

Optogenetic tools for manipulation of cyclic nucleotides, functionally coupled to CNG-channels

Thilo Henß^{1,2} | Jatin Nagpal^{1,2,3} | Shiqiang Gao⁴ | Ulrike Scheib^{5,6} | Alessia Pieragnolo⁷ | Alexander Hirschhäuser^{1,2,8} | Franziska Schneider-Warme⁹ | Peter Hegemann⁵ | Georg Nagel⁴ | Alexander Gottschalk^{1,2}

1 Buchmann Institute for Molecular Life Sciences, Goethe University, Max von Laue Strasse 15, D-60438 Frankfurt, Germany

2 Institute of Biophysical Chemistry, Goethe University, Max von Laue Strasse 9, D-60438 Frankfurt, Germany

3 current address: APC Microbiome Ireland, University College Cork, Cork, Ireland.

4 Department of Neurophysiology, Institute of Physiology, Biocentre, Julius-Maximilians-University, D-97070 Würzburg, Germany

5 Institute for Biology, Experimental Biophysics, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 10115 Berlin, Germany

6 current address: NUVISAN ICB GmbH, Müllerstrasse 178, D-13353 Berlin, Germany

7 University of Padova, Faculty of Pharmacy, Padova, Italy

8 Institute for Physiology and Pathophysiology, Department of Molecular Cell Physiology, Philipps-University Marburg, Marburg, Germany

9 Institute for Experimental Cardiovascular Medicine, University Heart Center, Medical Center – University of Freiburg and Faculty of Medicine, Elsäßer Str. 2Q, 79110 Freiburg, Germany

Supplementary Material

Table 1. *C. elegans* strains used or generated in this paper-

Strain	Genotype	Transgene
KG1180	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	
ZX1569	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zxls53[punc-17::bPAC::YFP; pmyo-2::mCherry]</i>
ZX1741	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx889[pmyo-3::tax-2::GFP, pmyo-3::tax-4::GFP, pmyo-2::mCherry]</i>
ZX1940	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx960[punc-17::BeCyclOp::SL2::mCherry, pelt-2::GFP]</i>
ZX1941	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx961[punc-17::BeCyclOp(A-3x)::SL2::mCherry, pelt-2::GFP]</i>
ZX2154	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx1043[punc-17::CaCyclOp(A-2x)::SL2::mCherry]</i>
ZX2316	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx889; zEx1088[pmyo-3::BeCyclOp(A-3x)::SL2::mCherry],</i>
ZX2326	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx1091[pmyo-3::BeCyclOp::SL2::mCherry; pmyo-3::BeCNG1::YFP]</i>
ZX2391	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx1117[punc-17::BeCyclOp(A-2x)::SL2::mCherry]</i>
ZX2393	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx1119[pmyo-3::SthK::SL2::GFP; pmyo-2::mCherry]</i>
ZX2394	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx1119; zEx1120[pmyo-3::bPAC::SL2::mCherry]</i>
ZX2395	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx1121 [punc-17::SthK::SL2::GFP; pmyo-3::mCherry]</i>
ZX2396	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx1121; zxls53</i>
ZX2397	wild type	<i>zEx1121</i>
ZX2398	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx1122[pmyo-3::SthK::mCherry; pmyo-2::CFP]</i>
ZX2399	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx1123[punc-17::SthK::mCherry; pmyo-2::CFP]</i>
ZX2400	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx889; zEx1124[pmyo-3::BeCyclOp::SL2::mCherry]</i>
ZX2401	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx889; zEx1125[pmyo-3::bPGC::SL2::mCherry]</i>
ZX2402	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx889; zEx1126[pmyo-3::CaCyclOp::SL2::mCherry]</i>
ZX2403	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx889; zEx1127[pmyo-3::BeCyclOp(A-2x)::SL2::mCherry]</i>
ZX2404	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx889; zEx1128[pmyo-3::YFP::BeCyclOp(A-2x)::SL2::mCherry]</i>
ZX2405	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx889; zEx1129[pmyo-3::CaCyclOp(A-2x)::SL2::mCherry]</i>
ZX2406	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx889; zEx1130[pmyo-3::YFP::CaCyclOp(A-2x)::SL2::mCherry]</i>
ZX2408	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx889; zEx1132[pmyo-3::bPAC::SL2::mCherry]</i>
ZX2504	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx1119; zEx1219[pmyo-3::BeCyclOp::SL2::mCherry]</i>
ZX2505	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx1119; zEx1220[pmyo-3::BeCyclOp(A-2x)::SL2::mCherry]</i>
ZX2506	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx1119; zEx1221[pmyo-3::BeCyclOp(A-3x)::SL2::mCherry]</i>
ZX2507	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx1119; zEx1222[pmyo-3::CaCyclOp(A-2x)::SL2::mCherry]</i>
ZX2530	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx1119; zEx1230[pmyo-3::BeCyclOp(A-3x)::SL2::mCherry]</i>
ZX2606	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx1231[punc-17::SthK::SL2::GFP; punc-17::BeCyclOp(A-3x)::SL2::mCherry; pmyo-2::mCherry]</i>
ZX2607	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx1232[punc-17::SthK::SL2::GFP; punc-17::BeCyclOp(A-3x)::SL2::mCherry; pmyo-2::mCherry]</i>
ZX2608	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx1233[punc-17::SthK::SL2::GFP; punc-17::BeCyclOp(A-2x)::SL2::mCherry]</i>
ZX2609	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx1124[pmyo-3::BeCyclOp::SL2::mCherry]</i>
ZX2610	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx1125[pmyo-3::bPGC::SL2::mCherry]</i>
ZX2611	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx1126[pmyo-3::CaCyclOp::SL2::mCherry]</i>
ZX2612	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx1088[pmyo-3::BeCyclOp(A-3x)::SL2::mCherry]</i>
ZX2613	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx1127[pmyo-3::BeCyclOp(A-2x)::SL2::mCherry]</i>
ZX2614	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx1128[pmyo-3::YFP::BeCyclOp(A-2x)::SL2::mCherry]</i>
ZX2615	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx1129[pmyo-3::BeCyclOp(A-2x)::SL2::mCherry]</i>
ZX2616	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx1130[pmyo-3::YFP::BeCyclOp(A-2x)::SL2::mCherry]</i>
ZX2617	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx1132[pmyo-3::bPAC::SL2::mCherry]</i>
ZX2659	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx1255[punc-17::YFP::BeCyclOp(A-2x)::SL2::mCherry; pmyo-2::mCherry]</i>
ZX2660	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx1256[punc-17::YFP::CaCyclOp(A-2x)::SL2::mCherry; pmyo-2::mCherry]</i>
ZX2796	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx1297[punc-17::SthK::SL2::GFP; punc-17::YFP::BeCyclOp[E497K,C566D]::SL2::mCherry; pmyo-2::mCherry]</i>
ZX2797	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx1298[punc-17::SthK::SL2::GFP; punc-17::YFP::BeCyclOp[E497K,C566D]::SL2::mCherry; pmyo-2::mCherry]</i>
ZX2798	<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>	<i>zEx1317[punc-17::SthK::SL2::GFP; punc-17::YFP::BeCyclOp[E497K,C566D]::SL2::mCherry; pmyo-2::mCherry]</i>

