

2. Many insects rely on pheromones (chemical signals) that are released by the females to find mating partners. Scientists hypothesize that, in a certain type of moth, the behavior of male moths in response to pheromones is regulated by the extracellular signaling molecule 20E.
- A. Many receptors are embedded in the plasma membrane. **Describe** the polarity of the portion of the receptor that is inside the membrane.

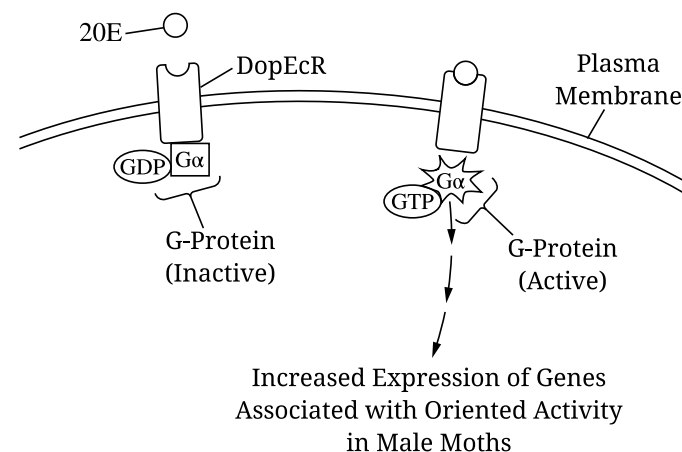
To investigate whether the binding of 20E to its receptor, DopEcR, affects behavior in moths, scientists injected male moths with saline (control solution) or with small interfering RNA molecules (siRNAs) that inhibit the expression of the gene encoding DopEcR. The scientists then exposed the moths to the pheromone and determined the percent of total time observed that the moths engaged in general activity, defined as movement in any direction. The scientists also determined the percent of the general activity time that the moths spent in oriented activity, defined as movement toward an area of high pheromone concentration (Table 1).

Table 1. Average General and Oriented Activity in Male Moths Injected With Saline or siRNA Molecules

Treatment	General Activity (percent of total time observed, average $\pm 2SE_{\bar{x}}$)	Oriented Activity (percent of general activity, average $\pm 2SE_{\bar{x}}$)
Male moths injected with saline (control solution)	95 ± 5	60 ± 4
Male moths injected with siRNAs that inhibit expression of the gene encoding DopEcR	90 ± 8	25 ± 6

DopEcR is a G protein-coupled receptor. When 20E binds to DopEcR, GTP displaces the GDP bound to the G protein, and a signaling pathway is activated. The scientists hypothesize that this leads to the transcription of genes associated with the oriented activity observed in the male moths (Figure 1).

Figure 1. A simplified model of a signaling pathway activated by the binding of 20E to its receptor, DopEcR



- B.
- Using the template in the space provided for your response, **construct** an appropriate type of graph that represents the data in Table 1. Your graph should be appropriately plotted and labeled.
 - Based on the data in Table 1, **determine** the type of activity that was affected by inhibiting the expression of the DopEcR receptor.
- C.
- Based on Table 1, **identify** the treatment group in which the oriented activity was greater than 50% of the general activity.
 - The scientists studied some moths with a mutation in the gene encoding the G protein. The mutation prevents GTP from displacing the GDP bound to the G protein. Based on Figure 1, **predict** the effect of this mutation on the oriented activity in male moths exposed to the pheromone.
- Expression of the gene encoding DopEcR is low in the male moths during their first few days as adults, when they are sexually immature. Gene expression rapidly increases as the moths reach sexual maturity. The scientists claim that this increase in gene expression increases the likelihood of males finding females with whom to mate.
- D.
- Use evidence from the information provided to **support** the scientists' claim.
 - Based on Figure 1, **explain** how an inhibitor of the DopEcR pathway might serve as an effective chemical to protect crops from moth damage.

1. In eukaryotic microorganisms, the PHO signaling pathway regulates the expression of certain genes. These genes, *Pho* target genes, encode proteins involved in regulating phosphate homeostasis. When the level of extracellular inorganic phosphate (Pi) is high, a transcriptional activator Pho4 is phosphorylated by a complex of two proteins, Pho80–Pho85. As a result, the *Pho* target genes are not expressed. When the level of extracellular Pi is low, the activity of the Pho80–Pho85 complex is inhibited by another protein, Pho81, enabling Pho4 to induce the expression of these target genes. A simplified model of this pathway is shown in Figure 1.

