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Crossed corticostriatal projections in the macaque brain

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1 **Crossed corticostriatal projections in the macaque brain.**

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7

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23

24

25 **ABSTRACT**

26 In non-human primates, major input to the striatum originates from ipsilateral cortex and
27 thalamus. The striatum is a target also of “crossed” corticostriatal (CSt) projections from the
28 contralateral hemisphere, which have been so far somewhat neglected. In the present study, based
29 on neural tracer injections in different parts of the striatum in macaques of either sex, we analyzed
30 and compared qualitatively and quantitatively the distribution of labeled CSt cells in the two
31 hemispheres. The results showed that crossed CSt projections to the caudate and the putamen can be
32 relatively robust (up to 30% of total labeled cells). The origin of the direct and the crossed CSt
33 projections was not symmetrical as the crossed ones originated almost exclusively from motor,
34 prefrontal, and cingulate areas and not from parietal and temporal areas. Furthermore, there were
35 several cases in which the contribution of contralateral areas tended to equal that of the ipsilateral
36 ones. The present study is the first detailed description of this anatomical pathway of the macaque
37 brain and provides the substrate for bilateral distribution of motor, motivational, and cognitive
38 signals for reinforcement learning and selection of actions or action sequences, and for learning of
39 compensatory motor strategies after cortical stroke.

40

41 **SIGNIFICANT STATEMENT**

42 In non-human primates the striatum is a target of projections originating from the contralateral
43 hemisphere (*crossed* CST projections), which have been so far poorly investigated. The present
44 study analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively in the macaque brain the origin of the crossed CST
45 projections compared to those originating from the ipsilateral hemisphere. The results showed that
46 crossed CST projections originate mostly from frontal and rostral cingulate areas and in some cases
47 their contribution tended to equal that from ipsilateral areas. These projections could provide the
48 substrate for bilateral distribution of motor, motivational, and cognitive signals for reinforcement
49 learning and action selection, and for learning of compensatory motor strategies after cortical
50 stroke.

51

52 **INTRODUCTION**

53 The identification of all the inputs to the striatum and the way in which they distribute in the
54 various parts of it, is an essential aspect for understanding the mode of information processing in
55 the basal ganglia for different motor and non-motor functions.

56 The ipsilateral cerebral cortex is certainly the major source of afferents to the striatum. Early
57 studies of these corticostriatal (CSt) projections in non-human primates have favored a “parallel
58 processing” model in which different striatal territories are a target of specific cortical regions and,
59 in turn, are at the origin of largely segregated basal ganglia-thalamo-cortical loops (Alexander et al.,
60 1986).

61 Subsequent studies have suggested a “parallel processing and information convergence” model
62 (see Nambu 2011) in which each main basal ganglia-thalamo-cortical loop consists of several
63 largely segregated closed subloops. Each subloop originates from, and projects to limited sets of
64 closely related areas and involves distinct, relatively restricted striatal zones, which have been
65 referred to as “input channels” (Strick et al. 1995; Middleton and Strick 2000).

66 More recent studies showed an even more complex pattern of information convergence in the
67 primate striatum. First, there is evidence for overlap in restricted striatal zones of projection fields
68 of distant, interconnected areas jointly involved in specific large-scale functionally specialized
69 cortical networks (Gerbella et al., 2016; Choi et al., 2017). Second, the laminar origin of the CSt
70 projections from a given area can largely vary according to the target striatal zone so that different
71 striatal zones are targets of characteristically weighted laminar projections from the various input
72 areas (Borra et al., 2021).

73 The striatum is also a target of “crossed” CSt projections originating from the contralateral
74 hemisphere. Though noted in the macaque brain since at least fifty years (e.g., Kemp and Powell
75 1970), these projections have been so far somewhat neglected. Indeed, crossed CSt projections in
76 the macaque brain have been reported in several studies after anterograde tracer injections in
77 different cortical areas (e.g., Künzle, 1975; 1978; Liles and Updyke, 1985; Huerta and Kaas, 1990;

78 Cavada and Goldman-Rakic, 1991; McGuire et al., 1991; Parthasarathy et al. 1992). However, these
79 studies could not give a comprehensive qualitative and quantitative view of the regional origin of
80 these projections to the various parts of the striatum. To our knowledge, Jones et al. (1977) have
81 been the only ones in describing the origin of the crossed CSt projections based on retrograde tracer
82 injections in the putamen in squirrel monkeys. However, this description was only qualitative and
83 shown for only one subject.

84 Accordingly, it is still largely unknown which is the effective size of the crossed CSt projections
85 compared to the “direct” ones, whether crossed CSt projections originate from all the cortical areas
86 that project to the ipsilateral striatum, and whether the origin of crossed and direct CSt projections
87 to a given striatal zone is symmetrical. Thus, it is still an open question whether crossed CSt
88 projections could represent a potentially important variable to consider in defining the pattern of
89 information convergence in the striatum.

90 To address these issues, in the present study we have placed retrograde tracer injections in
91 different parts of the striatum and compared qualitatively and quantitatively the regional distribution
92 of the labeled CSt cells in the contralateral vs. the ipsilateral hemisphere.

93

94

95 **METHODS**

96 **Subjects, surgical procedures, and selection of the injection sites**

97 The experiments were carried out in four *Macaca mulatta* (Cases 71 female, 75, 76, and 77
98 male), in which retrograde neural tracers were injected in different parts of the caudate and
99 putamen. Animal handling as well as surgical and experimental procedures complied with the
100 European law on the humane care and use of laboratory animals (directives 86/609/EEC,
101 2003/65/CE, and 2010/63/EU) and Italian laws in force regarding the care and use of laboratory
102 animals (D.L. 116/92 and 26/2014), were periodically approved by the Veterinarian Animal Care
103 and Use Committee of the University of Parma and authorized by the Italian Ministry of Health.

104 Before the injection of neural tracers, we obtained scans of each brain using magnetic resonance
105 imaging (MRI; 7 T General Electric, Boston, MA) to calculate the stereotaxic coordinates of the
106 striatal target regions and the best trajectory of the needle to reach it.

107 Under general anesthesia (Case 71: Zoletil®, initial dose 20 mg/kg, i.m., supplemental 5–7
108 mg/kg/hr, i.m.; Cases 75, 76 and 77: induction with Ketamine 10 mg/kg, i.m. followed by
109 intubation, isoflurane 1.5–2%) and aseptic conditions, each animal was placed in a stereotaxic
110 apparatus and an incision was made in the scalp. The skull was trephined to remove the bone and
111 the dura was opened to expose a small cortical region. After tracer injections, the dural flap was
112 sutured, the bone was replaced, and the superficial tissues were sutured in layers. During surgery,
113 hydration was maintained with saline, and heart rate, blood pressure, respiratory depth, and body
114 temperature were continuously monitored. Upon recovery from anesthesia, the animals were
115 returned to their home cages and closely observed. Dexamethasone (0.5 mg/kg, i.m.) and
116 prophylactic broad-spectrum antibiotics (e.g., Ceftriaxone 80 mg/kg, i.m.) were administered pre-
117 and postoperatively, as were analgesics (e.g., Ketoprofen 5 mg/kg i.m.).

118 **Tracer injections and histological procedures**

119 Based on stereotaxic coordinates, the neural tracers Fast Blue (FB, 3% in distilled water, Dr
120 Iling Plastics GmbH, Breuberg, Germany), Diamidino Yellow (DY, 2% in 0.2M phosphate buffer

121 at pH 7.2, Dr Illing Plastics), Wheat Germ Agglutinin (WGA; 4% in distilled water, Vector
122 Laboratories, Burlingame, CA), Dextran conjugated with Lucifer Yellow (Lucifer Yellow Dextran,
123 LYD, 10 000 MW, 10% 0.1M phosphate buffer, pH 7.4; Invitrogen, Thermo Fisher Scientific,
124 Waltham, MA), and Cholera Toxin B subunit, conjugated with Alexa 488 (CTB green, CTBg; 1%
125 in 0.01 M phosphate-buffered saline at pH 7.4, Molecular Probes, Thermo Fisher Scientific) were
126 slowly pressure-injected through a stainless steel 31 gauge beveled needle attached through a
127 polyethylene tube to a Hamilton syringe (Hamilton Company, Reno NV). For all tracer injections,
128 the needle was lowered to the striatum within a guiding tube, to avoid tracer spill-over in the white
129 matter. Table 1 summarizes the locations of the injections, the injected tracers, and the amounts
130 injected.

131 After appropriate survival periods following the injections (48 hours for WGA, 21-28 days for
132 the other tracers, see Table 1), each animal was deeply anesthetized with an overdose of sodium
133 thiopental and perfused through the left cardiac ventricle consecutively with saline (about 2 L in 10
134 min), 3.5% formaldehyde (5 L in 30 min), and 5% glycerol (3 L in 20 min), all prepared in 0.1 M
135 phosphate buffer, pH 7.4. Each brain was then blocked coronally on a stereotaxic apparatus,
136 removed from the skull, photographed, and placed in 10% buffered glycerol for 3 days and 20%
137 buffered glycerol for 4 days. In Case 75, the right inferotemporal cortex was removed for other
138 experimental purposes. Finally, each brain was cut frozen into coronal sections of 60- μm (Case 75)
139 or 50- μm (Cases 71, 76 and 77) thickness.

140 In all cases, sections spaced 300 μm apart - that is one section in each repeating series of 6 in
141 Cases 71, 76, and 77 and one in series of 5 in Case 75 - were mounted, air-dried, and quickly
142 coverslipped for fluorescence microscopy. Other series of sections spaced 300 μm apart were
143 processed for visualizing CTBg (Cases 75, 76 and 77), LYD (Case 75), or WGA (Cases 76 and 77)
144 with immunohistochemistry. Specifically, in all sections endogenous peroxidase activity was
145 eliminated by incubation in a solution of 0.6% hydrogen peroxide and 80% methanol for 15 min at
146 room temperature. For the visualization of CTBg, the sections were then incubated for 72 h at 4°C

147 in a primary antibody solution of rabbit anti-Alexa 488 (1:15000, Thermo Fisher Scientific) in 0.5%
148 Triton, 5% normal goat serum in PBS, and for 1 h in biotinylated secondary antibody (1:200,
149 Vector) in 0.3% Triton, 5% normal goat serum in PBS. For the visualization of LYD, the sections
150 were then incubated for 96 h at 4°C in a primary antibody solution of or rabbit anti-LY (1:3000;
151 Life Technologies, Thermo Fisher Scientific) in 0.5%Triton, 5% normal goat serum in phosphate
152 buffer (PB) 0,1M, and for 1 h in biotinylated secondary antibody (1:200, Vector) in 0.3% Triton,
153 5% normal goat serum in PB. For the visualization of the WGA, the sections were incubated
154 overnight at room temperature in a primary antibody solution of goat anti-WGA (1:2000, Vector) in
155 0.3% Triton, 5% normal rabbit serum in PBS and for 1 h in biotinylated secondary antibody (1:200,
156 Vector) in 0.3% Triton, 5% normal rabbit serum in PBS. Finally, in all sections the labeling was
157 visualized using the Vectastain ABC kit (Vector) and then a solution of DAB (50mg/100 ml; Sigma
158 Millipore), 0.01% hydrogen peroxide, 0.02% cobalt chloride, and 0.03% nickel ammonium sulfate
159 in 0.1 M PB.

160 In all cases, one series of each sixth section (fifth section in Case 75) was stained with the Nissl
161 method (0.1% thionin in 0.1 M acetate buffer, pH 3.7).

162 **Data analysis**

163 *Injection sites, distribution of retrogradely labeled neurons, and areal attribution of the labeling*

164 All the injection sites used in this study shown in Figure 1 were completely restricted to the
165 target striatal nucleus (caudate or putamen). The cortical distribution of retrograde labeling in the
166 ipsilateral and contralateral hemisphere was plotted in sections every 600 μm (every 1200 μm in
167 Case 75l LYD) together with the outer and inner cortical borders, using a computer-based charting
168 system. Data from individual sections were then imported into the 3-dimensional (3D)
169 reconstruction software (Demelio et al. 2001) providing volumetric reconstructions of the monkey
170 brain, including connectional and architectonic data.

