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Rasputin/G3BP mediates o'nyong-nyong virus subversion of antiviral immunity in Anopheles coluzzii

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4 Short title: Rasputin and immune manipulation

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28 ABSTRACT

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The G3BP proteins in vertebrates and Aedes mosquito ortholog, Rasputin, are essential for 30 31 alphavirus infection, but the underlying mechanism of Rasputin/G3BP proviral activity is 32 poorly understood. It has been suggested that G3BP could influence host immune signaling, but this has not been functionally demonstrated. Here, we find that depletion of Rasputin 33 34 activity in Anopheles mosquitoes, the primary vectors of the alphavirus o'nyong-nyong 35 (ONNV), provokes dysregulation of the antiviral Imd, JAK/STAT and RNAi pathways, 36 indicating that Rasputin is required for expression of normal basal immunity in uninfected mosquitoes. Depletion of Rasputin during ONNV bloodmeal infection causes increased 37 transcript abundance of genes in the Imd pathway including positive regulator Rel2, and 38 39 decreases ONNV infection in mosquitoes. Loss of Rasputin is complemented by co-depletion 40 of Imd pathway positive regulator, Rel2, which restores normal ONNV infection levels. Thus, the presence of Rasputin is required for ONNV inhibition of Imd activity, and viral inhibition 41 42 of Imd explains much of the Rasputin proviral activity. The viral non-structural protein 3 (nsP3) binds to Rasputin and alters the profile of cellular proteins binding to Rasputin. In the 43 44 presence of nsP3, 48 Rasputin-binding proteins are unchanged but seven binding proteins are 45 excluded and eight new proteins bind Rasputin. The Rasputin binding partners altered by nsP3 46 are candidate factors for ONNV immune manipulation and subversion through Rasputin. 47 Overall, these results are consistent with and strongly suggest a mechanism in which ONNV, probably nsP3, co-opts the normal Rasputin function assuring basal cellular immune activity 48 in order to inhibit antiviral immunity and promote infection. These observations may be 49 50 generalizable for Rasputin function during alphavirus infection of other mosquitoes, as well as for G3BP function in the mammalian host, and could offer a target for vector-based control of 51 arbovirus transmission. 52

53

- 54 Keywords
- 55 Arbovirus, G3BP, host-pathogen interaction, innate immunity

56 INTRODUCTION

Arthropod-borne viruses (arboviruses) are maintained through an alternating cycle of 57 transmission between mammalian hosts and arthropod vectors. Arboviruses represent a 58 59 spreading global burden for human and animal health, with the clinically most important 60 pathogens represented by RNA viruses in the families Flaviviridae, Togaviridae, Bunyavirales, and Reoviridae (Weaver and Reisen, 2010). The alphavirus o'nyong-nyong (ONNV, genus 61 62 alphavirus, family Togaviridae) is phylogenetically closely related to chikungunya virus (CHIKV, genus alphavirus, family Togaviridae). Both are in the same antigenic group, the 63 64 Semliki forest virus complex, thus are difficult to distinguish by immunodiagnostic assay, and symptomatically cause essentially the same human disease (Powers et al., 2001; Rezza et al., 65 2017). The most apparent difference between the arboviruses is their use of mosquito vectors. 66 67 Anopheles mosquitoes are the major vector of human malaria but are the primary vector of 68 only one known arbovirus, ONNV, while Aedes mosquitoes transmit the majority of mosquitoborne arboviruses, including CHIKV. 69

70

The molecular mechanism underlying the mosquito vector specificity of ONNV and CHIKV 71 72 is not understood. Evidence points to the involvement of non-structural protein 3 (nsP3), which is diverged between the two viruses. Replacing CHIKV nsp3 with the ONNV nsP3 gene in the 73 CHIKV genomic backbone allowed partial infection of Anopheles mosquitoes, while the 74 75 CHIKV backbone with its own nsP3 gene is noninfective to Anopheles (Saxton-Shaw et al., 2013; Vanlandingham et al., 2005; Vanlandingham et al., 2006). Interestingly, unlike CHIKV, 76 which does not infect Anopheles, ONNV can infect some tested strains of Ae. aegypti 77 (Vanlandingham et al., 2005). These results suggest that Anopheles is the more stringent or 78 less permissive host among the two for virus infection, and also imply that observed viral nsP3 79

sequence divergence may be based on specific viral adaptation to infect either Anopheles or
Aedes hosts, because the human host is shared by both viruses.

82

83 The probable role of viral nsP3 in vector host specificity points in turn to the a host protein 84 known to bind nsP3 of many alphaviruses, the Ras-GTPase-activating protein (SH3 domain)binding protein (G3BP) and the mosquito ortholog Rasputin (Rin) (Panas et al., 2014). 85 Rin/G3BPs are enigmatic molecules with diverse biological functions (Alam and Kennedy, 86 2019; Kang et al., 2021). Most studies of Rin/G3BP function have been carried out in 87 88 mammalian cells, where there are three isoforms (G3BP1, G3BP2a and 2b) expressed from 89 two genes (Irvine et al., 2004; Kang et al., 2021). Mosquitoes carry a single Rin gene, with the 90 small number of published studies restricted to Aedes mosquitoes (Fros et al., 2015; Goertz et 91 al., 2018; Nowee et al., 2021), and to our knowledge there are no previous published reports 92 about Rin in Anopheles mosquitoes.

93

94 Mammalian G3BPs are involved in numerous biological processes including RNA-binding, RNA metabolism, stress granule formation, and regulation of ubiquitin-mediated degradation 95 96 signaling (Alam and Kennedy, 2019; Irvine et al., 2004; Kang et al., 2021; Kedersha et al., 2016; Laver et al., 2020; Soncini et al., 2001). Aedes Rin can interact and colocalize with nsP3 97 98 of many tested alphaviruses in Aedes cells (Fros et al., 2015; Goertz et al., 2018; Nowee et al., 99 2021). Rin/G3BPs also serve as proviral host factors promoting the infection cycle of multiple RNA viruses in mammals, while in Aedes proviral activity has been demonstrated only for 100 alphaviruses (Fros et al., 2015). The proviral function of Rin/G3BPs is associated in general 101 102 with efficiency of viral genome replication, although "the exact mechanism by which they act remains to be explored" (Scholte et al., 2015). Interestingly, G3BPs have also been reported to 103 104 potentially interact with host immunity by influencing cytoplasmic distribution of the

regulators of the NF-kappa B pathway (Prigent et al., 2000), by enhancing NF-kappa B
phosphorylation and protein quantity (Scholte *et al.*, 2015; Zhang et al., 2012), and by
modulating NF-kappa B signaling through protein kinase R or by other means (Deater et al.,
2022; Reineke and Lloyd, 2015). The implications of potential Rin/G3BP interaction with
immune signaling factors upon actual immune regulation, or on the efficiency if virus infection
have barely been examined, and there are no studies in mosquitoes.

111

112 Because the above evidence points to differential interactions of viral nsp3 with host Rin to 113 explain at least in part the observed vector specificity of ONNV and CHIKV for infection of Anopheles and Aedes, here we undertook a study of the function of Anopheles Rin in ONNV 114 infection, which is a knowledge gap. More broadly, the reason for the apparent paucity of 115 116 arbovirus transmission by Anopheles mosquitoes in nature is also not understood, because the study of virus-host interactions in Anopheles has been relatively neglected in favor of the rich 117 118 extensive research on Anopheles-Plasmodium interactions. However, Anopheles harbor a 119 complex natural virome of RNA viruses (Belda et al., 2019) and a number of pathogenic arboviruses have been isolated from Anopheles mosquitoes (Nanfack Minkeu and Vernick, 120 121 2018). For example, there is evidence of Anopheles contribution to maintenance of Rift Valley Fever virus during epidemics (RVFV, genus phlebovirus, family Bunyavirales) (Ratovonjato 122 123 et al., 2011; Seufi and Galal, 2010). These observations present a biological puzzle that 124 highlights the importance of studying Anopheles-virus interactions. With changing climatic 125 and ecological conditions and exposure of vector populations to new potential pathogens in 126 new environments, it is relevant to ask what it would require for arboviruses other than ONNV 127 to adapt to Anopheles mosquitoes as transmission vectors.

128

- 129 Here we investigated the proviral activity of Anopheles Rin, and discovered a clear and direct
- 130 link between Rin and antiviral immunity. We found that Rin influences antiviral immunity in
- 131 ONNV infection of Anopheles. and probably underlies viral co-optation by nsP3 of host Rin
- in order to subvert antiviral immunity. The findings could be relevant to studies of G3BPs in
- 133 mammals and for other alphaviruses.

134 **RESULTS**

135 Rin activity is required for normal basal expression of multiple immune pathways in 136 uninfected Anopheles

137 Rin/G3BP is proviral for infection of many alphaviruses in mammalian cells and for infection of CHIKV in Aedes albopictus (Fros et al., 2015; Gotte et al., 2020; Scholte et al., 2015) but 138 it has not been examined in Anopheles. Therefore, we first, confirmed that Rin is proviral for 139 ONNV in Anopheles coluzzii mosquitoes by depleting Rin transcript using RNAi-mediated 140 gene silencing by injection of double-stranded RNA (dsRNA) specific for Rin (dsRin), or 141 142 irrelevant GFP control (dsGFP), followed by bloodmeal infection with ONNV. The depletion of Rin in An. coluzzii significantly decreased ONNV infection prevalence (defined as the 143 144 proportion of fully fed mosquitoes positive for ONNV) and infection intensity (defined as the 145 viral titer measured in the ONNV-positive mosquitoes) (Fig. S1A and S1B). Therefore, Rin 146 activity is proviral and agonistic for ONNV infection in An. coluzzii by infectious bloodmeal. 147

148 Because of the suggestive evidence from mammalian G3BPs detailed above, we hypothesized that Rin proviral activity could be explained, at least in part, if Rin is required for host immune 149 150 signaling, and if a viral virulence factor can manipulate Rin to undermine cellular immune signaling in relevant antiviral pathways. Therefore, we first determined whether Rin influences 151 152 basal immunity in uninfected mosquitoes by measuring the influence of Rin depletion by dsRin 153 treatment as compared to dsGFP controls upon transcript levels of a panel of immune genes selected on two main lines of evidence: previous functional demonstration of antiviral activity 154 against ONNV in An. coluzzii (Carissimo et al., 2015), and differential RNAseq transcript 155 156 abundance in An. coluzzii after ONNV bloodmeal infection (Carissimo et al., 2018). The candidate panel is comprised of positive regulators of the four main mosquito immune 157 158 pathways (Toll, Imd, JAK/STAT and small RNA), and immune factors or effectors, including

the leucine-rich repeat protein (LRR) genes APL1C, APL1A, LRIM1, LRIM4, LRIM10; the
complement-like thioester proteins TEP3, TEP4, TEP12; and inducer of immune granulocyte
differentiation, Evokin).

162

First, we queried Rin influence on expression of Toll pathway regulatory genes (positive 163 regulator, Rel1 and negative regulator, Cactus) and effector genes (APL1C and TEP3) (Fig. 164 1A). APL1C and TEP3 are extracellular immune factors regulated by the Toll pathway (Mitri 165 et al., 2015), and APL1C displays antiviral activity against ONNV in An. coluzzii, while TEP3 166 167 does not (Carissimo et al., 2015). Depletion of Rin has little influence on Toll-pathway related immune transcripts except for causing a late increase of APL1C transcript abundance, 168 169 indicating that normal Rin activity slightly limits APL1C transcript abundance in uninfected 170 mosquitoes.

