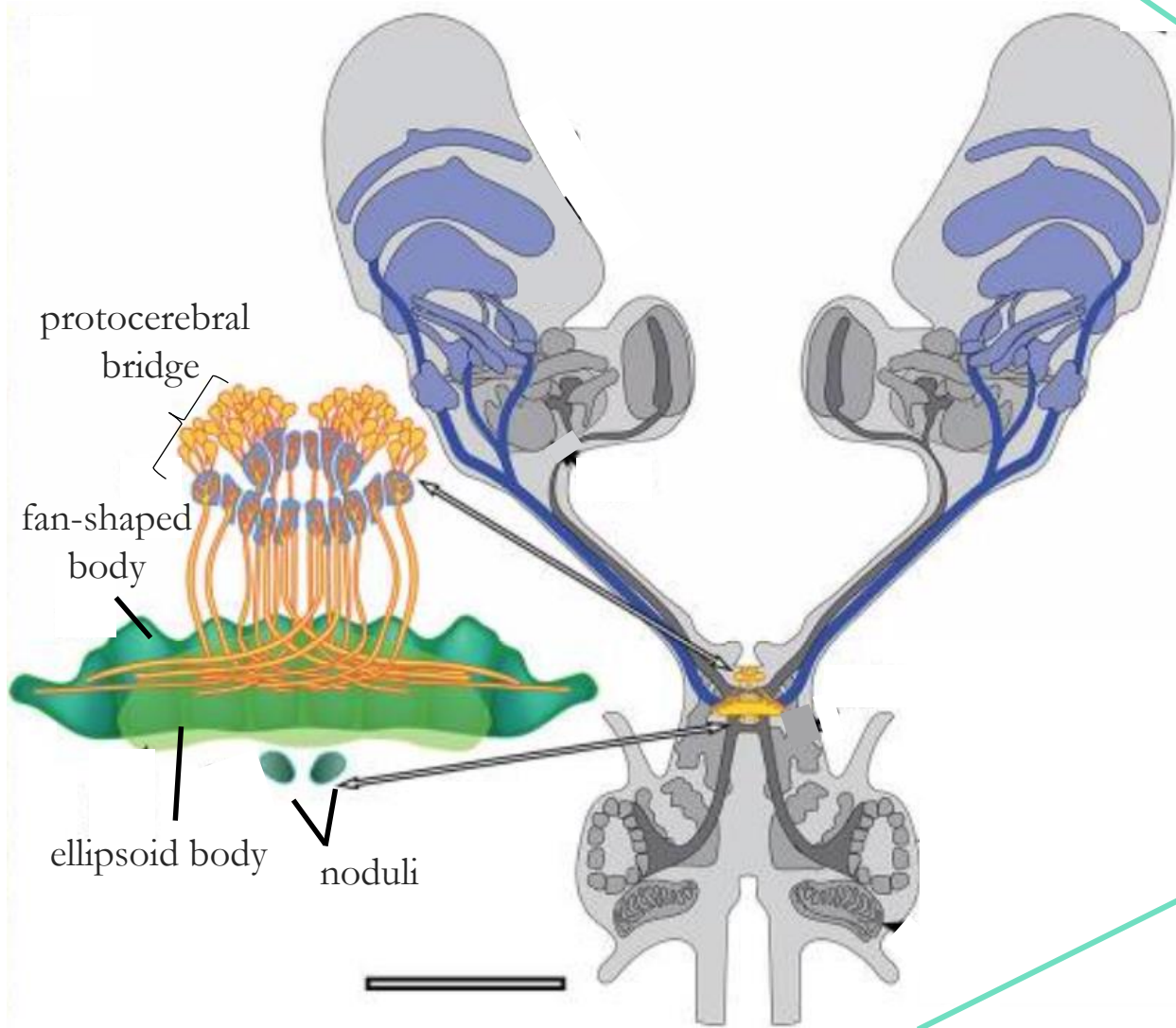
Stomatopod



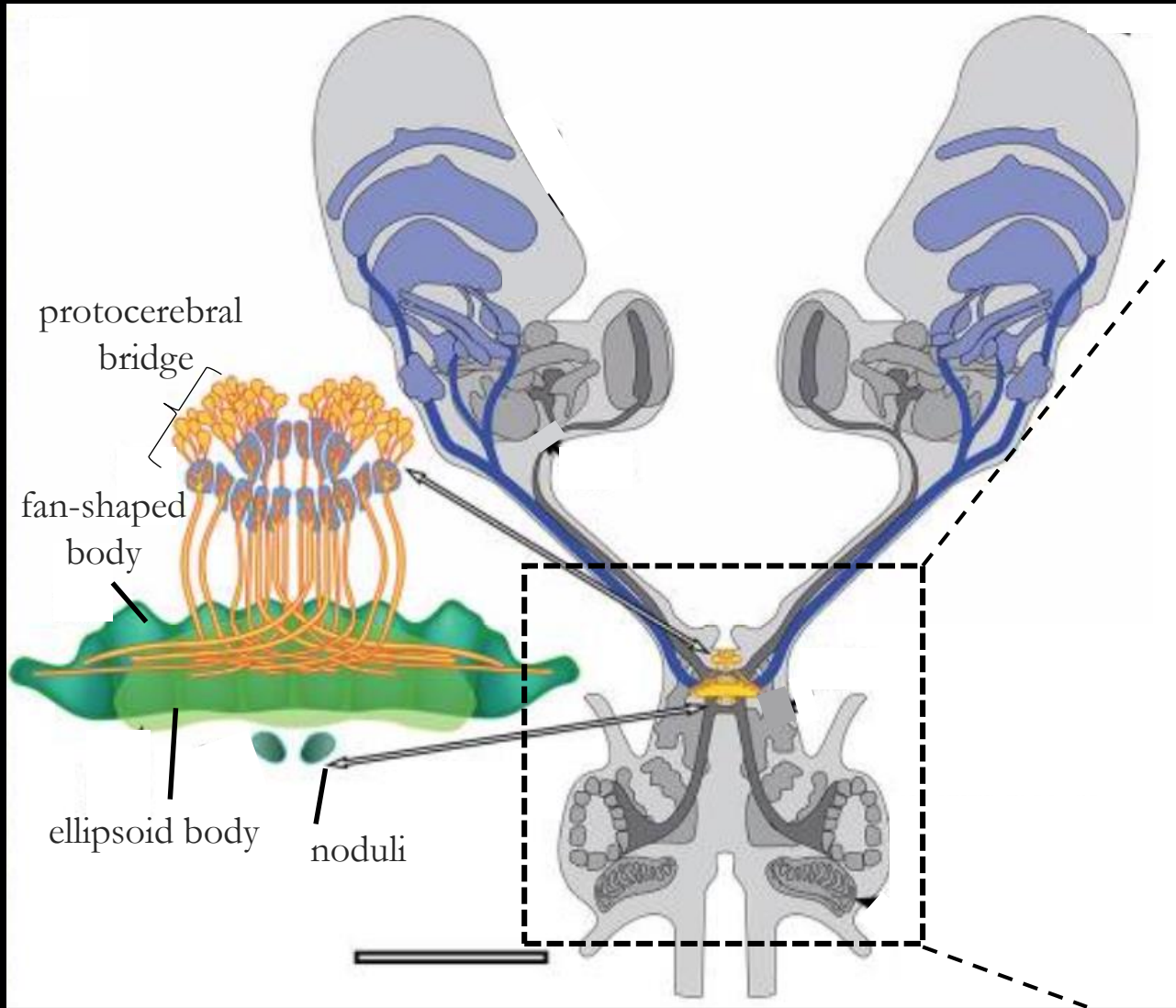
Simulation of a Biologically  
Constrained Computational  
Model Performing Path  
Integration