Table 2. Summary of results for the adenylyl and guanylyl cyclases analyzed in this paper.

Optogenetic tool	Change in crawling speed (tool expressed in cholinergic neurons) [%]	τ [s]	Change in swimming frequency (tool expressed in cholinergic neurons) [%]	cAMP content in dark [nM] (tool expressed in BWM)	cAMP content in light [nM] (tool expressed in BWM)	Light/Dark ratio	cGMP content in dark [nM] (tool expressed in BWM)	cGMP content in light [nM] (tool expressed in BWM)	Light/Dark ratio
Adenylyl cyclases									
bPAC	20.59	1.85	15.06	2.59	141.62	54.68	2.56	1.66	
BeCyclOp(A-2x)	28.51	1.82	19.41	3.38	39.44	11.67	0.89	1.53	
BeCyclOp(A-3x)	9.4	3.52	-0.54	2.52	7.65	3.04	1.36	1.48	
YFP-BeCyclOp(A-2x)	20.82	4.26	21.94	1.91	57.64	30.18	1.31	1.46	
YFP-CaCyclOp(A-2x)	23.64	1.62	32.86	3.2	39.99	12.50	3.16	1.00	
Guanylyl cyclases									
BeCyclOp				2.49	3.49		1.71	74.08	43.39
CaCyclOp				2.24	4.09		1.01	13.19	13.02
bPGC				3.32	3.48		1.32	18.11	13.71
<i>lite-1(ce314)</i>				3.68	3.5503		2.96	1.72	

Table 3. Summary of results for the de- and hyperpolarizers characterized in this paper.

Optogenetic tool	Change in body length (tool expressed in BWM) [%]	τ [s]
Depolarizers		
TAX-2/-4; BeCyclOp	-7.99	0.23
TAX-2/-4; CaCyclOp	-3.55	0.88
TAX-2/-4; bPGC	-2.36	1.78
TAX-2/-4; BeCyclOp(A-2x)	-5.78	0.96
TAX-2/-4; YFP-BeCyclOp(A-2x)	-2.66	0.57
TAX-2/-4; BeCyclOp(A-3x)	-1.64	0.8
TAX-2/-4; YFP-CaCyclOp(A-2x)	-2.17	0.64
TAX-2/-4; bPAC	-5.71	1.04
Hyperpolarizers		
SthK; bPAC	+4.26	0.13
SthK; BeCyclOp(A-2x)	+3.1	0.21
SthK; BeCyclOp(A-3x)	+4.75	0.21
BeCNG1; BeCyclOp	+0.71	0.45