171

In contrast, depletion of Rin in uninfected mosquitoes triggered a more striking effect upon the 172 173 Imd and JAK/STAT pathways (Fig. 1B), which are both strongly antiviral for ONNV in Anopheles (Carissimo et al., 2015). In the Imd pathway, Rin depletion caused decreased 174 transcript abundance of the Imd positive regulator Rel2 as well as the Imd effector genes, 175 176 APL1A and TEP4, which are transcriptionally regulated by Rel2 (Mitri et al., 2015). In the JAK/STAT pathway, Rin depletion caused increased transcript abundance of the JAK/STAT 177 178 positive regulator, Stat-A, and therefore Rin is required to limit Stat-A transcript to normal 179 levels. Thus, depletion of Rin causes widespread dysregulation of the Imd and JAK/STAT pathways, and normal Rin activity is required for correctly regulated basal activity of these 180 181 immune pathways.

182

183 Among the small RNA immune pathways, the siRNA pathway has been studied for its role in 184 counteracting RNA virus infection, as shown for flaviviruses such as ZIKV (Magalhaes et al., 2019) and DENV (Olmo et al., 2018), and alphaviruses CHIKV (Dong et al., 2022) and ONNV 185 186 (Carissimo et al., 2015). The endonucleases Argonaute-2 (Ago2) and Dicer-2 (Dcr2) are 187 essential catalytic components of the RNA-induced silencing complex (Kumar et al., 2018), and Ago2 was previously shown to be antiviral for ONNV infection (Carissimo et al., 2015). 188 189 The transcript abundance of Ago2 and Dicer2 are both increased after Rin depletion, and 190 therefore Rin acts to limit the expression of the siRNA pathway in uninfected mosquitoes (Fig. 191 1C).

192

193 We analyzed additional important extracellular immune factors for their transcriptional 194 response to Rin. The LRR genes LRIM4 and LRIM10 are upregulated and downregulated, respectively, during ONNV infection of An. coluzzii (Carissimo et al., 2018). Here, we found 195 196 that LRIM4 but not LRIM10 transcript abundance is altered by Rin depletion (Fig. 1D). The 197 complement-like effector TEP12 is strongly increased by Rin depletion (Fig. 1D). Finally, Evokin is an Anopheles positive regulator for the proliferation of immune-competent 198 199 hemocytes (Ramirez et al., 2015), and here we found that Evokin transcript is induced by Rin 200 depletion (Fig. 1E), meaning that normal Rin function probably modulates the level of 201 immune-primed hemocytes.

202

Taken together, these results in uninfected mosquitoes indicate that Rin is deeply involved in the correct basal regulation of key components of all four of the major arms of mosquito innate immunity, but particularly Imd and JAK/STAT. Absence of Rin leads to dysregulated expression of factors in all pathways. Rin is thus required to maintain the overall integrity and homeostasis of the systems necessary for immune surveillance and readiness of mosquitoes in

the unstimulated resting state. Multiple of the Rin-regulated factors are known to be antiviral
for ONNV in Anopheles, thus strengthening the hypothesis that Rin proviral function could be
linked to viral manipulation of host immunity.

211

212 Presence of Rin is required for ONNV-dependent inhibition of the Anopheles Imd213 pathway

After confirming above that Rin is proviral for ONNV infection of Anopheles, and that Rin 214 215 activity is essential for correct expression of basal immunity in uninfected mosquitoes, we next 216 examine the hypothesis that the proviral activity of Rin and the G3BP family could at least in part be explained by viral immune manipulation targeting Rin. The influence of Rin on 217 218 Anopheles immunity was queried after challenge with an ONNV infective bloodmeal. Unfed 219 mosquitoes were removed after the bloodmeal, and only fully engorged females were included 220 in the analyses. Transcript abundance of the immune gene panel was measured at 48 h and 72 221 h after the infective bloodmeal. At 3 d post-bloodmeal, the ONNV infection is still restricted 222 to the midgut epithelium, the primary midgut infection stage (PMI), prior to midgut escape and establishment of the systemic disseminated infection (Carissimo et al., 2015). 223

224

225 Rin depletion during the PMI of ONNV increases the transcript levels of genes in three of the 226 four major immune signaling pathways, as compared to transcript levels in mosquitoes treated 227 with dsGFP and then infected (Fig. 2 A-D). However, the major impact was observed in the Imd pathway, where the Imd positive regulator Rel2, ONNV antiviral effector APL1A 228 (Carissimo et al., 2015), and ONNV induced LRR factor LRIM4 (Carissimo et al., 2018) are 229 230 all significantly inhibited by Rin depletion, meaning that Rin activity is required for the decrease of the genes during the ONNV primary infection (Fig. 2B). Interestingly, although 231 232 Imd and JAK/STAT were the two immune pathways that displayed the strongest antiviral

effect against ONNV in the Anopheles PMI (Carissimo *et al.*, 2015), here we find that the
highly antiviral positive regulator of JAK/STAT, Stat-A, remains unaffected by the loss of Rin
during ONNV infection (Fig. 2B).

236

There was only a small Rin influence on the Toll pathway during ONNV infection, where the 237 positive and negative pathway regulators, Rel1 and Cactus respectively, are unchanged during 238 239 the PMI by loss of Rin, although the Toll-regulated effector APL1C (Mitri et al., 2009), which 240 is antiviral for ONNV (Carissimo et al., 2015), requires Rin for ONNV-dependent inhibition 241 (Fig. 2A). In the siRNA pathway, Ago2, the critical "slicer" enzyme of the RNA-induced silencing complex (RISC), was slightly elevated 3 d after Rin depletion (Fig. 2C), indicating 242 243 that there could be Rin-dependent inhibition of RNAi activity late in the PMI of ONNV. The 244 RNAi pathway activity is not functionally antiviral for ONNV in the Anopheles PMI but only 245 in the subsequent disseminated infection beginning after 3 d post-infection (Carissimo et al., 246 2015), and thus the late PMI effect of Rin on RNAi could indicate the beginning of viral midgut 247 escape and the transition to the host antiviral response of the disseminated infection.

248

249 Above we showed that Rin is required to increase the Rel2 transcription factor to normal basal 250 levels in uninfected mosquitoes (Fig. 1B), but during the PMI the presence of Rin (dsGFP treatment + ONNV infection) causes an ONNV-dependent decrease of Rel2 relative to the 251 252 condition with depleted Rin and infection (Fig. 2B). Therefore, Rin blocks the induction of 253 Rel2 that would be seen during ONNV infection in the absence of Rin (dsRin treatment + ONNV infection). The ability of Rin to modulate Rel2 expression could potentially be 254 255 exploited by ONNV during the PMI to reduce Imd pathway activation, and therefore leads to the hypothesis that Rin could be a target for viral manipulation in order to inhibit the potent 256 257 antiviral Imd pathway.

258

259 Rin proviral activity is based on ONNV-dependent inhibition of the Imd pathway

Based on the above observation that the effect of Rin during ONNV infection is most strongly directed towards Imd as compared to the other immune pathways, we inferred that the observed Rin proviral phenotype could potentially be explained by viral manipulation of Rin to block Imd pathway activity. To test this possibility, we inhibited the activation of Imd by co-depleting Rel2 simultaneously along with depletion of Rin, to determine whether inhibition of the antiviral Imd pathway complements the loss of Rin during the PMI.

266

The depletion of genes targeted was tested the day of the blood-feeding on unfed mosquitoes. 267 268 When Rin is depleted the transcript abundance of Rel2 is decreased. When we deplete Rel2, 269 we do not observe a change in the transcript level of Rin (Fig. 3C). Therefore, there is a hierarchical effect which goes in one direction where Rin can regulate Rel2 transcript 270 271 abundance, but Rel2 does not modify Rin transcript level. First, Rin depletion decreased the 272 number of mosquito abdomens positive for ONNV (Fig. 3A) and diminished the number of ONNV particles in abdomen of dsRin- compared to dsGFP-treated mosquitoes (Fig. 3B). 273 274 Therefore, Rin depletion decreases the infection rate and the infection intensity of ONNV in 275 An. coluzzii. Rin is required for full levels of both viral infection prevalence and titer at 3 days 276 post-blood feeding in the PMI. Therefore, Rin has a proviral role during the PMI and acts as a 277 switch between a sterile immunity and a viral infection in the in vivo model. Rel2 depletion 278 increases the viral titer but does not modify the infection rate. Therefore, Rel2 is required to limit viral titer, but does not limit infection prevalence. This result indicates that the biological 279 280 demand to create sterile immunity is more demanding for infection prevalence than for the control of the viral titer. We can hypothesize that the depletion of multiples antiviral pathways 281 will be needed to observe a significant increase of infection prevalence. Depleting Rin and 282

Rel2 simultaneously allows complementation of the Rin phenotype indicating the involvement
of Rin in the Imd pathway and its effect on ONNV infection. This data suggests the viral
manipulation of Rin to suppress the Imd antiviral pathway and to promote viral infection.

286

287 Rin is required for correct basal immunity in Anopheles hemocyte-like cells

After having detailed the role of Rin in the antiviral immunity in the PMI, we know investigate 288 289 the role of Rin in the systemic compartment using the Anopheles 4a3A hemocyte-like cells. 290 This model has previously been described as a suitable model for the study of the DI (Carissimo 291 et al., 2015; Waldock et al., 2012). First, we determined the influence of Rin on ONNV 292 infection at a low multiplicity of infection (MOI: 0.01) in 4a3A cells. Depletion of Rin 293 transcript significantly decreases the intracellular quantity of ONNV genomic RNA and 294 infectious particles (Fig. S1C and S1D). Therefore, Rin activity is proviral for ONNV infection 295 in the DI in the 4a3A cell line.

296

297 We analyzed the role of Rin on the transcriptional expression of the same immune genes tested in the in vivo model, in the 4a3A hemocyte-like cells model. We analyzed the transcript fold 298 299 change of those immune genes between dsRin and dsGFP cells. First, the depletion of Rin was 300 deleterious for the transcript abundance of Rel1, positive regulator of the Toll pathway and 301 APL1C. Rin depletion did not modulate the transcript abundance of TEP3. Thus, Rin increases 302 Rel1 and APL1C transcript expression in 4a3A cells. We also analyzed Rin influence on the Imd pathway (Fig. 4B) and Rin depletion did not influence Rel2 and Rel2F transcript 303 abundance but did reduce APL1A and TEP4 transcript abundance. Rin increases the 304 305 transcriptional expression of two extracellular immune factors regulated by the Imd pathway, APL1A and TEP4. We then analyzed Rin depletion phenotype on the transcript abundance of 306 307 other known (LRIM1) or potential immune complex partners subunits (LRIM4, LRIM10 and

TEP12) (Fig. 4D). When Rin is depleted LRIM4 and LRIM10 transcript abundance but not LRIM1 and TEP12, are significantly reduced. Thus, Rin enhances the transcriptional expression or the transcript stability of two leucine-rich repeat transcript LRIM4 and LRIM10. The transcript level of the positive regulator of JAK/STAT, Stat-A, is not regulated by Rin (Fig. 4B). Concerning the siRNA pathway, after Rin depletion, Ago2 but not Dcr2 transcript abundance is significantly reduced, thus Rin enhances Ago2 transcriptional expression (Fig. 4C).