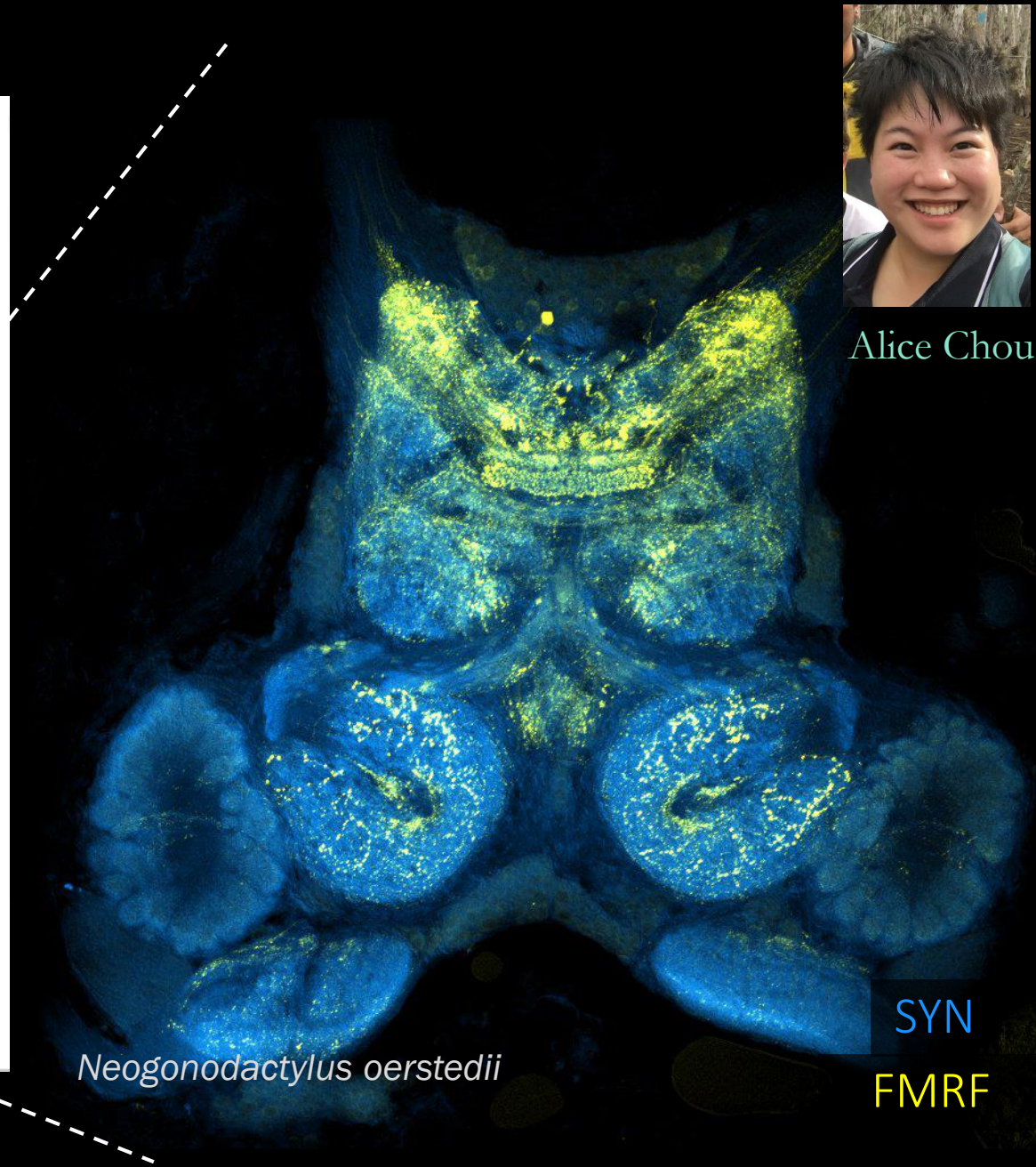
From Stone et al. 2017



*Thoen et al. (2017). Front. Behav. Neuro, 11:12.*



Thoen et al. (2017). *Front. Behav. Neuro*, 11:12.



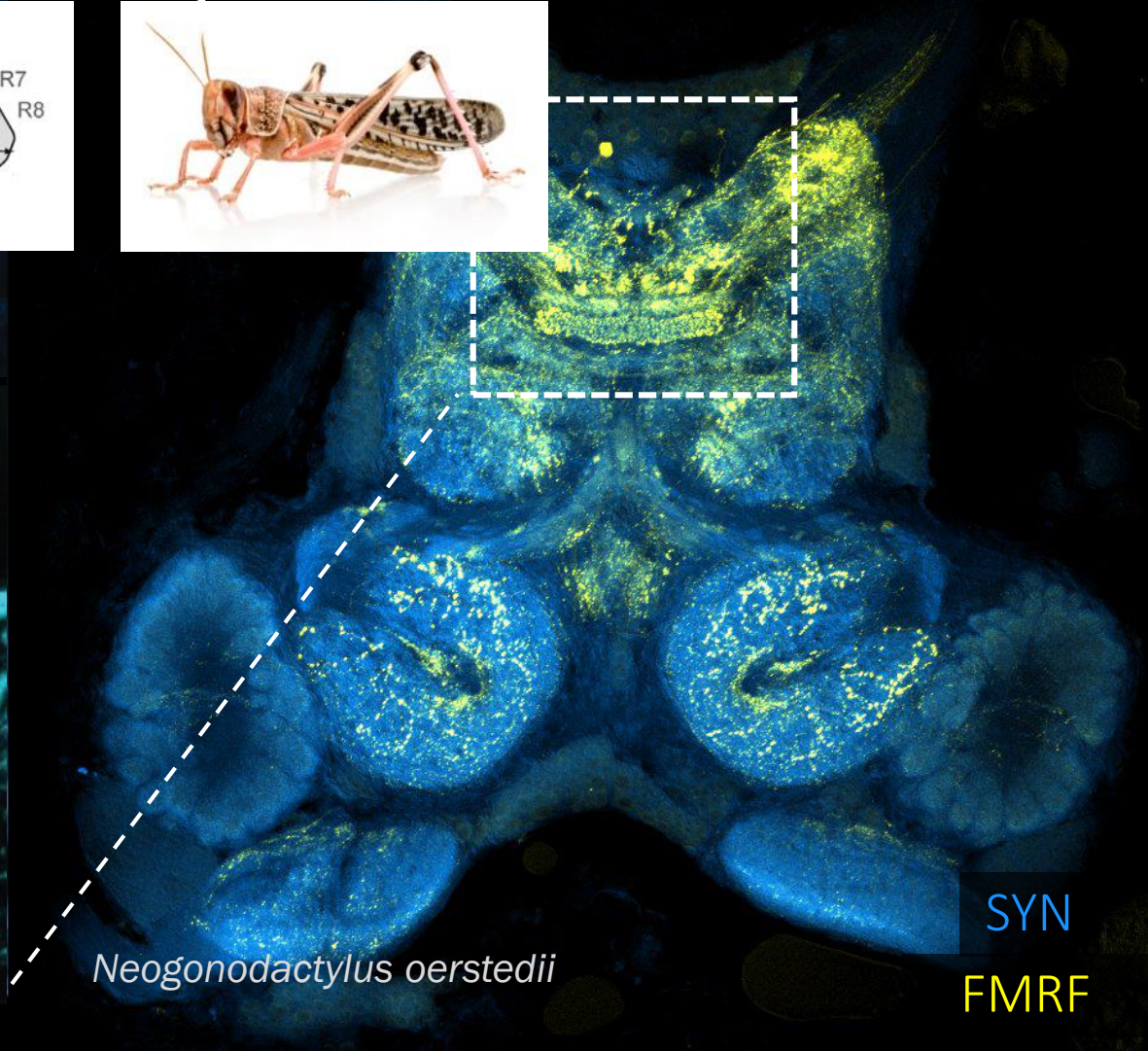
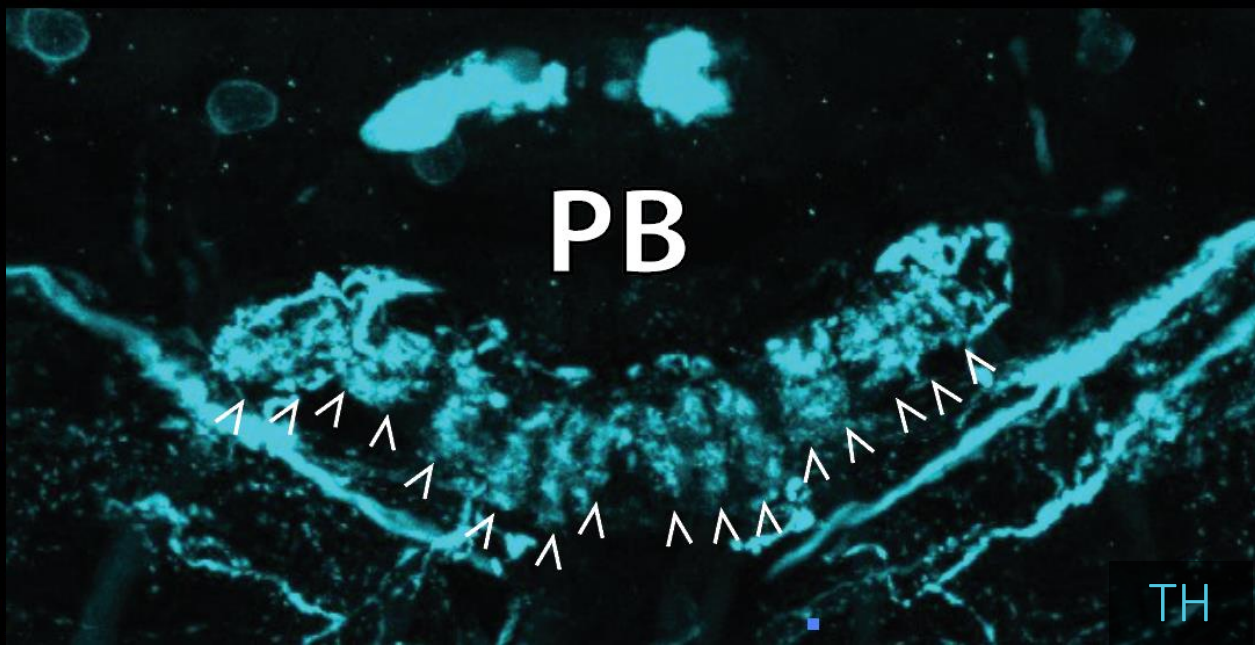
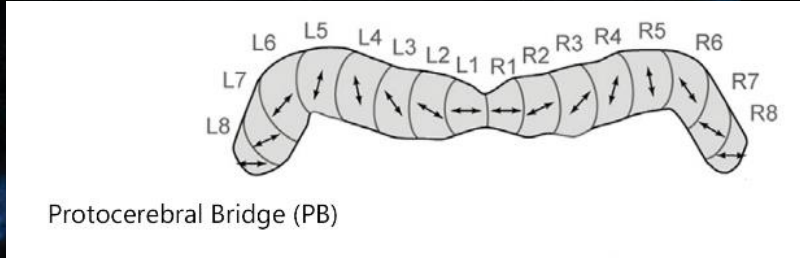
Alice Chou