171 The criteria and maps adopted for the areal attribution of the labeling were similar to those
172 adopted in previous studies (see Borra et al., 2017; Caminiti et al., 2017). Specifically, prefrontal,

173 frontal and cingulate motor, and opercular frontal areas, where most of the labeling was located,
174 were defined according to cyto- and/or chemo-architectonic criteria described in Matelli et al.
175 (1985; 1991), Carmichael and Price (1994), Gerbella et al. (2007), Belmalih et al. (2009), and
176 Saleem et al. (2014). Some prefrontal and cingulate areas have been considered together and
177 referred to as 9/8B, 24/32, 24a/b, 24c/d, 23a/b, 23/31, and 29/30. In the inferior parietal lobule, the
178 gyral convexity areas were defined according to cyto- and chemoarchitectonic criteria described in
179 Gregoriou et al. (2006) and those of the lateral bank of the intraparietal sulcus based on
180 connectional criteria described in Borra et al. (2008). The superior and medial parietal cortex were
181 defined according to architectonic criteria described in Pandya and Seltzer (1982) and Luppino et
182 al. (2005). For the caudal cingulate cortex, we adopted the cytoarchitectonic map proposed by
183 Morecraft et al. (2004). Finally, the temporal labeling in the STS cortex was attributed based on the
184 electrophysiological and architectonic map proposed by Boussaoud et al. (1990) and guided by the
185 atlas of Saleem and Logothetis (2012) and the labeling in the superior temporal gyrus (STG) and
186 auditory belt cortex based on the architectonic, functional and connectional map described by Kaas
187 and Hackett (2000; see also Saleem et al. 2008). For the quantitative analysis, the temporal lobe was
188 subdivided into four regions: temporal pole (Tp), medial temporal (Tm), superior temporal (Ts), and
189 inferior temporal (Ti).

190 *Quantitative analysis and laminar distribution of the labeling*

191 In all cases, the number of labeled neurons plotted in the ipsilateral and contralateral hemisphere
192 was counted and the cortical input to the injected striatal zone was then expressed in terms of the
193 percentage of labeled neurons found in each cortical subdivision, with respect to the overall cortical
194 labeling found for each tracer injection in the ipsilateral hemisphere or in both ipsilateral and
195 contralateral hemispheres.

196 For the areas where the percentage of ipsi + contra labeling was >1%, the number of labeled
197 cells observed in the contralateral area was subdivided by the total number (ipsi + contra) of labeled

198 cells in order to obtain a “contralaterality index”, which could range from 1 (all cells in the
199 contralateral area) to 0 (all cells in the ipsilateral area).

200

201 **RESULTS**

202 Crossed CST projections have been observed in all the cases of the present study. The proportion
203 of labeled cells in the contra- vs. ipsilateral hemisphere largely varied according to the location of
204 the injection site, showing a gradient in which crossed CST projections were strongest to the caudate
205 head and body, less strong to the rostral putamen and dorsal motor putamen and lowest to the
206 middle or mid-ventral motor putamen, where the hand is represented (Alexander and De Long,
207 1985). In general, the distribution of the labeled CST cells in the contralateral hemisphere differed
208 for several aspects from that observed in the ipsilateral hemisphere (Figure 2). Indeed, contralateral
209 areas with CST projections were always a subset of the ipsilateral areas with CST projections.
210 Specifically, in all the cases, the areas in the posterior parietal, temporal, and insular cortex that
211 exhibited even relatively robust labeling in the ipsilateral hemisphere had virtually no labeling in
212 the contralateral hemisphere (Figure 2). Nevertheless, there were areas in the contralateral
213 hemisphere whose relative contribution to the crossed CST projections was much higher than that of
214 the homolog ipsilateral areas to the direct CST projections. The frequency distributions of the
215 labeled CST cells per area in the ipsilateral and the contralateral hemisphere were compared by the
216 Pearson's chi-square test and likelihood ratio chi-square test (Figure 2). Both test showed a
217 statistically significant difference ($p < 0.001$) among the distributions in all the cases.

218

219 **CST projections to the caudate nucleus**

220 Two tracer injections were placed in the caudate head. In Case 76r the WGA injection site was
221 slightly more rostral and medial than the LYD injection site of Case 75l (Fig. 1). As largely
222 expected, in the ipsilateral hemisphere the highest proportion of labeled cells was located in the
223 prefrontal cortex (Figs. 3 and 4 and Table 2), mostly involving areas 9/8B, followed by the rostral
224 cingulate cortex, mostly involving the rostral area 24/32 and the rostral cingulate gyrus (area 24a/b).
225 Relatively robust labeling was also observed in the temporal cortex involving in both cases
226 belt/parabelt auditory areas, the superior temporal polysensory area (STP) and the medial temporal

227 cortex and, in Case 75l LYD, the rostral inferotemporal cortex. Much weaker was the labeling
228 observed in rostral premotor, insular, and caudal cingulate cortex and, in Case 75l LYD, in the
229 parietal cortex. In both cases, the percentage of labeled CSt cells observed in the contralateral
230 hemisphere was robust, i.e., about 30% of the total number of ipsi- plus contralateral CSt cells
231 (Figs. 3, 4 and Table 3).

232 In the contralateral hemisphere virtually all the labeling was located in frontal and cingulate
233 areas whereas the parietal, temporal, and insular cortex were virtually devoid of labeling (Table 3).
234 In both cases the labeling in the contralateral hemisphere was mostly concentrated in the rostral
235 cingulate areas 24/32 and in prefrontal areas 9/8B, which were the most densely labeled areas in the
236 ipsilateral hemisphere (Fig. 5). In both cases these two contralateral areas were among the five most
237 labeled ones. However, in contralateral area 10 in Case 76r WGA and in areas 12o/12l in Case 75l
238 LYD the labeling was relatively much weaker compared to the ipsilateral hemisphere. Weaker
239 labeling also involved rostral premotor areas and the caudal cingulate cortex.

240 In Case 75r DY, the injection site was located in the caudate body at about the level of the AC
241 (Fig. 1). The distribution of the labeling in the ipsilateral hemisphere (Fig. 6 and Table 2) was
242 markedly different from that observed in the two cases previously described, involving mostly
243 dorsal and medial premotor areas, primarily areas F3, F2, and F6 and to a lesser extent area F7. In
244 area F3, the labeling mostly involved its rostral half. Less dense labeling was located in the ventral
245 premotor cortex, motor cingulate (24c/d), inferior parietal (AIP, PFG, PG) and caudal superior
246 parietal (PEc, PEci, PGm, V6A) areas. This labeling distribution suggests that the injection site
247 involved a striatal sector related to visuo- and somatomotor control of arm movements. Also in this
248 case, the labeling in the contralateral hemisphere was quite robust (about 30% of the ipsi- +
249 contralateral CSt labeled cells) and was virtually all located in frontal and cingulate areas (Table 3).
250 Specifically, the areal distribution of the labeled CSt cells (Fig. 5) in all the various premotor and
251 cingulate areas was quite similar in the two hemispheres and contralateral areas F2 and F3 were
252 among the five most labeled areas, considering both the ipsilateral and contralateral hemisphere.

253 **CSt projections to the putamen**

254 Five tracer injections involved the putamen, one more rostrally (Case 77r WGA) and the others
255 at the same level of or caudal to the AC, at different dorso-ventral levels (Fig. 1).

256 The injection site in Case 77r WGA was located relatively ventrally in the pre-commissural
257 putamen. In the ipsilateral hemisphere (Fig. 7), the labeling was densest in the premotor cortex,
258 especially area F5, frontal operculum, and rostral cingulate cortex, especially area 24c/d. Less dense
259 labeling involved prefrontal, parietal, and insular cortex and, more weakly, temporal and caudal
260 cingulate cortex. The very weak labeling in area F1 suggests that the injection site involved a
261 putaminal sector rostral to the motor putamen as usually defined. The distribution of the labeling
262 involving the ventral premotor area F5, frontal operculum, rostral F3, ventrolateral prefrontal
263 sectors including area 12 and ventral area 46, and inferior parietal and opercular parietal sectors
264 suggests that the injection site involved a striatal sector related to hand and mouth motor control, at
265 least in part corresponding to the rostral striatal target of the lateral grasping network projections
266 (Gerbella et al., 2016). In the contralateral hemisphere, the amount of CSt labeled neurons was
267 relatively robust, though lower than that observed for the caudate tracer injections (Table 3).
268 Specifically, labeled CSt cells were mostly equally distributed between the rostral cingulate and
269 premotor cortex and only marginally involved prefrontal and caudal cingulate cortex. Again,
270 parietal and temporal cortex, but also the insula, were virtually devoid of labeling. The areal
271 distribution of the labeling (Fig. 8) shows that the ratio of labeled CSt cells in the contra- vs.
272 ipsilateral cortical areas was quite low for F5 and frontal operculum and relatively high for the
273 rostral cingulate areas and premotor areas F6 and F7. Contralateral area 24c/d was among the five
274 most labeled areas, considering ipsilateral and contralateral areas.

275 In Case 75r CTBg, the injection site was placed in the dorsal part of the putamen at about the
276 level of the AC (Fig. 1). In the ipsilateral hemisphere (Fig. 9) labeled CSt cells were mostly
277 concentrated in the frontal and cingulate motor cortex. As expected from the somatotopy of the
278 motor putamen (Alexander and DeLong, 1985), in the frontal motor cortex labeled cells were

279 densest in the medial part of F1 and in the caudal half of F3 suggesting that the injection site
280 involved the leg/trunk representation. Additional weaker labeling was observed in dorsomedial SI,
281 in the superior parietal area PE, and in the caudal cingulate cortex. In the contralateral hemisphere
282 labelled CSt cells were about 22% of the total ipsi- + contralateral labeling and were observed
283 almost completely in the frontal motor cortex, mainly in F1, F3, and F2, and in area 24c/d, except
284 for some weak labeling in the parietal cortex (mostly in SI) and in the caudal cingulate cortex. As
285 observed in other cases, out of the five most labeled cortical areas, two were in the contralateral
286 hemisphere (Fig. 8). Furthermore, based on the number of labeled cells, about 1/3 of the overall
287 input to the injected striatal zone from areas 24c/d, F3, and F2 originated from the contralateral
288 hemisphere (nearly 1/5 from contralateral F1).

289 Three tracer injections were placed more ventrally in the motor putamen at different rostrocaudal
290 levels (Fig. 1). In Case 71r DY the injection site was located in the middle of the motor putamen
291 and was much smaller than expected, likely because the volume of tracer injected was smaller than
292 planned. In Cases 771 CTBg and 711 FB, the injections were located slightly more caudal and
293 ventral. In all these cases, the labeling in the ipsilateral hemisphere was mostly located in the frontal
294 and cingulate motor cortex, but about 15-20% of the labeled cells were in the parietal cortex (Table
295 2). As expected from the somatotopy of the motor putamen (Alexander and DeLong, 1985), the
296 labeling involved in all cases the middle part of F1 and F3 and ventral premotor areas F5 and F4,
297 suggesting involvement by the injection sites of the arm/hand representation (Figs. 8, 10 and 11). In
298 Cases 771 CTBg and 711 FB the labeling extended also more ventrally in F1 and in F5, more
299 rostrally in F3 and in the frontal operculum, suggesting an involvement also of the face/mouth
300 representation. In the parietal cortex the most labeled areas were SI, SII, and PE and rostral inferior
301 parietal areas. In the contralateral hemisphere, the number of labeled cells (5-12%) was
302 considerably lower than that observed after the other putaminal and the caudate injections (Table 3).
303 However, this labeling involved a limited number of contralateral areas (Fig. 2), so that the relative
304 contribution of the crossed projections to the whole input from areas 24c/d, F3, and F1 was about

305 10-20%. Interestingly, in Cases 711 FB and 771 CTBg the contralateral labeling tended to be densest
306 in rostral F3 and in Case 711 FB in the lateral part of the ventral premotor cortex, likely involving
307 preferentially face/mouth fields. Furthermore, except for some sparse labeling located in SI (also
308 SII in Case 71r DY), the contralateral parietal labeling was negligible, even if in these three cases
309 the ipsilateral parietal cortex hosted 13-19% of the overall labeled cells.

310 **Laterality of CSt projections**

311 Our data showed that the relative balance of ipsilateral and contralateral projections from frontal
312 and cingulate areas varied widely. Accordingly, we examined whether the proportion of
313 contralateral CSt projections (i.e., contralaterality index = contralateral cells in area X/ipsi + contra
314 cells in area X) in each cortical area was related to the total amount of ipsi+ contralateral labeling in
315 that area (Figure 12). This analysis did not show a correlation between the contralaterality index and
316 total labeling across cortical areas ($r=0,27$). Rather, the cortical areas with the largest projections to
317 a striatal injection site could have either high ($>0,3$; area 24/32 after caudate head injections) or low
318 contralaterality indexes (F5 and F1 after mid-ventral motor putamen injections). Similarly, other
319 areas (F6, F7, and FrOp) with moderate projections ($< 5\%$) also exhibited a relatively high
320 contralaterality index in some cases and a low contralaterality index in other cases. Furthermore, in
321 several cases, the contralaterality index of the CSt projections appears to vary according to the
322 target striatal zone. For example, area 24c/d exhibited a relatively high contralaterality index for the
323 projections to the caudate and a lower one for the projections to the putamen, independently from
324 the strength of its projections. Among the frontal motor areas, F3 showed a relatively high
325 contralaterality index for the projections to the caudate body and dorsal motor putamen and a lower
326 one for the projections to the mid-ventral motor putamen, again independently from the strength of
327 its projections. Finally, F1 had a higher contralaterality index for its projections to the leg/trunk-
328 related motor putamen and a quite low one for the projections to the hand-related motor putamen.