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316 These results showed that Rin plays a role in antiviral immunity by positively regulating the transcriptional expression or the transcript stability of multiple immune genes including 317 318 some previously proven to have antiviral activity. Moreover, Rin modulation of those immune 319 transcript is time-dependent as some were significantly reduced at 24h- or 48h-post depletion 320 indicating respectively an early or a late influence. As some immune transcript abundance came 321 back to the wild-type level at 48h-post depletion we hypothesize that other mechanism may 322 complement the loss of Rin as immune genes are known to be regulated by multiple pathways and partners. Furthermore, Rin mediates transcripts level of immune genes and regulators of 323 324 NF-kappa B-like pathway in mosquito cells and components of the siRNA pathway.

325

Moreover, multiple differences are noticed with what was observed in the in vivo model. Indeed, Rin seems to primarily enhance Toll-related immune transcript in the 4a3A systemic compartment model whereas in mosquitoes in vivo model Rin modulates mostly Imd-related immune transcripts. Moreover, other differences observed in the in vivo model compared to the in vitro model can also be linked to the presence of multiple cell types in mosquitoes leading to a higher variability of response than in the one-cell type in vitro model.

332

333 Presence of Rin allows ONNV-dependent inhibition of the Toll pathway in Anopheles334 hemocyte-like cells

Rin is a proviral factor for ONNV infection in 4a3A cell line (Fig. S1C and S1D) and increases 335 336 the transcript level of Rel1 the positive regulator of the Toll pathway (Fig. 4A). The Toll pathway in 4a3A systemic model is inhibited by viral infection and among the immune 337 pathways, the Toll pathway artificial stimulation has the most antiviral activity against ONNV 338 replication (Carissimo et al., 2015). We investigated the transcript level of the immune genes 339 tested in Fig. 4 during ONNV infection where Rin expression is depleted in 4a3A cells (Fig. 340 341 5A). We infected dsRin and dsGFP-treated cells with ONNV at a low multiplicity of infection (MOI: 0.01). Then we analyzed the transcript abundance of those genes between dsRin-treated 342 343 cells related to dsGFP control-treated cells at 24h- and 48h-post-infection. Of all the genes 344 tested in naïve cells, only Rel1 transcript abundance is modified after Rin depletion in ONNV 345 DI (Fig. 5A). Rin depletion in infected cells increases the transcript abundance of Rel1 at 24h 346 and 48h post-infection compared to infected dsGFP-treated cells (Fig. 5A). Therefore, Rin in 347 infected cells decreases the Rel1 transcript abundance. We wanted then to investigate if the Toll pathway is antiviral in 4a3A cells by depleting Cactus, the negative regulator of the Toll 348 349 pathway, which activates the Toll pathway (Frolet et al., 2006). We infected dsCactus and dsGFP-treated cells with ONNV at MOI: 0.01. Then we analyzed the intracellular ONNV viral 350 351 RNA level and the ONNV infectious particle produced in the supernatant between dsCactus-352 treated cells related to dsGFP-treated cells at 24h and 48h post-infection. Cactus depletion 353 decreases ONNV viral RNA quantity and infectious particles production (Fig. 5B). Therefore, the Toll pathway has an antiviral activity against ONNV infection in 4a3A cells. We previously 354 showed that Rin in uninfected cells is able to upregulate the transcript level of Rel1. However, 355 in infected cells Rin decreases Rel1 transcript level. Consequently, Rin ability to modulate 356

Rel1 expression seems to be manipulated during a viral infection in order to inhibit the antiviralToll pathway activation in the DI.

359

360 Rin physically interacts with ONNV nsP3 in Anopheles hemocyte-like cells

In mammalian and in mosquito cells, G3BPs and Rin have been showed to colocalize 361 with the non-structural protein 3 (nsP3) of multiple alphaviruses including CHIKV and ONNV 362 363 (Nowee et al., 2021). However, it has never been shown in Anopheles cells models. Here we analyzed Rin of An. coluzzii colocalization and interaction with nsP3 of ONNV in 4a3A cells 364 365 (Fig. 6). We co-transfected a C-terminal streptavidin tag construct of Rin (Rin-strep) and a construct expressing nsP3 of ONNV both controlled by the Anopheles actin promoter (nsp3 366 transfection). We also directly infected cells with ONNV at MOI 0.5 (ONNV infection). 367 368 Colocalization pattern was observed between Rin and nsP3 of ONNV in the different conditions. Quantification of the percentage of cells harboring colocalization pattern revealed 369 370 more than 78% of cells counted showed a colocalization between Rin and nsP3 of ONNV (Fig. 371 6B). No significant difference was observed between the two conditions.

372

373 To confirm Rin and nsP3 interaction, we used a streptavidin-pull down assay to purify Rinstrep (Rin-strep) from co-transfected 4a3A cells. We revealed by using streptavidin-specific 374 375 antibodies and nsP3-specific antibodies, the presence of streptavidin tag protein (Rin) and nsP3 376 in the eluat of non-transfected cells (NT), Rin-strep transfected cells (Rin-strep), nsP3 transfected cells (nsP3) and co-transfected cells with Rin-strep and nsP3 of ONNV (Rin-strep 377 378 + nsP3) (Fig. 6C). We observed bands at 89 kDa corresponding to Rin-strep in the eluat of 379 cells transfected with Rin-strep construct or co-transfected with both Rin-strep and nsP3 of ONNV. A band at 70 kDa corresponding to nsP3 of ONNV was only revealed in the eluat of 380 co-transfected cells but was not observed in the eluat of nsP3-transfected cells. Therefore, nsP3 381

presence in the eluat is due to its binding to Rin-strep (Fig. 6C). Finally, two non-specific bands
at 110 kDa are revealed by the nsP3-polyclonal antibodies. Therefore, in 4a3A in vitro model,
Rin is a proviral factor for ONNV infection and is also able to physically interact with nsP3 of
ONNV similarly to what was known in mammalian cells.

386

387 Rin interaction with ONNV nsP3 modifies the biological function of its partners

388 Rin presence is required for suppression of the Imd and Toll antiviral pathways during 389 ONNV infection in the PMI and the DI respectively, through a likely virus manipulation of 390 host Rin. Rin interacts directly with the nsP3 of ONNV in cells, therefore this interaction could be at the center of the coopting of Rin. To shed light on the mechanism by which Rin regulates 391 392 antiviral genes, we investigated the protein partners of Rin and of the complex Rin/nsP3 in 393 4a3A cells. We analyzed by mass spectrometry the elution of cells transfected with Rin tagged 394 with a C-terminal streptavidin sequence (Rasputin-strep), or the elution of co-transfected cells 395 with Rin-strep and nsP3 of ONNV (Rasputin-strep+nsP3) (Fig. 7). Controls were used to attest 396 of the specificity of the partners found. Among these controls, the elution of cells transfected with GFP-strep or transfected with nsP3 or non-transfected was also analyzed by mass 397 398 spectrometry. Proteins found in the control conditions are considered non-specific to Rin-strep 399 and are, therefore, removed from the data set.

400

Most Rin partners are proteins with unknown function. Of the known proteins, Rin interacts in diverse pathways including RNA metabolism, protein synthesis components, ubiquitination pathways and signaling pathways (Fig. 7A). The biological pathways of Rin partners are in line with Rin involvement in Ras metabolism (Pazman et al., 2000) and RNA metabolism (Laver *et al.*, 2020). When Rin is in complex with the viral nsP3, more proteins partners of Rin are involved in protein synthesis, RNAi pathway and cellular/nuclear transport

407 (Fig. 7B). However, the interaction between Rin and nsP3 decreases the number of Rin partners involved in GDP/GTP metabolism and in signaling pathways. Therefore, the presence of nsP3 408 modifies the biological profile of Rin protein partners. Interestingly, Rin does not directly 409 410 interact with the immune genes that it regulates except Ago2. Consequently, Rin modulation of the transcript levels of antiviral genes most likely derives from Rin function in RNA 411 412 metabolism or protein synthesis as it has been already reported (Laver et al., 2020). Moreover, 48 proteins were found to interact with Rin in the presence or absence of nsP3 whereas 7 413 proteins interact only with Rin alone and 8 proteins interact only with Rin when nsP3 is present 414 415 (Fig. 7C). Therefore, the presence of the viral nsP3 allows Rin to still interact with most of its protein partners but also modifies the partner profile of Rin. Consequently, the interaction 416 between Rin and the viral nsP3 could manipulate the protein partners of Rin and therefore may 417 418 influence Rin function in modulating antiviral genes.

419 **DISCUSSION**

420 The mechanism driving the proviral role of G3BPs on alphavirus infection has primarily been 421 studied during the viral RNA replication steps of the viral genome (Gotte et al., 2019; Gotte et 422 al., 2020; Scholte et al., 2015). G3BPs in mammals have been shown to influence the switch 423 from genome replication to genome translation (Scholte et al., 2015). However, as we know 424 that G3BPs have multiple functions, other potential roles of G3BPs during the alphavirus cycle 425 have not been investigated yet. Moreover, the role of G3BPs in immune pathways has already 426 been mentioned especially in NF-kappa B signaling pathways. But the relationship between 427 G3BPs and immunity during a viral infection has never been made. Therefore, this study reveals a link between Rin, immunity and viral infection and could be extrapolated to Rin in 428 429 other mosquito species and to G3BPs in mammals.

430

Rin positively regulates immune genes and known antiviral genes with a centered effect 431 432 on the Toll pathway in the systemic compartment represented by the 4a3A cell line (Fig. 4) 433 and a pronounced effect on the Imd pathway in the midgut compartment of the in vivo model (Fig. 1). These results are in adequation with what was observed in Carissimo et al, regarding 434 435 the immune compartmentalization of these pathways during ONNV infection. Where the Toll pathway is mostly antiviral in the DI whereas the Imd pathways is mostly antiviral during the 436 437 PMI (Carissimo et al., 2015). Moreover, Rin transcriptional expression is enhanced following 438 a naïve blood-feeding (Fig. S5) which is in line with our observation of Rin enhancing multiple immune factors. Indeed, during bloodfeeding, mosquitoes will be exposed to the pathogens 439 found in the blood of the mammals fed upon. Thus, mosquitoes will need to restrict the 440 441 infection of these pathogens for their survival by enhancing the activation of these immune pathways. 442

443 Surprisingly, Rin effect is not consistent in time. Most of the genes regulated by Rin are either 444 lately modulated or come back to wildtype level later after Rin depletion (Fig. 1 and 4). These results indicate the plurality of the regulation of those immune genes and the possibility that 445 other proteins could intervene in the Rin-mediated immune gene regulation. Indeed, most of 446 447 those genes are regulated by multiple factors and the effectors of some immune pathways could be regulated by other immune pathways. Moreover, differences of immune gene response 448 449 following Rin depletion observed between the in vitro and in vivo models can be explained by 450 the plurality of the cell types present in the mosquito model compared to the one single cell 451 type of the in vitro 4a3A cell model (Muller et al., 1999). Indeed, G3BPs are known to be ubiquitously expressed in multiple human tissues. As for Rin in mosquitoes no study examined 452 453 the expression of Rin in different tissues of mosquitoes (Kennedy et al., 2001), but the 454 mammalian studies could be extrapolated to mosquitoes as G3BPs/Rin are overall well-455 conserved proteins (Kang et al., 2021). Therefore, Rin could mediate various genes depending 456 on the cell-type where it is expressed.