Thoen et al. (2017)

# Representation of Polarization Compass (Heinze and Homberg, 2007)



protocerebral  
bridge



Thoen et al. (2017)



protocerebral  
bridge

Rotational Velocity

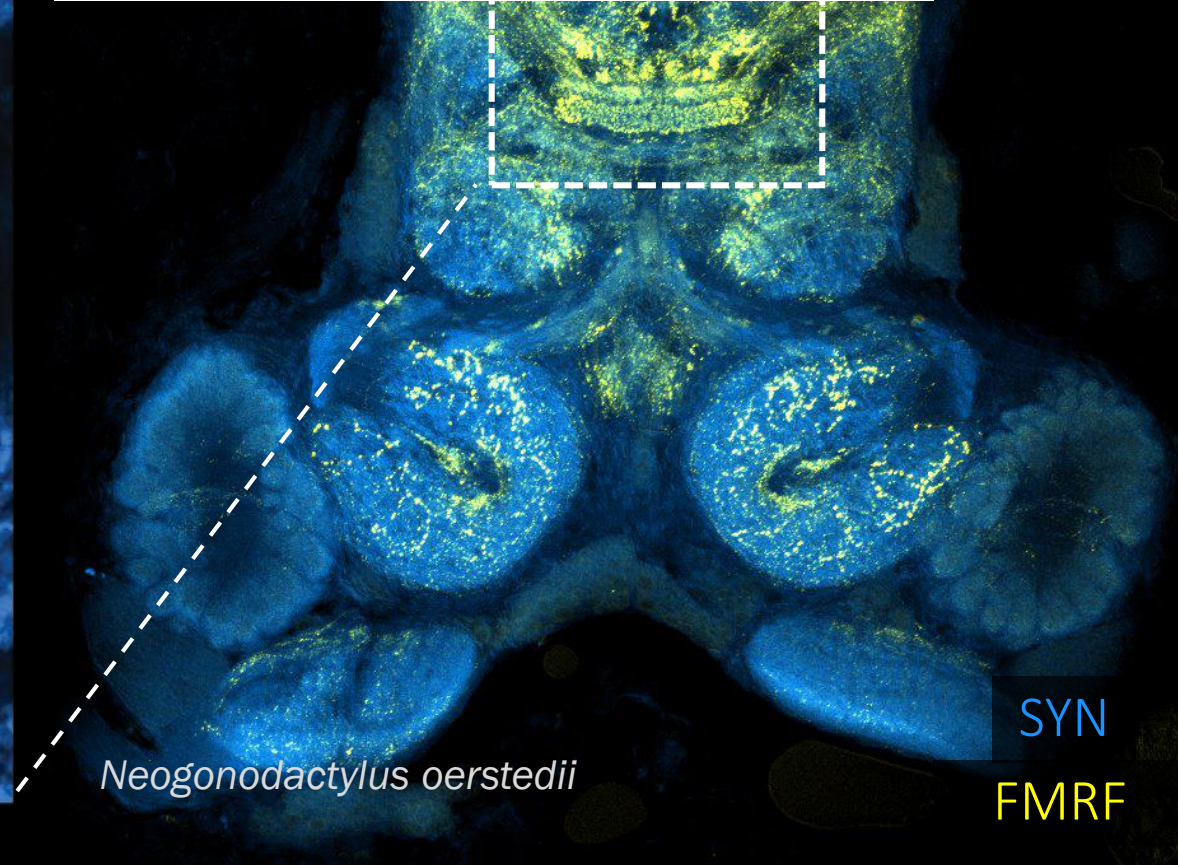
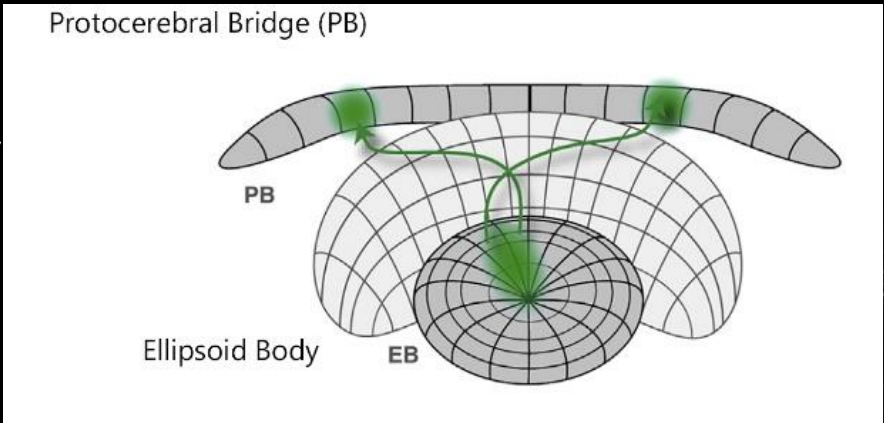
Location of Head Direction System  
(Seeling and Jayaraman, 2015)



fan-shaped  
body

SYN

ellipsoid  
body



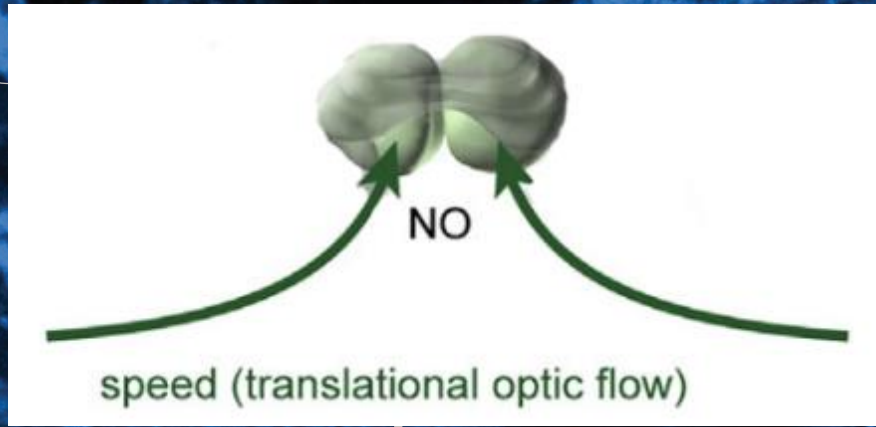
Thoen et al. (2017)



