

Corresponding author(s): Le Kang; Xiaoguang Lei

Last updated by author(s): Mar 13, 2025

Reporting Summary

Nature Portfolio wishes to improve the reproducibility of the work that we publish. This form provides structure for consistency and transparency in reporting. For further information on Nature Portfolio policies, see our [Editorial Policies](#) and the [Editorial Policy Checklist](#).

Statistics

For all statistical analyses, confirm that the following items are present in the figure legend, table legend, main text, or Methods section.

n/a Confirmed

- ☐ ☒ The exact sample size (n) for each experimental group/condition, given as a discrete number and unit of measurement
- ☐ ☒ A statement on whether measurements were taken from distinct samples or whether the same sample was measured repeatedly
- ☐ ☒ The statistical test(s) used AND whether they are one- or two-sided
Only common tests should be described solely by name; describe more complex techniques in the Methods section.
- ☒ ☐ A description of all covariates tested
- ☐ ☒ A description of any assumptions or corrections, such as tests of normality and adjustment for multiple comparisons
- ☐ ☒ A full description of the statistical parameters including central tendency (e.g. means) or other basic estimates (e.g. regression coefficient) AND variation (e.g. standard deviation) or associated estimates of uncertainty (e.g. confidence intervals)
- ☐ ☒ For null hypothesis testing, the test statistic (e.g. F , t , r) with confidence intervals, effect sizes, degrees of freedom and P value noted
Give P values as exact values whenever suitable.
- ☒ ☐ For Bayesian analysis, information on the choice of priors and Markov chain Monte Carlo settings
- ☒ ☐ For hierarchical and complex designs, identification of the appropriate level for tests and full reporting of outcomes
- ☒ ☐ Estimates of effect sizes (e.g. Cohen's d , Pearson's r), indicating how they were calculated

Our web collection on [statistics for biologists](#) contains articles on many of the points above.

Software and code

Policy information about [availability of computer code](#)

Data collection

Chemical quantifications were performed by a Bruker GC system (456-GC) coupled with a triple quadrupole (TQ) mass spectrometer (Scion TQ MS/MS, Bruker Daltonics, Bremen, Germany) and a Agilent GC system (5973N) coupled with a mass spectrometry system equipped with a HP-5MS column (60 m * 0.25 mm i.d. * 0.25 μ M film thickness, Agilent Technologies).
qPCR data were generated by a LightCycler 480 instrument (Roche, USA).
Confocal images were obtained by LSM 710 confocal fluorescence microscope (Zeiss) equipped with ZEN 2012 software.
Behavioral assays were recorded by VCR software (Version 2, Noldus Information Technology).
HKL2000 (HKL Research) was used for processing single-crystal monochromatic diffraction data.
Syntech Autospike32 were used to record the SSR responses.
GNINA v1.1 was used to perform virtual screening.

Data analysis

A Bruker chemical analysis MS workstation (MS Data Review, Data Process, version 8.0) and an Agilent MSD ChemStation (E.02.01) were used to analyze and process the GC-MS Data.
Primer Premier 6 was used for designing gene primer.
Sequence alignment was performed with BioEdit software.
ImageJ software (Version 1.51k) was used for measuring and analyzing the Western band densities.
Video was analyzed using EthoVision XT software (11.5 version, Noldus Information Technology).
All statistical analyses were performed with SPSS 18.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA).
Phaser:(autobuild, refine, phaser) 1.18.2-3874 and Coot: 0.8.9.2 EL were used to analyse the crystal data of 4VPMT2.
Schrodinger Maestro 13.1 was used to perform the computational experiments.
AlphaFold v2.2.0 was used to predict the structure of 4VPMT1.
Chimera 1.14 was used for visualization and analysis of the molecular structures.

GraphPad Prism 8.0.2 was used to calculate the kinetic parameters for 4VPMTs.
 Syntech Autospike32 were used to analyze the SSR data.
 RDKit 2020.09.1 was used to analyze the structural similarity of candidate inhibitors.
 CREST v2.11 was used to determine and compare the optimal conformation of candidate inhibitors.

For manuscripts utilizing custom algorithms or software that are central to the research but not yet described in published literature, software must be made available to editors and reviewers. We strongly encourage code deposition in a community repository (e.g. GitHub). See the Nature Portfolio [guidelines for submitting code & software](#) for further information.

