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An Antennae-Specific Odorant-Binding Protein Is Involved in *Bactrocera dorsalis* Olfaction

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Liu Z, Liang X-F, Xu L, Keesey IW, Lei Z-R, Smagghe G and Wang J-J (2020) An Antennae-Specific Odorant-Binding Protein Is Involved in Bactrocera dorsalis Olfaction. Front. Ecol. Evol. 8:63. doi: 10.3389/fevo.2020.00063 Insect antennae are important olfactory organs that house high concentrations of odorant-binding proteins (OBPs) in the sensillum lymph. Previous studies in other insects have shown that OBPs play important roles in transporting odorants and enhancing the sensitivity of the olfactory system. However, the functions of OBPs in the oriental fruit fly, Bactrocera dorsalis, especially those specifically expressed in antennae, have not been fully elucidated. In this study, cDNA libraries were constructed from both the male and female antennal transcriptome, and twenty OBPs were identified in total. The expression profiles of these OBPs were examined in the adult antenna, head, thorax, leg, and abdomen of both sexes. Seven of the identified OBP genes had significantly higher expression in both the male and female antennae than in other tissues, while the transcript levels of the remaining OBPs varied across different tissues. Regarding the function of antenna-specific OBPs, we targeted Bdorsobp2 as a representative for further RNA interference (RNAi) and identified via electrophysiology a decrease in detection of a potential species-specific a potent attractant, methyl eugenol. Moreover, subsequent behavioral assay data showed that the behavioral response of B. dorsalis toward this odorant decreased when Bdorobp2 was silenced with injection of double-stranded RNA (dsRNA). Combined, these results support our initial hypothesis that antennae-specific OBPs are of critical importance for insect odorant detection, sensitivity, and behavior.

Keywords: oriental fruit fly, odorant-binding proteins, olfaction, antennae, dsRNA

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INTRODUCTION

Antennae are the most important olfactory organs for insects to detect chemosensory compounds from the environment and to regulate their behaviors, including sexual attraction, mating or courtship, aggregation, host plant orientation, and the selection of oviposition sites. These semiochemicals enter the antennae via pores on the olfactory sensilla, which contain high concentrations of odorant-binding proteins (OBPs) in the sensillum lymph. It has been hypothesized that these OBPs in turn bind odorants from the environment and efficiently shuttle specific semiochemicals to the olfactory receptors (ORs), perhaps by changing their three-dimensional structure. In addition, it has been shown that OBPs can enhance the sensitivity of insects toward particular odorants (Leal, 2013). Because of the important roles they play in insect

olfaction, OBPs have been thoroughly studied in various insect orders, including Lepidoptera, Coleoptera, and Diptera (especially the genus *Drosophila*) (Leal, 2005; Pelosi et al., 2006). Moreover, both physiological and behavioral evidence has shown that insect OBPs were important for odorant recognition and sensitivity. These characteristics make OBPs potential candidates for insect pest management (IPM), and provide potential applications that offer more environmentally friendly solutions than insecticides.

Antennae-specific OBPs are intimately involved in the olfactory system, and are responsible for the detection of pheromones and/or host plant volatiles (Maida et al., 1993; Große-Wilde et al., 2006; Sun et al., 2013). It has also been found that OBPs expressed in organs other than the antenna are involved in gustatory perception (Jeong et al., 2013). Male insects are able to find and copulate with potential females with the aid of pheromone-binding proteins (PBPs; OBPs specifically expressed in the male antennae that detect pheromones) (Chen et al., 2018), while the OBPs that are expressed in both sexes or expressed predominantly in female antennae are general OBPs that bind with more diverse odorants, which function in other behaviors such as oviposition and host plant selection (Leal, 2005; Choo et al., 2018; Ju et al., 2018; Li et al., 2018). In Drosophila melanogaster, the antennae-specific OBP, LUSH (DmelOBP69), is required for the pheromone detection of cis-vaccenyl acetate (cVA) (Kim et al., 1998). DsechOBP57d and DsechOBP57e, which are expressed in the tarsi, have been reported to be able to affect the taste perception and preference of *D. sechellia* (Matsuo et al., 2007; Harada et al., 2008). Thus, the investigation of tissuespecific expression profiles of OBPs has been successful in regards to building a link between these proteins and their potential chemosensory functions for the insect.