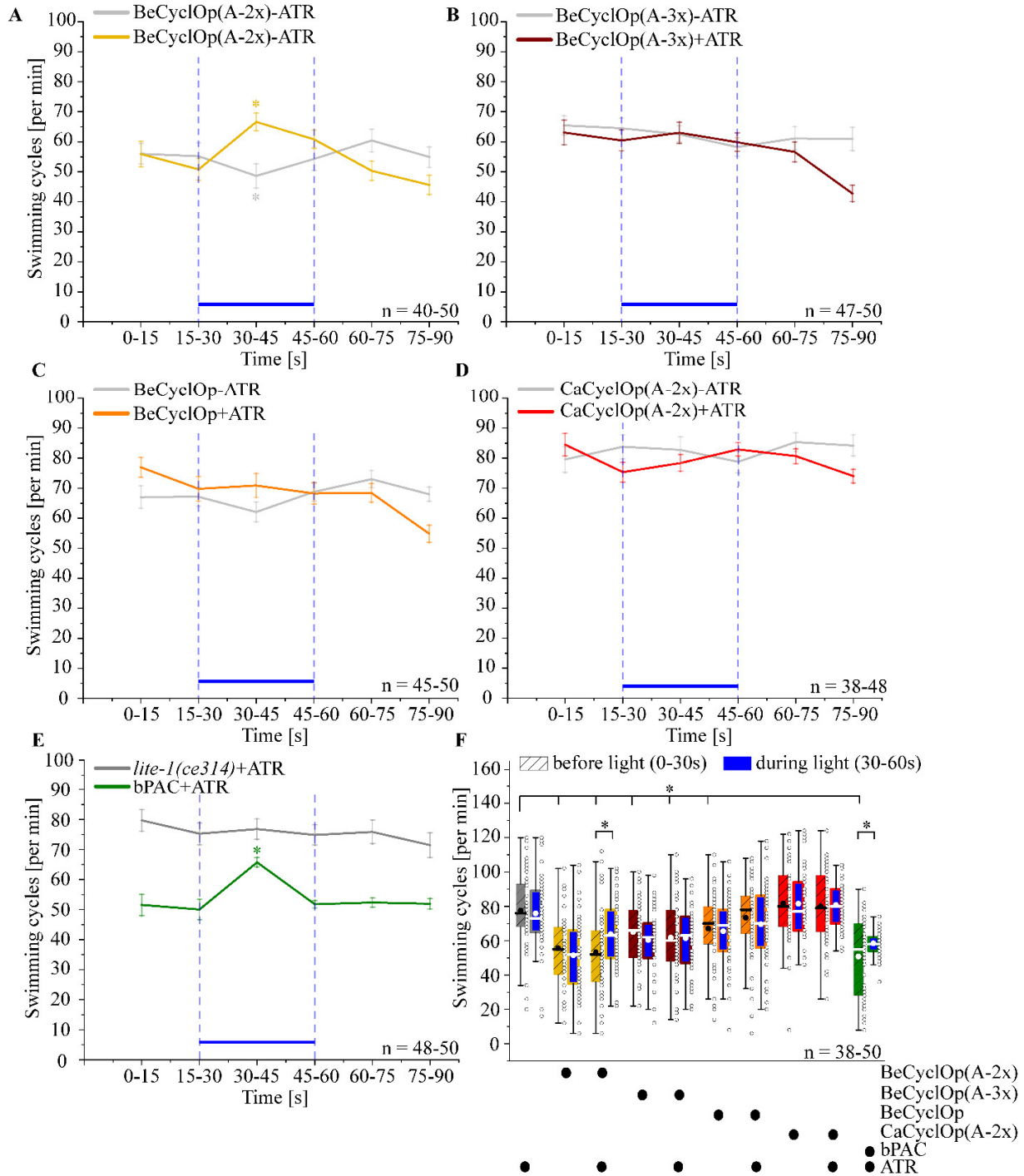


Figure S1. Swimming behavior analysis of *C. elegans* expressing membrane bound PACs in cholinergic motor neurons. Swimming cycles (+SEM) of animals expressing (A) BeCyclOp(A-2x), (B) BeCyclOp(A-3x) (C) wild type BeCyclOp, (D) CaCyclOp(A-2x), (E) bPAC and the genetic background *lite-1(ce314)*. Animals were supplemented with (+) or without (-) ATR. (F) Quantification of the light evoked behavioural effects. Depicted are the mean swimming cycles (+SEM) 30 s before, and 30 s during illumination (0.2 mW*mm⁻²; 470 nm). Displayed are the interquartile range (IQR), median (—), mean values (●), individual measurements (○) and whiskers (1.5*IQR). n = number of animals. The blue bars indicate the period of illumination. Statistically significant differences determined by one-way ANOVA and Student's t test: *p<0.05.