protocerebral  
bridge

### Translational Velocity

Location of Odometric Input to CX  
(Stone et al., 2017)



noduli

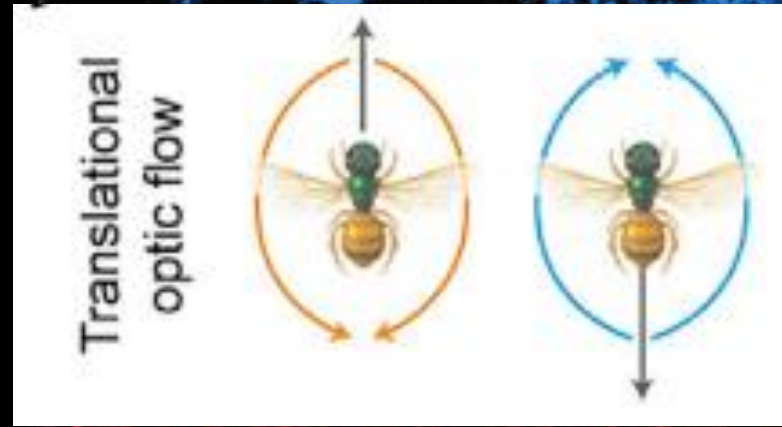
SYN SYN

ellipsoid  
body



CB

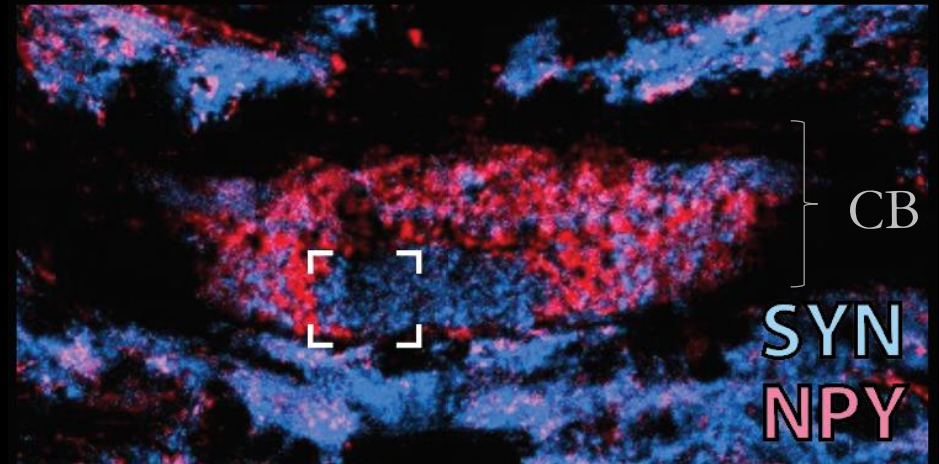
SYN



Translational  
optic flow

CB

NPY

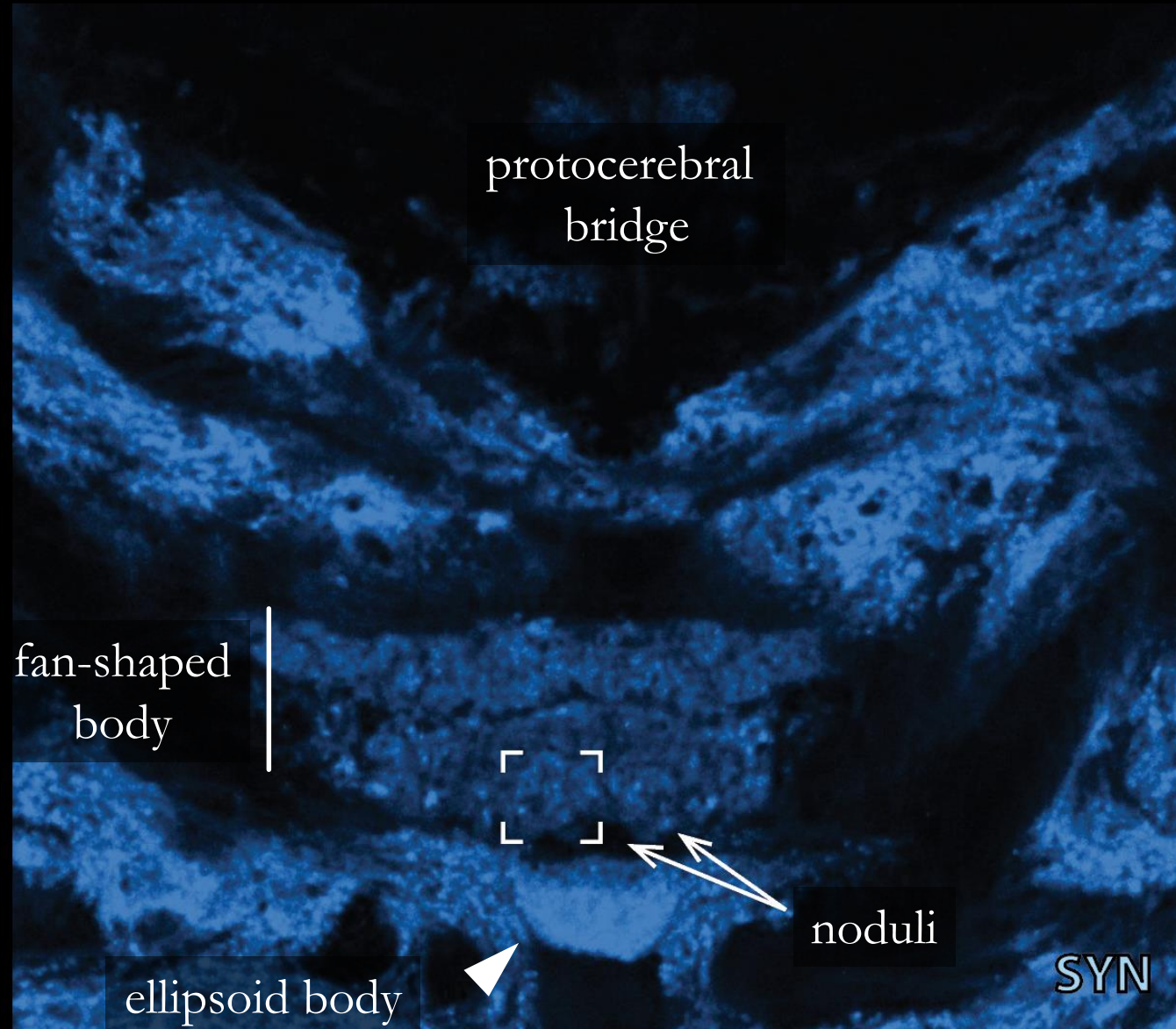


CB

SYN

NPY

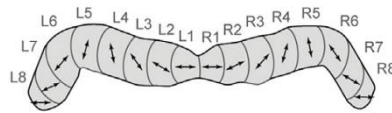
# stomatopod central complex



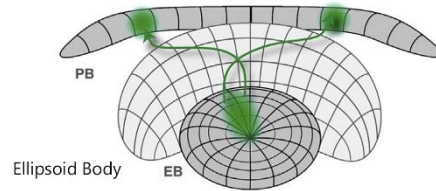


## The Neural Basis of Behavior

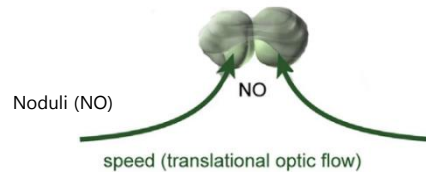
### Insects



Protocerebral Bridge (PB)



Ellipsoid Body



Representation of Polarization Compass  
(Heinze and Homberg, 2007)