The oriental fruit fly, Bactrocera dorsalis, is a polyphagous pest in several countries, including China (Hsu et al., 2004; Siderhurst and Jang, 2006; Jin et al., 2011). This pest can inflict severe damage across a range of economically important tropical and subtropical fruit plants, including guava (Psidium guajava), mango (Mangifera indica), and citrus (Citrus grandis) (Steiner et al., 1965; Jin et al., 2011; Jayanthi et al., 2012). Unfortunately, highly insecticide-resistant populations have emerged in both China and Pakistan (Jin et al., 2011; Xie et al., 2013; Khan and Akram, 2018), which reduces pesticide efficiency in controlling this agricultural pest. As such, there is an urgent need to find an alternative, and more environmentally friendly method for control, perhaps including mass trapping using semiochemicals. The commercially available traps with the species-specific odorant, methyl eugenol, have been used to monitor and eradicate this pest for many years (Metcalf et al., 1975; Vargas et al., 2000). However, there has been no prior research on the OBPs' expression profiles that are necessary to clarify their function in olfaction, especially in regards to the detection of this important compound. Previously, several OBPs were identified in B. dorsalis, but none of them proved to be involved directly in olfaction (Zheng et al., 2013; Wu et al., 2015; Chen et al., 2019).

Here we hypothesize that *B. dorsalis* antennae-specific OBPs are likely involved in the perception of methyl eugenol and

other semiochemicals. To build a classification system based on the expression profile of the OBPs in B. dorsalis, and to deduce their associated function, we first identified the full repertoire of OBPs in the adult antennae, and then investigated their expression profiles across various tissues within several different developmental stages. With the hypothesis that the antennae-specific OBPs are involved in olfaction, one classical OBP, Bdorsobp2, which is specifically expressed in the antennae, was selected to study its function using a combination of RNA interference (RNAi) and electrophysiological experiments. Here we confirm that this OBP is necessary for the detection and high sensitivity toward this species-specific odorant (i.e., methyl eugenol). Moreover, this study improves our understanding of B. dorsalis OBPs and their potential ecological functions, which will continue to help researchers to develop more efficient and environmentally friendly strategies for the control of this destructive insect species.

METHODS

Total RNA Isolation and cDNA Synthesis

The B. dorsalis used in our experiments were collected from the Fujian Province, China and were maintained with artificial diet in a climate-controlled chamber at 28 \pm 1°C under a constant photoperiod (L:D = 14:10 h) and relative humidity (75%). The 5-day old male and female adults were separately collected in order to extract the total RNA from both male and female antenna, head (without antennae), thorax, abdomen, legs, as well as different developmental stages, including the egg, larva, and pupa. Extractions were conducted with Trizol (Invitrogen, CA, USA) following the manufacturer's instructions. The extracted RNA samples were examined using 2% agarose electrophoresis and spectrophotometry (NanoVue, GE Healthcare Bio-Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden). The single-strand cDNA templates were synthesized with the extracted RNA using the First Strand cDNA Synthesis Kit (Takara Biotechnology (Dalian) Co., Ltd., Dalian, China), and the synthesized cDNA templates were used as a template in quantitative polymerase chain reaction (qPCR) experiments.

Phylogenetic Tree and Expression Profile Analysis

Twenty OBPs were again identified as in our previous research (Liu et al., 2016). The phylogenetic tree of these OBPs was constructed using neighbor joining and Poisson correction of distance, with the aid of MEGA 5.0 software (default settings and 1,000 bootstrap replicates), based on its amino acid sequence aligned by Clustal W.