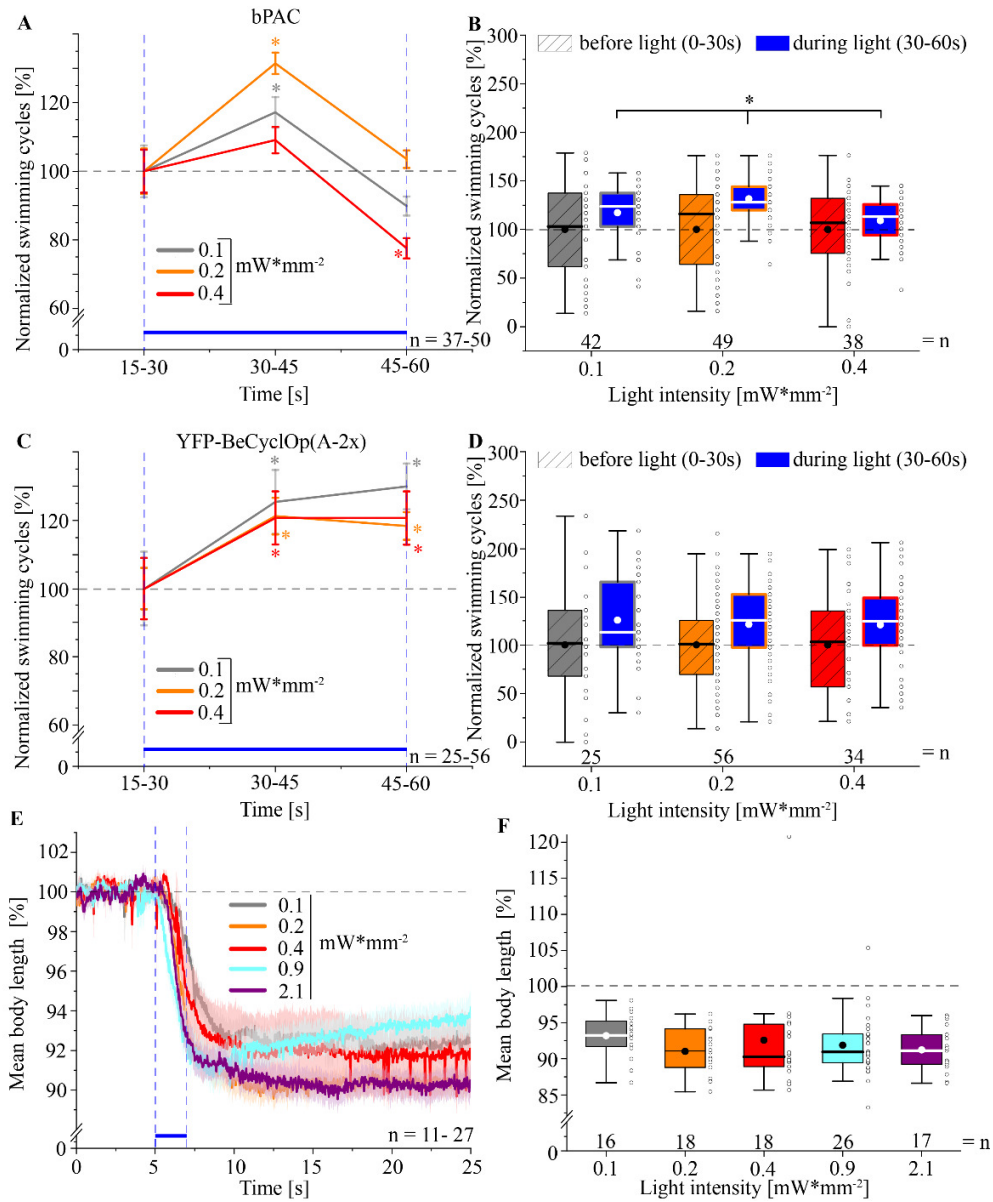


Figure S2. Light saturation measurements for bPAC and YFP-BeCyclOp(A-2x). Normalized swimming cycles (+SEM) of animals expressing bPAC (A) or YFP-BeCyclOp(A-3x) (C) in cholinergic neurons during a 30 s light pulse (470 nm) at light intensities of 0.1, 0.2 and 0.4 mW*mm⁻². The swimming cycles are normalized to the mean swimming frequency 15s before light application. (B, D) Mean swimming cycles 30s before and 30s during illumination of the animals in A and C. (E) Body length measurements of animals co-expressing bPAC and TAX-2/-4 in BWM, before, during and after a 2s light pulse (470 nm) at light intensities of 0.1, 0.2, 0.4, 0.9 and 2.1 mW*mm⁻². (F) Mean normalized body lengths (+SEM) of animals in E after light stimulation (8-10s). In B, D and F, the interquartile range (IQR), median (—), mean values (●), individual measurements (○) and whiskers (1.5*IQR) are depicted. n = number of animals. The blue bars indicate the period of illumination. Statistically significant differences determined by one-way ANOVA and Student's t test (A-D) or by one-way ANOVA/Bonferroni correction (F): *p<0.05