457

Interestingly, we found that during the PMI, multiple immune factors were upregulated 458 459 when Rin was absent compared to a wt viral infection (Fig. 2). Taking in account that in 460 mosquitoes Rin allows the switch between sterile immunity and infection during the PMI, 461 central point for the establishment of a viral infection (Fig. 3), these results demonstrate a 462 correlation between the proviral role of Rin during viral infection and Rin immune pathway regulation. Indeed, in non-infected mosquitoes Rin can upregulate the expression of immune 463 genes but during a viral infection Rin decreases the expression of those same immune genes 464 465 (Fig. 1). Therefore, Rin physiological function in naïve mosquitoes is corrupted by the viral infection. Furthermore, the linked between Rin immune gene regulation and viral infection was 466 467 directly made in mosquitoes via the complementation of Rin deleterious phenotype on the viral

468 infection by the inhibition of the Imd pathway (Fig. 3). This result directly proves that Rin proviral function is directly linked to its ability to regulates the Imd pathways. Rin activity is 469 required to overcome a wildtype cellular qualitative (prevalence) and quantitative (titer) 470 471 blockade against ONNV infection (Fig. 3). The depletion of Rel2 complements the loss of Rin 472 activity by reversing the effect of the cellular blockade and restoring normal ONNV infection prevalence and titer levels. This result suggests that Imd pathway activity comprises and 473 474 explains at least in large part the PMI blockade and is consistent with a mechanism in which 475 ONNV interacts with Rin to subvert Imd activity and promote viral infection. In the absence 476 of Rin activity, the antiviral phenotype of Rel2 is enhanced, decreasing ONNV infection, while in the absence of Rel2, the proviral immune subversion function by Rin is not required for 477 478 normal levels of ONNV infection. Moreover, we revealed that there is a hierarchical relation 479 between Rin and Rel2 where Rin is able to regulate the transcript level of Rel2, but Rel2 cannot 480 regulate Rin transcript abundance back (Fig. 3). This observation supports the evidence of a 481 directional effect mediates by Rin on this antiviral pathway where Rel2 is downstream of Rin 482 in this chain of event.

483

484 The simplest model for the relationship between infection prevalence and viral titer could be that the activity of predominantly the Imd pathway reduces the efficiency of viral replication 485 below a level that can consistently yield an ongoing infection, and sterile immunity results in 486 487 those individuals where a combination of low viral titer and the action of other antiviral and stochastic effects allows elimination and curing of the viral infection. The depletion of Rel2 488 alone allowed a significantly elevated viral titer but did not alter infection prevalence. It is not 489 clear why the silencing of only Rel2 did not alter ONNV infection prevalence, while the 490 silencing of Rel2 in the absence of Rin complemented the loss of Rin by reversing the depleted 491 492 Rin phenotype. The most likely explanation is that infection prevalence in the dsGFP-treated

493 control mosquitoes was close to 80%, and thus the experimental design may have been 494 powered to detect decreased prevalence but lacked power to detect a significant increase above 80%. An alternative explanation could be that depletion of different antiviral pathways such as 495 496 Imd or JAK/STAT can individually result in elevated viral titer, but that complete elimination 497 and sterile immunity requires the integrated effect of multiple antiviral pathways. Further work would be required to distinguish between these possibilities. Taken together, the results 498 indicate that the proviral effect of Rin for ONNV infection is mediated at least in large part by 499 500 a Rin-dependent inhibition of Imd pathway activity.

501

Other viral mechanisms could be involved in the stabilization of the expression of those 502 503 immune genes. Moreover, Carissimo et al highlighted a possible inhibitory activity of ONNV 504 against the Toll pathway in 4a3A cells (Carissimo *et al.*, 2015). Here we showed that the Toll pathway stimulation decreases the viral infection therefore, Rin regulation of this pathway 505 make it a target of choice for ONNV. This study may suggest that Rin would be at the center 506 507 of this viral inhibitory of the Toll pathway during the DI. However, extensive study will be required to directly prove the Rin proviral function role via the Toll pathway regulation. 508 509 Directly studying the role of Rin on the DI in the in vivo model would be possible via the 510 intrathoracic injection of viral particles in Rin-depleted mosquitoes allowing the bypass of the midgut barrier. 511

512

We revealed that similarly as what was observed with Rin in Aedes and G3BPs in mammals (Nowee *et al.*, 2021), Rin of Anopheles is also able to interact with nsP3 of ONNV (Fig. 6). This result indicates the conservation of this interaction even in the poor arbovirus vector as Anopheles. Moreover, Rin is also clearly proviral for ONNV infection in Anopheles (Fig. S1) and is upregulated during the DI (Fig. S2). Therefore, Rin/G3BPs and alphavirus interaction is

overall conserved between invertebrates and vertebrates, which highlight the importance of 518 519 this relationship for the viral cycle. Viruses have evolved to strongly interact with Rin/G3BPs 520 both in invertebrate and vertebrate hosts. Therefore, this interaction between nsP3 and 521 Rin/G3BPs is strongly needed for the virus to be maintained in both hosts. This evidence strongly suggests an important role for Rin during the viral cycle. As previously mentioned, it 522 523 would be surprising that Rin role, knowing its plurality of functions, is only used by viruses 524 during their RNA replication steps. Our hypothesis is that ONNV nsP3 will hijack Rin for both 525 replication step functions and for inhibiting the innate antiviral immunity of its host.

526

527 The study of Rin partners revealed numerous protein partners involved in various 528 biological function mostly RNA metabolism and protein synthesis. However, the siRNA 529 component Ago2 is also a partner of Rin. Moreover, most of Rin partners have no known functions which highlighted the complexity of the Rin network. Furthermore, the presence of 530 531 nsP3 changes the proportion of Rin partners and the biological function of these partners. These 532 results revealed that the nsP3 interaction with Rin is able to modify the scheme of Rin partners. However, contrary to what was observed in Prigent et al with G3BPs capable to interact with 533 534 IkB alpha and NF-kappa B/I-kappa B alpha complex (Prigent et al., 2000). In the mosquito 535 vector no immune factors except Ago2 was identify as a partner of Rin. Moreover, similarly as 536 our study, Scholte et al mentioned that they did not discover NF-kappa B and I-kappa B alpha 537 transcription factor in their interaction assay with G3BP2 in mammals cells (Scholte et al., 538 2015) Detailed studies need to be done to specifically dissect the molecular mechanism by which Rin influence the NF-kappa B antiviral immune pathways Toll and Imd. Our hypothesis 539 540 is that Rin would allow the regulation of these immune genes by intervening in the transcription, RNA stabilization, or protein synthesis of regulatory factors in those antiviral 541

pathways. To confirm this hypothesis, an interaction assay between Rin and mRNA in cellswill be necessary in order to identify the mRNA partners of Rin.

544

545 This study revealed the link between Rin, antiviral immunity and viral infection and could be extrapolated to the role of G3BPs in vertebrate cells. Although Rin was always mostly 546 547 studied for their role in the RNA replication steps of the virus, even if no specific mechanism was explained yet, the plurality of G3BPs functions in the cell metabolism make them a target 548 of choice for the virus to manipulate. Here we highlighted that ONNV hijacks Rin probably 549 550 via its interaction with nsP3 in order to corrupt the antiviral immune pathway that Rin regulates. 551 Although Rin is a choice target for the virus, its plurality in multiple biological pathways would 552 make it a difficult target for therapeutic treatment with the risk of interfering with other function 553 in the organism. However, dissecting the partners of Rin with unspecified function could point to promising new therapeutic targets. 554

555 MATERIALS AND METHODS

556 Cellular strains, viral strains, and mosquitoes

4a3A cells originated from neonate An. coluzzii 4a r/r strain larvae spontaneously 557 558 immortalized (Muller et al., 1999). 4a3A cells were maintained at 27°C without CO2 in Insect-XPRESS™ Protein-free Insect Cell Medium complemented with heat-inactivated Fetal Calf 559 Serum (FCS) (#A3840002 ThermoFisher Scientific). C6/36 cell line (ATCC) (Igarashi, 1978) 560 561 was used for viral titration and were maintained in Leibovitz's L-15 medium (#11415-049, 562 ThermoFisher Scientific) supplemented with MEM non-essential amino acid (#11140-050, 563 ThermoFisher Scientific) and complemented with heat-inactivated Fetal Calf Serum (#A3840002 ThermoFisher Scientific) at 28°C without CO₂. Baby hamster kidney cell line 564 (BHK-21) was used to produce viral particles from infectious clones and were maintained in 565 566 Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium (DMEM) (1X) + GlutaMax media (#61965-026, 567 ThermoFisher Scientific) complemented with heat-inactivated Fetal Calf Serum (#A3840002 568 ThermoFisher Scientific) at 37°C with 5% CO₂.

569

Infectious clone of ONNV used in this project originated from ONNV strain Igbo Ora-570 IBH10964 (Igbo-Ora strain) and was isolated from a human febrile patient during the epidemic 571 of 1966 in Nigeria (accession number AF079457) (Lanciotti et al., 1998). ONNV infectious 572 clone was either produced on Anopheles 4a3A cells and viral titer done on kidney epithelial 573 cells from African green monkey (Vero cells) were measured at 7,3 x 10⁵ pfu/mL (plaque 574 forming unit) for cellular infection. Mosquito infection used infectious ONNV clone produced 575 on BHK-21 cells and the titer measured on C6/36 cells is 5.64×10^7 ffu/mL. Infectious clone 576 cDNA was linearized by PmeI, and viral RNA was transcribed using T7 RNA polymerase 577 (Ambion mMESSAGE mMACHINE® SP6 Kit). Transcribed RNA was electroporated into 578 579 BHK-21 or 4a3A cells. Virus was recovered after 72 h and titer on C6/36 cells.

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The An. coluzzii Ngousso colony was created from 100 wild-caught female mosquitoes from Cameroon in 2006 and are bred at the Institut Pasteur Center for the Production and Infection of Anopheles (CEPIA) facility since 2008. All the steps of mosquitoes breeding occurred in a controlled environment with a temperature of 26°C (\pm 1°C), 70% humidity and 12h:12h of day: night photoperiod. Female mosquitoes used for all experiments are of the second generation (F2) and are of early emergence (less than 5 days post-emergence).

587

588 Primers and plasmids

The dsRNA sequences were either previously published or constructed using the cDNA sequence of genes in the An. gambiae PEST genome available on VectorBase database. DsRNAs targeting GFP act as a control for the dsRNA treatment. DsRNA were synthesized using T7 primers and the transcription kit of MEGAscript[™] T7 (#AM1334, Invitrogen) following manufacturer instructions. DsRNA were used either in 4a3A cell line or in An. coluzzii Ngousso mosquitoes.

595

Plasmids used for colocalization, and streptavidin pull-down assay were constructed using Rin codon-optimized AGAP000403 sequences and ONNV nsP3 protein from IBH10964 strains graciously given to us by Andres Merits. A C-terminal streptavidin tag II (W-S-H-P-Q-F-E-K) was added at the end of Rin sequences. For their expression in 4a3A cells, these genes are expressed under the Actin promoter (Ac5) in the plasmid pAc5.1. 4a3a cells lines were transfected using lipofectamine LTX (#A12621, ThermoFisher Scientific) with 0,25 µg to 0,5 of plasmids depending on the number of cells used.