To determine the OBP expression profile in different tissues, the RNA of both male and female antennae, heads, thoraxes, legs, abdomens, and different life stages, including the egg (E), larva (L), pupae (P), and adults (female:male = 1:1), were extracted to synthesize the cDNA. These procedures were followed by qPCR, which was performed in a Stratagene Mx3000P thermocycler (Agilent Technologies, Inc., Wilmington, NC, USA). Primer pairs were designed from the nucleotide sequences with Primer3 web software (Version 4.0.0, http://primer3.ut.ee), and the sequence

of primers is listed in **Supplementary Material**. The reaction mixture included 10 μ l iQTM SYBR Green Supermix (BIO-RAD, Hercules, CA, USA), 1 μ l cDNA templates, 1 μ l of each primer, and 7 μ l of double distilled water. The amplification reaction program was as follows: 2 min of initial denaturation at 95°C, 40 cycles for 5 s at 95°C, for 30 s at 60°C, and a melting cycle (from 60 to 95°C) was included at the end. The reactions were performed with three technical repeats and three biological repeats for each OBP gene. The expression level of each OBP gene was calculated according to the 2– $\Delta\Delta$ CT method, with α -tubulin as the control gene. The expression differences between tissues were examined with Tukey's honest significant difference test using SPSS software (Version 16).

Double-Stranded RNA (dsRNA) Synthesis and *Bdorobp2* Gene Silence

The synthesized cDNA was used as the template for dsRNA synthesis. A fragment of *Bdorobp2* from *B. dorsalis* was amplified by PCR using cDNA templates. The ds*Bdorobp2* was generated with an Ambion[®] MEGAscript[®] RNAi Kit (Ambion, Carlsbad, CA, USA) using specific primers containing a T7 promotor sequence (*Bdorobp2* Forward: 5'- CGACTCACTATAGGGTTC ACGAAGACGAGCTGTTG-3' *Bdorobp2* Reverse: 5'-CGACTC ACTATAGGGTAATGCTTTGGATCCGCTTC-3'), according to the manufacturer's instructions. The ds*Bdorobp2* was cleaned and dissolved in RNase-free water. Lastly, the concentration was determined using NanoDrop One Microvolume UV-Vis spectrophotometers (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Madison, WI, USA).

To examine the gene silence efficacy, the dsRNA ($4.2 \,\mu g/\mu l \times 350 \,$ nl) was injected into the 3-day-old *B. dorsalis* adult via the abdomen with a glass capillary mounted on a Nanoject II Auto-Nanoliter Injector (Drummond Scientific, Broomall, PA, USA). Ten heads were dissected from the dsRNA-treated adult to extract the RNA 72 h after the injection. The control RNA was extracted from the green fluorescent protein (GFP)-injected *B. dorsalis*. The generated cDNA (synthesized as described previously) was used as the template for qPCR with *Bdorobp2*-specific primer pairs. The mRNA abundance was determined, averaged, and normalized with α -tubulin as the control gene. Six replicates were examined, and the expression level changes were determined using a *t*-test (SPSS, Version 16).

Determination of Electrophysiological Responses to Attractant

To explore the Bdorobp2 function in olfaction, the dsRNA-injected male and female adults (which were 3 days old; n=6) were separately subjected to electroantennography (EAG), and recorded 3 days after the dsRNA injection. The reported B dorslias attractant, methyl eugenol, was diluted using hexane to produce solutions of 0.01, 0.1, and 1% (v:v) concentrations. The EAG setup was similar to previously described procedures, with a few adjustments (Liu et al., 2010). The antennae were excised from the most distal segment of the antennae and connected to the recording electrode, which was filled with 0.1 M KCl and 0.5% polyvinylpyrrolidone solution; the reference electrode, filled

with the same saline solution as the recording glass capillary, was inserted into the head of the insect from the occipital opening. A stimulus controller, CS-55 (Syntech, Kirchzarten, Germany), was used to produce a 2.2 mL/s airflow containing the attractant (a constant charcoal-filtered humidified airflow at 2.0 mL/s and the stimulus pulse of 0.2 mL/s) was exhausted from the 5 ml polypropylene syringe. A time gap of 1 min was allowed between each response stimulation. The EAG signals were recorded and analyzed with EAG 2000 software (Syntech). The control insects were injected with the same volume of GFP solution, and tested accordingly. Six total replicates were tested, and the responses were analyzed with the Student's *t*-test using SPSS (Version 16).

