

鸣禽白腰文鸟前脑古纹状体粗核 性双态发育的神经机制*

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摘要 对鸣禽白腰文鸟 (*Lonchura striata*) 发声控制核团古纹状体粗核 (robust nucleus of archistriatum, RA) 的性双态分化过程进行了组织学研究, 并应用双向神经示踪剂 (biotinylated dextran amine, BDA), 追踪新纹状体外侧巨细胞核 (lateral nucleus magnocellularis of anterior neostriatum, LMAN) 和高级发声中枢 (high vocal center, HVC) 与 RA 建立纤维联系的时间和过程。结果发现: 5~35 日龄段为雌雄 RA 体积、神经元大小和神经元密度变化最集中的时间。在该时段内, RA 体积、神经元大小均增加 3~4 倍, 而 RA 神经元密度减少约 4 倍。这些变化在雌雄间无显著差异 ($P > 0.05$, 非配对, 双尾 t 检验), 但与 RA 同 LMAN、HVC 建立神经联系的时间一致。RA 同 LMAN、HVC 建立联系的时间分别为 5~15 和 15~35 日龄。45 日龄后, RA 体积大小在雌、雄间出现显著差别 ($P < 0.05$)。45~60 日龄为雌鸟神经元凋亡数量最多时期, 45 和 60 日龄神经元凋亡数分别为 19.4 ± 8.0 和 17.9 ± 8.2 ($\times 10^3/\text{mm}^3$)。结果提示: 45 日龄后雌雄鸟 RA 体积和神经元凋亡的变化可能是鸣禽发声核团性双态产生的主要原因。

关键词 白腰文鸟 发声核团 性双态 神经示踪 细胞凋亡

鸣禽的发声行为及其控制核团存在显著的性双态性 (Smith *et al.*, 1997; 蒋锦昌等, 1992; 李东风等, 1992; 左明雪等, 1998)。其发声控制通路为: 端脑高级发声中枢 (HVC) 古纹状体粗核 (RA) 延髓舌下神经核气管鸣管支 鸣肌 (张信文等, 1994a; Fortune *et al.*, 1995)。在该通路中, 雄鸟 HVC 和 RA 的体积一般比雌鸟大 3~5 倍。此外, 核团中神经元的数量、密度和大小均表现出显著的性双态性 (Fortune *et al.*, 1995; 左明雪等, 1998)。一般认为, 性双态的产生与体内性激素有关。在非鸣禽鹌鹑 (*Coturnix japonica*) 或鸣禽斑胸草雀 (*Taeniopygia guttata*) 的雌鸟体内, 人工埋植雄激素能使雌鸟雄性化 (Schlinger, 1991)。若出生一周以内埋植含雌激素的硅胶管 (使激素长期稳定释放), 也使雌鸟雄性化 (Gurney *et al.*, 1980; Fortune *et al.*, 1995; 李东风等, 1997)。但是, 鸟类性双态的产生可能不只受激素的控制, 雌鸟埋植性激素的雄性化个体, 无论发声核团的大小及鸣唱能力均不及正常发育的雄性个体, 它们之间仍有不少差别 (Casto *et al.*, 1996)。

另外, 一些研究表明, 在发声核团性双态产生期间 (出生后 1~2 月), 体内激素水平在雌、雄个体间并无明显差别 (Hutchison *et al.*, 1984; Schlinger *et al.*, 1992)。因此, 性双态的产生可能还存在其它的作用机制。已知 RA 接受 HVC 和新纹状体外侧巨细胞核 (LMAN) 两个核团的传入投射 (张信文等, 1994a; 1994b)。但是, 在鸟类正常发育过程中, LMAN、HVC 与 RA 之间的神经联系是否影响性双态的产生等, 国内外文献未见报道。为了揭示动物性双态的产生及其控制机理, 本实验拟对鸣禽白腰文鸟 (*Lonchura striata*) RA 性双态的发育或分化过程, 以及 RA 与 LMAN、HVC 间的神经联系对 RA 体积、神经元大小、神经元密度、神经元凋亡等方面的影响进行研究。