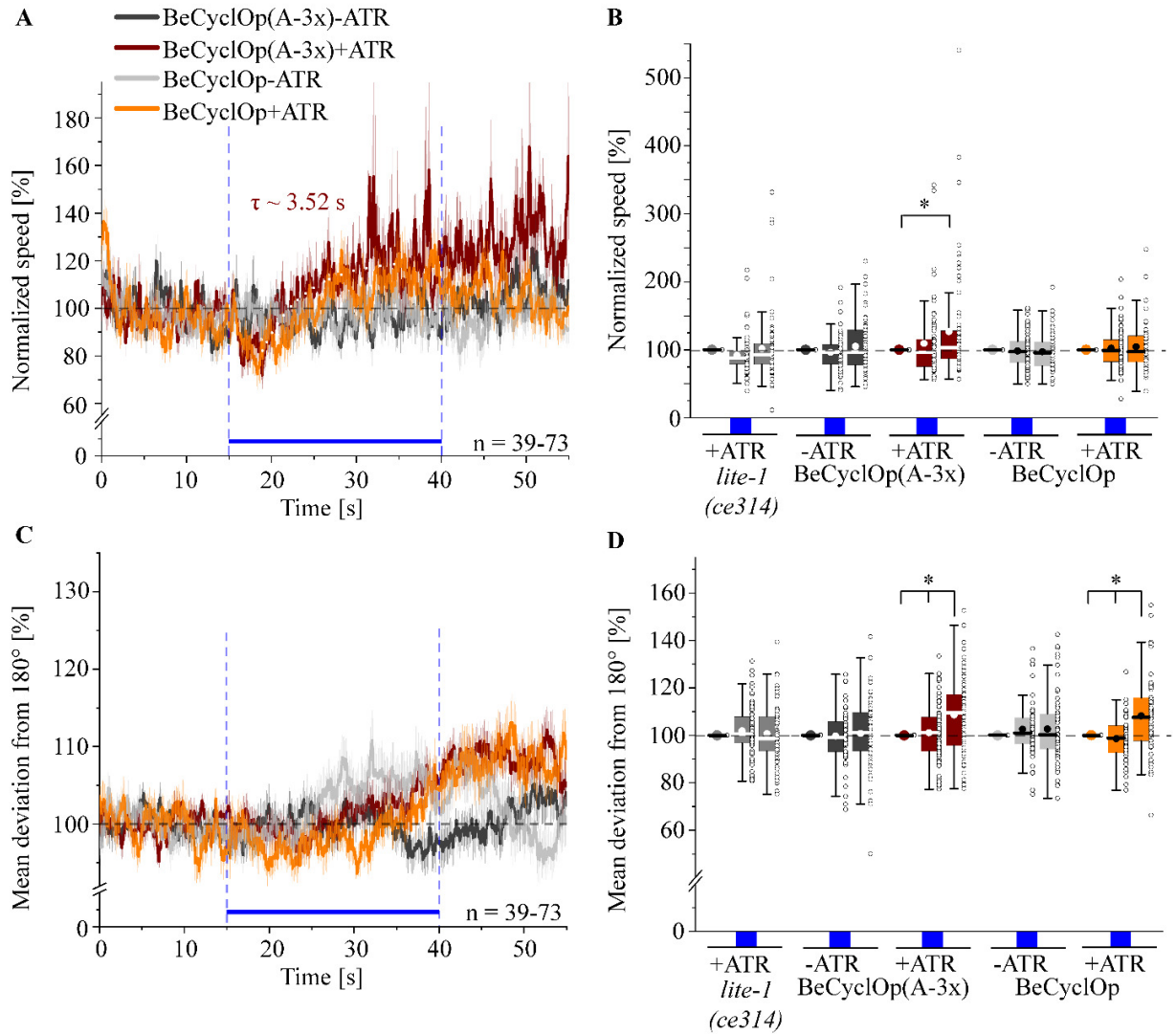


Figure S3. Crawling behavior analysis of *C. elegans* expressing wild type BeCyclOp and BeCyclOp(A-3x) in cholinergic motor neurons. (A) Normalized crawling speed (to the first 15s without light; \pm SEM) of animals, expressing wild type BeCyclOp or BeCyclOp(A-3x), cultivated with (+) or without (-) ATR, before, during and after a 25s light pulse ($0.2 \text{ mW} \cdot \text{mm}^{-2}$; 470 nm). Onset-time constant was determined by fitting as mono-exponential growth (dotted line). (B) Mean normalized speed of the animals in A, and the genetic background *lite-1(ce314)* for the time periods before (0-15s), during (15-40s; blue bar) and after (40-55s) illumination ($n = 55-73$). (C) Normalized bending angles (\pm SEM) of the animals in A. (D) Mean normalized bending angles before, during, and after light ($n = 55-73$). Shown in B and D are the interquartile range (IQR), median (—), mean values (\bullet), individual n values (\circ) and whiskers ($1.5 \cdot \text{IQR}$). $n =$ number of animals. The blue bars indicate the period of illumination. Statistically significant differences determined by one-way ANOVA/Bonferroni correction: $*p < 0.05$.

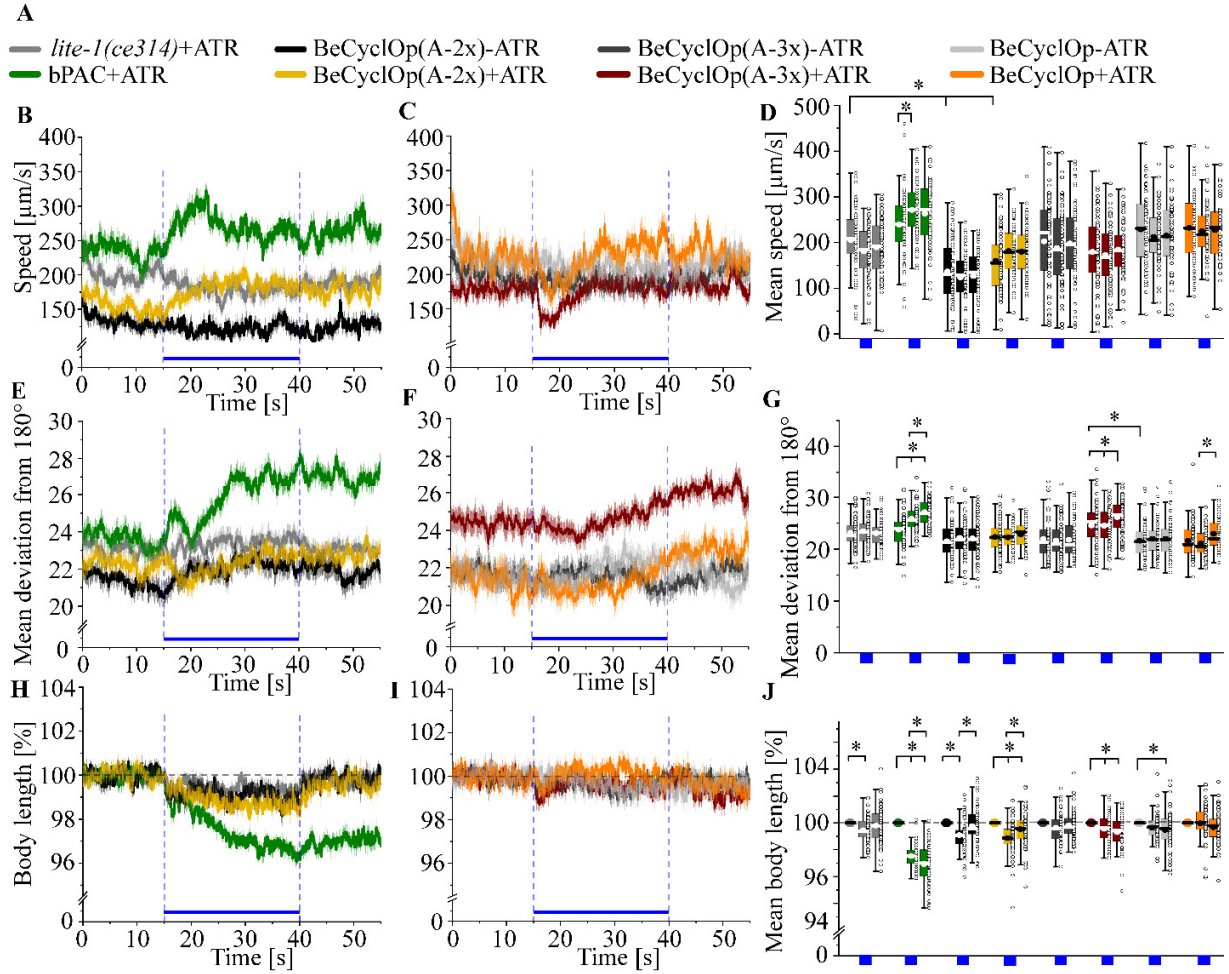


Figure S4. Locomotion behavior analysis on solid media of animals expressing membrane bound PACs.