RESULTS

OBP Identification and Analysis of Expression Patterns

In total, 20 previously identified OBP candidate sequences were obtained from the *B. dorsalis* antennae transcriptome, including 16 sequences that had the full length of open reading frames (ORFs) and the hallmarks of the classic OBP subfamily: a signal peptide and six conserve cysteine residues (**Figure 1**). Based on the phylogenetic tree analyses, the identified OBP genes were classified into two subgroups. Subgroup I included *Bdorobp2*, *Bdorobp11*, *Bdorobp12*, *Bdorobp13*, *Bdorobp14*, *Bdorobp18*, *Bdorobp19*, *Bdorobp21*, *Bdorobp22*, *Bdorobp23*, *Bdorobp24*, *Bdorobp25*, *Bdorobp26*, and *Bdorobp7*, while subgroup II included *Bdorobp1*, *Bdorobp7*, *Bdorobp10*, *Bdorobp17*, *Bdorobp20*, and *Bdorobp27* (**Figure 2**).

Starting with the hypothesis that OBPs are vital for insect olfaction, and should be abundantly or exclusively expressed in olfactory tissues, the transcript levels of these candidate OBP genes were examined in different tissues, including the antennae, heads, thoraxes, legs, and abdomens of both male and female adults by qPCR experiments. The results showed that there were two expression patterns of these OBPs (Figure 3). The subgroup I includes seven antenna-specific genes, Bdorobp2, Bdorobp11, Bdorobp12, Bdorobp13, Bdorobp20, Bdorobp25, and Bdorobp26. Among these genes, the Bdorobp20 gene was more highly expressed in female antennae than in male antennae, in contrast with Bdorobp25, which was more highly expressed in male antennae than in female antennae; the remaining five OBP genes were highly expressed in both male and female antennae (Figure 3).

The subgroup II includes *Bdorobp1*, *Bdorobp7*, *Bdorobp10*, *Bdorobp14*, *Bdorobp17*, *Bdorobp18*, *Bdorobp29*, *Bdorobp21*, *Bdorobp22*, *Bdorobp23*, *Bdorobp24*, *Bdorobp27*, and *Bdorpbprp* were expressed mainly (if not exclusively) in non-olfactory tissues (i.e., heads without antennae, thoraxes, legs, and abdomens) rather than in olfactory tissues (e.g., the antennae). Among these genes, three (*Bdorobp24*, *Bdorpbprp*, and *Bdorobp14*) were more highly expressed in the heads, thoraxes, and legs than in other tissues. Three additional OBP genes (*Bdorobp17*, *Bdorobp21*, and *Bdorobp22*) had lower transcript levels in the antennae

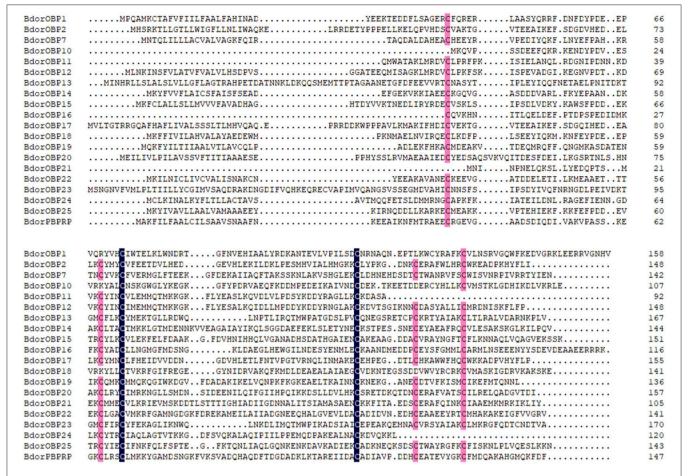


FIGURE 1 | Alignment of deduced amino acid sequences of *B. dorsalis* OBP members. The alignment was performed with the Clustal X 1.80 tool, and the homologous areas were marked with the Boxshade 3.21 software.

than in other tissues. *Bdorobp*27 was only expressed in the heads, and was more highly expressed in the male head than in the female. *Bdorobp19* had an exclusively higher transcript level in male heads than in any of the other tissues examined (**Figure 3**).