1 材料和方法

1.1 实验动物及分组

白腰文鸟选购于北京市郊区军屯鸟类繁殖场, 本实验共使用了 140 只鸟 (66 只, 74 只), 从幼鸟孵出的当天到灌流处死之间的天数为鸟的年

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表 1 发育过程中(5~120 日龄)白腰文鸟 RA 的体积、RA
Table 1 RA volumes, RA neurons size, densities and apoptotic numbers during
the vocal nuclei development (5~120 d post-hatch) in *Lonchura striata*

年龄 组别 (天) Groups (Days)	RA 核团体积 Volume of RA ($\times 10^{-3} \text{ mm}^3$)			RA 神经元大小 Size of RA neurons (μm^2)			RA 神经元密度 Density of RA neurons ($\text{cells} \times 10^3/\text{mm}^2$)			RA 神经元凋亡数 Numbers of apoptotic neurons ($\text{cells} \times 10^3/\text{mm}^3$)		
	雄性 δ	雌性 \varnothing	组间比 (Ratio of two adjacent comparing groups)	雄性 δ	雌性 \varnothing	组间比 (Ratio of two adjacent comparing groups)	雄性 δ	雌性 \varnothing	组间比 (Ratio of two adjacent comparing groups)	雄性 δ	雌性 \varnothing	组间比 (Ratio of two adjacent comparing groups)
1	15.9±2.3 (n=7)	17.5±3.4 (n=8)	2.35* /1.99*	15.7±5.2 (n=7)	14.8±4.8 (n=8)	1.06 /2.20*	121.4±9.2 (n=7)	118.0±8.3 (n=8)	1.03 /0.52*	3.1±0.9 (n=7)	3.3±0.9 (n=8)	0.94 /2.0*
2	37.3±6.7 (n=9)	34.9±4.5 (n=10)	1.74* /1.55*	36.1±6.9 (n=9)	32.6±7.9 (n=10)	1.11 /1.85*	58.6±4.9 (n=9)	60.9±5.8 (n=10)	0.96 /0.57*	7.5±1.8 (n=9)	6.6±1.9 (n=10)	1.14 /1.30*
3	65.1±7.9 (n=8)	54.1±6.2 (n=7)	1.11 /1.17	65.3±9.8 (n=8)	60.2±8.5 (n=7)	1.08 /1.33*	24.1±4.4 (n=8)	34.6±5.4 (n=7)	0.69 /0.88	9.7±3.2 (n=8)	8.6±3.7 (n=7)	1.13 /1.65*
4	72.4±8.0 (n=10)	62.3±0.2 (n=12)	1.22 /0.83	90.8±2.3 (n=10)	80.5±11.9 (n=12)	1.13 /0.98	22.7±3.3 (n=10)	30.2±6.2 (n=12)	0.75 /0.94	9.6±2.6 (n=10)	14.2±4.3 (n=12)	0.67* /1.37*
5	88.6±7.2 (n=11)	51.5±6.0 (n=14)	1.72* /0.67	94.9±5.4 (n=11)	78.5±12.2 (n=14)	1.20* /0.96	20.8±4.0 (n=11)	28.3±4.5 (n=14)	0.73 /0.95	9.2±3.1 (n=11)	19.4±8.0 (n=14)	0.47* /0.92
6	112.0±2.2 (n=8)	34.7±7.9 (n=9)	3.25* /1.06	96.3±9.9 (n=8)	75.4±11.2 (n=9)	1.28* /1.06	14.6±2.1 (n=8)	26.8±6.9 (n=9)	0.54* /0.86	8.8±2.6 (n=8)	17.9±8.2 (n=9)	0.49* /0.69
7	146.2±2.6 (n=7)	36.7±8.8 (n=8)	3.99* /1.03	102.2±6.0 (n=7)	65.5±9.6 (n=8)	1.56* /1.03	12.7±3.8 (n=7)	22.6±9.8 (n=8)	0.56* /0.87	4.8±1.8 (n=7)	12.4±5.2 (n=8)	0.38* /0.63*
8	154.3±2.0 (n=6)	38.0±9.8 (n=6)	4.05* -	109.2±18.0 (n=6)	60.9±10.0 (n=6)	1.79* -	11.7±2.7 (n=6)	19.8±8.8 (n=6)	0.59* -	0.14±.09 (n=6)	0.11±.06 (n=6)	1.27 -