603

604 RNA extraction, cDNA synthesis and qPCR analysis

605 Following experiments, RNA was extracted from 4a3A cells or mosquitoes using Trizol reagent (#T9424, Sigma Aldrich) and RNA miniprep kit (#ZR1054, Ozyme). Complementary 606 607 DNAs were then synthesized with M-MLV transcriptase inverse kit (#28025013, Invitrogen) 608 using 1 µg of RNA. The qPCR primers were checked for specificity prior to the analysis. All qPCRs were performed using SYBR green supermix (KAPA SYBR FAST ABI, Sigma-609 610 Aldrich) and the CFX96 Touch Real-Time PCR Detection System (Biorad). The ribosomal 611 protein rpS7 gene was used as the internal control and the analysis of transcript relative 612 expression to rpS7 was performed according to the $2-\Delta\Delta Ct$ method. Conditions of the run 613 were : 95°C for 10min, then 39 cycles of 95°C for 15 sec, 60°C for 1min (plateread).

614

615 Antibodies and fluorescent labels

616 Sera of rabbit containing polyclonal rabbit antibodies graciously given to us by Andres merits targeting the macro and the AUD domain of nsP3 of ONNV were used at 1:100 overnight at 617 4°C for colocalization and western blot assay. Secondary Goat anti-Rabbit IgG (H+L) 618 619 antibodies (#A27039, Invitrogen) conjugated with Alexa Fluor 555 were used during 620 colocalization assay at 1:500 for 45 min at room temperature (RT) 0,2% Triton X -100 1% BSA PBS 1X. Secondary antibodies anti-rabbit conjugated with HRP (#7074S, Invitrogen) 621 622 were used for western blot at 1:8000 for 1 hour at RT in 5% BSA in TBS1X solution. Monoclonal antibodies targeting the streptavidin tag II and conjugated with HRP (#2-1502-623 624 001, IBA) were used at 1:10000 for 1h at RT during western blot in 5% BSA in TBS1X 625 solution. Streptavidin-tactin molecule conjugated with dye-649 (#2-1568-050, IBA) were used at 1:100 for 3h at RT during colocalization assay in 0,2% Triton X -100 1% BSA PBS 1X. 626 DAPI (4', 6-diamidino-2'-phenylindole, dihydrochloride) (#62247, ThermoScientific) was 627 used at 1:1000 for 10 min at RT in PBS1X for staining the nucleus of 4a3A cells during 628 colocalization assay. Revelation of viral titration was made using monoclonal mouse antibodies 629

against CHIKV Virus-like particles (#MAB12385, The Native Antigen), diluted at 1:1000 in
0,1% BSA PBS1X solution for 45 min at 37°C. Secondary goat antibodies against mouse IgG
and IgM (H+L) conjugated with Alexa 488 (#A-10680, Invitrogen) were diluted at 1:500 in
PBS1X and incubated at 37°C for 30 min.

634

635 Gene silencing

636 For silencing gene in the in vivo system, 500 ng of dsRNA in a final volume of 70 nL maximum 637 was injected into the thorax of cold-anesthetized 1- to 2-d-old An. coluzzii females using 638 Nanoject II injector (Drummond Scientific) and glass capillary needle as previously described (Mitri et al., 2009). The gene silencing efficiency was verified after dsRNA injection with RNA 639 640 from a pool of six un-fed whole mosquitoes by RT-quantitative PCR (qPCR). For silencing 641 genes in the *in vitro* system, a total of 1×105 An. coluzzii 4A3A cells were seeded and left to adhere overnight. Cells were incubated for 30 min on a rocker with 500 ng of in 200 µL of 642 Insect Xpress media without FBS. After incubation, 300 µL of microliters of Insect Xpress 643 644 media with 10% (vol/vol) FBS was added, and cells were incubated until collection or infection. Gene silencing efficiencies were confirmed and are shown in Fig S3 and Fig S4. 645

646

647 Cellular infection

648 The 4a3A cell line were infected with ONNV at multiplicity of infection (MOI) of 0.01 (for

dsRNA experiment) or at MOI 0.5 (for colocalization experiment) for 1h at 28°C without CO2

650 in Insect-X-Press media without FCS. After 1 hour of infection, cells were washed three times

651 with Insect-X-Press without FCS. Then 2%FCS Insect-X-Press media was added to cells for

the time of incubation. Cells were then collected at 24h or 48h post-infection.

653

654 Infectious blood feeding

655 The experimental protocol is based on published methods (Vazeille et al., 2007). Infectious 656 blood meal was composed of 2/3 rabbit erythrocytes and 1/3 of viral solution for a final titer 657 of 10⁷ ffu/mL. Adenosine triphosphate (ATP) at 10mM was also added to the infectious blood 658 meal. The infectious blood meal has been distributed in capsule cover with pork intestine. Blood-filled capsules were heat at 37°C on Hemotek® system. Mosquitoes were feed on 659 infectious blood meal for 1 hour. After that female mosquitoes were anesthetized on ice and 660 blood-stuff females were incubated at 28°C and 80-90% humidity with water-imbibed cotton 661 662 with 10% sugar. Abdomens and thoraces of female mosquitoes were separated, grinded at 2000 663 rpm for 30 seconds and centrifuged at 4°C for 5min at 10 000 rpm. Supernatants was collected and conserved at -80°C until analysis. 664

665

666 Viral titration by focus forming unit

Ae. albopictus C6/36 cells were seeded in 96-well plates at 1.25 x 10⁶ cells/ Leibovitz's L-15 667 668 medium (#11415-049, ThermoFisher Scientific) supplemented with MEM non-essential amino 669 acid (#11140-050, ThermoFisher Scientific) with 10% of FBS and incubated at 28°C without CO₂, 48h prior to the titration. Virus-containing samples were sequentially diluted and 50µL 670 671 of those dilutions were added to cells in one well. After one hour of incubation at 28°C, 150 µL of 1:1 mixed with 4% carboxymethylcellulose (CMC) with L-15 containing 5 % of FBS is 672 673 added on cells. Antibiotic-antifungal solution (#15240062, Life technologies®) is also added 674 at a finale concentration of 1.5X. Plates are incubated at 28°C without CO₂ for 3 days, then cells are fixed using 3.4% formaldehyde in PBS1X for 20 min at room temperature. Cells are 675 then washed three times in PBS1X and then stained with primary antibodies. After three 676 washes with PBS1X, cells are stained with secondary antibodies. Viral titers are counted by 677 observing foci using a fluorescent microscope and the virus titer of the tested sample is 678 expressed as foci forming unit/mL (FFU/mL). 679

680

681 Confocal microscopy

Cells were seeded in µ-slide 8-well plate (#80807, Ibidi) and transfected using lipofectamine 682 683 with 0.25 µg of plasmids. Two days post transfection cells were fixated with 4% formaldehyde 684 for 20min at RT. Cells were then blocked and permeabilized using a solution of 0,2% Triton X -100 1% BSA PBS 1X for 1h at RT. Then cells were stained with different antibodies at 685 specific dilution in 0,2% Triton X -100 1% BSA PBS 1X. Washes were realized using 0,2% 686 687 Triton X -100 1% BSA PBS 1X. Colocalization analysis in 4a3A cells were done using a laser-688 scanning confocal microscope (LSM700, Carl Zeiss Jena) at the UTechS Photonic BioImaging - C2RT platform (Pasteur Institute). All acquisition parameters were done as listed below : 63X 689 690 oil-objective, frame size 512x512, pixel dwell 1,57 µsec, scan time 5,78 sec, 16-bit depth, 691 image size 32,9x32,9 µm and 0,06 µm pixel size. The DAPI laser (450 nm) had an intensity of 2, a pinhole diameter of 0,6 µm, a master gain of 730 and a digital gain of 1. The Red A555 692 693 laser (514 nm) had an intensity of 2,6, a pinhole diameter of 0,6 µm, a master gain of 711 and 694 a digital gain of 1. The Far-Red D647 laser (633nm) had an intensity of 2, a pinhole diameter of 0,8 µm, a master gain of 700 and a digital gain of 1. Images were analyzed using Fiji software 695 696 (Schindelin et al., 2012). Background signals were calculated with the mean of signals from 5 697 pictures of the negative controls of each fluorophore. Mean of background signals were then 698 removed from the analyzed pictures. Colocalization was quantified by counting the number of 699 cells with colocalization pattern related to cells co-transfected (harboring both signals). 700 Between 30 and 50 cells were counted in the analysis.

701

702 Streptavidin-pull down assay

First, 0.5 μg of plasmid constructs were transfected in 4a3A cells using lipofectamine LTX
with Plus Reagent (#15338030, ThermoFisher Scientific). Two days post-transfection, cells

705 lysis has been performed using cell lysis buffer (containing Tris 1 M, NaCl 5M, EDTA, Igepal, 706 Protease inhibitor and Phosphatase inhibitor) for 30 min at 4°C and samples were centrifuged 707 at 16,000g for 15 minutes at 4°C. Pull-down assay was performed using MagStrep" type"3 708 beads (Strep-Tactin® XT coated magnetic beads, 5 % (v/v) suspension, # 2-4090-002, IBA) with a binding capacity up to 0.85 nmol/µl beads (corresponding to 25,5 µg of a 30 kDa 709 710 protein). Beads are first wash with cell lysis buffer then cell lysate is added on the beads and 711 incubated for 2h at 4°C on a tube rotator. After 2 hours of incubation, lysates are removed, and 712 washes are performed using 1X W buffer (#2-1003-100, IBA). Following washes, either on-713 beads digestion at the Proteomic platform is done for Mass spectrometry analysis or the elution 714 of proteins is performed using 1X BXT buffer containing biotin (#2-1042-025, IBA) for 10 715 min. Eluates are then analyzed by Western Blot in order to detect strep-tag proteins (Rin or 716 GFP, bait) and partners (nsP3, prey) using specific antibodies.

717

718 Proteins samples were reduced in 1X DTT and heat at 95°C for 5min. Then samples are mixed 719 with XT sample buffer (#1610791, Bio-Rad) and loaded on 4-12% Criterion SDS-PAGE gels 720 (#3450124 Bio-Rad). SDS-PAGE is run at 100V for 10 minutes (stacking gel) and 150V for 721 1h00min (running gel) in NOVEX NUPAGE MOPS SDS Running Buffer 20X (#NP0001, Life 722 Technologies). Following electrophoresis, proteins contained on gel are transferred onto a 0,2 µm nitrocellulose membrane (#1704159, Bio-Rad) using Bio-Rad Trans-Blot® Turbo™ 723 724 Transfer System. Transfer program is run for 7min at 2,5A and 25V. After transfer, 725 immunoblots are blocked in a solution containing 5% of Bovine Serum Albumin (BSA) called TBS1X (Tris-buffered saline, 0.1% Tween 20). Then immunoblots are probed with different 726 727 antibodies at specific dilutions in 5%BSA PBS1X. Detection step was performed using the Enhanced chemiluminescence (ECL) system (Clarity Western ECL substrate #170-5060, 728 Biorad) following manufacturer instruction. Blots were photographed and revealed taking one 729

picture every second for 10 seconds using ChemiDoc Imaging System (Bio-Rad). Blots were
then annotated, and molecular weights were measured related to the proteins ladder (Precision
PlusProtein All Blue Standards #1610373, Bio-Rad) using the Image Lab analysis software
(Bio-Rad). A positive control is performed using a commercial GFP-strep (Green Fluorescent
Protein) (#2-1006-005, IBA-LifeSciences) in order to confirm the success of the Western Blot.