Data

Policy information about [availability of data](#)

All manuscripts must include a [data availability statement](#). This statement should provide the following information, where applicable:

- Accession codes, unique identifiers, or web links for publicly available datasets
- A description of any restrictions on data availability
- For clinical datasets or third party data, please ensure that the statement adheres to our [policy](#)

The raw reads of leg samples for transcriptome analysis are available for download from the NCBI SRA server (accession number: PRJNA1046724). The structural factors and coordinates of 4VPMT2 are deposited in the Protein Data Bank under ID 8ZSA. The reported structures of homologous juvenile hormone acid methyltransferases JHAMTs can be found in the Protein Data Bank under ID 7ECO, 7EBS, 7EBX and 7V2S. The authors declare that the data supporting the findings of this study are available within the paper, Extended Data and the Supplementary Information.

Research involving human participants, their data, or biological material

Policy information about studies with [human participants or human data](#). See also policy information about [sex, gender \(identity/presentation\), and sexual orientation](#) and [race, ethnicity and racism](#).

Reporting on sex and gender	n/a
Reporting on race, ethnicity, or other socially relevant groupings	n/a
Population characteristics	n/a
Recruitment	n/a
Ethics oversight	n/a

Note that full information on the approval of the study protocol must also be provided in the manuscript.

Field-specific reporting

Please select the one below that is the best fit for your research. If you are not sure, read the appropriate sections before making your selection.

☒ Life sciences ☐ Behavioural & social sciences ☐ Ecological, evolutionary & environmental sciences

For a reference copy of the document with all sections, see [nature.com/documents/nr-reporting-summary-flat.pdf](https://www.nature.com/documents/nr-reporting-summary-flat.pdf)

Life sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

Sample size	The sample size for each experiment is indicated in the figure legends or the corresponding methods. Sample sizes were selected based on our previous experience to obtain statistical significance and reproducibility (Guo et al., 2018, Nat Commun; Guo et al., 2020, Nature; Chen et al., 2022, eLife; Yang et al., 2023, PNAS)
Data exclusions	No data were excluded.
Replication	3-8 biological replicates and 24-30 locusts were applied in this studies. All attempts to repeat the experiment were successful.
Randomization	The samples were allocated randomly into experimental groups.
Blinding	The investigators were blinded to group allocation during data collection and data analysis.

Behavioural & social sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

Study description	Briefly describe the study type including whether data are quantitative, qualitative, or mixed-methods (e.g. qualitative cross-sectional, quantitative experimental, mixed-methods case study).
Research sample	State the research sample (e.g. Harvard university undergraduates, villagers in rural India) and provide relevant demographic information (e.g. age, sex) and indicate whether the sample is representative. Provide a rationale for the study sample chosen. For studies involving existing datasets, please describe the dataset and source.
Sampling strategy	Describe the sampling procedure (e.g. random, snowball, stratified, convenience). Describe the statistical methods that were used to predetermine sample size OR if no sample-size calculation was performed, describe how sample sizes were chosen and provide a rationale for why these sample sizes are sufficient. For qualitative data, please indicate whether data saturation was considered, and what criteria were used to decide that no further sampling was needed.
Data collection	Provide details about the data collection procedure, including the instruments or devices used to record the data (e.g. pen and paper, computer, eye tracker, video or audio equipment) whether anyone was present besides the participant(s) and the researcher, and whether the researcher was blind to experimental condition and/or the study hypothesis during data collection.
Timing	Indicate the start and stop dates of data collection. If there is a gap between collection periods, state the dates for each sample cohort.
Data exclusions	If no data were excluded from the analyses, state so OR if data were excluded, provide the exact number of exclusions and the rationale behind them, indicating whether exclusion criteria were pre-established.
Non-participation	State how many participants dropped out/declined participation and the reason(s) given OR provide response rate OR state that no participants dropped out/declined participation.
Randomization	If participants were not allocated into experimental groups, state so OR describe how participants were allocated to groups, and if allocation was not random, describe how covariates were controlled.

Ecological, evolutionary & environmental sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