注 (Notes): 组间比为相邻两个年龄组即后一年龄组与其前一年龄组的比值, “/” 上下方的值分别代表雄性和雌性组间的比值。在组间比和雌雄比两栏中, 标有 “*” 者表示相比的两个组, 组间差异显著 ($P < 0.05$); 无*者, 表示相比的两个组, 组间差异不显著 ($P > 0.05$)。方差分析为 Excel 中的 *t*-test (不配对、等方差、双尾, 显著性水平 $P = 0.05$) [In the column of the ratio of two adjacent comparing groups in the table, the value was the ratio of the latter age group of male or female songbird to the adjacent former one respectively and the male values were above “/” and the female values were under “/”. The mark “*” or the ratio of two adjacent groups in the table indicated significant difference between the two adjacent comparing age groups ($P < 0.05$). *t*-test in the Excel software was adopted in the analysis of variance (unpaired, equal variance and two-tailed). The significant level $P = 0.05$]

龄,共分8组(见表1)。

1.2 组织学方法

鸟经氨基甲酸乙酯过量麻醉后,经左心室灌注、固定。脑被切制成50 μm 厚的连续冰冻矢状切片,隔片取一,尼氏染色。在显微镜下,借助投影绘图管(camera lucida tube),首先逐片绘出RA核团的边界,然后在高倍镜下绘出选定视野中的所有神经元边界,经Photo shop软件扫入计算机,经数字化处理后转换为面积。RA核团的所有面积之和与RA厚度相乘,再除以放大倍数,得到RA体积(mm^3)。使用网格测微尺(100小格,每小格1.0 mm^2),计数所选脑区神经元的个数,再除以该区的面积与切片厚度的乘积,得到神经元密度(个/ mm^3)。对于每只鸟,选取三个切面分别确定神经元的密度,经平均后,作为该鸟的神经元密度值。所选三个平面为:核团的中央平面,中央平面至核团最内侧端和最外侧端一半处所在的平面。另外,选定核团中央平面作为测定神经元大小的平面。测定时,从网格的100小格中任选出10个小格,经投影绘图管绘出其中的所有神经元边界,经计算机数字化处理后转换为面积(μm^2)。

以上所得数据采用平均值 \pm 标准误表示。5~120日龄组间(包括同年龄雌、雄二组间和相邻年龄二组间)的显著性分析采用Excel统计分析软件(不配对、等方差、双尾 t 检验,显著性水平 $P=0.05$)进行分析。

1.3 神经示踪方法

应用双向神经示踪剂葡聚糖胺结合的生物素(biotinylated dextran amine, BDA)对LMAN、HVC进行神经示踪实验。在5~35日龄组中,任意选出雌、雄个体4~6只,参照金丝雀脑立体定位图谱和我们以前的工作(对不同年龄组坐标值进行相应修改)(Stoke, 1974; 张信文等, 1994b),采用压力注射方法,将5%的BDA注入LMAN或HVC。动物存活3~4日龄后,经左心室灌注固定。将脑切制35 μm 厚的连续矢状冰冻切片,隔片取一,切片置入ABC复合物(avidin biotin-peroxidase complex),4 \times 下孵育12 h, DAB~nickel法显色,贴片后,经中性红复染后镜检,观察RA与LMAN、HVC建立纤维联系的时期和发育等。