735

736 Mass spectrometry analysis

737 Following streptavidin-pull down assay, on-bead digestion of sample is performed at the Proteomic platform (CNRS - UAR2024) at Pasteur Institute. Proteins were resuspended in 738 739 50mM ammonium bicarbonate pH 8.0 and reduced for 30 min at room temperature (RT) with 740 5 mM TCEP and then alkylated at 50 mM iodoacetamide (I114 - Sigma, St Louis, Missouri, 741 USA) for 30 min, RT in the dark. Protein was then digested with 0.5 µg Sequencing Grade Modified Trypsin (V5111 - Promega, Madison, Wisconsin, USA). Following the overnight 742 743 digestion at 37°C, 800rpm in the thermomixer C (Eppendorf), the samples were placed on a 744 magnet for 1 min and the supernatant containing peptides transferred in a new tube. Resulting peptides were acidified at 1% with formic acid, desalted with the AssayMAP Bravo robot using 745 746 C18 column and AssayMAP Peptide Cleanup Protocol (Agilent). All samples were dried in a 747 Speed-Vac and peptides were resuspended in 2 % ACN, 0.1 % FA prior to LC-MS/MS analysis. LC-MS/MS analysis of digested peptides was performed on an Orbitrap Eclipse mass 748 749 spectrometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Bremen) coupled to an EASY-nLC 1000 (Thermo 750 Fisher Scientific). Peptides were loaded (at constant pressure of 900 bars) and separated at 250 nl.min-1 on a home-made C18, 30 cm capillary column picotip silica emitter tip (75 µm 751 752 diameter filled with 1.9 µm Reprosil-Pur Basic C18-HD resin, (Dr. Maisch GmbH, 753 Ammerbuch-Entringen, Germany)) equilibrated in solvent A (2 % ACN, 0.1 % FA). Peptides were eluted using a gradient of solvent B (80 % ACN ,0.1 % FA) from 2 % to 7 % in 3 min, 7 754

755 % to 31 % in 42 min, 31 % to 62 % in 10 min, 62 % to 95 % in 5 min (total length of the 756 chromatographic run was 70 min). Column was equilibrated with 10µl of A at 900 bar. Mass 757 spectra were acquired in data-dependent acquisition mode with the XCalibur xxx software 758 (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Bremen). MS spectra were acquired at orbitrap resolution of 60k (at 759 m/z 400), AGC target 800000, a custom max injection time. The scan range was limited from 760 300 to 1500 m/z. Peptide fragmentation was performed using higher-energy collision 761 dissociation (HCD) with the energy set at 27 NCE. The MS/MS spectra acquired at a resolution 762 of 30k (at m/z 400). Isolation window was set at 1.6 m/z. All acquisitions were done in profile 763 and positive mode. Dynamic exclusion was employed within 30s.

764

765 Proteomic platform has performed data and statistical analysis. The guideline used is described 766 below. Raw data were analyzed using MaxQuant software version 2.0.3.0 (Tyanova et al., 767 2016) using the Andromeda search engine (Cox et al., 2011). The MS/MS spectra were 768 searched against a custom database from Vectorbase repositories 20PEST database (download 769 in 25/04/2022) and tagged proteins. Usual known mass spectrometry contaminants and reversed sequences of all entries were included. Andromeda search was performed choosing 770 771 trypsin as specific enzyme with a maximum number of two missed cleavages. Possible modifications included carbamidomethylation (Cys, fixed), oxidation (Met, variable), Nter 772 acetylation (variable). The mass tolerance in MS was set to 20 ppm for the first search then 4.5 773 774 ppm for the main search and 20 ppm for the MS/MS. Maximum peptide charge was set to 775 seven and seven amino acids were required as minimum peptide length. The "match between runs" feature was applied for samples having the same experimental condition with a maximal 776 777 retention time window of 0.7 minute. One unique peptide to the protein group was required for the protein identification. A false discovery rate (FDR) cutoff of 1 % was applied at the peptide 778 779 and protein levels. For the differential analyses of one condition versus another, proteins

identified in the reverse and contaminant databases and proteins "only identified by site" were first discarded from the list of identified proteins. Then, only proteins with at least three quantified intensities in a condition were kept. The proteins of interest are therefore those which emerge from this statistical analysis supplemented by those which are considered to be present from one condition and absent in another.

785

786 Statistical analysis

All experiments presented are the results of at least three independent experiments. Bar plots were created using Prism. Statistical significance of most of the experiments presented was established using a two-tailed unpaired (independent) Student t-test which compare the mean of two independent groups (control and treatment). A two-tailed non-parametric unpaired Mann Whitney test was performed for assessing the statistical significance of the difference of viral titer in mosquitoes. The P values were assessed with a null distribution. The P values were considered significant if p<0.05 (*p<0.05; **p<0.01; ***p<0.005, ****p<0.0001).

794 Availability of data and material

All data from the study are presented within this article.

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797 Ethics statement

The protocol for the ethical treatment of the animals used in this study was approved by the research animal ethics committee of the Institut Pasteur, "C2EA-89 CETEA Institut Pasteur" as protocol number 202195.02. The Institut Pasteur ethics committee is authorized by the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research (MESR) under French law N° 2001-486, which is aligned with Directive 2010/63/EU of the European Commission on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes. The study was performed using practices and conditions approved by the Institut Pasteur Biosafety Committee as protocol number CHSCT 14.114.

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815 Author contributions

816 Conceived and designed the research: SC CM ABF KDV.

817 Performed the experiments: SC AB CM EBF MM.

818 Analyzed the data: SC CM MM KDV.

- 819 Wrote the paper: SC CM ABF KDV.
- 820
- 821 Declaration of interests
- 822 The authors declare no competing interests.
- 823

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827 FIGURE CAPTIONS

Figure 1. Rin function is required for correct transcriptional basal immunity in 828 829 uninfected Anopheles mosquitoes. (A-F) Female mosquitoes were injected with 500 ng/µL 830 of dsRin or dsGFP. The influence of Rin depletion on genes involved in the Toll pathway (A), the Imd pathway (B), the JAK/STAT pathway (B), the siRNA pathway (C), other immune 831 832 transcripts involved in complement-like immunity including LRR and TEP transcript (D) and the lipid carrier Evokin (E) are showed. Each bar represents the level of transcript abundance 833 834 of each immune genes relative to dsGFP-treated control (defined as 1.0), and error bars indicate 835 the SEM. Histogram showed are the results of three independent experiments with 18 female mosquitoes analyzed in total per conditions. *P < 0.05, ** P < 0.01, *** P < 0.005, **** 836 837 0.0001.

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Figure 2. Rin is required for ONNV-dependent inhibition of the Anopheles Imd pathway. 839 (A-E) Female mosquitoes were injected with 500 ng/µL of dsRin or dsGFP and two days later 840 those females were fed an infectious blood meal containing ONNV at 10⁷ ffu/mL. Pull of 8 841 blood-fed mosquitoes were sacrificed at 2 days and 3 days post-blood feeding and total RNA 842 was extracted. The influence of Rin depletion on genes involved in the Toll pathway (A), the 843 844 Imd pathway (B), the JAK/STAT pathway (B), the siRNA pathway (C), LRR and TEP 845 transcripts (D) and the lipid carrier Evokin (D) during the PMI are showed. Each bar represents 846 the level of transcript abundance of each immune genes relative to dsGFP-treated control (defined as 1.0), and error bars indicate the SEM. Histogram showed are the results of three 847 independent experiments with 48 female mosquitoes analyzed in total per conditions. *P <848 0.05, ** P < 0.01, *** P < 0.005, ns non-significant. 849

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Figure 3. Silencing of the Imd pathway complements loss of Rin during ONNV infection.

(A-B). Mosquitoes were treated with dsRNA two days prior to the infectious bloodmeal. Gene 852 853 silencing was confirmed on the day of infectious blood feeding (C). All fully engorged 854 mosquitoes were sampled at 3 d post-bloodmeal to determine ONNV infection by viral titration of abdomens. (A) ONNV infection prevalence, the proportion of blood-fed mosquitoes positive 855 856 for infection (B) ONNV infection intensity, the viral titer of only positive mosquitoes. (C) Rin and Rel2 transcript level after dsRNA treatment in unfed female mosquitoes collected the day 857 858 of the blood-feeding is showed. (A) Each bar represents the percentage of abdomen positive to 859 ONNV between dsGFP, dsGFP+dsRin, dsGFP+dsRel2 and dsRin+dsRel2-treated mosquitoes. 860 (B) Each point represents the viral titer counted in one female mosquito abdomen. (C) Each 861 bar represents the level of transcript abundance of Rin and Rel2 relative to dsGFP-treated 862 control (defined as 1.0). Errors bars indicate the SEM. Each histogram represents the results of 3 independent experiments with 72 mosquitoes analyzed by conditions in total (A-B). A 863 pool of at least 6 mosquitoes has been analyzed by biological replicates (C). ** P < 0.01, *** 864 P < 0.005, **** P < 0.0001, ns non-significant. 865

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867 Figure 4. Rin is required for correct basal immunity in Anopheles hemocyte-like cells. (A-D) Cells were depleted for Rin (dsRin) or GFP (dsGFP) using 25 ng/µL of dsRNA per 868 conditions. Rin depletion on genes involved in the Toll pathway (A), the Imd pathway (B), the 869 870 JAK/STAT pathway (B), the siRNA pathway (C) and other immune transcript involved in complement-like immunity including LRR and TEP transcript (D) are shown. Each bar 871 represents the level of transcript abundance of each immune genes relative to dsGFP-treated 872 873 control (defined as 1.0), and error bars indicate the SEM. Histogram showed are the results of three independent experiments. * P < 0.05, ** P < 0.01. 874

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876 Figure 5. Presence of Rin allows ONNV-dependent inhibition of the Toll pathway in Anopheles hemocyte-like cells. (A-B) 4a3A cells were depleted for Rin (A) or Cactus (B) and 877 infected with ONNV at MOI 0.01. The influence of Rin depletion on Rel1 during a viral 878 879 infection was tested (A). The antiviral effect of the activation of the Toll pathway via Cactus depletion on ONNV viral RNA quantity and ONNV particle production are presented (B). (A) 880 881 Each bar represents the level of transcript abundance of Rel1 (A) relative to dsGFP-treated control (defined as 1.0). (B) Each bar represents either the level of transcript abundance of 882 883 ONNV RNA or focis forming unit relative to dsGFP-treated control (defined as 1.0). Error 884 bars indicate the SEM. Histogram showed are the results of three independent experiments. * 885 P < 0.05, ** P < 0.01, **** P < 0.0001