329

330 **DISCUSSION**

331 The present study provides a detailed description of the origin and strength of striatal input from
332 the ipsilateral and contralateral (crossed CSt projections) hemispheres in the non-human primate.
333 As has been noted over the last 50 years, striatal input is dominated by the ipsilateral cortex, but our
334 results now demonstrate that a substantial amount originates from the contralateral cortex. Whereas
335 ipsilateral projections originate from cingulate, frontal, parietal, insular, and temporal cortex,
336 crossed CSt projections originate almost exclusively from cingulate, prefrontal, and frontal motor
337 areas. In some cases, the contribution of contralateral cingulate and frontal areas is quite high and
338 even equal to that from the same area of the ipsilateral hemisphere. The crossed CSt projections
339 from the primary motor cortex tend to be relatively robust for the leg/trunk representation and weak
340 for the hand representation. Overall, the distribution of crossed CSt projections suggests that they
341 may provide a substrate for bilateral integration of motor, motivational, and cognitive signals during
342 behavior.

343 Accordingly, the present study highlights that crossed CSt projections could be an important
344 variable to consider in defining the pattern of information convergence in the striatum.

345 **Crossed CSt projections**

346 Crossed CSt projections have been first noted in the rabbit, cat, and rat (Carman 1965) and then
347 in the macaque (Kemp and Powell, 1970; Fallon and Ziegler, 1979) based on degenerative changes
348 in the striatum after cortical lesions. Crossed CSt projections have been then described in the
349 macaque after neural tracer injections in the primary motor and premotor (Kunzle, 1975; 1978;
350 Liles and Updyke, 1985; Huerta and Kaas, 1990; Parthasarathy et al. 1992), prefrontal (McGuire et
351 al., 1991), and parietal (Cavada and Goldman-Rakic, 1991) cortex. These studies, based on
352 anterograde tracer injections at the cortical level could not give a comprehensive picture of the
353 origin of the crossed CSt projections to a given striatal sector and an estimate of the weight of these
354 projections compared to the direct ones. At our knowledge, only Jones et al. (1977) provided a
355 qualitative description of crossed CSt projections based on injections of a retrograde tracer in the

356 motor putamen in the squirrel monkey. As Jones et al. (1977), after injections in the motor putamen
357 we found an almost symmetrical distribution of labeled CST cells in the ipsi vs contralateral frontal
358 cortex and a virtual absence of labeled CST cells in the contralateral parietal cortex. The very poor
359 or even absent labeling observed in the contralateral parietal cortex in all the cases of the present
360 study, including those in which labeling in the ipsilateral parietal cortex was quite robust, is in
361 apparent discrepancy with the observations of Cavada and Goldman-Rakic (1991) after very large
362 tracer injections in different parietal areas. It is possible that CST parietal cells are relatively few and
363 sparsely project to the striatum so that they are very difficult to be labeled after restricted injections
364 of retrograde tracers in the striatum. On the other hand, as in the present study, Griggs et al. (2017)
365 showed contralateral labeling in the frontal and cingulate, but not in the parietal, temporal, and
366 insular cortex after tracer injections in the caudate head or tail.

367 The present observations that the crossed CST projections in the macaque originate
368 predominantly from frontal and cingulate areas are in good agreement with the results of McGuire
369 et al. (1991) and Innocenti et al. (2017), based on tracer injections at cortical level. Specifically,
370 McGuire et al. (1991) noted that some areas (e.g. area 46) display relatively weak crossed
371 projections, whereas other areas (e.g., F3-SMA proper) appear to project almost equally to both
372 ipsi- and contralateral striatum. In this context, it could be worth noting that in the present data there
373 were some areas that were always sources of relatively weak “additional” projections, in most cases
374 showing a relatively high contralaterality index. It is possible that in our cases the target striatal
375 zones of these areas have been only marginally involved. However, it could be also that some areas
376 tend to have sparse and diffuse bilateral CST projections.

377 Crossed CST projections may also be present in the human brain. Based on tractographic data,
378 Innocenti et al. (2017) found that as in macaques crossed CST projections in humans originate
379 predominantly from frontal areas, but also from parietal regions of the superior and inferior parietal
380 lobule and from the superior temporal gyrus. The presence in humans of crossed CST projections
381 from specific posterior parietal regions is supported by functional connectivity data (Jarbo and

382 Verstynen, 2015). Neurodevelopmental studies showed that in mice soon after birth crossed CSt
383 projections originate from almost the entire hemisphere, whereas after two weeks mainly from
384 frontal and cingulate areas possibly because of either retraction of initial collaterals to the
385 contralateral striatum, or death of an early developmental population of CSt neurons (Sohur et al.,
386 2014). Accordingly, the presence of crossed CSt projections from parietal and temporal areas in
387 humans, but not in macaques could be accounted for by a differential maturation of these
388 projections across different species.

389 **Functional considerations**

390 Early models of CSt projections in non-human primates have favored a modular organization of
391 the striatum in which different striatal zones are targets of specific cortical regions (Alexander et al.,
392 1986) and, in turn, are at the origin of largely segregated basal ganglia-thalamo-cortical loops
393 (Middelton and Strick, 2000; Kelly and Strick, 2004). Subsequent studies have revealed a higher
394 level of complexity of the corticostriatal projections topography. First, the cortical input to a
395 specific striatal zone originates not only from a limited set of closely related neighbor areas, as
396 initially described (Takada et al., 1998; Nambu 2011; Averbek et al., 2014), but also from distant,
397 interconnected areas jointly involved in large-scale functionally specialized cortical networks
398 (Gerbella et al., 2016; Choi et al., 2017). Second, the different striatal zones are targets of
399 characteristically weighted laminar projections from multiple input areas (Griggs et al., 2017; Borra
400 et al., 2021). Finally, the present data suggest that information processing in the striatum can also
401 rely on substantial input from the contralateral hemisphere.

402 As crossed CSt projections in the macaque brain have been so far poorly considered, their
403 possible contribution to information processing in the striatum still remains to be defined. These
404 projections could indeed provide a substrate for interhemispheric transfer of signals in parallel to
405 the callosal connectivity. Based on conduction delay estimations, it has been suggested that crossed
406 CSt projections mediate a transfer of information considerably faster than through the callosal
407 connectivity (Innocenti et al., 2017). Furthermore, whereas callosal projections connect almost

408 entirely the two hemispheres (see, e.g., Innocenti et al., 2021), crossed CSt projections originates
409 mostly from frontal and cingulate areas, suggesting a role more focused on motor control or/and
410 executive functions. In this context, crossed CSt projections could provide the substrate for bilateral
411 diffusion of motor, motivational, and cognitive signals necessary for reinforcement learning and
412 selection of those actions or action sequences which are most appropriate for achieving a behavioral
413 goal (see, Averbeck and O’Doherty, 2022) and for inhibitory control of impulsive motor behavior
414 (Oguchi et al., 2021). Furthermore, in the motor putamen, crossed CSt projections could have a role
415 in controlling actions or action sequences involving both sides of the body.

416 Indeed, brain imaging evidence in humans showed bilateral activation in the motor putamen
417 during the execution of unilateral simple foot, hand, and mouth movements (e.g., Gerardin et al.,
418 2003). Interestingly, in the left putamen the activation foci for the right or left hand movements
419 appeared largely segregated (Gerardin et al., 2003), resembling the segregation between the
420 terminal fields of direct and crossed CSt projections to the striatal hand representation in the
421 squirrel monkey (Flaherty and Graybiel, 1993). Furthermore, bilateral activation of the striatum has
422 been observed during the execution of right hand finger-tapping tasks with increasing degrees of
423 complexity (Lehericy et al., 2006; Bednark et al., 2015). The observed striatal activation foci tended
424 to shift progressively more rostrally with the increase in complexity or frequency of the task
425 execution (Lehericy et al., 2006). Finally, bilateral striatal activation has been observed during early
426 phases of visuomotor adaptation of arm movements (Seidler et al., 2006) and, especially in the
427 anterior striatum during the encoding of novel working memory items (Geiger et al., 2018)

428 According to Wymbs et al. (2012) bilateral putamen activity is necessary for the strengthening of
429 motor-motor associations at the basis of action chunking processes. Chunking in motor sequencing
430 is considered a key function of the basal ganglia and allows groups of individual movements to be
431 prepared and executed as a single motor program facilitating learning and performance of complex
432 sequences (Halford et al., 1998).

433 Crossed CSt projections could play a potentially important role in behavioral compensation after
434 brain lesions. Specifically, these projections could have a role in compensatory relearning of motor
435 strategies in the context of the reorganization mechanisms of the motor system occurring after
436 cortical stroke (Balbinot and Pedrini Schuch, 2019). In support of this proposal, there is evidence in
437 rodents for axonal sprouting of crossed CSt projections and neurochemical signs of increased cell
438 activity in the denervated striatum after sensorimotor cortex lesions (Napieralski et al., 1996; Cheng
439 et al., 1998; Uryu et al., 2001). The presence in macaques of crossed CSt projections that appear
440 even stronger than in rodents is an incentive for experimental studies in non-human primates and
441 clinical studies in neurological patients focused on the role of these projections in compensatory
442 mechanisms after stroke.
443

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607

608 **Table 1.** Animals used, location of injection sites, and type and amount of injected tracers

609

Case	Sex	Age	Weight	Hemisphere	Location	AP*	Tracer	Amount	Survival time
71	F	6.5	3.3	L	Putamen	-2	FB 3%	1 X 0.3 μ l	28 days
				R	Putamen	-1	DY 2%	1 X 0.3 μ l**	21 days
75	M	6	3.5	L	Caudate	+6	LYD 10%	1 X 1 μ l	28 days
				R	Putamen	0	CTBg 1%	1 X 1 μ l	21 days
					Caudate	+1	DY 2%	1 X 0.25 μ l	21 days
76	M	9	15	R	Caudate	+7	WGA 4%	1 X 0.3 μ l	48 hours
77	M	9	15	L	Putamen	-3	CTBg 1%	1 X 1 μ l	21 days
				R	Putamen	+3	WGA 4%	1 X 0.2 μ l	48 hours

610 * mm from the crossing of the anterior commissure; ** injected volume likely smaller than planned

611

612 **Table 2.** Regional distribution (%) and total number (n) of labeled cortical neurons observed in the
 613 ipsilateral hemisphere, following tracer injections in the caudate and in the putamen

614

	Case	Rostral cingulate	Pref	Motor	Parietal	Insula	Temp	Caudal cingulate	Other	Total	n. cells
Caudate	75l LYD Lateral Head	21,5	37,8	8,4	6,1	4,8	13,5	7	0,9	100	42183
	76r WGA Medial Head	30,6	48,5	4,1	0,1	2,3	9,4	4,4	0,6	100	140790
	75r DY Body	7	4,8	74,1	11,5	-	-	2,6	-	100	33082
Putamen	77r WGA Rostral	23	17,5	37,8	8,1	7	4,3	2,3	-	100	99341
	75r CTBg Dorsal Motor	15,3	0,7	61,9	16,6	1,4	-	4,1	-	100	119306
	77l CTBg Middle Motor	8,3	1	64,5	21,6	2	0,8	1,8	-	100	75292
	71r DY Middle Motor	-	-	72,1	15,1	0,5	0,1	2,8	-	100	8360
	71l FB Mid-ventral Motor	2,6	0,5	75,5	18,6	1,2	0,8	0,8	-	100	36628

615

616

617 **Table 3.** Regional distribution (%) and total number (n) of labeled cortical neurons observed in both
 618 ipsilateral and contralateral hemisphere.

	Case		rostral cingulate	Pref	Motor	Parietal	Insula	Temp	caudal cingulate	Other	Total
Caudate	75l LYD	Ipsi	15	26,3	5,9	5	3,3	9,3	4,9	0,6	69,6
	Lateral Head	Contra	15,8	11,1	2,8	0,1	0,1	-	0,6	-	30,4
	n = 60609										
	76l WGA	Ipsi	22,2	35,3	3	0,1	1,7	6,8	3,2	0,4	72,7
	Medial Head	Contra	11	12,5	3,2	-	0,1	-	0,5	-	27,3
	n = 193668										
Putamen	75r DY	Ipsi	5	3,4	52,6	8,1	-	-	1,8	-	70,9
	Body	Contra	3,6	1,1	23,9	-	-	-	0,5	-	29,1
	n = 46626										
	77l WGA	Ipsi	19	14,5	31,3	6,7	5,8	3,5	1,9	-	82,7
	Rostral	Contra	7,9	1,9	7	-	0,1	-	0,4	-	17,3
	n = 119738										
	75r CTBg	Ipsi	11,8	0,5	47,8	13	1,2	-	3,2	-	77,5
	Dorsal Motor	Contra	6,6	0,1	14,6	0,5	-	-	0,7	-	22,5
	n = 154075										
	77l CTBg	Ipsi	7,2	1	56,6	19,1	1,8	0,7	1,6	-	88
	Middle Motor	Contra	2,1	0	9,6	0,1	0	0	0,2	-	12
	n = 85579										
71r DY	Ipsi	8,2	-	62,9	13,1	0,4	0,1	2,4	-	87,1	
Middle Motor	Contra	1,7	-	9,7	1	-	-	0,5	-	12,9	
n = 9603											
71l FB	Ipsi	2,4	0,5	72	17,8	1,1	0,8	0,8	-	95,4	
Mid-ventral	Contra	0,7	0	3,8	0	0	0	0,1	-	4,6	
Motor											
n = 38407											

619

620

621

622

623 **Figure legends**

624 **Figure 1.** Location of the injection sites shown in drawings of coronal sections and in brightfield
625 (for WGA and LYD injections) and epifluorescence (for CTBg, DY, and FB injections)
626 photomicrographs. In the section drawings, all injection sites except for WGA, are depicted as a
627 black zone corresponding to the core, surrounded by a grey zone, corresponding to the halo. WGA
628 injection sites are depicted as a grey zone because of the poor definition of the core vs. the halo.
629 Calibration bars shown for the section drawing and the photomicrograph of Case 751 LYD apply to
630 all section drawings and photomicrographs, respectively. Abbreviations: C=central sulcus;
631 Cd=caudate nucleus; Cg=cingulate sulcus; Cl=claustrum; GP=globus pallidus; IA=inferior arcuate
632 sulcus; L=lateral sulcus; Put=putamen; S=spur of the arcuate sulcus; SA=superior arcuate sulcus;
633 ST=superior temporal sulcus.