The expression levels of the candidate OBP genes were also examined in different developmental stages, including eggs, larvae, pupae, and adults. The results showed that the expression levels of the tested candidate OBP genes varied in different developmental stages (Figure 4). These 17 candidate OBP genes (including Bdorobp1, Bdorobp2, Bdorobp7, Bdorobp10, Bdorobp12, Bdorobp13, Bdorobp14, Bdorobp24, Bdorobp18, Bdorobp20, and Bdorpbprp) were expressed mainly in the adult stage. However, some of these adult abundant genes (Bdorobp1, Bdorobp7, Bdorobp20, and Bdorobp25) were also weakly detected in other developmental stages, including eggs, larvae, and pupae. For example, the Bdorobp23 and Bdorobp27 genes were detected in all developmental stages, including with high transcript levels in the adult stage. In addition, the Bdorobp21 gene was highly expressed in both the larval and adult stages (Figure 4).

Except for the genes with high transcript levels in the adult stage, some genes were highly expressed in other developmental stages. Here, for example, the *Bdorobp11* gene was highly expressed in the larval stage and had a low expression in the adult stage. Two genes, *Bdorobp19* and *Bdorobp26*, were highly expressed in the egg stage and had a lower expression in other tested developmental stages.

Bdorobp2 Transcript Level Changes After dsRNA Injection

To examine the silencing of genes with dsRNA injection, the transcript level of Bdorobp2 was investigated in dsRNA-injected heads and control heads of $B.\ dorsalis$. Using qPCR experiments, it was confirmed that Bdorobp2 expression was significantly silenced with dsRNA injection (**Figure 5**). Compared with the control heads, the expression of Bdorobp2 in dsRNA-injected heads was reduced to $26.16\pm7.65\%$ in males and to $25.89\pm4.24\%$ in females. Thus, nearly three quarters of the total expression of these OBPs was successfully reduced in our experiments.

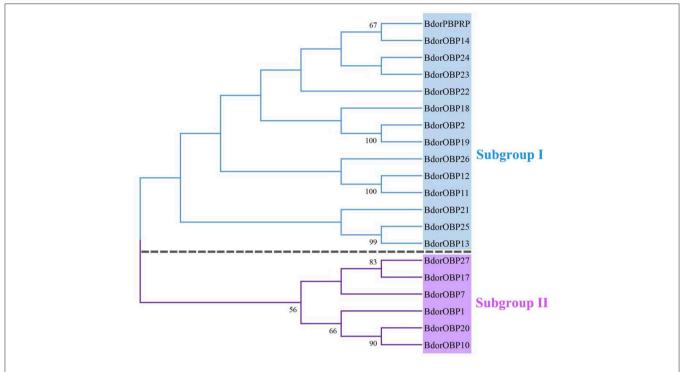


FIGURE 2 | Phylogenetic relationships of the OBP proteins. Unrooted phylogenetic tree of OBP protein sequences from *B. dorsalis* constructed with the MEGA 5.0 tool. The identified OBPs are classified into subgroup I and subgroup II based on the sequences. The bootstrap values above 50 are shown.

Bdorobp2 Silencing Effect on Electrophysiological Responses

To compare the olfactory sensitivity of dsRNA-injected adults with the control flies, the electrophysiological responses of B. dorsalis toward methyl eugenol were examined using EAG. The results show that the antennal responses to the methyl eugenol were significantly reduced 3 days after dsRNA injection, which corresponds with the reduction of BdorOBP2 expression. When stimulated with 1% methyl eugenol, the control male adults showed an average response of 5.57 \pm 0.43 mV, while the response decreased to 1.75 \pm 0.15 mV when the Bdorobp2 gene was silenced with dsRNA injection (Figure 6). The responses of control females and dsRNAinjected females showed similar decreases in detection of this odorant. Moreover, the response to 1% methyl eugenol decreased from $4.64 \pm 0.80\,\mathrm{mV}$ (control female adults) to 1.30 \pm 0.29 mV (dsRNA-injected female adults) when treated with methyl eugenol.