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887 Figure 6. Rin physically interacts with ONNV nsP3 in Anopheles hemocyte-like cells. (A-B) Rin proviral actions on viral RNA quantity (A) and infectious particle production (B) are 888 showed. (C-D) NsP3 signal (green), Rin-strep signal (red), nucleus signal (blue) and 889 890 colocalization between nsP3 and Rin-strep (yellow) are presented (C). The quantification of 891 the colocalization is showed where the number of cells harboring the colocalization pattern (yellow) are related to the number of co-transfected cells (D). (E) The eluats of the pull-down 892 893 have been analyzed by Western Blot and bands revealed with antibodies targeting streptavidin tag (anti-strep) and bands revealed with antibodies against nsP3 (anti-nsp3) are represented 894 895 (E). (A-B) Each bar represents the level of transcript abundance of ONNV RNA (A) or focis 896 forming unit (B) relative to dsGFP-treated control (defined as 1.0), and error bars indicate the SEM. Histogram showed are the results of three independent experiments. *** P < 0.005, **** 897 P < 0.0001. (C-D) A minimum of 30 co-transfected cells were counted by conditions. 898 Representative pictures are showed. Ns non-significant. (E) The result of four independent 899 experiments is showed. 900

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902 Figure 7. ONNV nsP3 binding alters Rin protein partners in Anopheles cells. (A-E) Eluats of cells transfected with Rin-strep or co-transfected with Rin-strep and nsP3 of ONNV were 903 904 analyzed by mass spectrometry to identify proteins partners. The non-specific proteins found in the controls conditions were removed from the results. (A) Summary of the biological 905 906 functions of the protein partners of Rin-strep, or (B) of Rin-strep in presence of nsP3 are showed. (C) A summary of the partners proteins in common between Rin-strep and the 907 complex Rin-strep/nsP3 is presented. (D-E) The average IBAQs of the protein partners of Rin-908 909 strep (dark blue) or Rin-strep/nsP3 complex (light blue) or their protein partners in common 910 (plain blue) are showed. Each bar represents the average IBAQs of each proteins partners of 911 Rin-strep or of the complex Rin-strep/nsP3 where the non-specific proteins have been 912 previously removed. Data showed are the results of four independent experiments per conditions. 913

914 SUPPORTING INFORMATION CAPTIONS

915 <u>Supporting Figures</u>

Figure S1. Rin is a proviral factor for ONNV infection in Anopheles. A, B. An. coluzzii 916 917 mosquitoes after bloodmeal infection. C, D. An. coluzzii 4a3A hemocyte-like cells. A, B. 918 Female mosquitoes were treated with dsRNA two days prior to an infectious bloodmeal. On 919 the day of infection, the unfed females were removed and used to test Rin silencing efficiency, then on 6 d post-bloodmeal ONNV infection in abdomens was measured by viral titration. A. 920 921 The effect of Rin depletion on infection prevalence among bloodfed mosquitoes as a proportion 922 of the total mosquitoes analyzed. y-axis, percentage of abdomens positive for ONNV in dsRin or dsGFP-treated mosquitoes. B. The effect of Rin depletion on infection intensity in the 923 924 positive mosquito samples. y-axis, load of viral particles, each point represents the viral titer 925 in one abdomen. Error bars indicate the SEM. Results from 3 independent experiments with 72 total mosquitoes analyzed per condition. ** P < 0.01, *** P < 0.005, ns non-significant. (C-926 D) Rin is a proviral factor for ONNV infection in 4a3A An. gambiae cells. Rin proviral actions 927 928 on viral RNA quantity (C) and infectious particle production (D) are showed. (C-D) Each bar represents the level of transcript abundance of ONNV RNA (C) or focis forming unit (D) 929 930 relative to dsGFP-treated control (defined as 1.0), and error bars indicate the SEM. Histogram showed are the results of three independent experiments. *** P < 0.005, **** P < 0.0001. 931

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Figure S2. Rin transcriptional expression is induced by ONNV in 4a3A An. gambiae cells. (A-B) Rin transcriptional expression (A) during ONNV infection is showed. (A) Each bar represents the level of transcript abundance of Rin in ONNNV-infected cells relative to naïve cells (defined as 1.0), and error bars indicate the SEM. Histogram showed are the results of three independent experiments. * P < 0.05, ** P < 0.01, ns non-significant.

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939 Figure S3. Rin transcript is efficiently depleted by the dsRNA treatment in both 4a3A An. 940 coluzzii in vitro model and in An. coluzzii mosquito in vivo model. (A-B) Rin transcript after dsRin treatment in naïve cells (A) or infected cells (B) are showed. (C-D) Rin transcript after 941 942 dsRin treatment in naïve mosquitoes (C) or the day of an infectious blood feeding (D) are 943 showed. (A-D) Each bar represents the level of transcript abundance of Rin relative to dsGFPtreated control (defined as 1.0), and error bars indicate the SEM. Histogram showed are the 944 945 results of at least three independent experiments. Results on mosquitoes are analyzed from a pull of at least 6 mosquitoes. *P < 0.05, ** P < 0.01, *** P < 0.005, **** P < 0.0001, ns non-946 947 significant.

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Figure S4. Rin, Rel1 and Cactus transcripts are efficiently depleted by the dsRNA treatment in 4a3A An. gambiae in vitro model. (A-B) Rin and Rel1 transcript after dsRNA treatment in infected cells at 24h (A) and 48h (B) post-infection are showed. (C) Cactus transcript after dsCactus treatment in infected cells is showed. (A-C) Each bar represents the level of transcript abundance of Rin, Rel1 or Cactus relative to dsGFP-treated control (defined as 1.0), and error bars indicate the SEM. Histogram showed are the results of at least three independent experiments. *P < 0.05, ** P < 0.01, *** P < 0.005, **** P < 0.001.

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Figure S5. Rin transcript is enhanced after the blood-feeding of An. coluzzii mosquitoes. Rin transcript level in blood-fed female mosquitoes is showed. Each bar represents the level of transcript abundance of Rin in blood-fed mosquitoes relative to sugar-fed mosquitoes (defined as 1.0), and error bars indicate the SEM. Histogram showed are the results of at least three independent experiments. A pool of at least 6 mosquitoes has been analyzed by biological replicates. *P < 0.05.

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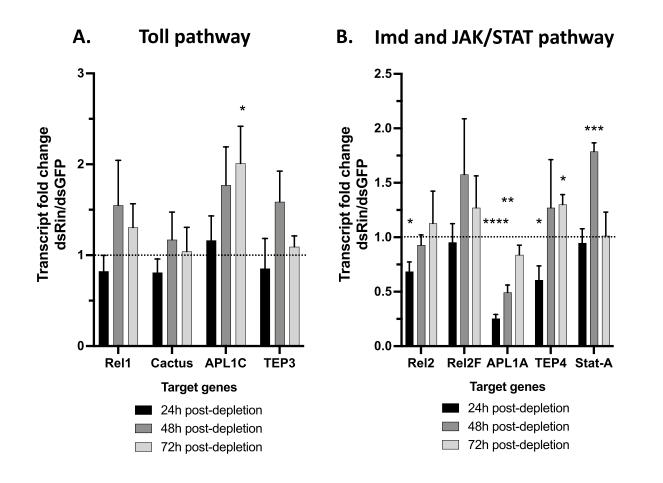
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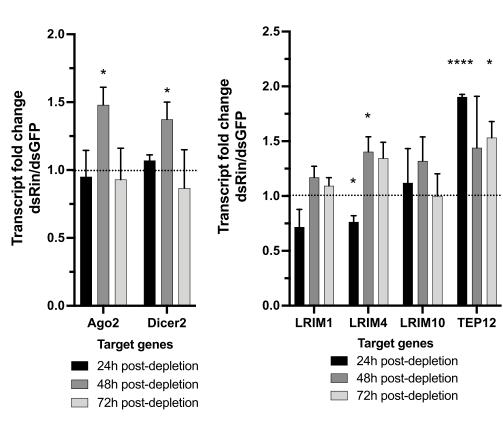


С.

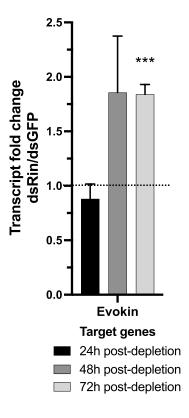
RNAi pathway

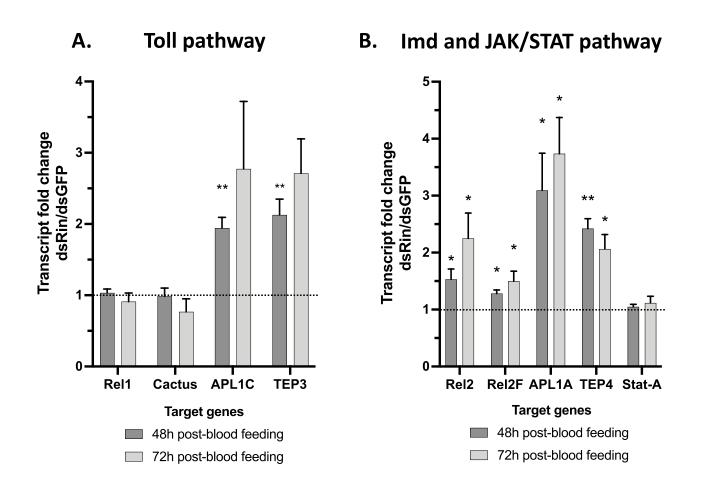
Other components

E. Inducer of granulocyte differentiation



D.



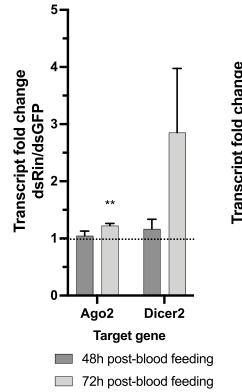


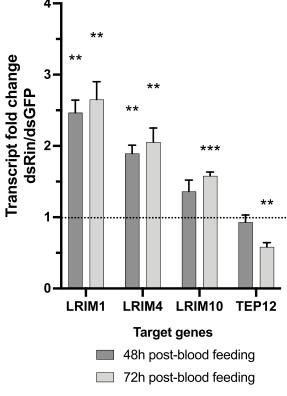
C. RNAi pathway

Other components

D.

E. Inducer of granulocyte differentiation





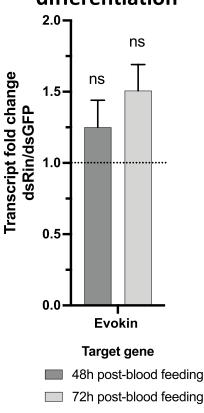
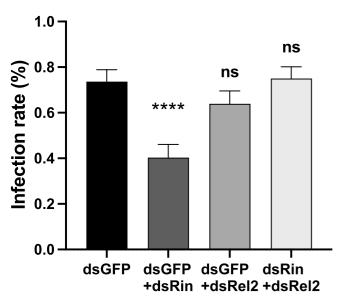
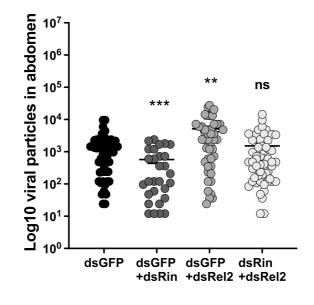


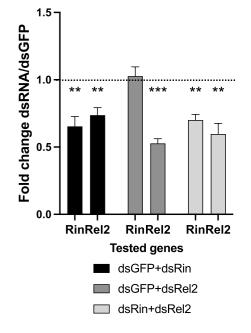
FIG 3

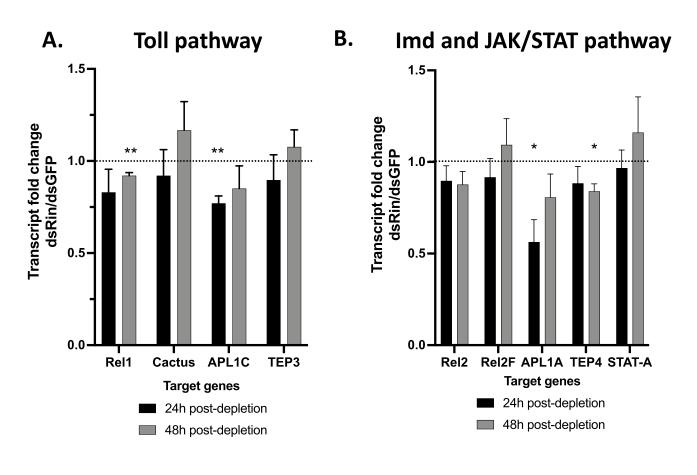




B. Infection intensity C.

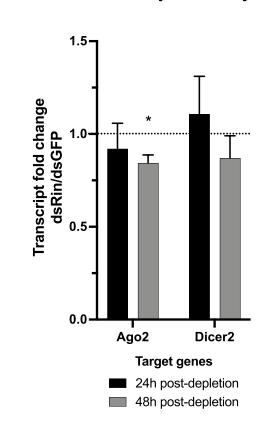






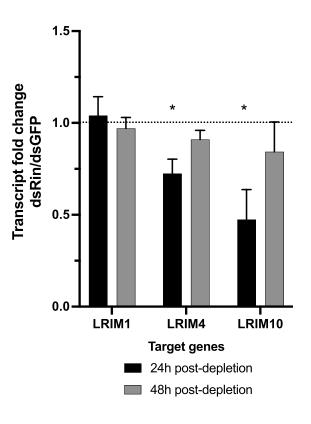
С.