Study description	Briefly describe the study. For quantitative data include treatment factors and interactions, design structure (e.g. factorial, nested, hierarchical), nature and number of experimental units and replicates.
Research sample	Describe the research sample (e.g. a group of tagged <i>Passer domesticus</i> , all <i>Stenocereus thurberi</i> within Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument), and provide a rationale for the sample choice. When relevant, describe the organism taxa, source, sex, age range and any manipulations. State what population the sample is meant to represent when applicable. For studies involving existing datasets, describe the data and its source.
Sampling strategy	Note the sampling procedure. Describe the statistical methods that were used to predetermine sample size OR if no sample-size calculation was performed, describe how sample sizes were chosen and provide a rationale for why these sample sizes are sufficient.
Data collection	Describe the data collection procedure, including who recorded the data and how.
Timing and spatial scale	Indicate the start and stop dates of data collection, noting the frequency and periodicity of sampling and providing a rationale for these choices. If there is a gap between collection periods, state the dates for each sample cohort. Specify the spatial scale from which the data are taken
Data exclusions	If no data were excluded from the analyses, state so OR if data were excluded, describe the exclusions and the rationale behind them, indicating whether exclusion criteria were pre-established.
Reproducibility	Describe the measures taken to verify the reproducibility of experimental findings. For each experiment, note whether any attempts to repeat the experiment failed OR state that all attempts to repeat the experiment were successful.
Randomization	Describe how samples/organisms/participants were allocated into groups. If allocation was not random, describe how covariates were controlled. If this is not relevant to your study, explain why.
Blinding	Describe the extent of blinding used during data acquisition and analysis. If blinding was not possible, describe why OR explain why blinding was not relevant to your study.

Did the study involve field work? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Field work, collection and transport

Field conditions	<i>Describe the study conditions for field work, providing relevant parameters (e.g. temperature, rainfall).</i>
Location	<i>State the location of the sampling or experiment, providing relevant parameters (e.g. latitude and longitude, elevation, water depth).</i>
Access & import/export	<i>Describe the efforts you have made to access habitats and to collect and import/export your samples in a responsible manner and in compliance with local, national and international laws, noting any permits that were obtained (give the name of the issuing authority, the date of issue, and any identifying information).</i>
Disturbance	<i>Describe any disturbance caused by the study and how it was minimized.</i>

Reporting for specific materials, systems and methods

We require information from authors about some types of materials, experimental systems and methods used in many studies. Here, indicate whether each material, system or method listed is relevant to your study. If you are not sure if a list item applies to your research, read the appropriate section before selecting a response.

Materials & experimental systems

Methods

n/a	Involved in the study	n/a	Involved in the study
☐	☒ Antibodies	☒	☐ ChIP-seq
☒	☐ Eukaryotic cell lines	☒	☐ Flow cytometry
☒	☐ Palaeontology and archaeology	☒	☐ MRI-based neuroimaging
☐	☒ Animals and other organisms		
☒	☐ Clinical data		
☒	☐ Dual use research of concern		
☒	☐ Plants		

Antibodies

Antibodies used	Affinity-purified polyclonal antibodies against 4VPMT1 (mouse) and 4VPMT2 (rabbit) were developed (ABclonal) for protein analyses. anti-GAPDH antibody (rabbit) was prepared according to our previous paper (Wang et al., 2013, Plos Pathog 9, e1003102). The secondary antibodies used in this study include goat anti-rabbit antibody Alexa fluor 488 (Life Technology, A11034) and goat anti-mouse antibody Alexa fluor 546 (Life Technology, A11030).
Validation	The 4VPMT1 and 4VPMT2 antibodies were validated by Western blot in this study (Supplementary Fig. 1). The antibody against GAPDH (rabbit) was validated and applied in previous paper (Wang et al., 2013, Plos Pathog 9, e1003102).

Eukaryotic cell lines

Policy information about [cell lines and Sex and Gender in Research](#)

Cell line source(s)	<i>State the source of each cell line used and the sex of all primary cell lines and cells derived from human participants or vertebrate models.</i>
Authentication	<i>Describe the authentication procedures for each cell line used OR declare that none of the cell lines used were authenticated.</i>
Mycoplasma contamination	<i>Confirm that all cell lines tested negative for mycoplasma contamination OR describe the results of the testing for mycoplasma contamination OR declare that the cell lines were not tested for mycoplasma contamination.</i>
Commonly misidentified lines (See ICLAC register)	<i>Name any commonly misidentified cell lines used in the study and provide a rationale for their use.</i>

Palaeontology and Archaeology

Specimen provenance	<i>Provide provenance information for specimens and describe permits that were obtained for the work (including the name of the issuing authority, the date of issue, and any identifying information). Permits should encompass collection and, where applicable, export.</i>
Specimen deposition	<i>Indicate where the specimens have been deposited to permit free access by other researchers.</i>
Dating methods	<i>If new dates are provided, describe how they were obtained (e.g. collection, storage, sample pretreatment and measurement), where</i>

Dating methods

they were obtained (i.e. lab name), the calibration program and the protocol for quality assurance OR state that no new dates are provided.

☐ Tick this box to confirm that the raw and calibrated dates are available in the paper or in Supplementary Information.