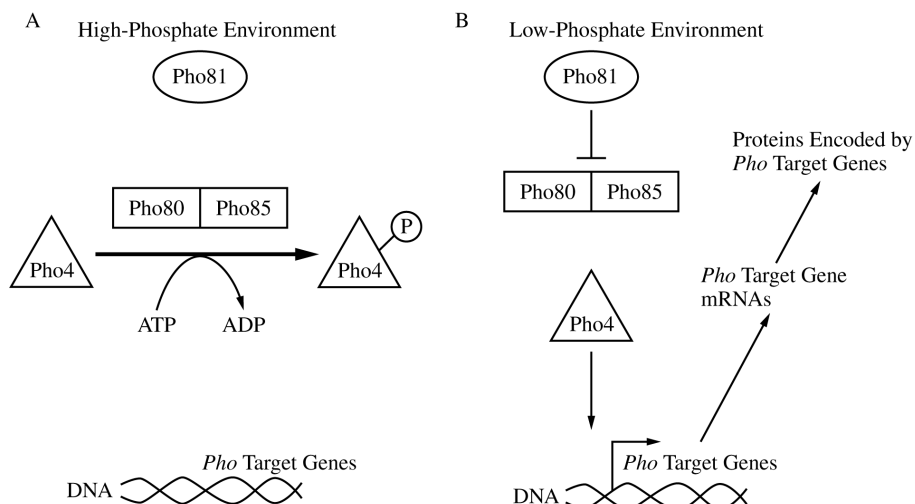


Figure 1. A simplified model of the regulation of expression of *Pho* target genes in (A) a high-phosphate (high-Pi) environment and (B) a low-phosphate (low-Pi) environment

To study the role of the different proteins in the PHO pathway, researchers used a wild-type strain of yeast to create a strain with a mutant form of Pho81 (*pho81mt*) and a strain with a mutant form of Pho4 (*pho4mt*). In each of these mutant strains, researchers measured the activity of a particular enzyme, APase, which removes phosphates from its substrates and is encoded by *PHO1*, a *Pho* target gene (Table 1). They then determined the level of *PHO1* mRNA relative to that of the wild-type yeast strain, which was set to 10.

TABLE 1. APase ACTIVITY AND RELATIVE AMOUNTS OF *PHO1* mRNA IN WILD-TYPE AND MUTANT STRAINS OF YEAST IN HIGH- AND LOW-PHOSPHATE ENVIRONMENTS

Yeast Strain	Mutation	APase Activity in High-Pi Environment (mU/mL/OD ₆₀₀) ±2SE _{$\bar{x}$}	APase Activity in Low-Pi Environment (mU/mL/OD ₆₀₀) ±2SE _{$\bar{x}$}	Relative Amounts of <i>PHO1</i> mRNA in High-Pi Environment ±2SE _{$\bar{x}$}	Relative Amounts of <i>PHO1</i> mRNA in Low-Pi Environment ±2SE _{$\bar{x}$}
Wild-type	None	0.5 ± 0.1	17.3 ± 0.9	0.1 ± 0.0	10 ± 2.0
<i>pho81mt</i>	Nonfunctional Pho81	0.4 ± 0.1	0.6 ± 0.1	0.7 ± 0.2	0.9 ± 0.8
<i>pho4mt</i>	Nonfunctional Pho4	0.5 ± 0.0	0.8 ± 0.2	0.6 ± 0.4	0.3 ± 0.1

- Describe** the effect that the addition of a charged phosphate group can have on a protein that would cause the protein to become inactive. **Explain** how a signal can be amplified during signal transduction in a pathway such as the PHO signaling pathway.
- Based on Table 1, **identify** a dependent variable in the researchers' experiment. **Justify** the researchers' using the wild-type strain for the creation of the mutant strains. **Justify** the researchers' using mutant strains in which only a single component of the pathway was mutated in each strain.
- Based on the data in Table 1, **identify** the yeast strain and growth conditions that lead to the highest relative amount of *PHO1* mRNA. **Calculate** the percent change in APase activity in wild-type yeast cells in a high-Pi environment compared with that of wild-type cells in a low-Pi environment.
- In a follow-up experiment, researchers created a strain of yeast with a mutation that resulted in a nonfunctional Pho85 protein. Based on Figure 1, **predict** the effects of this mutation on *PHO1* expression in the mutant strain in a high-Pi environment. Provide reasoning to **justify** your prediction.

Write your responses to this question only on the designated pages in the separate Free Response booklet.

8. Acetylcholine receptor (AChR) proteins are found at the synapse between neurons and skeletal muscle cells. Acetylcholine released from neurons binds to a specific site on the receptor proteins, which causes an ion channel in the receptors to open and allow sodium ions (Na^+) to enter muscle cells. The resulting depolarization of muscle cells initiates muscle contractions. Another molecule, nicotine, can also bind to certain types of AChR proteins and activate the receptors.

A researcher is investigating two different types of AChR proteins: type 1 and type 2. To determine which stimuli activate the receptors, the researcher exposes muscle cells expressing the different types of receptor proteins to stimuli and observes the results indicated in Table 1.

TABLE 1. RESPONSE OF AChR PROTEINS TO DIFFERENT STIMULI

AChR Protein Type	Acetylcholine	Nicotine
Type 1	+	+
Type 2	+	–

+ indicates activation

– indicates no activation

- (a) **Describe** the difference in the structure AND function between AChR type 1 and AChR type 2.
- (b) Acetylcholinesterase is an enzyme that breaks down acetylcholine in the synapse. **Describe** the effect of inhibiting acetylcholinesterase on the muscle cells with AChR type 2.

STOP

END OF EXAM