### Rotational Velocity

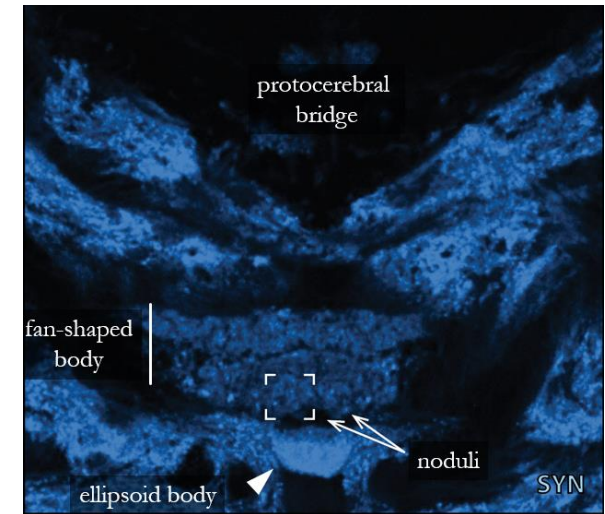
Location of Head Direction System  
(Seeling and Jayaraman, 2015)

### Translational Velocity

Location of Odometric Input to CX  
(Stone et al., 2017)

Adapted from Heinze 2017

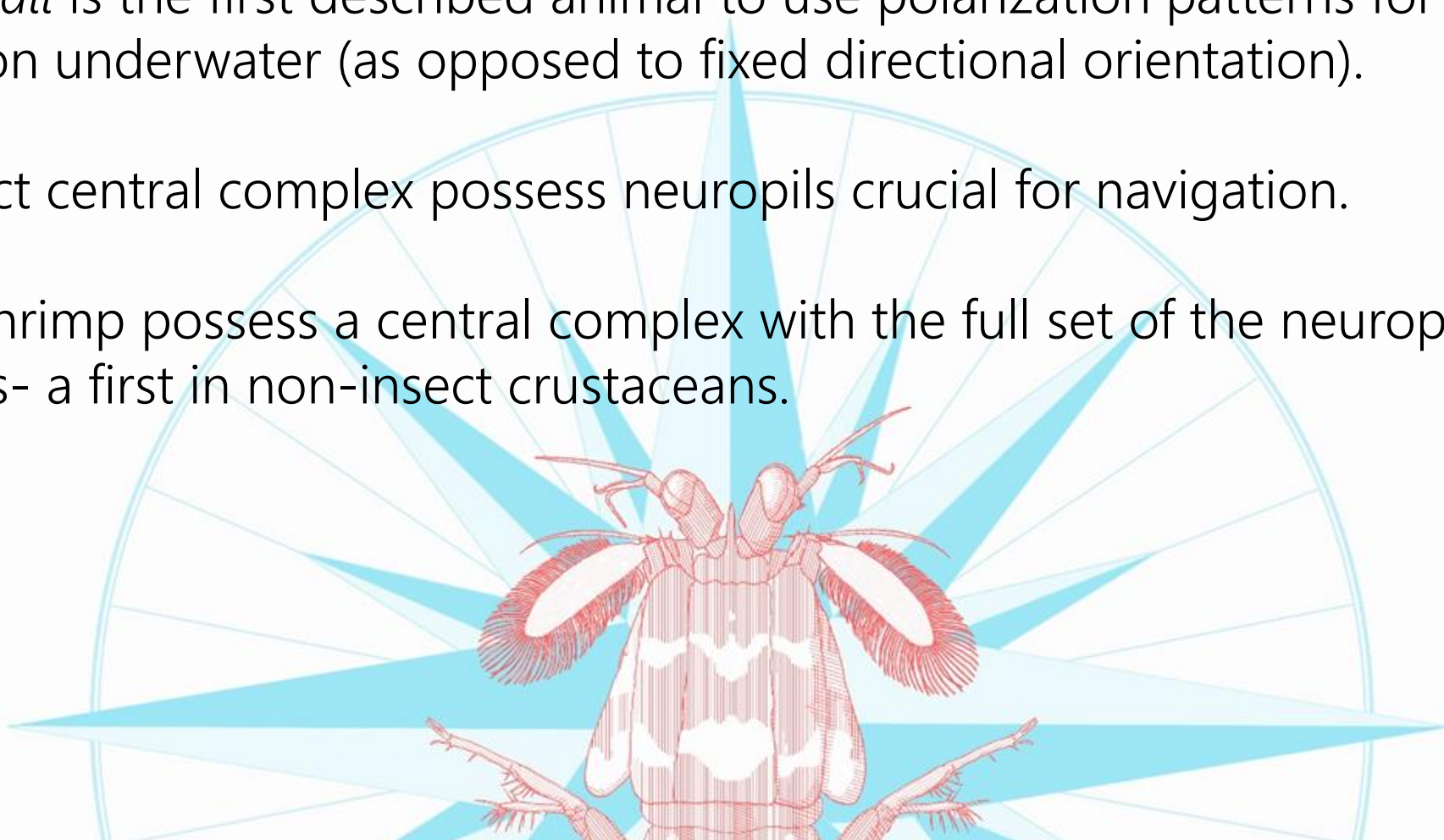
### Stomatopod



Are these behaviors and neural architecture an amazing convergence?  
or are they ancient homologs- A Cambrian strategy for navigation?

## SUMMARY

- *Neogonodactylus oerstedii* is the first described fully aquatic path-integrator.
- *N. oerstedii* is the first described animal to use polarization patterns for dynamic navigation underwater (as opposed to fixed directional orientation).
- The insect central complex possess neuropils crucial for navigation.
- Mantis shrimp possess a central complex with the full set of the neuropils found in insects- a first in non-insect crustaceans.

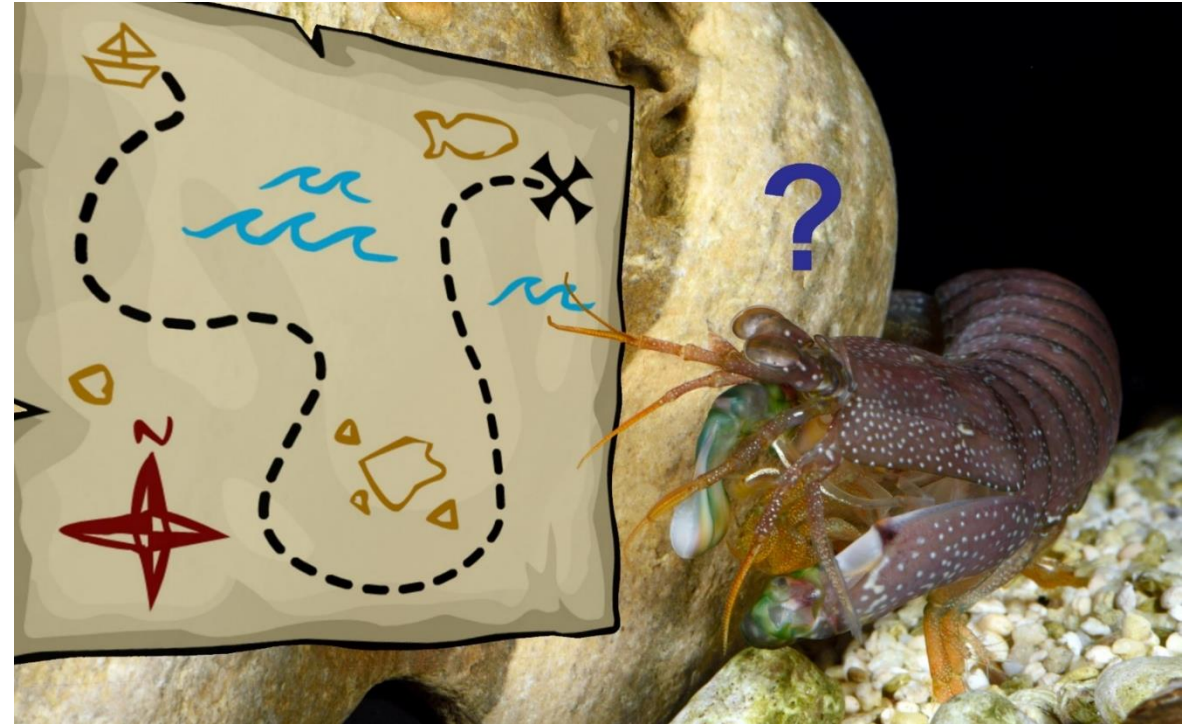


# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## Thank you !