634 **Figure 2.** Percent areal distribution of the total retrograde labeling observed in the ipsilateral
635 hemisphere (black) compared with that of the total retrograde labeling observed in the contralateral
636 hemisphere (grey) in all the cases of the present study. In each graph, areas are ordered based on the
637 amount of ipsilateral labeling (only areas with ipsilateral labeling >1%). Superior parietal (SPL)
638 areas and inferior parietal (IPL) areas are grouped. Each panel also reports the results of the
639 statistical analysis in which the frequency distributions of the labeled CSt cells per area in the
640 ipsilateral and the contralateral hemisphere were compared (Pearson chi-square test for
641 independence). cCg= caudal cingulate cortex (areas 23, 31, 29, 30); DF=degree of freedom;
642 FrOp=frontal operculum; Ia=agranular insula; Idg=disgranular insula; Ti=inferotemporal cortex;
643 Tm=medial temporal cortex; Tp=temporal pole; Ts=superior temporal gyrus.

644 **Figure 3.** Distribution of the retrograde labeling observed after injection of WGA in the head of
645 the caudate in Case 76r. The labeling is shown in dorsolateral and medial views of the 3D
646 reconstructions of the injected (ipsilateral) and the contralateral hemisphere and in drawings of
647 coronal sections. For the sake of comparison, in this and in the subsequent figures all the 3D
648 reconstructions are shown as a right hemisphere with the injected hemisphere on the left and all

649 section drawings with the injected hemisphere on the right. Sections are shown in a rostral to caudal
650 order (a–f). The levels at which the sections were taken are shown on the 3D reconstructions of both
651 hemispheres. Each dot corresponds to one labeled neuron. Ca=calcarine fissure; IP=intraparietal
652 sulcus; LO=lateral orbital sulcus; Lu=lunate sulcus; MO=medial orbital sulcus; P=principal sulcus;
653 Th=thalamus. Other abbreviations as in Figures 1 and 2.

654 **Figure 4.** Distribution of the retrograde labeling observed after injection of LYD in the head of
655 the caudate in Case 75l. The labeling is shown in dorsolateral and medial views of the 3D
656 reconstructions of the injected (ipsilateral) and contralateral hemisphere and in drawings of coronal
657 sections. Conventions and other abbreviations as in Figures 1-3.

658 **Figure 5.** Percent distribution of the total (ipsi + contra) retrograde labeling in ipsilateral (black)
659 and contralateral (grey) areas observed after the tracer injections in the caudate. The asterisks mark
660 in each case the five most labeled areas. Abbreviations as in Figures 2.

661 **Figure 6.** Distribution of the retrograde labeling observed after injection of DY in the caudate
662 body in Case 75r. The labeling is shown in dorsolateral and medial views of the 3D reconstructions
663 of the injected (ipsilateral) and contralateral hemisphere and in drawings of coronal sections.
664 PO=parieto-occipital sulcus. Conventions and other abbreviations as in Figures 1-3.

665 **Figure 7.** Distribution of the retrograde labeling observed after injection of WGA in the pre-
666 commissural putamen in Case 77r. The labeling is shown in dorsolateral and medial views of the
667 3D reconstructions of the injected (ipsilateral) and contralateral hemisphere and in drawings of
668 coronal sections. ParOp=parietal operculum. Conventions and other abbreviations as in Figures 1-3.

669 **Figure 8.** Percent distribution of the total (ipsi + contra) retrograde labeling in the ipsilateral
670 (black) and contralateral (grey) areas observed after the tracer injections in the putamen. The
671 asterisks mark in each case the five most labeled areas. Abbreviations as in Figures 2 and 7.

672 **Figure 9.** Distribution of the retrograde labeling observed after injection of CTBg in the dorsal
673 part of the motor putamen in Case 75r. The labeling is shown in dorsolateral and medial views of

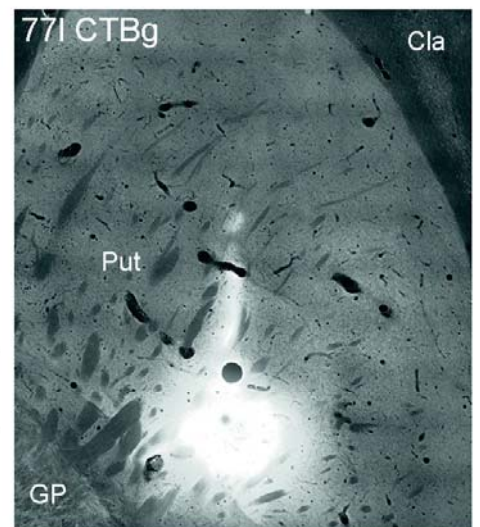
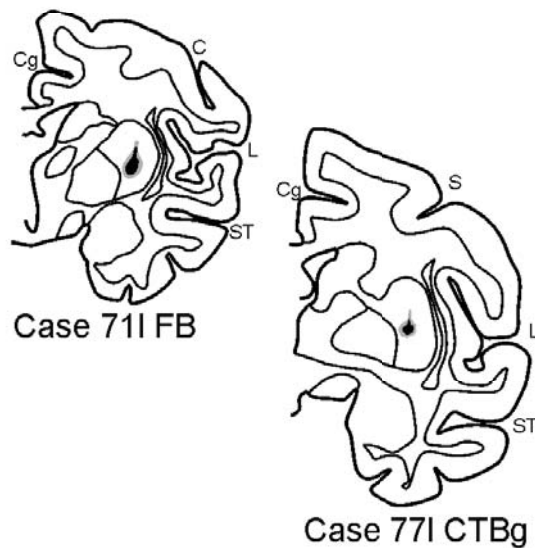
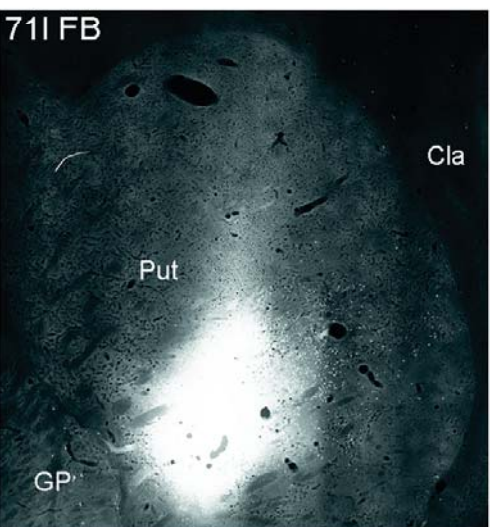
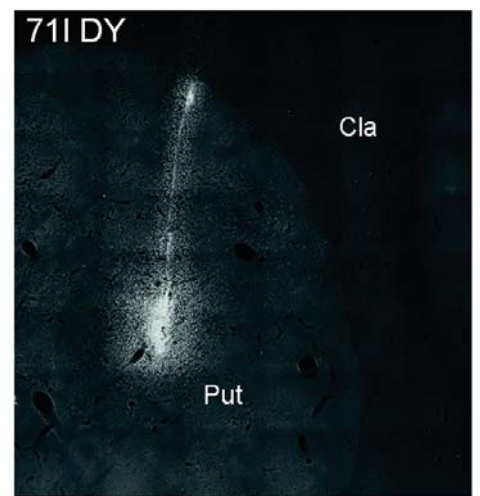
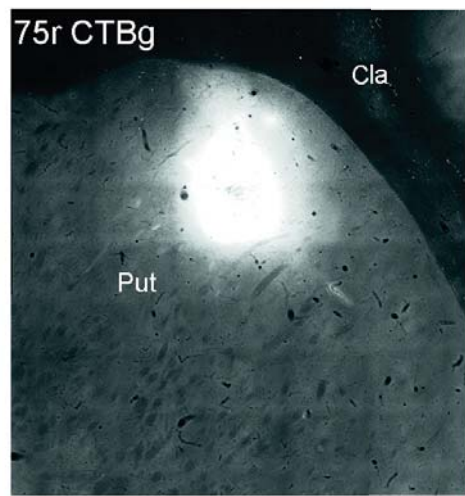
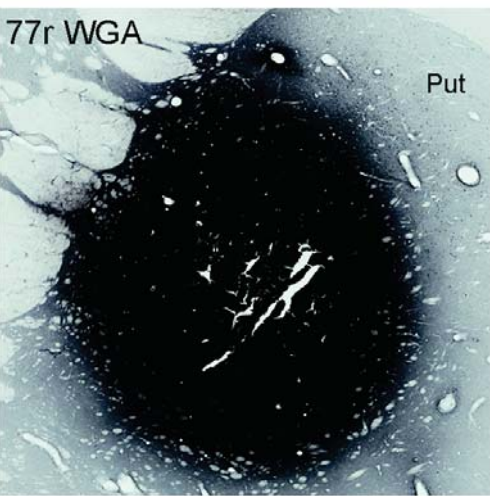
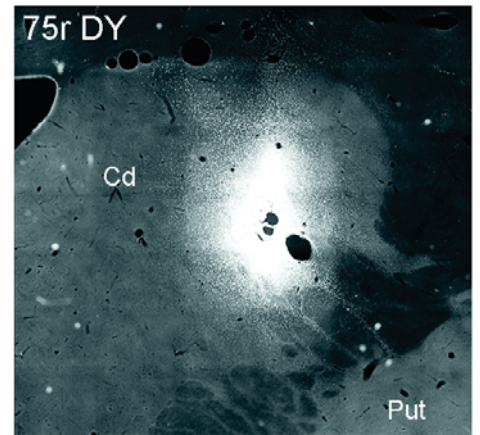
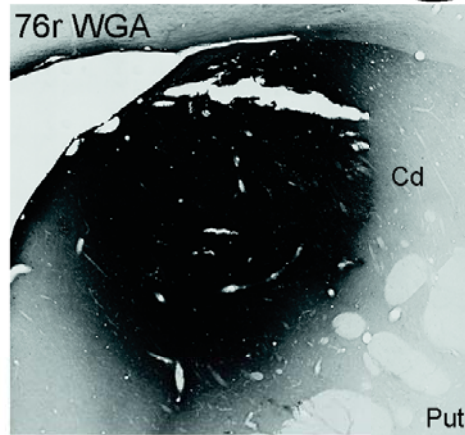
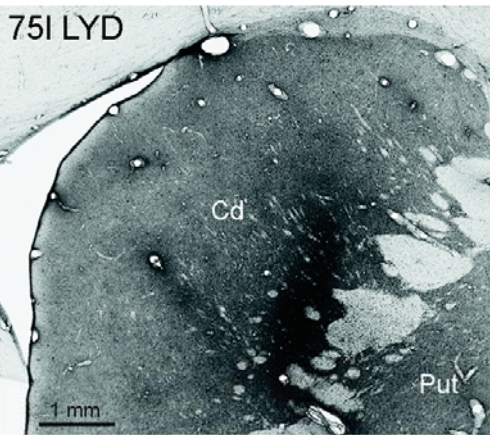
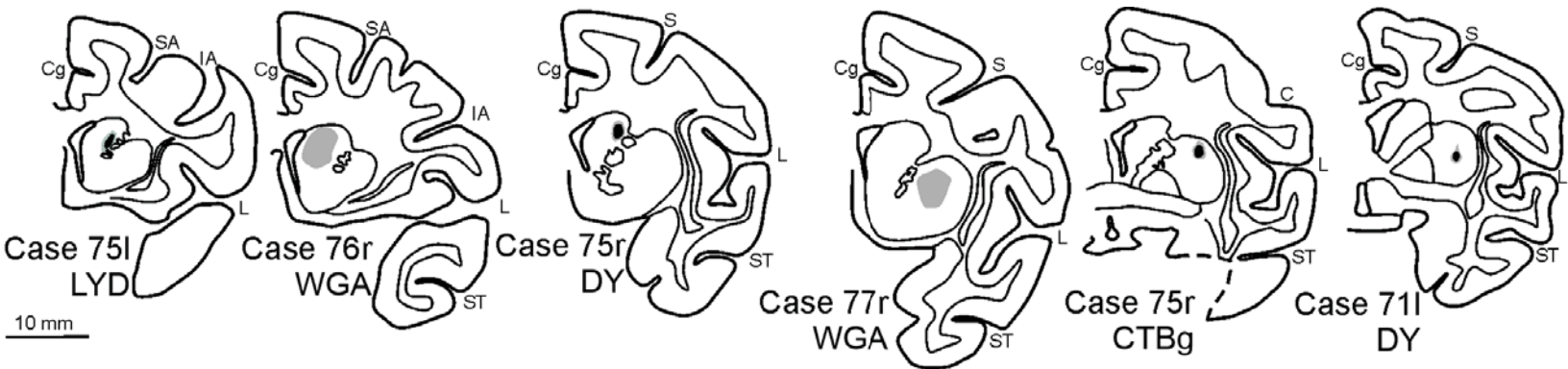
674 the 3D reconstructions of the injected (ipsilateral) and contralateral hemisphere and in drawings of
675 coronal sections. Conventions and other abbreviations as in Figures 1-3 and 7.