(A) Colour code for the analysed strains in B-J. (B) Crawling speed (+SEM) of the genetic background *lite-1(ce314)* and animals, expressing bPAC, BeCyclOp(A-2x), (C) BeCyclOp(A-3x) or wild type BeCyclOp in cholinergic neurons, before, during and after a 25s light pulse ($0.2 \text{ mW} \cdot \text{mm}^{-2}$; 470 nm) (B: $n = 47-52$; C: $n = 39-73$). (D) Mean Speed of the time periods before (0-15s), during (15-40s; blue bar) and after (40-55s) light application ($n = 55-73$). (E, F) Bending angles (+SEM) of the animals in B and C (E: $n = 47-52$; F: $n = 39-73$). (G) Mean bending angles before, during and after light ($n = 55-73$). (H, I) Body lengths (+SEM) of the animals in B and C (H: $n = 47-52$; I: $n = 39-73$). (J) Mean normalized body lengths before, during and after light stimulation ($n = 55-73$). Depicted in D, G, J are the interquartile range (IQR), median (—), mean values (●), individual n values (○) and whiskers ($1.5 \cdot \text{IQR}$). Animals were cultivated with (+) or without (-) ATR. n = number of animals. The blue bars indicate the period of illumination. Statistically significant differences determined by one-way ANOVA/Bonferroni correction: * $p < 0.05$.

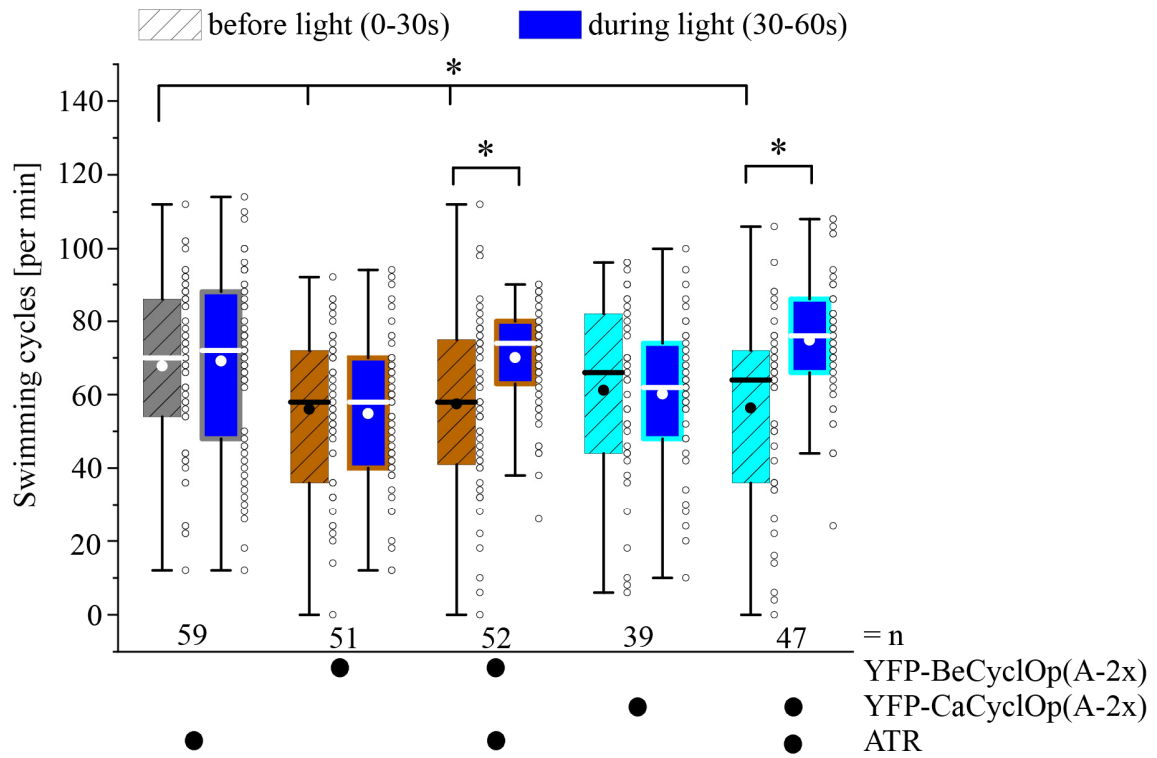


Figure S5. Swimming behavior of animals expressing YFP-CyclOp(A-2x)s in cholinergic motor neurons. (A) Swimming cycles (\pm SEM) of the genetic background *lite-1(ce314)* and animals, expressing YFP-BeCyclOp(A-2x) or YFP-CaCyclOp(A-2x) in cholinergic neurons, 30s before and 30s during illumination ($0.2 \text{ mW} \cdot \text{mm}^{-2}$; 470 nm). Displayed are the interquartile range (IQR), median ($-$), mean values (\bullet), individual n values (\circ) and whiskers ($1.5 \cdot \text{IQR}$). Animals were supplemented with (+) or without (-) ATR. n = number of animals. Statistically significant differences determined by one-way ANOVA and Student's t test: $*p < 0.05$.