- The Cronin Lab: Alice Chou, Chan Lin, Ben Khil, Brittany Driscoll
- John Cohen and the Cohen Lab (especially Victoria Simmons) and University of Delaware CEOE
- Nicholas Strausfeld and the Strausfeld Lab (especially Marcel Sayre) at the University of Arizona
- Natalie Roberts (a BIG help, especially during sun compass experiments), Jong Park, and Sam Hulse.
- Tagide de Carvalho and Jeremy Swan: UMBC Imaging Support
- John Cataldi: UMBC Machining
- Roy Caldwell and Mike Bok for included animal photographs

This research was supported by funding from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research.



Original Photo: Roy Caldwell



**UMBC**  
AN HONORS UNIVERSITY IN MARYLAND

## Navigating disparate environments

Depths/ Turbidity/ Wave action

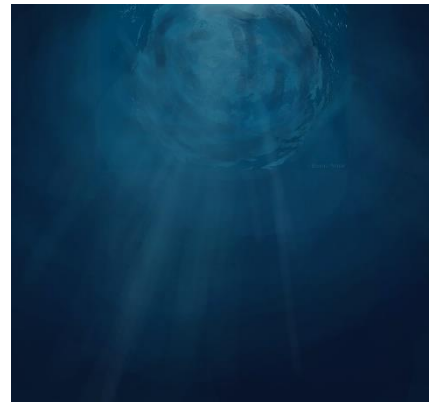


activeanglingnz.com

Low Intertidal – 15 m



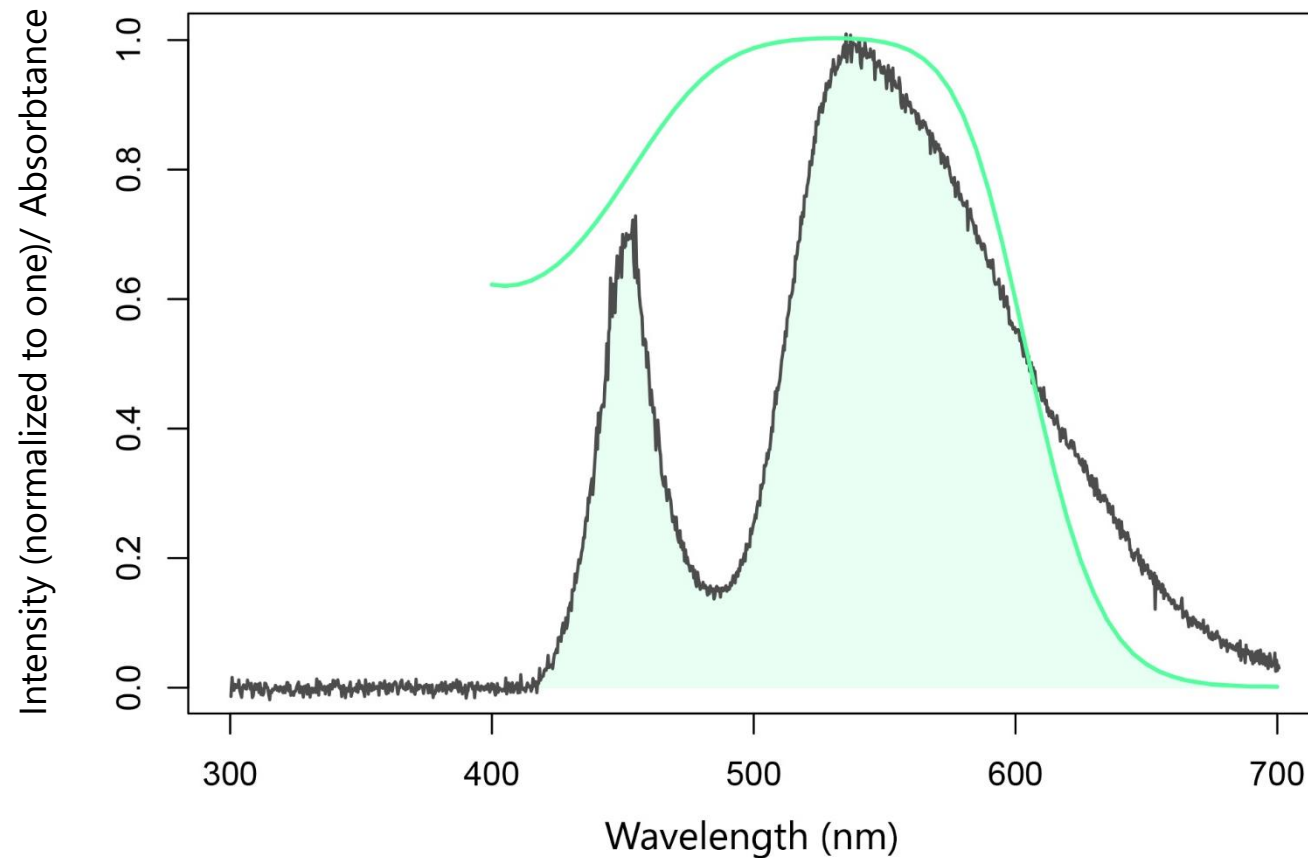
15- 30m, up to 50m deep



Mike Bok

# Celestial Polarization Compass

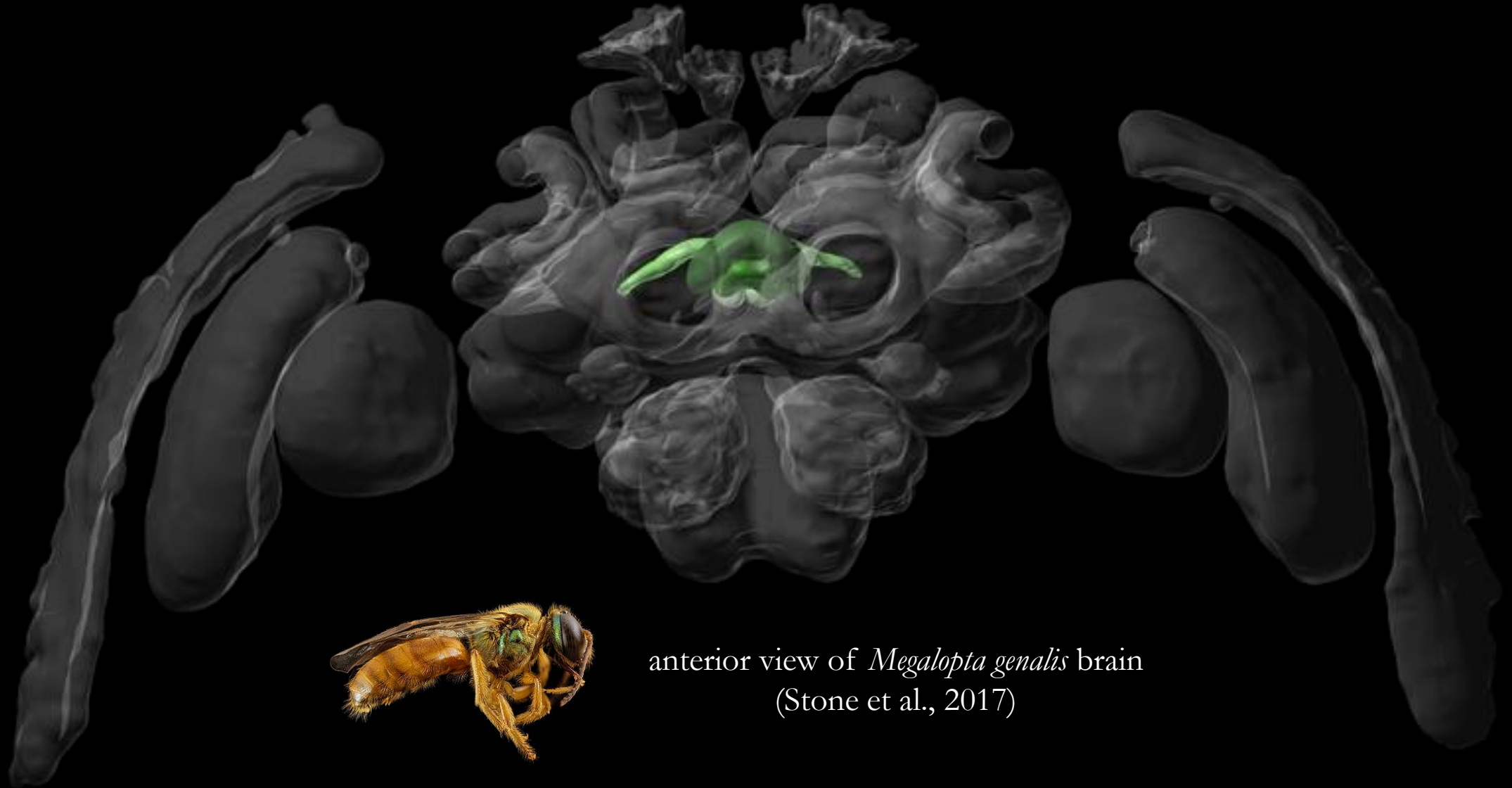
Spectral Environment in POL Arena



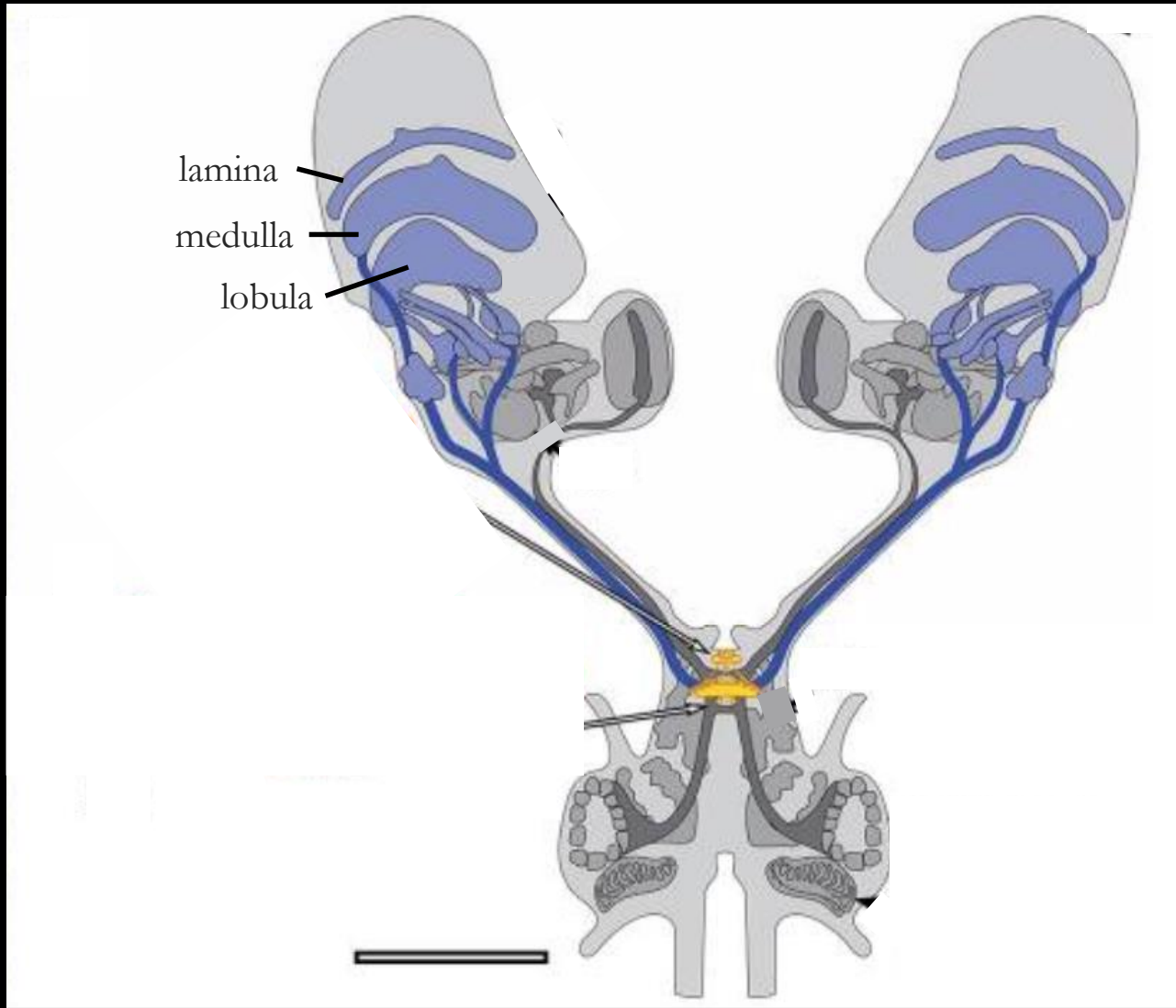
— Irradiance curve measured from the center of the arena

— Absorbance of main rhabdom photoreceptors (R1-7) in the peripheral hemispheres of the eye of *N. oerstedii*  
(from Cronin and Marshall 1989)

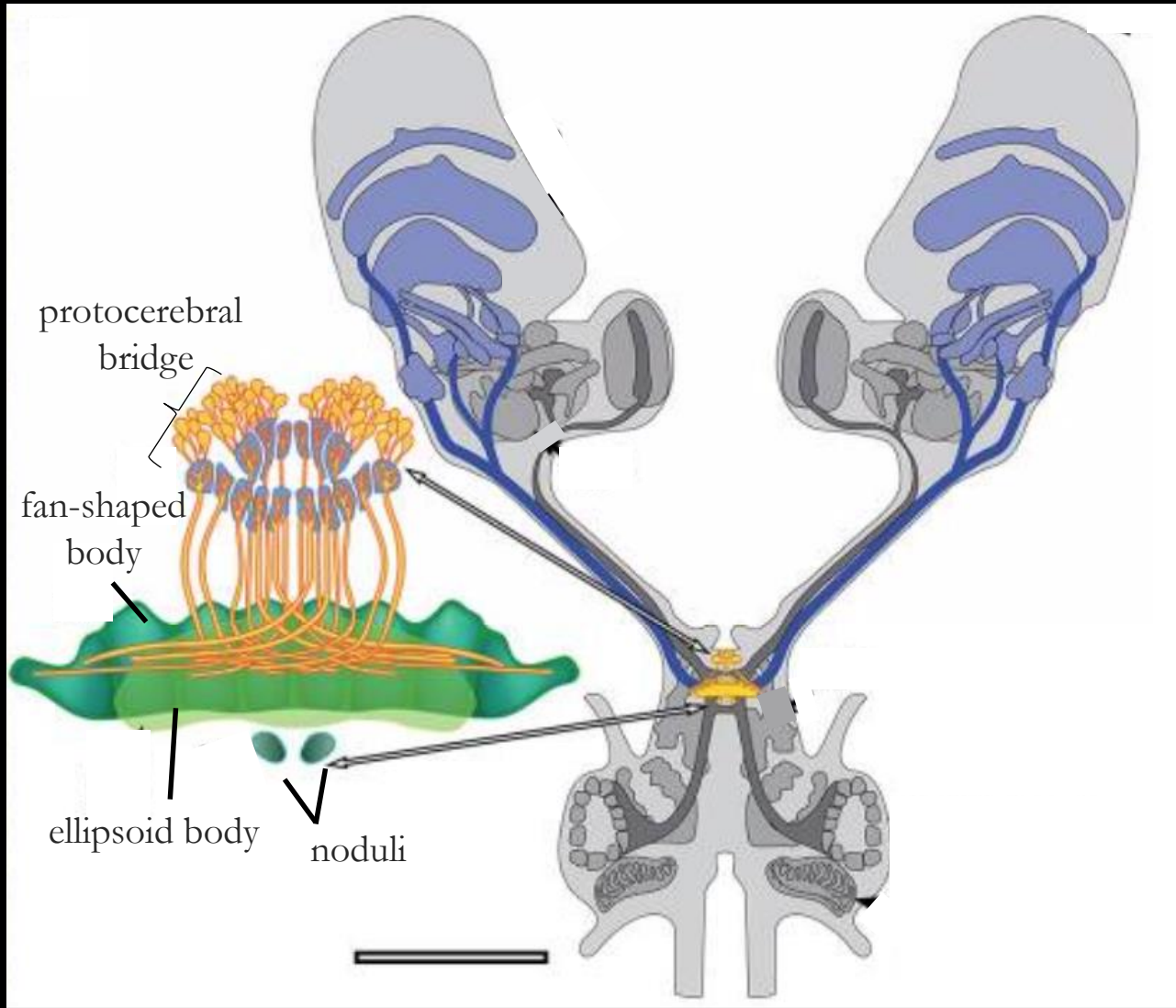
# Central complex



anterior view of *Megalopta genalis* brain  
(Stone et al., 2017)



*Squilla empusa*



Thoen et al. (2017). *Front. Behav. Neuro*, 11:12.