676 **Figure 10.** Distribution of the retrograde labeling observed after injection of CTBg in Case 77l,
677 DY in Case 71r, and FB in 71l in the mid-ventral motor putamen, shown in dorsolateral and medial
678 views of the 3D reconstructions of the injected (ipsilateral) and contralateral hemispheres.
679 Conventions and other abbreviations as in Figures 1-3.

680 **Figure 11.** Distribution of the retrograde labeling observed after injection of CTBg in Case 77l,
681 DY in Case 71r, and FB in 71l in the mid-ventral motor putamen, shown in drawings of coronal
682 sections taken at levels indicated in Figure 9. Conventions and other abbreviations as in Figures 1-3
683 and 7.

684 **Figure 12:** Contralaterality [contralateral cells in area X/(ipsi + contra cells in area X)] of CSt
685 projections from rostral cingulate and prefrontal (A), rostral premotor (B), and caudal premotor and
686 primary motor (C) areas shown in relation to the richness (percent of ipsi- + contralateral CSt cells)
687 of the labeling. Only areas in which the total (ipsi + contra) labeling was >1% are considered in the
688 graphs. Values from injections in the caudate are shown with dots, those from injections in rostral
689 and dorsal motor putamen with diamonds, and those from injections in mid-ventral motor putamen
690 with stars. In each panel, different colors identify different areas.

691



Caudate injections

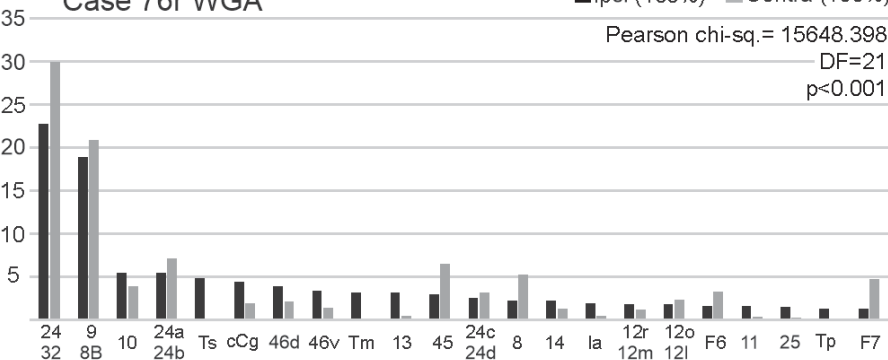
Case 76r WGA

■ Ipsi (100%) ■ Contra (100%)