2 结果

在白腰文鸟出生后第5~120日龄(性成熟)之间,将实验鸟划分为8组,测量RA性双态分化

中下列指标的变化,即RA体积、RA内神经元大小、RA神经元密度,RA内神经元凋亡的数量。实验结果见表1。

2.1 RA性双态的发育或分化过程

2.1.1 RA核团体积 RA在5日龄,界限不很清楚,核团较小,但基本能分辨出来(图版:1)。在5至35日龄,雌雄性RA的体积逐步增大。其中5、15和25日龄体积增长更显著($P<0.05$),但5~35日龄,雌雄核团体积间差异不显著。35日龄后,雄性RA的体积继续增大。雌雄RA体积发育的显著差异出现于45日龄左右(见表1),在45日龄后,雌性RA核团逐渐减小,到120日龄,雄性RA的体积为雌性的4.05倍(图版:7, 8)。

2.1.2 神经元大小 在5日龄,雌雄RA核团内的神经元均较小,为(15.7 \pm 5.2) μm^2 ,在5~35日龄之间,RA神经元快速增长,35日龄的雄性、雌性分别是5日龄时的5.5倍和5.6倍。在5~35日龄之间,雌雄各组神经元间的大小差异不显著($P>0.05$)。45日龄以后,雄鸟RA的神经元仍然缓慢增长,约100 μm^2 左右,雌性RA的神经元大小超过80 μm^2 者则逐渐减少,至120日龄时,在整个切面上已很难找到。在45~120日龄雌、雄之间RA神经元的大小差异均显著($P<0.05$)。

2.1.3 神经元密度 伴随神经元大小的增加及核团体积的增长,雄性RA的神经元密度从5日龄的121个/ mm^3 减小至120日龄的11.7个/ mm^3 ,减小了9倍多,但RA密度的减小在5~120日龄间是不均匀的。密度的减小主要发生于5~25日龄间,在5、15和25日龄各组间,神经元密度减小值均有显著性差别($P<0.05$)。35日龄以后,神经元密度逐渐缓慢减小,各组之间差别已不显著($P>0.05$)。在雌性RA,神经元密度从5日龄的118个/ mm^3 减小至120日龄的19.8个/ mm^3 ,减小了5倍多。但RA密度的减小同雄性一样,主要发生于5~25日龄间。在45日龄前,雌雄间密度差异不显著。45日龄后,雌性RA内神经元密度高于雄性,且差异显著(见表1)。

2.1.4 神经元凋亡 在5~80日龄间,虽然都出现神经元凋亡。但在雌性核团45~60日龄前后,神经元凋亡最为明显。发生凋亡的神经元一般出现细胞皱缩、变小,胞核中出现均匀分布、染色较深、颗粒大小较一致的团块(图版:5)。凋亡神经元与正常神经细胞和胶质细胞间有较大的区别,

一般正常神经元有一个大的、染色较浅的细胞核，与染色较深的细胞质呈鲜明区别，神经元的核仁较明显；神经胶质细胞个体小，细胞核和细胞质染色较深，核仁着色更深，但胞核和胞质一般着色均匀。而凋亡细胞除颗粒团块着色外，整个细胞几乎不染色（图版：5, 6）。在 5~120 日龄间神经元凋亡的总趋势为：雌性神经元的凋亡程度高于雄性，雌性神经元的凋亡的高峰出现在 45~60 日龄，在 35~80 日龄之间，凋亡神经元在雌雄间有显著性差别 ($P < 0.05$)（见表 2），尤其在 60 日龄后，RA 内大型神经元因凋亡而消失，仅剩下中、小型神经元，且聚集在一起（图版：7）。性成熟个体几乎不再发生神经元凋亡（图版：6）。

2.2 神经示踪结果

5 日龄时，经压力注射 BDA 于 LMAN 后，观察 RA 内无任何标记纤维。在 15 日龄时，注射 BDA 于 LMAN 后，观察到 RA 内有大量的标记纤维出现。标记纤维充满整个 RA（图版：2）。这说明 LMAN 发出纤维投射至 RA 的时间是在 5 日龄之后，15 日龄之前。