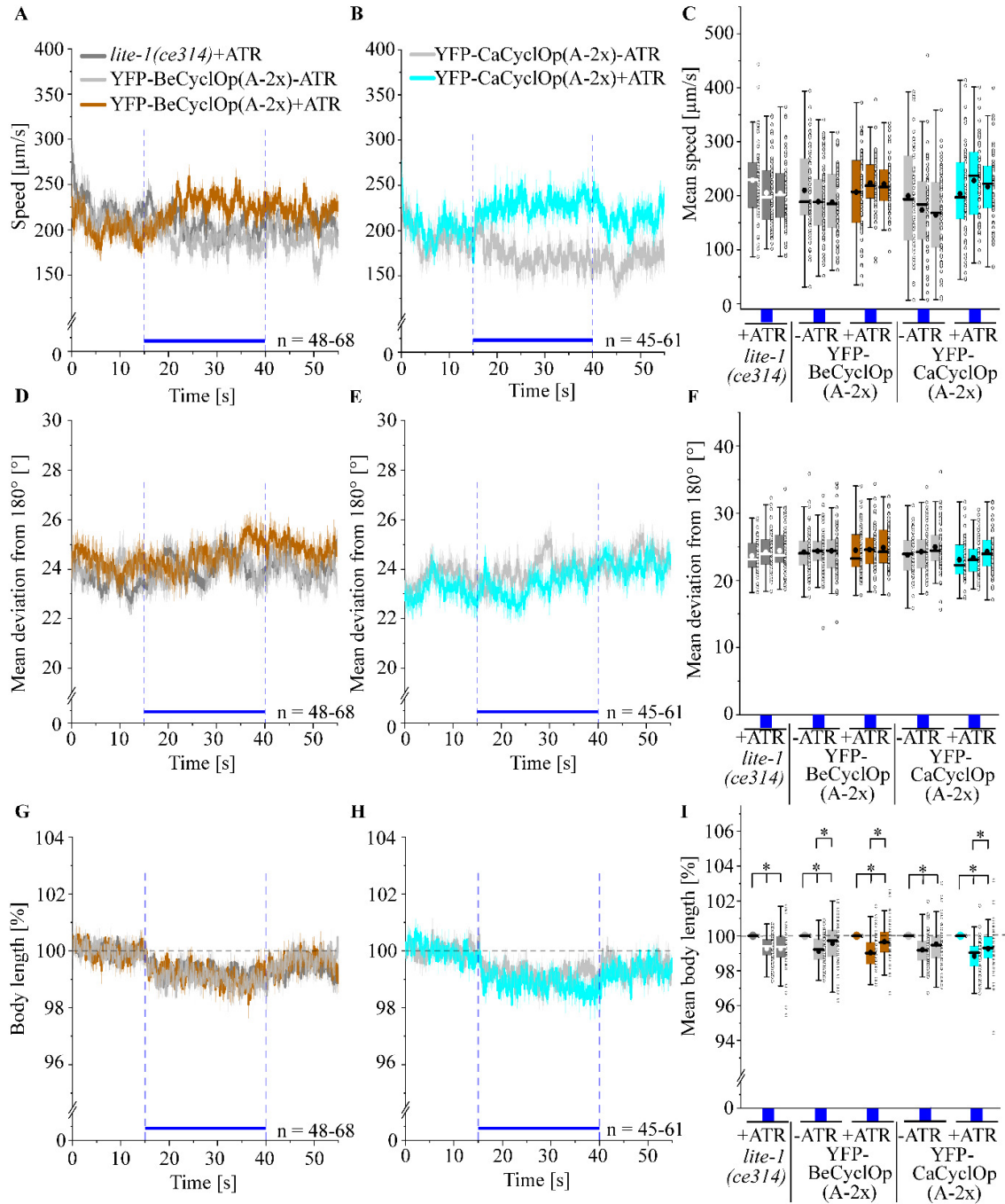


Figure S6. Crawling behavior of animals expressing YFP-CyclOp(A-2x)s in cholinergic neurons. Crawling speed (\pm SEM) of the genetic background *lite-1(ce314)* and animals, expressing YFP-BeCyclOp(A-2x) (A) or YFP-CaCyclOp(A-2x) (B) before, during, and after a 25s light pulse ($0.2 \text{ mW} \cdot \text{mm}^{-2}$; 470 nm). (C) Mean normalized crawling speed of the time periods before (0-15s), during (15-40s; blue bar) and after (40-55s) illumination ($n = 58-68$). (D, E) Bending angles (\pm SEM) of the animals in A and B. (F) Mean bending angles before, during, and after light application ($n = 58-68$). (G, H) Mean normalized body lengths (\pm SEM) for the animals in A and B. (I) Mean normalized body lengths before, during, and after light ($n = 58-68$). Depicted in C, F and I are the interquartile range (IQR), median (—), mean values (●), individual n values (○) and whiskers ($1.5 \cdot \text{IQR}$). n = number of animals. Blue bars indicate period of illumination. Statistically significant differences determined by one-way ANOVA/Bonferroni correction: * $p < 0.05$.