Pearson chi-sq.= 15648.398

DF=21

p<0.001

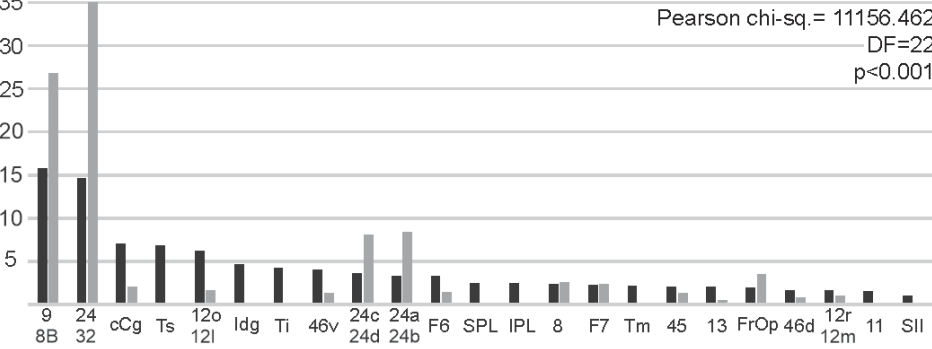


Case 75l LYD

Pearson chi-sq.= 11156.462

DF=22

p<0.001

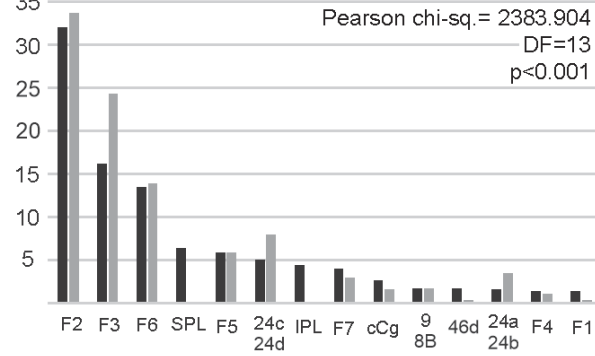


Case 75r DY

Pearson chi-sq.= 2383.904

DF=13

p<0.001



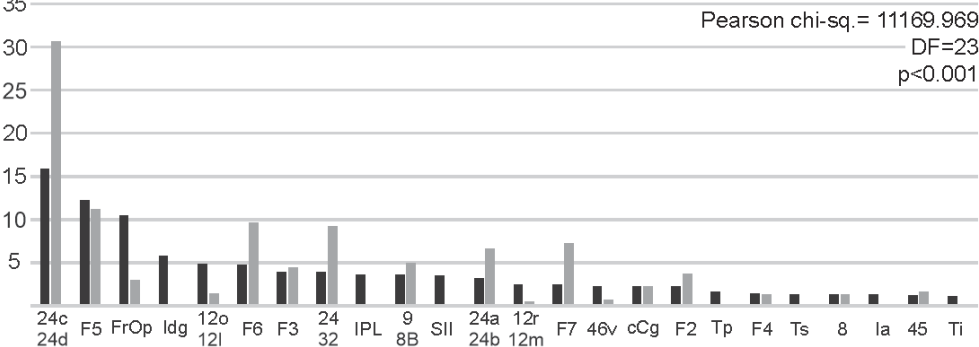
Putamen injections

Case 77r WGA

Pearson chi-sq.= 11169.969

DF=23

p<0.001

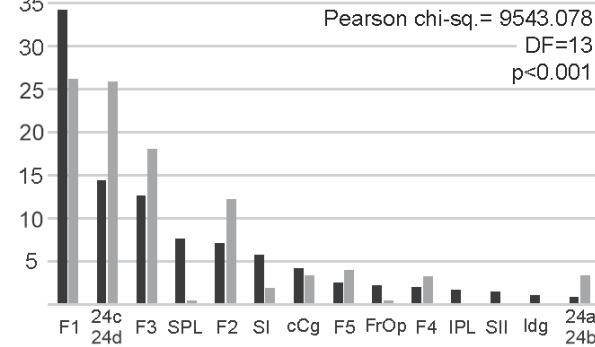


Case 75r CTB

Pearson chi-sq.= 9543.078

DF=13

p<0.001

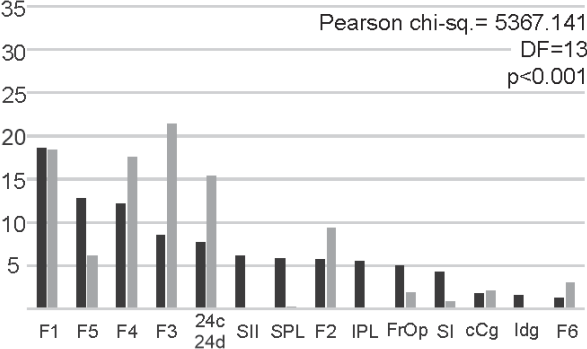


Case 77l CTB

Pearson chi-sq.= 5367.141

DF=13

p<0.001

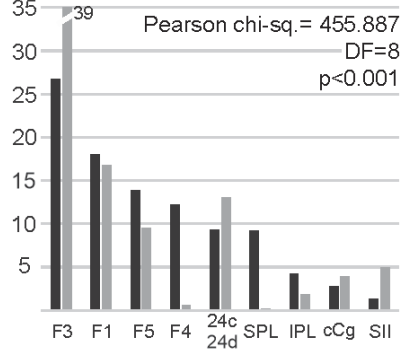


Case 71r DY

Pearson chi-sq.= 455.887

DF=8

p<0.001

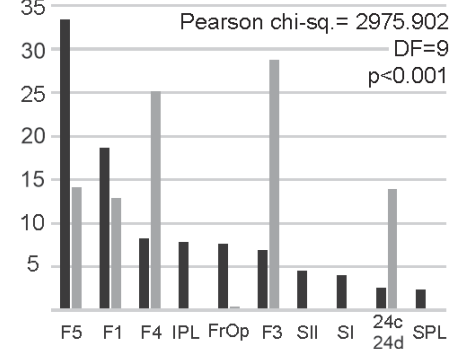


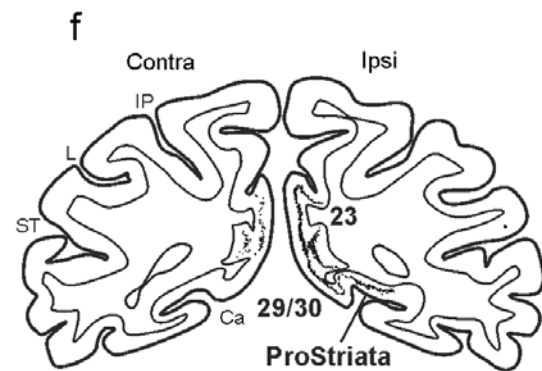
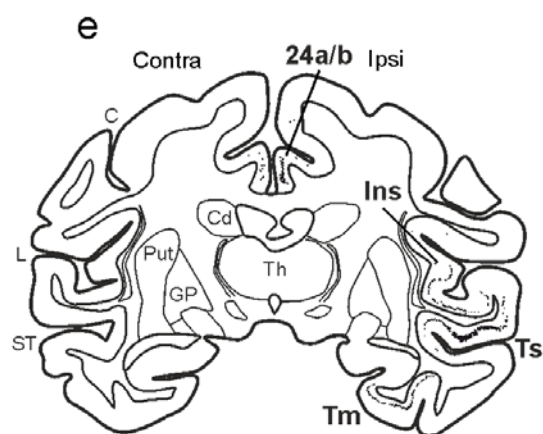
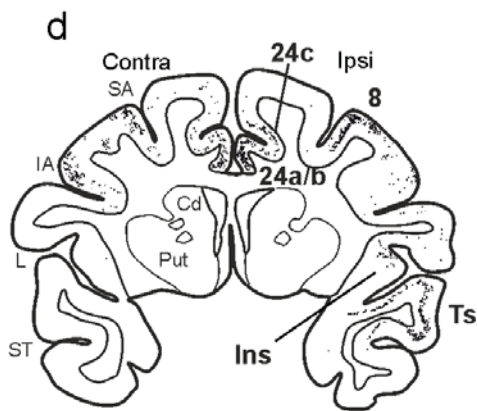
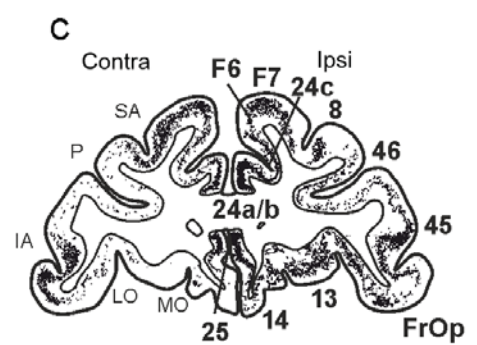
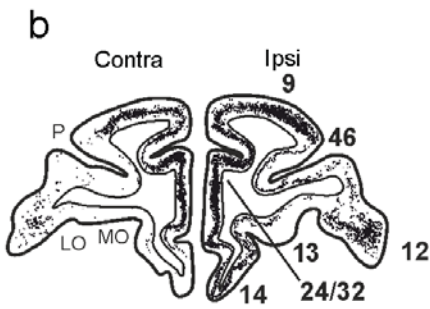
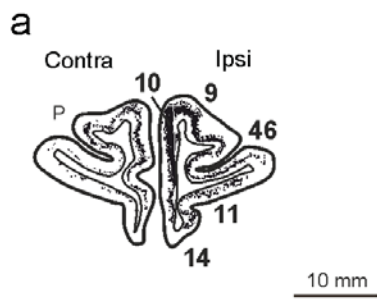
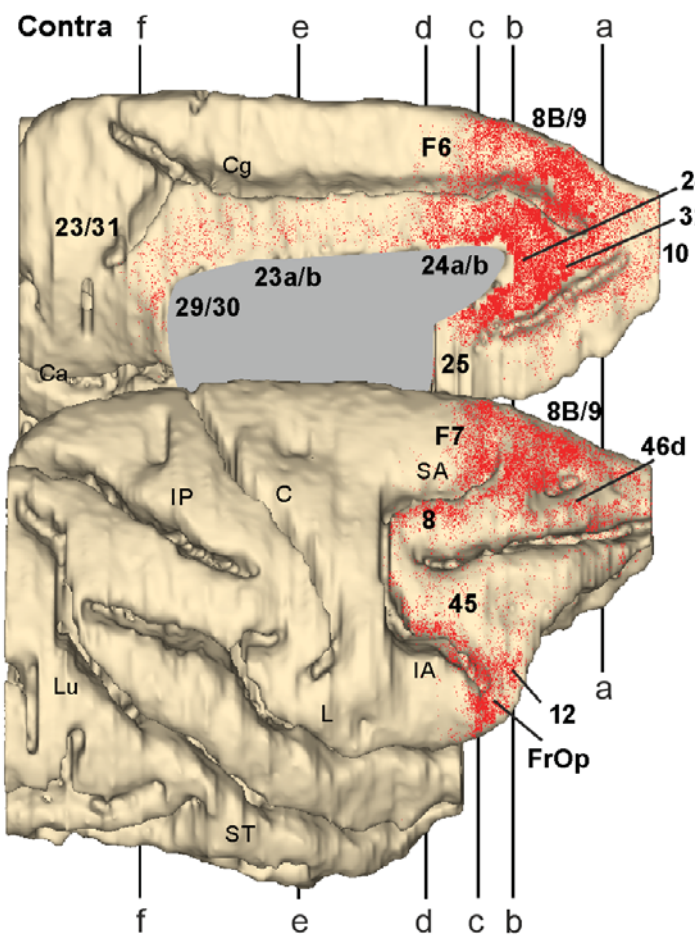
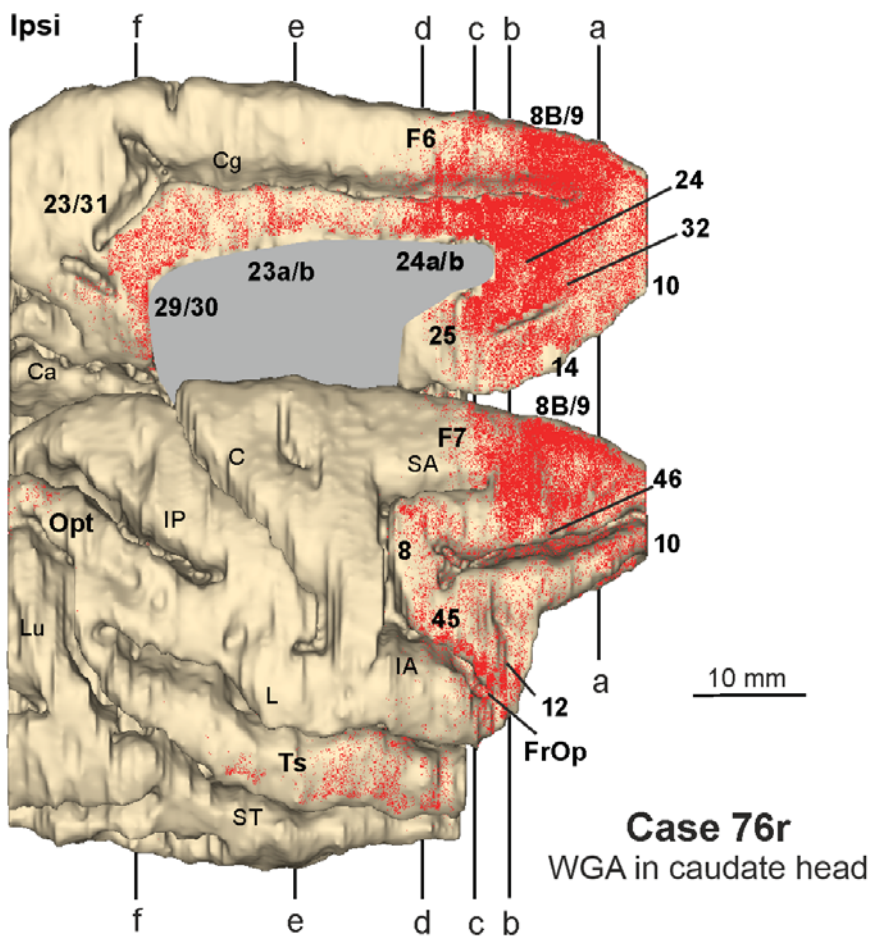
Case 71l FB

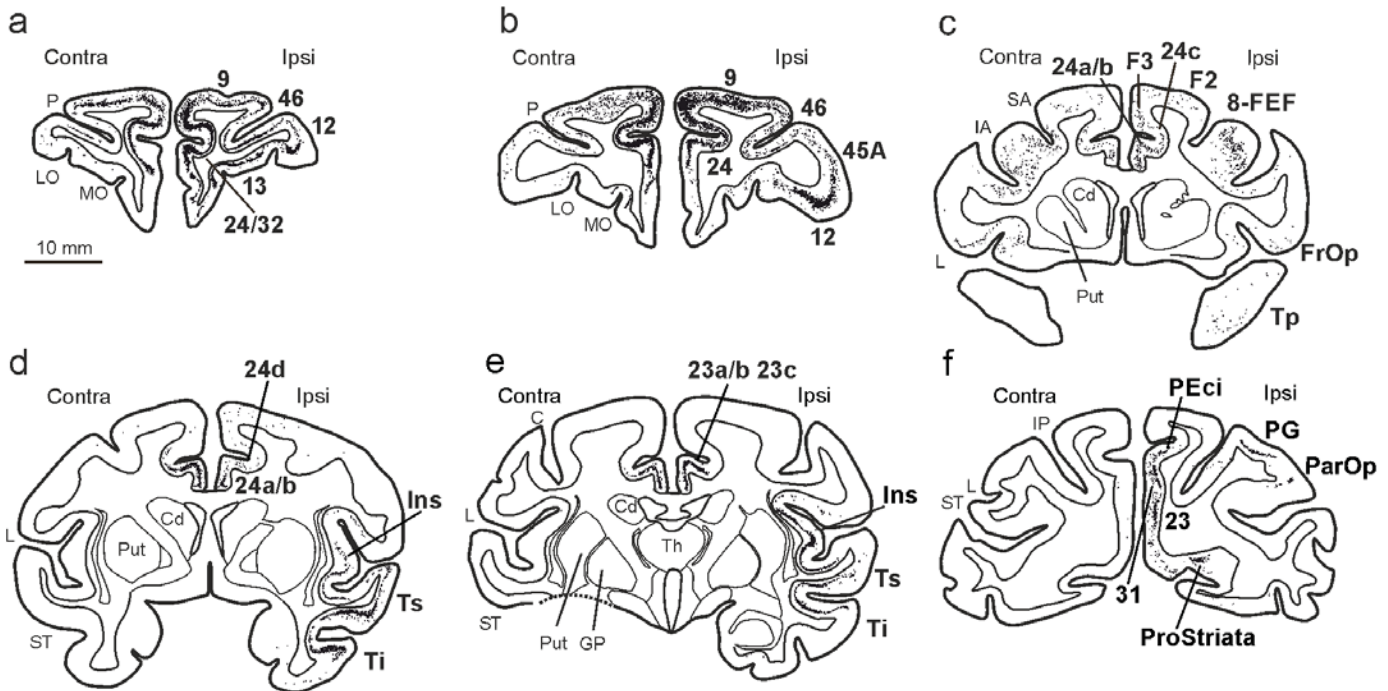
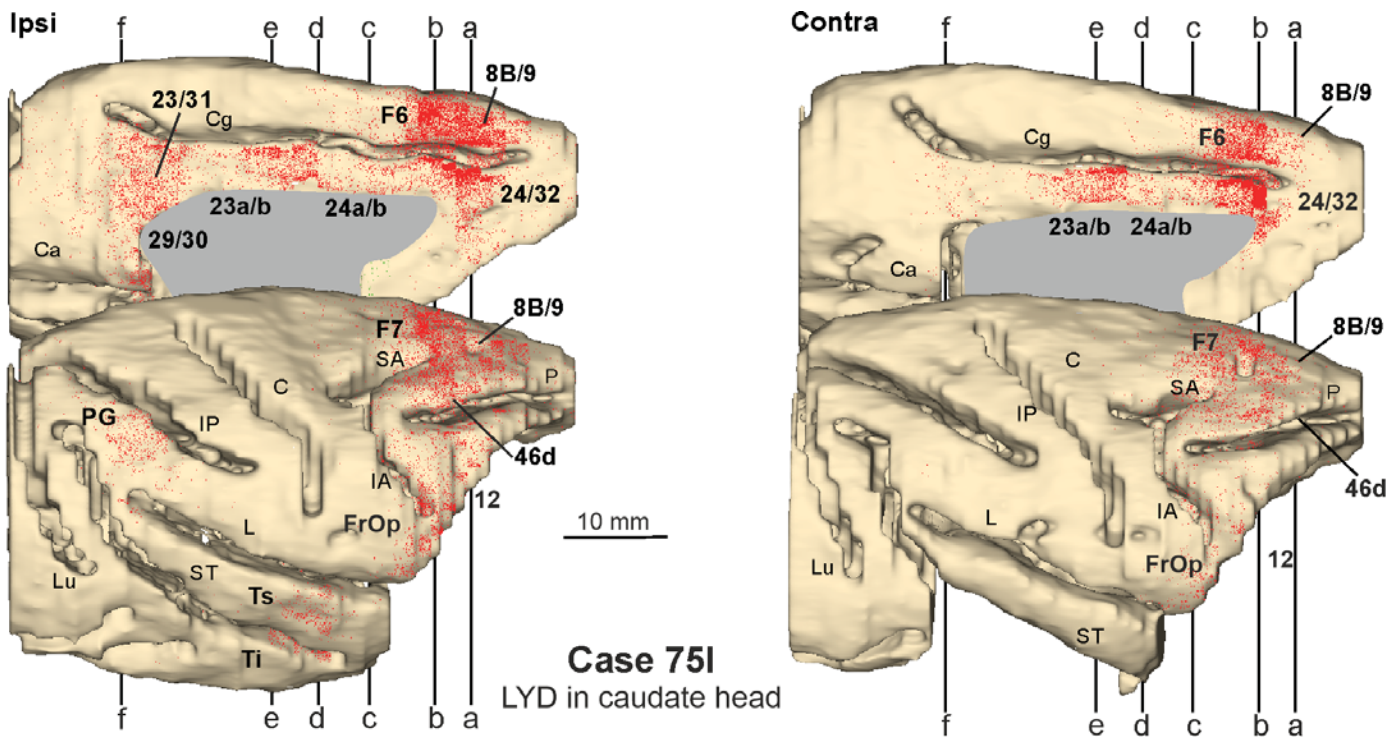
Pearson chi-sq.= 2975.902