Ethics oversight

Identify the organization(s) that approved or provided guidance on the study protocol, OR state that no ethical approval or guidance was required and explain why not.

Note that full information on the approval of the study protocol must also be provided in the manuscript.

Animals and other research organisms

Policy information about [studies involving animals](#); [ARRIVE guidelines](#) recommended for reporting animal research, and [Sex and Gender in Research](#)

Laboratory animals

The gregarious and solitary locusts (*Locusta migratoria*) used in the experiments were maintained at the Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China. In brief, the gregarious locusts were reared in cages (30 cm × 30 cm × 30 cm) with 800 to 1000 first-instar insects per cage in a well-ventilated room. The solitary locusts were raised in another room, each in a separate ventilated cage (10 cm × 10 cm × 25 cm). The gregarious and solitary locusts were maintained for at least three generations before the experiments. All locusts were cultured under the following conditions: photoperiod L14:D10, temperature 30 ± 2 °C, relative humidity 60 ± 5%, and a diet of fresh greenhouse-grown wheat seedlings and bran. Fifth-instar locusts were used in the experiments.

Wild animals

The study did not involve wild animals.

Reporting on sex

The locusts used for pheromone collection and behavioral assay are female and male nymphs at the same stadium.

Field-collected samples

The study did not involve samples collected from the field.

Ethics oversight

Animal experiments were approved by the Animal Care and Use Committee of the Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences or Peking University.

Note that full information on the approval of the study protocol must also be provided in the manuscript.

Clinical data

Policy information about [clinical studies](#)

All manuscripts should comply with the ICMJE [guidelines for publication of clinical research](#) and a completed [CONSORT checklist](#) must be included with all submissions.

Clinical trial registration

Provide the trial registration number from ClinicalTrials.gov or an equivalent agency.

Study protocol

Note where the full trial protocol can be accessed OR if not available, explain why.

Data collection

Describe the settings and locales of data collection, noting the time periods of recruitment and data collection.

Outcomes

Describe how you pre-defined primary and secondary outcome measures and how you assessed these measures.

Dual use research of concern

Policy information about [dual use research of concern](#)

Hazards

Could the accidental, deliberate or reckless misuse of agents or technologies generated in the work, or the application of information presented in the manuscript, pose a threat to:

No Yes

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| ☐ | ☐ | Public health |
| ☐ | ☐ | National security |
| ☐ | ☐ | Crops and/or livestock |
| ☐ | ☐ | Ecosystems |
| ☐ | ☐ | Any other significant area |

Experiments of concern

Does the work involve any of these experiments of concern:

No Yes

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| ☐ | ☐ | Demonstrate how to render a vaccine ineffective |
| ☐ | ☐ | Confer resistance to therapeutically useful antibiotics or antiviral agents |
| ☐ | ☐ | Enhance the virulence of a pathogen or render a nonpathogen virulent |
| ☐ | ☐ | Increase transmissibility of a pathogen |
| ☐ | ☐ | Alter the host range of a pathogen |
| ☐ | ☐ | Enable evasion of diagnostic/detection modalities |
| ☐ | ☐ | Enable the weaponization of a biological agent or toxin |
| ☐ | ☐ | Any other potentially harmful combination of experiments and agents |

Plants

Seed stocks

n/a

Novel plant genotypes

n/a

Authentication

n/a

ChIP-seq

Data deposition

- ☐ Confirm that both raw and final processed data have been deposited in a public database such as [GEO](#).
- ☐ Confirm that you have deposited or provided access to graph files (e.g. BED files) for the called peaks.

Data access links

May remain private before publication.

For "Initial submission" or "Revised version" documents, provide reviewer access links. For your "Final submission" document, provide a link to the deposited data.

Files in database submission

Provide a list of all files available in the database submission.

Genome browser session

(e.g. [UCSC](#))

Provide a link to an anonymized genome browser session for "Initial submission" and "Revised version" documents only, to enable peer review. Write "no longer applicable" for "Final submission" documents.

Methodology

Replicates

Describe the experimental replicates, specifying number, type and replicate agreement.

Sequencing depth

Describe the sequencing depth for each experiment, providing the total number of reads, uniquely mapped reads, length of reads and whether they were paired- or single-end.

Antibodies

Describe the antibodies used for the ChIP-seq experiments; as applicable, provide supplier name, catalog number, clone name, and lot number.

Peak calling parameters

Specify the command line program and parameters used for read mapping and peak calling, including the ChIP, control and index files used.