在 5 日龄、15 日龄注射 BDA 于 HVC 内，在 RA 内未见任何标记纤维。在 25 日龄时，注射 BDA 于雄性 HVC 内，发现从 HVC 发出的纤维聚集于 RA 四周，形成“壳式”结构，仅有少量纤维进入 RA 核内（图版：3）。实验同时观察到，从 HVC 发出的纤维先进入并充满 RA 最大矢状面，然后向内、外侧扩展，在 35 日龄时，从 HVC 发出的纤维均匀充满整个 RA，不再出现 25 日龄时在 RA 四周“等待”的壳式结构（图版：4）。但注射 BDA 于 25 至 35 日龄、或成年雌鸟的 HVC 内，均未观察到 RA 内有标记纤维。

3 讨论

有关斑胸草雀和金丝雀 RA 性双态的产生已有文献报道 (Bottjer *et al.*, 1986; Konish *et al.*, 1990; Johnson *et al.*, 1992; Arnold *et al.*, 1996; Nixdorf-bergweiler *et al.*, 1996)。本实验对白腰文鸟 RA 性双态的发育过程进行了研究，并首次将 RA 与传入核团间的神经联系和 RA 性双态的产生结合起来，研究 RA 正常发育过程中性双态产生的神经生物学机制。结果表明，白腰文鸟 RA 的体积、神经元大小、神经元密度的变化主要在 5~35 日龄间，RA 的性双态在 35 日龄已出现。雌、雄鸟 LMAN 与 RA 建立联系的时间是 5~15 日龄，

雄鸟 HVC 与 RA 建立联系的时间是 15~35 日龄，该段时间恰好是 RA 体积、神经元大小，神经元密度发生显著变化的时期。神经元凋亡数量最多的时期出现于雌鸟 45~60 日龄。虽然细胞凋亡还需作进一步的证明，但就光镜水平而言，与张亚历等 (1995) 的报道基本一致。这虽然与 RA 同 LMAN、HVC 间神经元的联系并不同步，而是滞后 10~25 d。我们认为这可能与神经元凋亡的发生本身需要一个过程，并且神经元凋亡也不是同时产生有关。此外，雌鸟 RA 通过神经元的凋亡，几乎丧失了所有的大型神经元，尤其在 60 日龄后，RA 内大型神经元因凋亡而消失，仅剩下中、小型神经元，且聚集在一起，这是雌性 RA 神经元密度明显高于雄性的原因。此时雄性 RA 的体积已是雌性的 3 倍多（见表 1）。本实验结果还表明，在雌鸟中，HVC 与 RA 间的神经联系很少，因而在雌鸟中，RA 从 HVC 中获得的神经营养因子可能很少，这可能是导致雌性 RA 内大量细胞凋亡，RA 核团体积减小的原因之一。在 45~60 日龄，雌性 RA 核团逐渐减小，而雄性 RA 继续长大，直到 120 日龄，雄性 RA 的体积已为雌性的 4.05 倍。

已有的研究指出：在 RA 性分化期间，雌、雄个体间无论是雌激素还是雄激素，均无显著差别 (Hutchison *et al.*, 1984; Schlinger *et al.*, 1992)。这使得单方面从性激素水平去解释发声中枢性双态的产生出现了困难。我们最近的工作检测了幼鸟血清中的雌二醇和睾酮的含量，初步结果也表明，雌、雄间无明显差别，但是，雌、雄性幼鸟所含雌、雄性激素的受体有何差异，尚待进一步研究。从本实验结果来看，LMAN、HVC 与 RA 所建立的神经联系对 RA 的体积、神经元的生长、神经元密度、神经元凋亡等均有影响。这些影响是否是通过脑源性的神经营养因子产生作用，除了该细胞因子外，是否还存在其它因子，尚需进一步证实。