DISCUSSION

OBPs are hypothesized to bind and more efficiently shuttle specific semiochemicals to the olfactory receptors in insect antennae. Extensive research has shown that OBPs play important roles in odorant perception and sensitivity (Kim et al., 1998; Zhou et al., 2008; Pelletier and Leal, 2009; Pelletier et al., 2010; Swarup et al., 2011; Sun et al., 2014). More

recently, with the development of the genomic studies and transcriptome analyses, increasing numbers of OBPs have been identified from various insect species, and their functions have been proposed based on their molecular sequences. In our previous research, we identified 20 OBPs from B. dorsalis antennae (Liu et al., 2016), and an even larger number of OBPs (approximately 49) have been identified in other body tissues of this insect (Jin et al., 2011; Chen et al., 2019). However, no classification systems have been established to analyze the functions of antennae-specific OBPs and nonantennae expressed OBPs. In previous research, it was shown that many OBPs that were specifically expressed in the antennae were in fact associated with olfactory functions, and this has also been shown in many other insect species (Biessmann et al., 2010; Pelletier et al., 2010). To explore the functions of these identified OBPs, we built a OBPs classification system, and classified the OBPs identified in the antennae into two subgroups, I and II, based on the results of qPCR analysis and phylogenetic relationships.

The OBPs in subgroup I are hypothesized to be involved in olfaction because they are highly expressed in the classical olfactory organs, the antennae. The importance of tissue-specific OBP expression has been shown previously in the research related to oviposition and pheromone detection in the mosquito (Pelletier et al., 2010) as well as by pheromone detection in *Drosophila* (Xu et al., 2005). Thus, the location of highest expression has often been associated with the function of those OBPs. Moreover, we proposed that OBPs that are highly

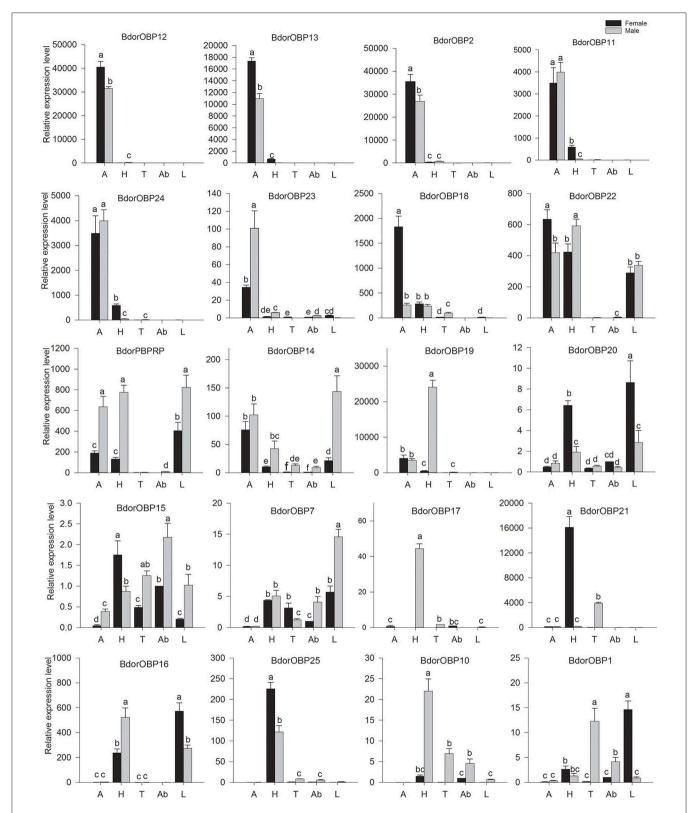


FIGURE 3 | Expression profile of *B. dorsalis* OBPs in different tissues. Total RNA was separately extracted from both male and female antennae (A), heads (H), thoraxes (T), abdomens (Ab), and legs (L). The black rectangles show the expression level of the OBPs in male tissues, and the gray rectangles show the expression level of the OBPs in female tissues. The bars represent mean \pm standard deviation (SD), and the letters indicate statistically significant differences between the groups (Tukey's honest significant difference test).