Data quality

Describe the methods used to ensure data quality in full detail, including how many peaks are at FDR 5% and above 5-fold enrichment.

Software

Describe the software used to collect and analyze the ChIP-seq data. For custom code that has been deposited into a community repository, provide accession details.

Flow Cytometry

Plots

Confirm that:

- ☐ The axis labels state the marker and fluorochrome used (e.g. CD4-FITC).
- ☐ The axis scales are clearly visible. Include numbers along axes only for bottom left plot of group (a 'group' is an analysis of identical markers).
- ☐ All plots are contour plots with outliers or pseudocolor plots.
- ☐ A numerical value for number of cells or percentage (with statistics) is provided.

Methodology

Sample preparation

Describe the sample preparation, detailing the biological source of the cells and any tissue processing steps used.

Instrument

Identify the instrument used for data collection, specifying make and model number.

Software

Describe the software used to collect and analyze the flow cytometry data. For custom code that has been deposited into a community repository, provide accession details.

Cell population abundance

Describe the abundance of the relevant cell populations within post-sort fractions, providing details on the purity of the samples and how it was determined.

Gating strategy

Describe the gating strategy used for all relevant experiments, specifying the preliminary FSC/SSC gates of the starting cell population, indicating where boundaries between "positive" and "negative" staining cell populations are defined.

- ☐ Tick this box to confirm that a figure exemplifying the gating strategy is provided in the Supplementary Information.

Magnetic resonance imaging

Experimental design

Design type

Indicate task or resting state; event-related or block design.

Design specifications

Specify the number of blocks, trials or experimental units per session and/or subject, and specify the length of each trial or block (if trials are blocked) and interval between trials.

Behavioral performance measures

State number and/or type of variables recorded (e.g. correct button press, response time) and what statistics were used to establish that the subjects were performing the task as expected (e.g. mean, range, and/or standard deviation across subjects).

Acquisition

Imaging type(s)

Specify: functional, structural, diffusion, perfusion.

Field strength

Specify in Tesla

Sequence & imaging parameters

Specify the pulse sequence type (gradient echo, spin echo, etc.), imaging type (EPI, spiral, etc.), field of view, matrix size, slice thickness, orientation and TE/TR/flip angle.

Area of acquisition

State whether a whole brain scan was used OR define the area of acquisition, describing how the region was determined.

Diffusion MRI

☐ Used

☐ Not used

Preprocessing

Preprocessing software

Provide detail on software version and revision number and on specific parameters (model/functions, brain extraction, segmentation, smoothing kernel size, etc.).

Normalization

If data were normalized/standardized, describe the approach(es): specify linear or non-linear and define image types used for transformation OR indicate that data were not normalized and explain rationale for lack of normalization.

Normalization template

Describe the template used for normalization/transformation, specifying subject space or group standardized space (e.g. original Talairach, MNI305, ICBM152) OR indicate that the data were not normalized.

Noise and artifact removal

Describe your procedure(s) for artifact and structured noise removal, specifying motion parameters, tissue signals and physiological signals (heart rate, respiration).

Volume censoring

Define your software and/or method and criteria for volume censoring, and state the extent of such censoring.

Statistical modeling & inference

Model type and settings

Specify type (mass univariate, multivariate, RSA, predictive, etc.) and describe essential details of the model at the first and second levels (e.g. fixed, random or mixed effects; drift or auto-correlation).

Effect(s) tested

Define precise effect in terms of the task or stimulus conditions instead of psychological concepts and indicate whether ANOVA or factorial designs were used.

Specify type of analysis: ☐ Whole brain ☐ ROI-based ☐ Both

Statistic type for inference

Specify voxel-wise or cluster-wise and report all relevant parameters for cluster-wise methods.

(See [Eklund et al. 2016](#))

Correction

Describe the type of correction and how it is obtained for multiple comparisons (e.g. FWE, FDR, permutation or Monte Carlo).

Models & analysis

n/a | Involved in the study

☐ ☐ Functional and/or effective connectivity

☐ ☐ Graph analysis

☐ ☐ Multivariate modeling or predictive analysis

Functional and/or effective connectivity

Report the measures of dependence used and the model details (e.g. Pearson correlation, partial correlation, mutual information).

Graph analysis

Report the dependent variable and connectivity measure, specifying weighted graph or binarized graph, subject- or group-level, and the global and/or node summaries used (e.g. clustering coefficient, efficiency, etc.).

Multivariate modeling and predictive analysis

Specify independent variables, features extraction and dimension reduction, model, training and evaluation metrics.