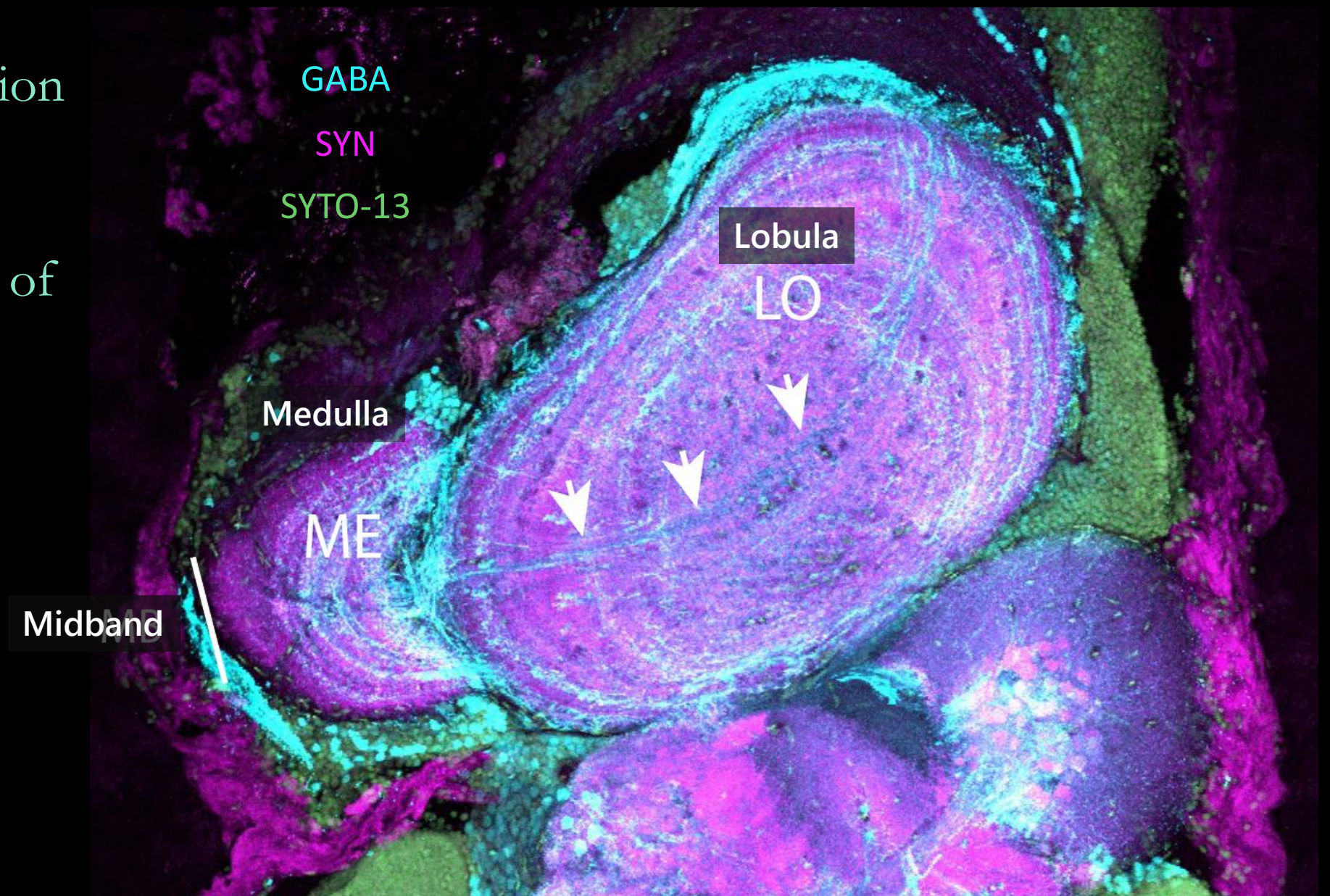
*Squilla empusa*



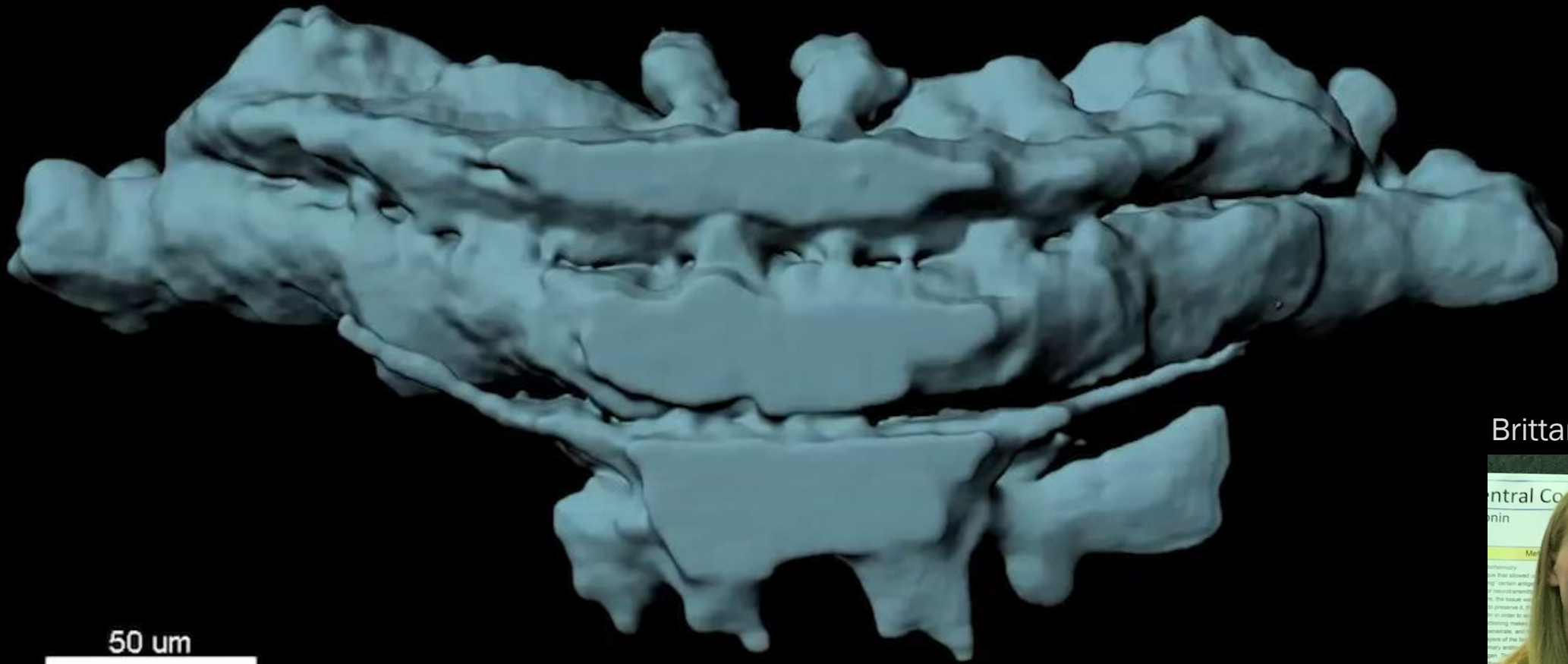
Visual Organization  
Appears to be  
Retained in the  
Neural Structure of  
the Optic Lobes



Chan Lin



# Columnar organization apparent in EB-like neuropil and upper and lower sections of the Fan-shaped body



50 um

Brittany Driscoll