本实验结果提示，由于雌、雄个体间 HVC 与 RA 间的神经联系不同，可能导致了 RA 性双态的产生。而雌、雄个体间，HVC 与 RA 间神经联系的不同可能是由于雌、雄个体间的性染色体不同，即可能由基因水平决定。也有一些研究指出，在胚胎期或孵出后短时间内，雌、雄激素水平存在着一定的差异 (Arnold *et al.*, 1996)。或许这种早期激素水平的差异，引起了神经发育上的性别差异，再进一步导致 RA 性双态的产生。因此，性双态的产生机制可能比以前认为的更复杂。

总之, RA 性双态在出生后一月前, 雌、雄核团间并无差异。之后, 由于雌性核团内出现了大量神经元的死亡或凋亡, 神经元大小不再增加, 神经元数量开始减少, 雌性 RA 核团体积不再增大, 反

而缩小; 而雄性 RA 核团内的神经元体积继续增大, 核团体积继续生长而不断增大, 到性成熟后, 使雌、雄性 RA 核团中的神经元数量、密度和大小均表现出显著的性双态性。

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外 文 摘 要 (Abstract)

**SEXUAL DIMORPHISM OF SONG CONTROL NUCLEUS RA IN
THE FOREBRAIN OF SONGBIRD (LONCHURA STRIATA) ***

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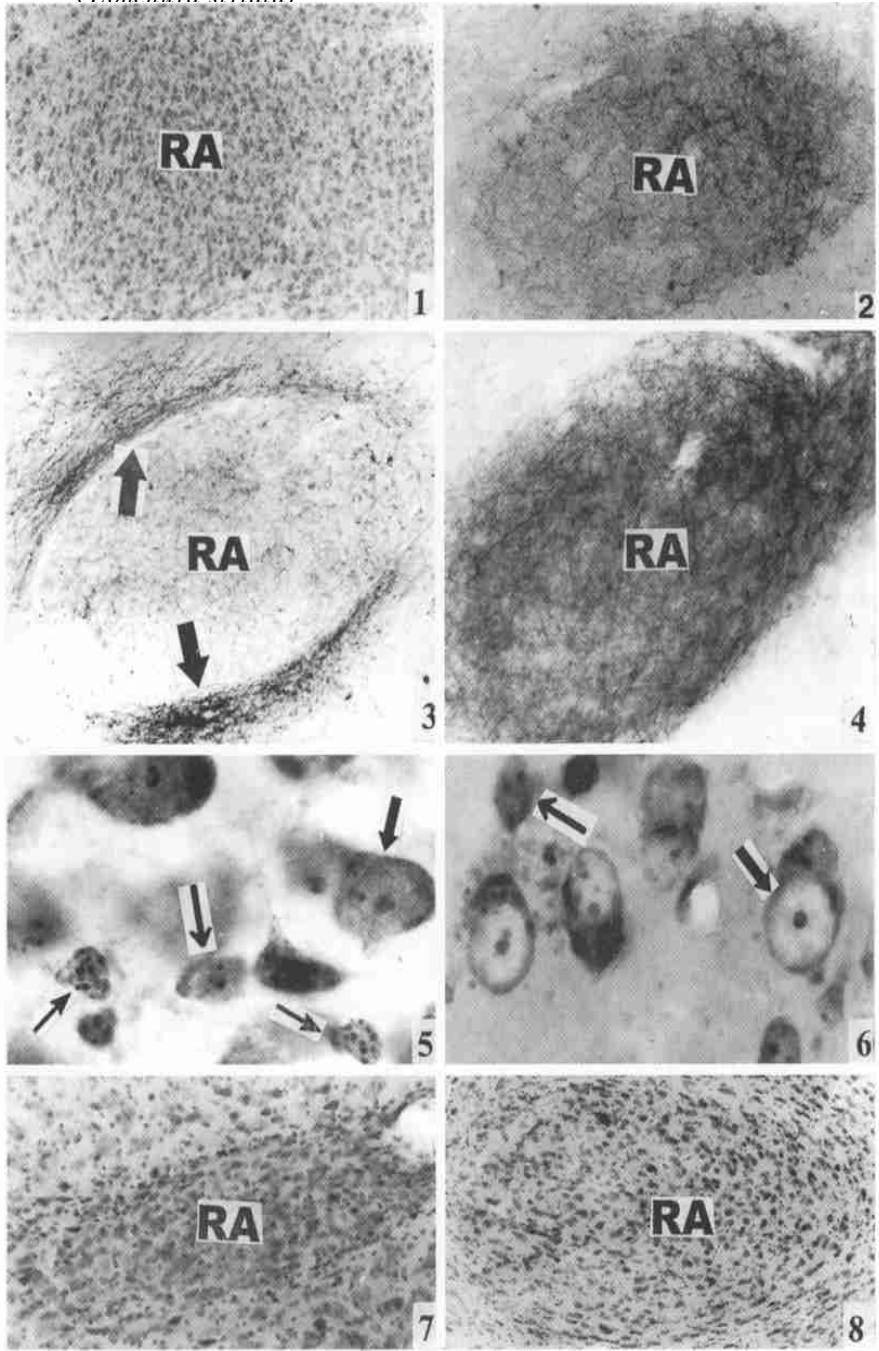
Songbirds exhibit some of the most extreme sex dimorphism in the brain of all vertebrates. The mechanisms that control this sexual dimorphism are poorly understood. By using histological and neural tract-tracing methods, we studied the development of the sexual dimorphism of a forebrain nucleus involved in the song control, the robust nucleus of the archistriatum (RA) of songbird, Striated mannikin (*Lonchura striata*). We found: (1) The outline of RA could be first distinguished from its surroundings around 5 days post-hatch (D5) in both female and male birds. From D5 to 45, the RA volume increased gradually. The growth in RA volume was occurred significantly during D5 to 25 ($P < 0.05$, *t*-test, unpaired, two tail). The differences in RA volume were not significant from D5 to 35 between male and female Striated mannikin ($P > 0.05$). During development the RA volume for females became smaller and smaller after D45, whereas the RA volume for males continuously increased. As a result, the RA volume in females was only one-third of that in males at D120; (2) There was no significant difference in the neuron size in the RA between the sexes during D5 to D35 ($P > 0.05$). At D5 the neurons size of RA in both females and males remains essentially the same, $15.7 \mu\text{m}^2 \pm 5.2 \mu\text{m}^2$. However, the neuron sizes in RA were 5.6 and 5.5 times larger at D45 