RNAi pathway



D.

Other components





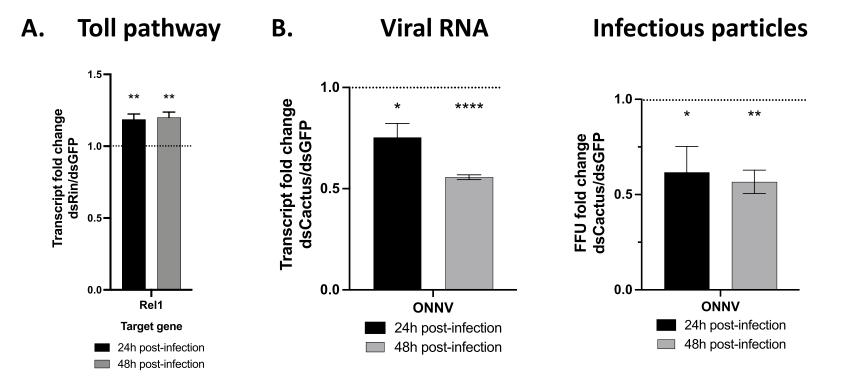
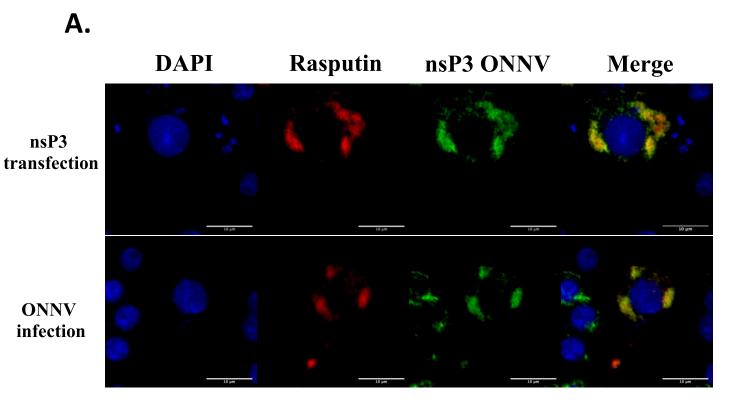
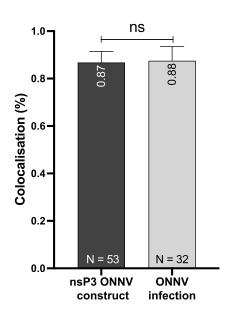


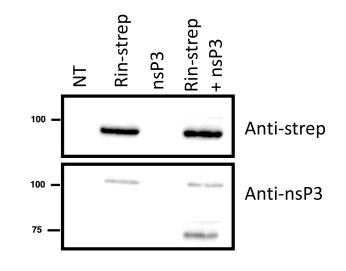
FIG 6



Β.



С.



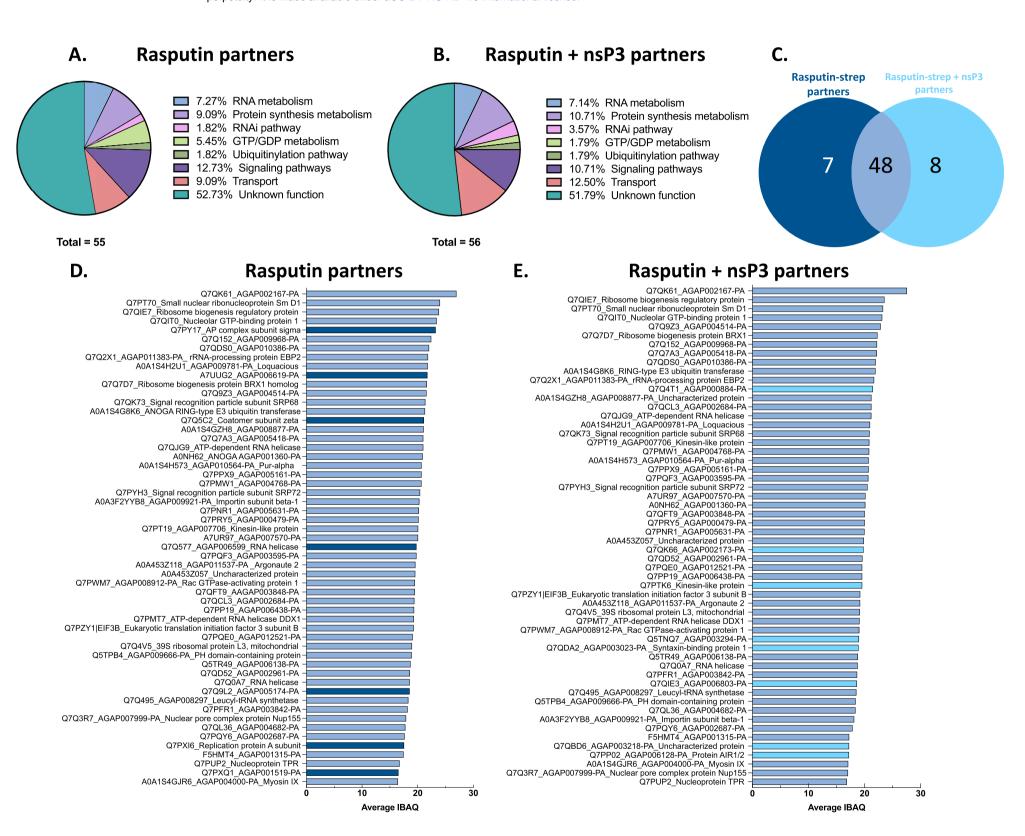
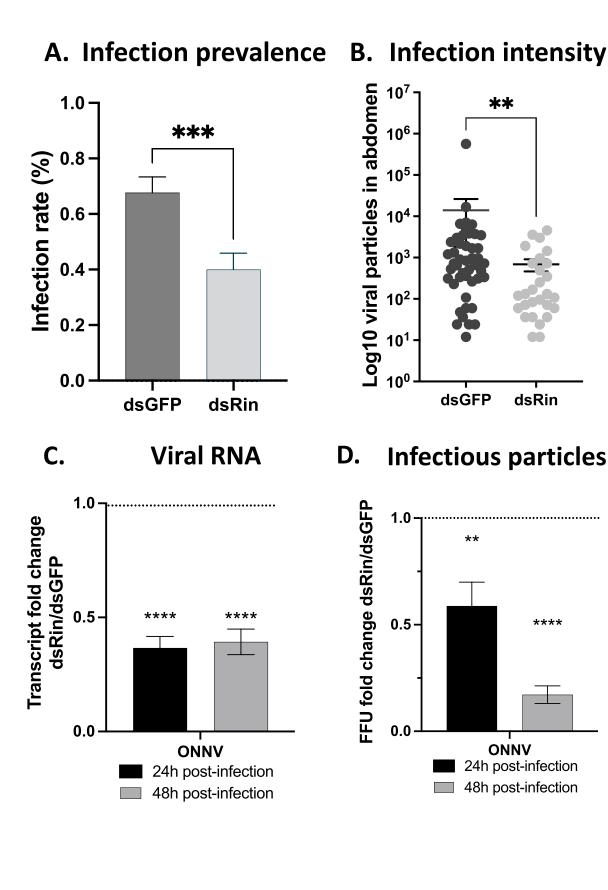
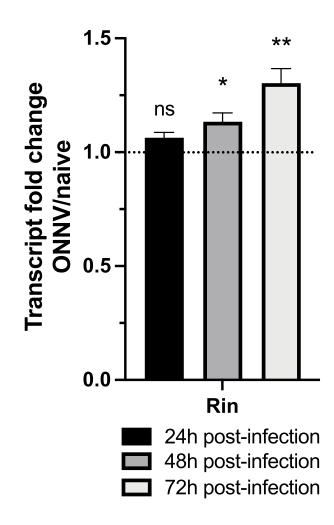


FIG S1



dsRin







B. Infected cells

cells C. Naive mosquitoes D. Infected mosquitoes

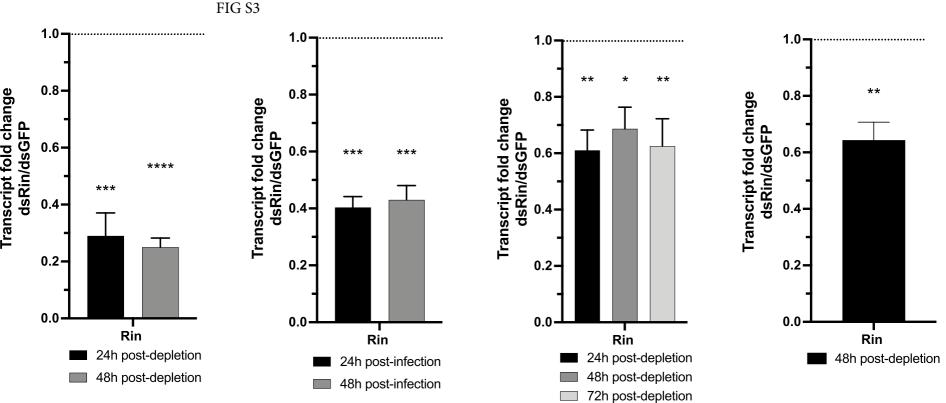


FIG S4

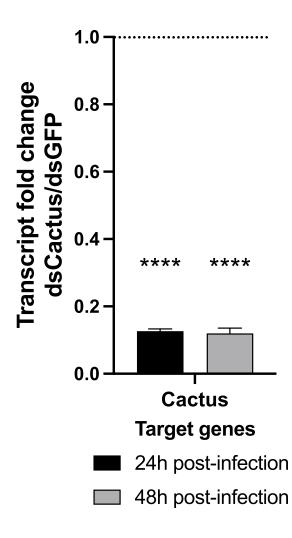


FIG S5