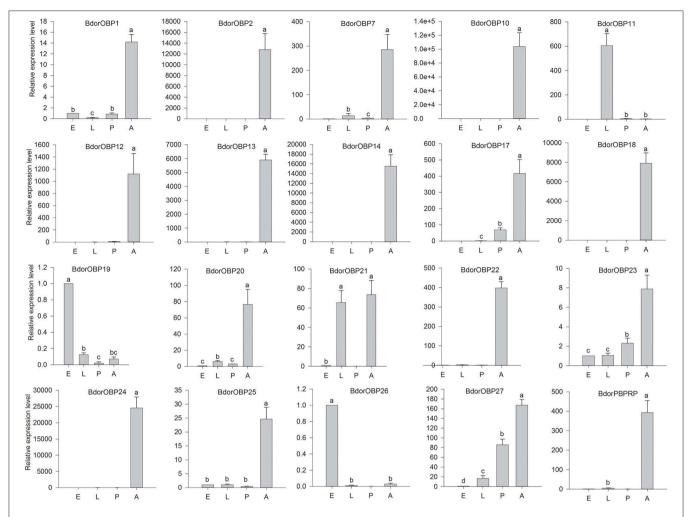


FIGURE 4 | Expression profile of *B. dorsalis* OBPs in different developmental stages. Total RNA was extracted from eggs (E), larvae (L), pupae (P), and adults (A). The black rectangles show the expression level of the OBPs in different developmental stages. The bars represent mean \pm SD, and the letters indicate statistically significant differences between the groups (Tukey's honest significant difference test).

expressed in the antenna (i.e., the main olfactory organ) would be most likely associated with olfaction. To examine the hypothesis that the OBPs that are highly expressed in antennae are involved in B. dorsalis olfaction, we setup a system combining RNAi and EAG to examine the functions of a gene that is highly expressed in the antennae, namely, Bdorobp2. The speciesspecific chemical, methyl eugenol, which attracts the B. dorsalis adults at low concentrations (Metcalf et al., 1975), was used to compare the behavioral differences between the control and dsRNA treated B. dorsalis adults. The associated EAG response of the antennae toward the tested attractant (methyl eugenol) decreased significantly when Bdorobp2 was silenced in both male and female insects (Figure 6). Our observation is consistent with the previous reports that reduction of vital, antennaespecific OBP transcript levels can result in a decrease in EAG response for our insect, B. dorsalis (Wu et al., 2016). In our experiments, both the male and female B. dorsalis adults show a significantly decreased electrophysiological response to the olfactory stimulation with the attractant odor, methyl eugenol, after dsRNA injection. Based on these results, we expect that the OBPs in subgroup I are most likely involved in odorant detection and are true OBPs that function directly in odorant perception and sensitivity. Here, for example, our data suggest that the *Bdorobp20* is most enriched in the female antennae, and is perhaps involved with the detection of oviposition signals or reception of other attractants, which would be consistent with the similar OBPs that have been reported in other species (Biessmann et al., 2010; Mao et al., 2010; Pelletier et al., 2010; Xu et al., 2010; Yin et al., 2015). However, the specific role of *Bdorobp20* in *B. dorsalis* olfaction needs to be continued exploring in future research. However, future research needs to continue exploring whether Bdorobp20 in *B. dorsalis* can be directly linked to olfactory function and odor-dependent behavior.