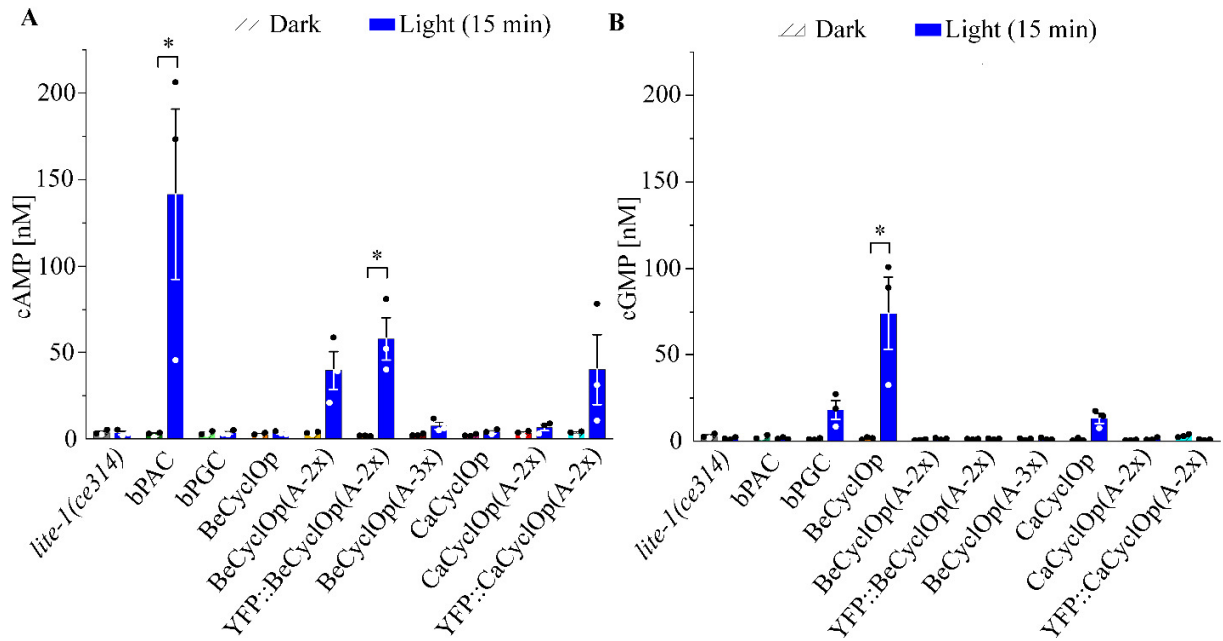


Figure S7. Evaluation of cAMP vs. cGMP production by photoactivated nucleotidyl cyclases in *C. elegans* extracts. (A, B) Quantification of cAMP (A) and cGMP (B) magnitudes using *C. elegans* extracts. Animals, expressing bPAC, bPGC, BeCyclOp, BeCyclOp(A-2x), YFP-BeCyclOp, BeCyclOp(A-3x), CaCyclOp, CaCyclOp(A-2x) or YFP-CaCyclOp(A-2x) were illuminated with blue light (05 mW*mm⁻²; 470 nm, 15 min), or incubated with red filtered transmission light (675nm; 15 min) as dark condition. Displayed are the mean values (\pm SEM) including the individual measured values (\bullet). n = 3 samples of 60 animals each. Statistically significant differences determined by two-way ANOVA/Bonferroni correction: *p<0.05.

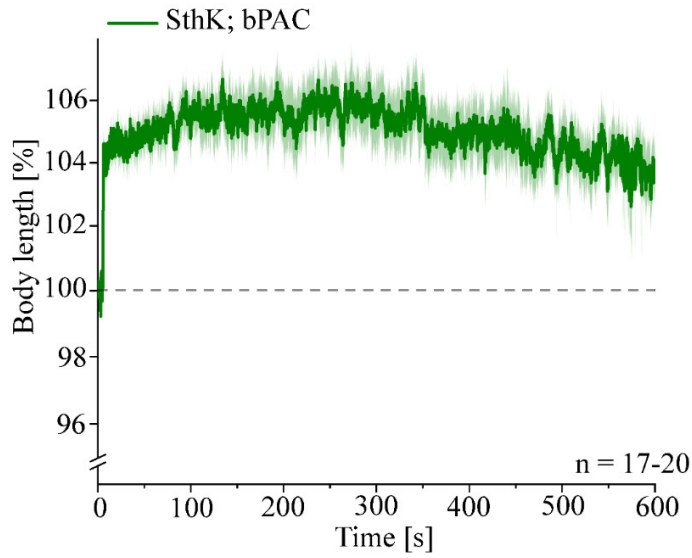


Figure S8. Long lasting hyperpolarization of BWM cells induced by bPAC and SthK activation. Body length measurement (+SEM) of animals, co-expressing bPAC and SthK in BWM cells before and after a 1 s light pulse ($0.9 \text{ mW} \cdot \text{mm}^{-2}$; 470 nm) after 5 s. n = number of animals.

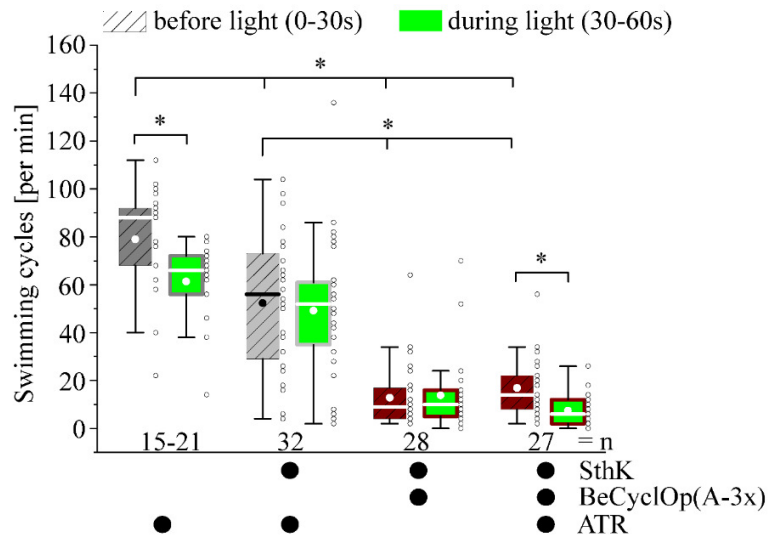


Figure S9. Effects of BeCyclOp(A-3x) and the SthK channel expressed in BWM cells, before and during illumination. Swimming behavior (+SEM) analysis of animals, expressing the SthK channel alone, co-expressing the SthK channel and BeCyclOp(A-3x) and the genetic background *lite-1(ce314)* before (0-30s) and during (30-60s) light application ($1.35 \text{ mW} \cdot \text{mm}^{-2}$; 535 nm). Shown are the interquartile range (IQR), median (—), mean values (●), individual n values (○) and whiskers ($1.5 \cdot \text{IQR}$). n = number of animals. Statistically significant differences determined by one-way ANOVA and Student's t test: * $p < 0.05$.