than their sizes at D5, respectively, for the males and the females. The neuron size in RA for both females and males no longer increased after D45. The larger neurons with $80 \mu\text{m}^2$ cell size in RA disappeared gradually after D45 and they were nearly absent in females by D120. The neuron size was $109 \mu\text{m}^2 \pm 5.2 \mu\text{m}^2$ in male RA and $60.9 \mu\text{m}^2 \pm 10.0 \mu\text{m}^2$ in female RA at D120, respectively. The neuron size in RA was nearly two times larger in males than in females at D120; (3) The neuron density in RA decreased from 1.18×10^5 to 1.98×10^4 per mm^3 and from 1.21×10^5 to 1.17×10^4 per mm^3 , respectively, for the females and the males during D5 to D120. Before D45 the RA neuron density in both sexes was not significantly different, however, after D45 the RA neuron density was larger in females than in males; (4) By using Nissl staining, the apoptotic neurons were observed. The apoptotic neurons were easily seen especially in the female RA during D45 to D60. The numbers of apoptotic neurons were 19.4 ± 8.0 per mm^3 at D45 and $(17.9 \pm 8.2) \times 10^3$ per mm^3 at D60 in the female RA. Compared to the features of normal neurons, the size of apoptotic neurons became smaller and shape became crimpy. There a few granules (apoptotic bodies) appeared in the nucleus stained darkly and distributed uniformly in apoptotic neurons. Apart from apoptotic bodies, the other parts of apoptotic neurons were almost not stained by Nissl substance. For a normal neuron, however, there was only a big pale nucleus with one or two dark nucleolus. The cytoplasm could be stained with blue by Nissl substance. Glia were as large as the apoptotic neurons. Like normal neurons, they have only one or two dark nucleolus. However, an apoptotic neuron contains a few apoptotic bodies. These made the apoptotic neurons easily be distinguished from other neurons or glia in the RA. Although the neuronal apoptosis appeared from D5 to D80, the most obvious apoptotic stage distributed from D45 to D60. The apoptotic neurons were almost