At present, it is difficult to determine the function of other OBPs that are highly expressed in non-olfactory tissues without further experimental evidence. Some researchers have suggested

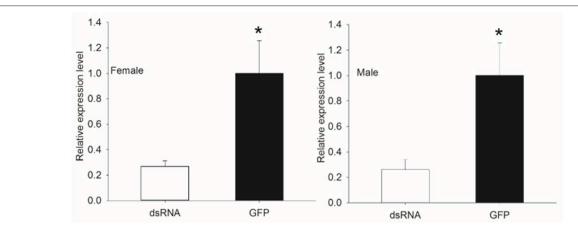


FIGURE 5 | Decrease in *Bdorobp2* gene expression after dsRNA injection. The dsRNA of Bdorobp2 was injected into the male and female abdomens. The change in the transcript level was examined by qPCR with three replicates. The expression of Bdorobp2 decreased significantly in the dsRNA-injected heads of adults (shown by the black rectangle), compared with the gene expression in the heads injected with green fluorescent protein (GFP) solution (shown by the blank rectangle). Vertical bars indicate the SD of the means (n = 6), and the asterisks (*) indicate the significant difference at the level of p < 0.05 based on the Student's t-test.

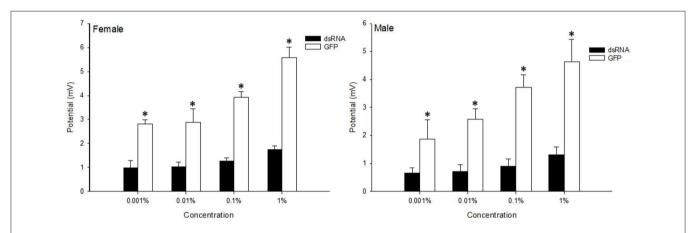


FIGURE 6 | Electroantennographic (EAG) response of *B. dorsalis* to methyl eugenol attractant following dsRNA injection, compared with that of the insect injected with GFP solution as control. The x-bar represents the concentration of the attractant. Vertical bars indicate the SD of the means (n = 6), and the asterisks (*) indicate the significant difference at the level of p < 0.05 based on the Student's t-test.

that these OBPs were not "true" olfactory binding proteins because they have no obvious or direct function in olfaction. It has been shown, for example, that the DsechOBP57d and DsechOBP57e proteins, which are highly expressed in the nonolfactory tissues of D. sechellia and D. melanogaster have a function in gustatory perception (Galindo and Smith, 2001; Matsuo et al., 2007; Harada et al., 2008). Based on these previous researches, it is possible to conclude that the OBPs we identify within our current study (i.e., those that are expressed in nonolfactory tissues) may have other physiological or chemosensory functions. Here we propose that these proteins may participate in other chemosensory functions, such as the modulation of gustation, as opposed to (or in conjunction with) any role in olfaction (Blomquist and Vogt, 2003; Leal, 2005; Ling et al., 2014; Gonzalez-Gonzalez et al., 2016; Zhu et al., 2016). The additional OBPs we identify that are abundantly or specifically

expressed in the B. dorsalis head may also function in olfaction because the maxillary palps were not explicitly removed in our experiments. As such, future work should also examine OBP expression across the labial or maxillary palps of this insect, especially in comparison to those found within the antenna in our current study. Thus, in summary, while we specifically identify the role of Bdorobp2 in the detection of and olfactory sensitivity toward the species-specific attractant (i.e., methyl eugenol), additional work is still needed to pair other highly expressed genes with their function across additional proteins from our subset of 20 OBPs identified within B. dorsalis. Moreover, while the function of these other OBPs is difficult to determine without further experiments, this study paves the way forward for our continued advancement of ecologically relevant odorants and chemosensory channels that in turn may prove vital in the control of this and other agricultural pest species.

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The datasets generated for this study can be found in the https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article/file?id=10.1371/journal.pone. 0147783.s003&type=supplementary.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

ZL, J-JW, and Z-RL conceived and designed the experiments. ZL, X-FL, and LX carried out the experiments. ZL, IK, J-JW, Z-RL, and GS analyzed the data and wrote the manuscript or contributed as native English speakers. All of the authors agreed to publish this paper.

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SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

The Supplementary Material for this article can be found online at: https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fevo. 2020.00063/full#supplementary-material

Figure S1 | Primers used for qPCR.

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Conflict of Interest: The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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