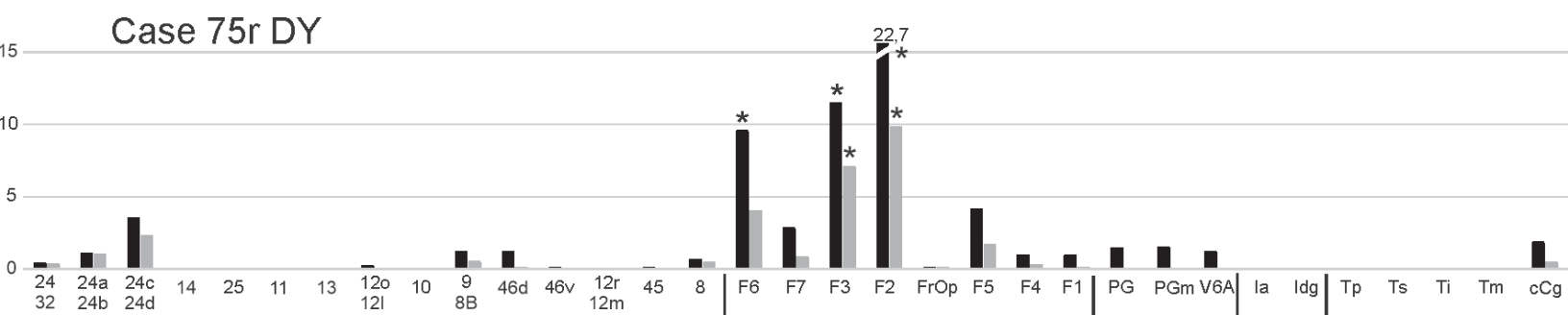
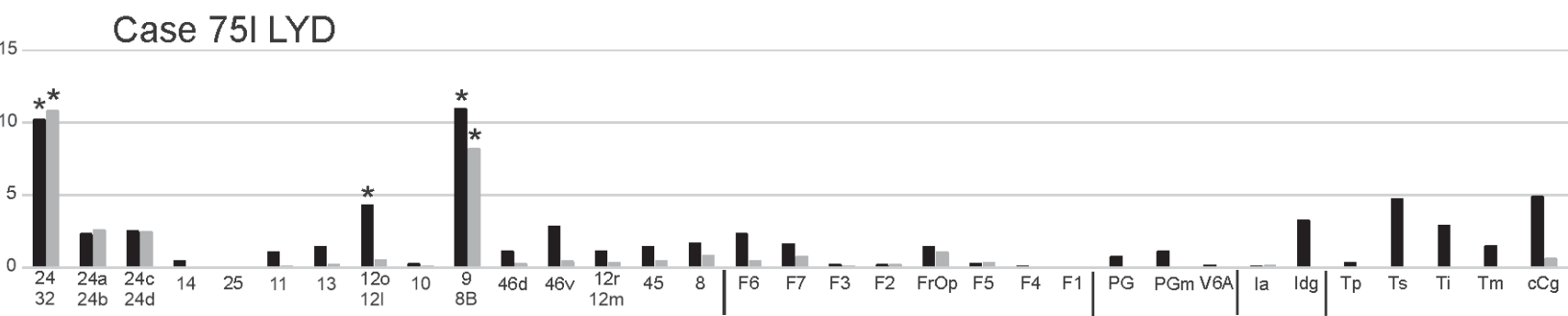
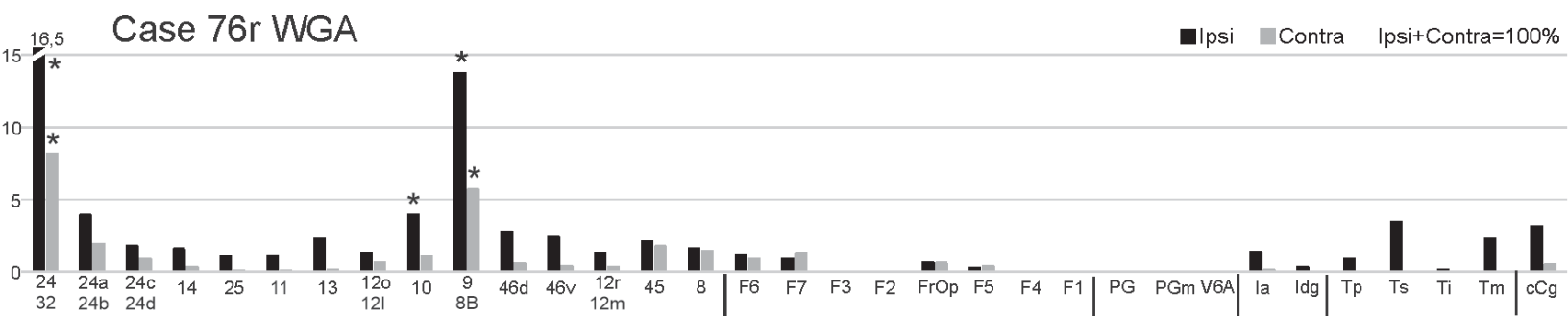
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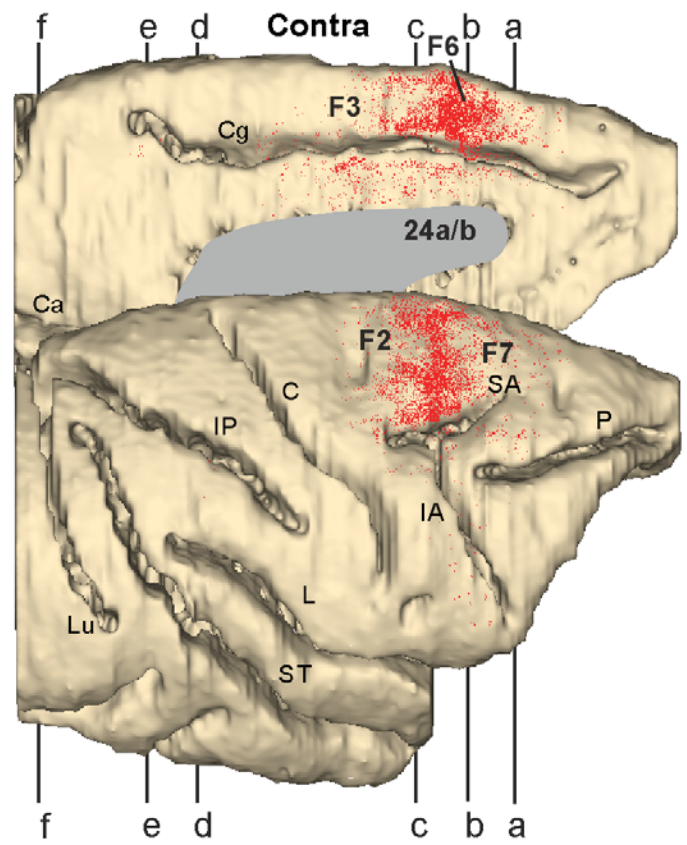
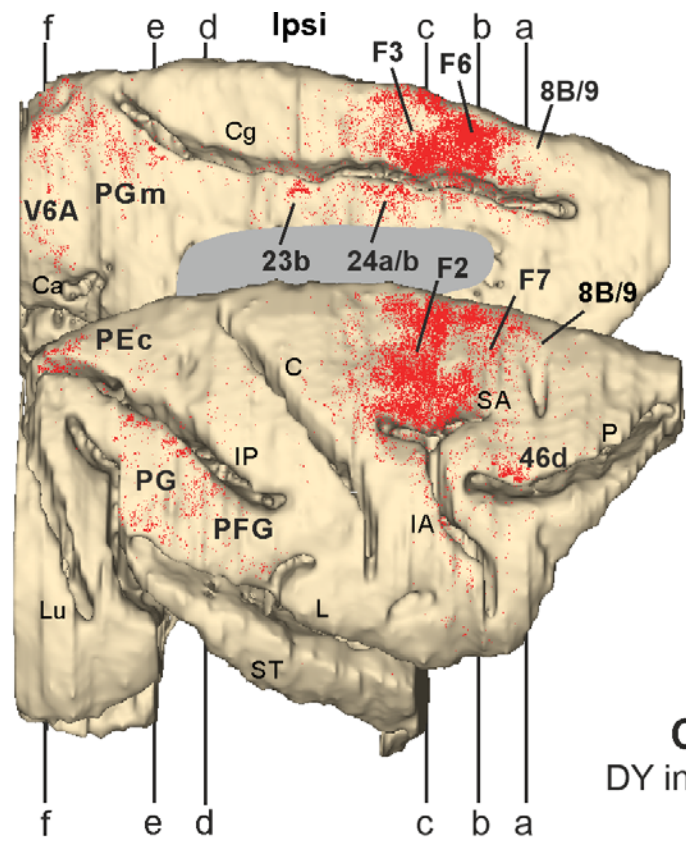
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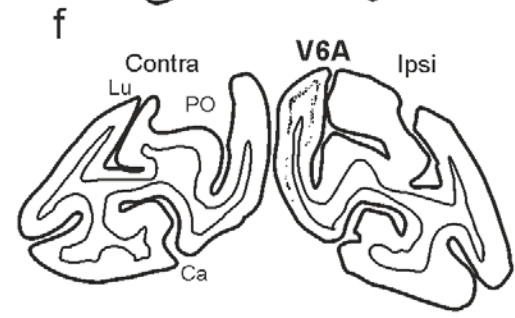
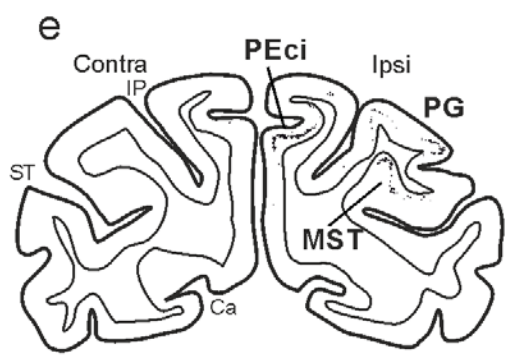
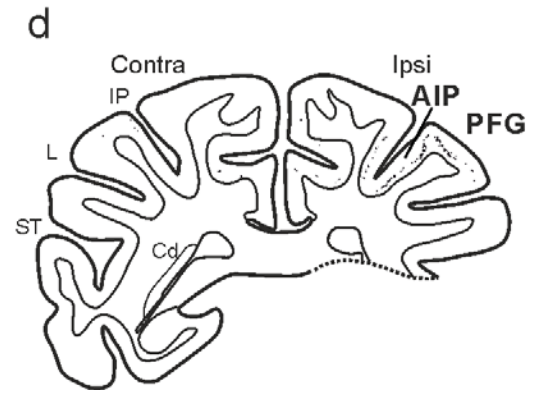
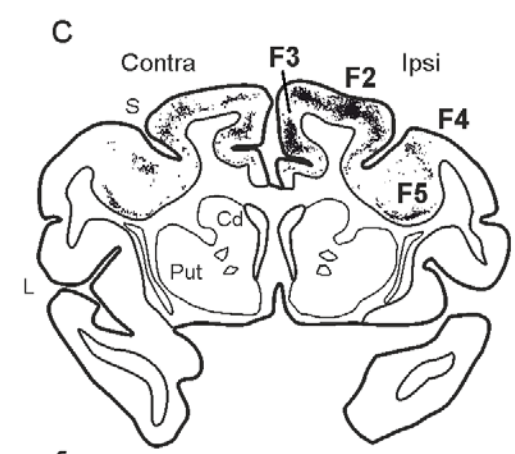
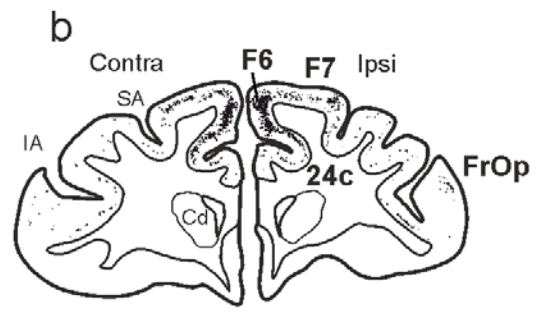
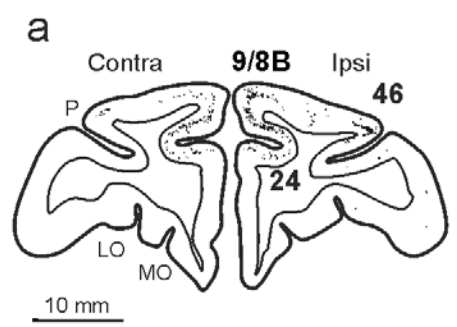