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not observed in the adult female and male RA. From D35 to D80, apoptotic RA neurons were significantly increased in females than in males ($P < 0.05$); (5) At D5, no labeled fibers were found within RA from injections of BDA (biotinylated dextran amine) into the lateral magonocellular nucleus of anterior neostriatum (LMAN). However, RA was labeled from the injection into LMAN at D15. This result suggested that the connections between RA and LMAN should be established during D5 to D15. At D25, there were few labeled fibers within RA from injections of BDA into HVC, while most labeled fibers were found outside of RA, forming a "cup" around RA. At D35, labeled fibers from HVC filled in the whole RA and in the "cup" around RA. These indicated that the connection from HVC to RA was established during D25 to D35. While the neural connections the volume, the neuron size and the density of RA neurons changed significantly. As shown above, the neuron apoptosis was most obvious in females from D35 to D60. This led us to suggest that the most obvious neuron apoptosis in females might be caused by lack of connection from HVC to RA. After the stage of neuron apoptosis, RA in the females lost almost all the large neurons ($80 \mu\text{m}^2$) and the differences in RA volume increased gradually between males and females. The above results suggest that the differences in neuron size and volume of RA between the sexes may result from the differences of neuron apoptosis which lead to the sexual dimorphism during development of song control system in Striated mannikin.

Key words Striated mannikin (*Lonchura striata*), Sexual dimorphism, Neuronal tract-tracing, Apoptosis, Vocal control nuclei



1. 5 日龄 RA 的体积较小，轮廓可辨但不清楚 (Indicating RA at 5 days post-hatch. RA was distinguishable, but small, not clear) ×100
 2. 15 日龄时在 LMAN 内注入 BDA 后，示 RA 内的标记纤维，RA 较 5 日龄明显增大 (Indicating RA which was labeled by the fibers descended from LMAN after injection of BDA into LMAN at 15 days post-hatch. RA was bigger at 15 days post-hatch than that at 5 days post-hatch) ×100
 3. 25 日龄时在 HVC 内注入 BDA 后，在 RA 内的标记纤维，这些纤维尚未进入 RA 核内，主要分布于 RA 周围并形成“壳”式结构 (粗箭头)，RA 核内仅见少量纤维 [Indicating the fibers descended from HVC after injection of BDA into HVC at 25 days post-hatch. Most fibers located outside of the RA and formed a cup around RA (shown by the thick arrows). Only a few fibers were observed within RA] ×150
 4. 35 日龄时向雄鸟 HVC 内注入 BDA，在 RA 的纤维标记，标记纤维充满 RA (Indicating the labeled fibers within RA which were descended from HVC after injection of BDA into HVC at 35 days post-hatch. All the fibers had entered RA) ×150
 5. 60 日龄时雌鸟 RA 核内的神经元 (粗箭头)、神经胶质细胞 (中等大箭头) 和神经凋亡细胞 (小箭头) [Indicating neurons (the thick arrow), glia cells (the moderate thick arrow) and apoptotic neurons (the thin arrows) within the female RA at 60 days post-hatch] ×800
 6. 120 日龄雄性 RA 核内的神经元 (粗箭头) 和神经胶质细胞 (小箭头)，无神经凋亡细胞 [Indicating neurons (the thick arrow), glia cells (the moderate thick arrow) within the male RA at 120 days post-hatch. There were no apoptotic neurons] ×800
 7~8. 120 日龄雌性 (7) 和雄性 (8) 的 RA，雄性 RA 明显较雌性 RA 大 (Indicating female RA and male RA at 120 days post-hatch respectively. The male RA was larger than the female RA) ×100