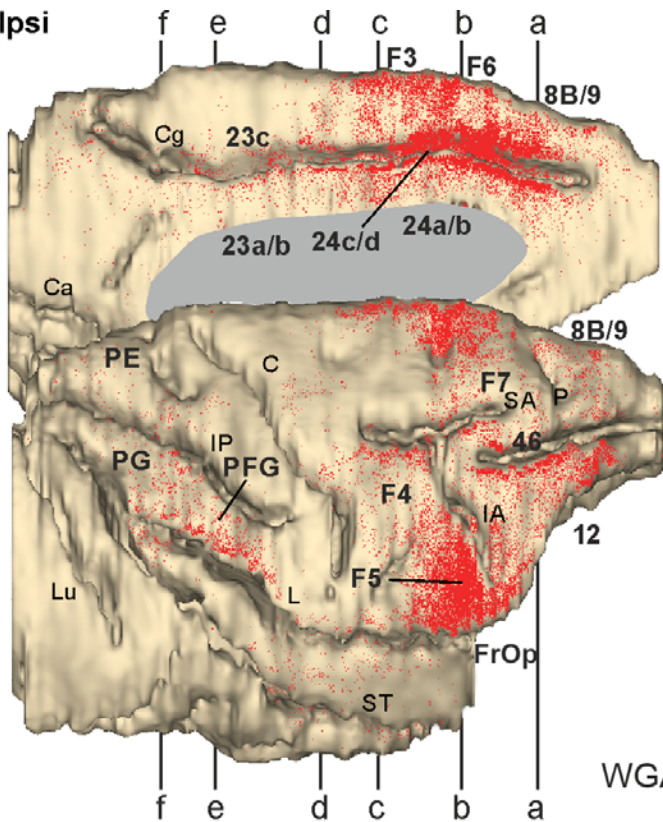




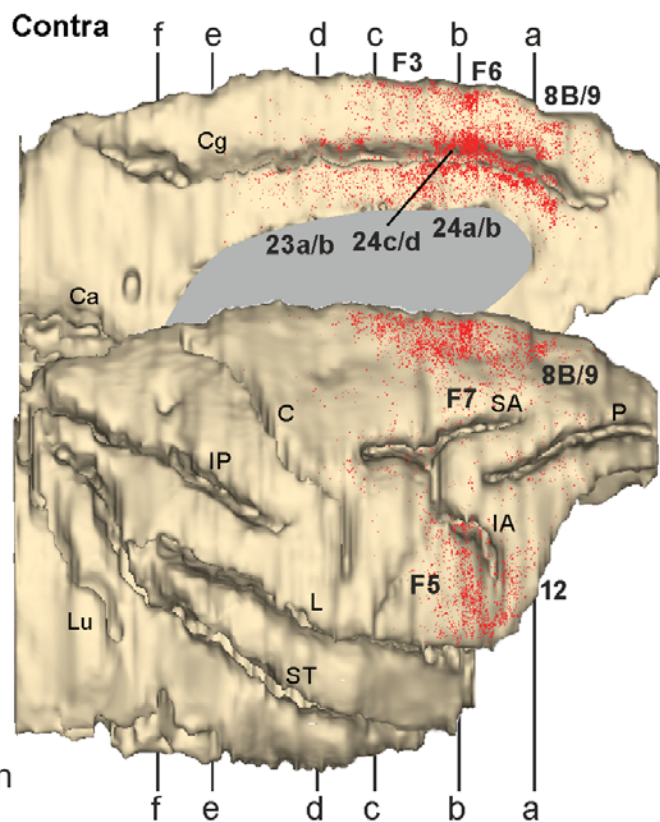
Case 75r
DY in caudate body



Ipsi



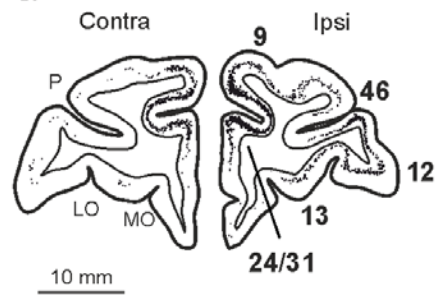
Contra



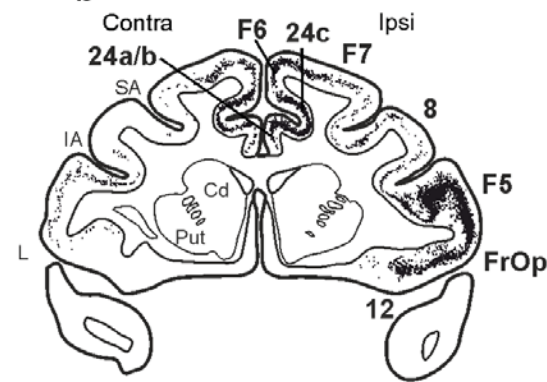
Case 77r

WGA in pre-AC putamen

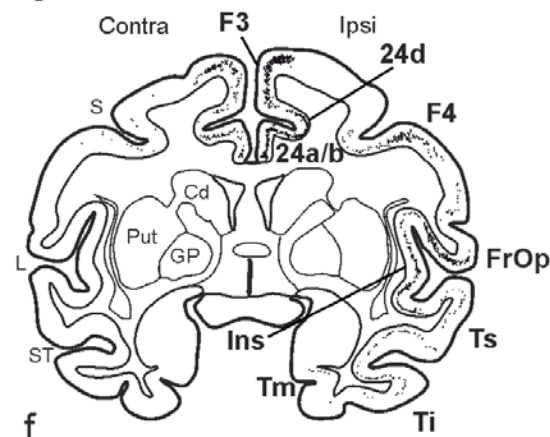
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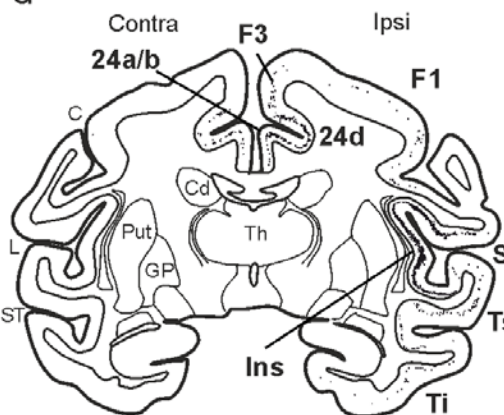
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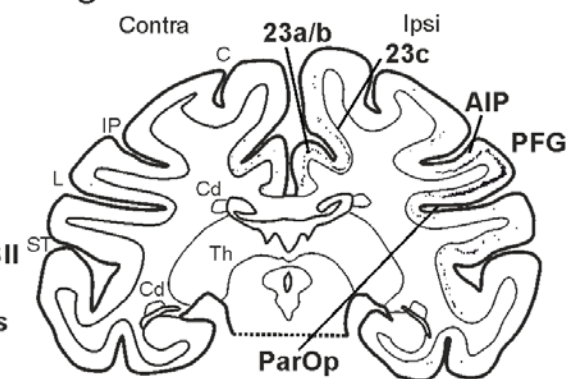
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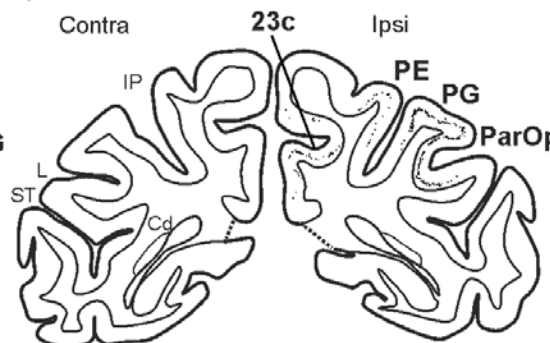
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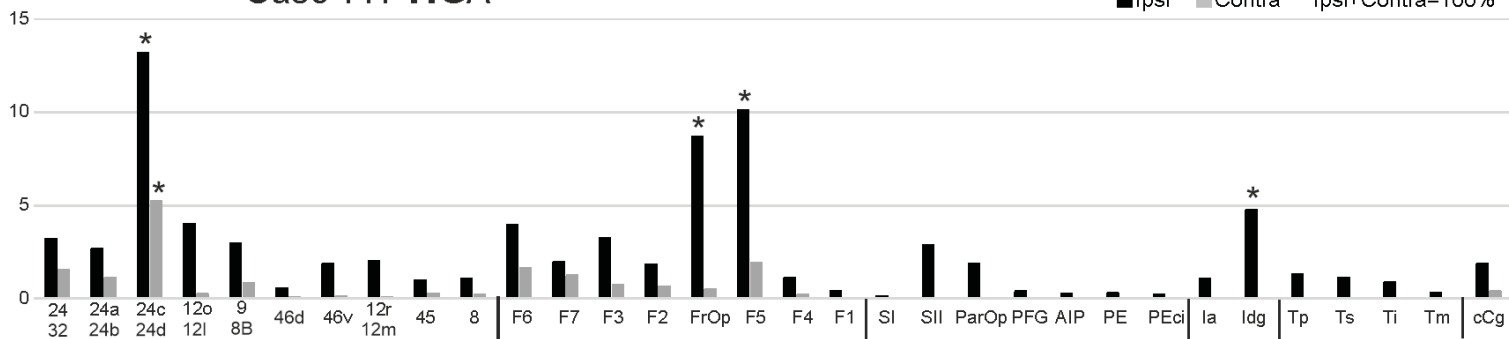


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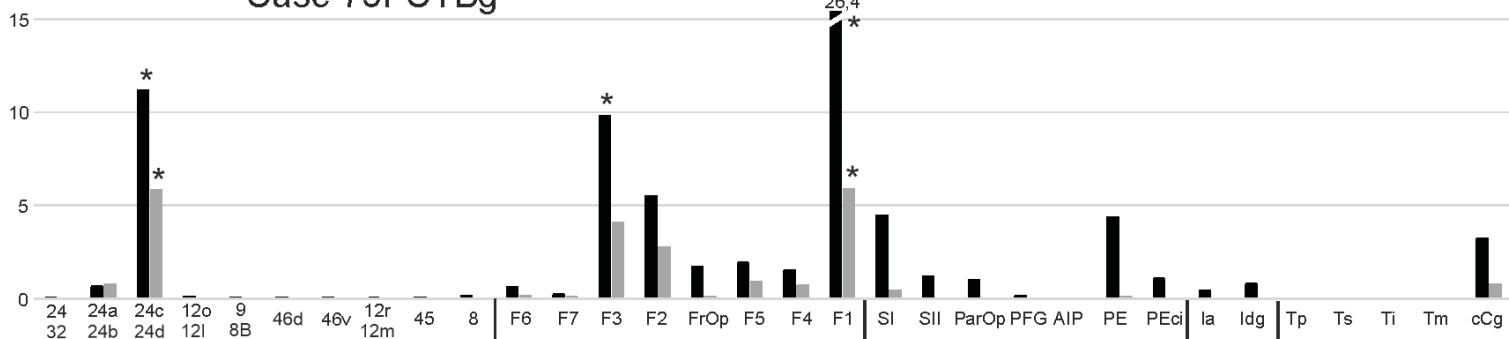


Case 77r WGA

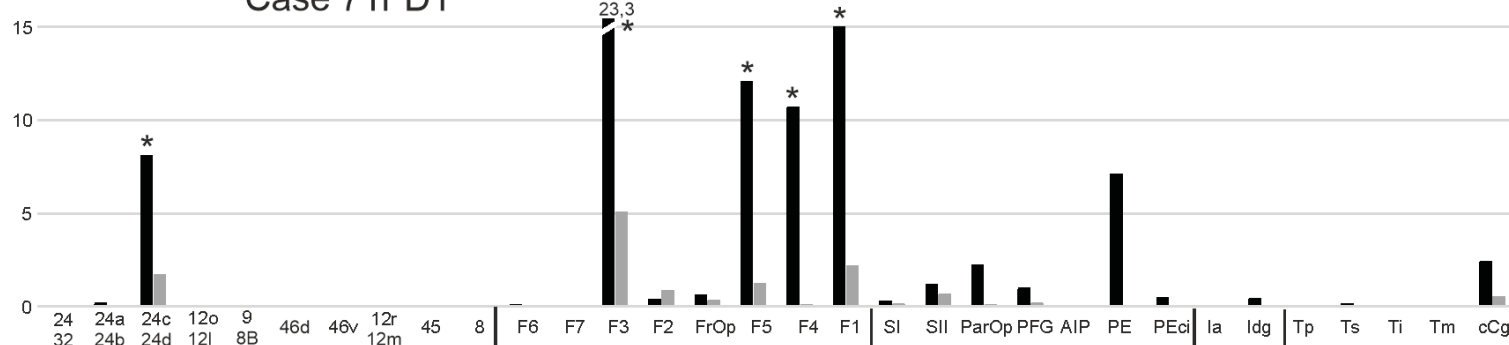
■ Ipsi ■ Contra Ipsi+Contra=100%



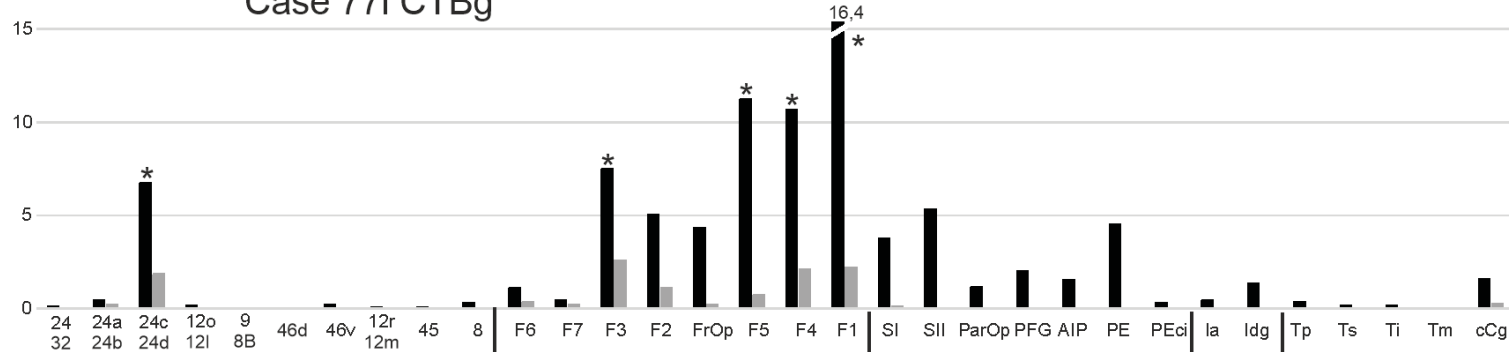
Case 75r CTBg



Case 71r DY



Case 77l CTBg



Case 71l FB

